



Central Coast Healthy Watersheds Methods Paper

What is it?

The Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program has finalized a paper entitled "Report Cards for Scoring Water Quality Data to Characterize Health and Change." This peer-reviewed paper is available on the [SWAMP website](#). We describe the technical basis for the scoring used in the web-based CCAMP Data Navigator and the upcoming Healthy Watersheds Report Card. The methods paper includes chapters on how thresholds were selected for the analysis, analyte scoring, site scoring, and trend and change detection. The resulting scores can be viewed at the [CCAMP website](#). A shortened version has been prepared and will be submitted to an online journal in 2015.

Why is it important?

The Central Coast Healthy Watersheds project makes complex and often inaccessible data more available to the general public, water quality managers, and decision makers in readily understandable formats that can improve decision-making about water quality, habitat, and overall watershed health. The user can quickly learn the sources and causes of problems and explore whether there are improvements detected. Rolling multiple types of data together into a single spatial and analytical framework allows for more informed decisions about the impacts of water quality on overall watershed health. This paper lays out the technical basis for the scoring approach, so that the underlying math and threshold selection process are as transparent as possible to the user. The State Board is considering adopting some or all of this work for use with the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) database and possibly the California Water Quality Monitoring Council's [My Water Quality Portal](#). This documentation provides the detailed technical information to support that effort.

How will this information be used?

The subject document provides the technical underpinning for report cards, maps, and associated interpretive information available through the Central Coast Region's [CCAMP website](#). The document will be a key part of knowledge transfer if these products are adopted by the State Board for use with CEDEN and/or the California Water Quality Monitoring Council's [My Water Quality Portal](#). This information will be used to prioritize water quality problems, coordinate monitoring efforts, and guide decision-making to better protect and restore California's water resources.

For more information:

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