

## **California Water Quality Monitoring Council (CA Senate Bill 1070)**

SWAMP has had the opportunity to play a key role in the implementation of SB 1070 and the creation of the [California Water Quality Monitoring Council](#). SWAMP also continues to provide staff and funding for a number of the Monitoring Council's initiatives and products. SWAMP has served as host for the expanding "My Water Quality" Internet portals ([www.CaWaterQuality.net](http://www.CaWaterQuality.net)) initially launched in 2009. These portals provide accessible, meaningful information on these five themes:

- Is our water safe to drink?
- Is it safe to swim in our waters?
- Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?
- Are our aquatic ecosystems healthy?
- What stressors and processes affect our water quality?

To date, three of these portals have 'gone live', providing agency decision makers and the public with vital information on swimming safety, the safety of eating fish and shellfish, and the health of California's wetlands. The health of California's rivers and streams will be the next Internet portal 'theme' to be launched.

Specifically, and in addition, SWAMP serves the Monitoring Council in wide variety of roles, listed below:

- Workgroups to develop the Internet portals while improving the efficiency and effectiveness of underlying monitoring and assessment efforts, specifically
  - The *Healthy Streams Partnership* that is currently developing a portal for the streams and rivers sub-theme of "Are our aquatic ecosystems healthy?"
  - The Bioaccumulation Oversight Group that developed the portal "Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?"
- Technical and programmatic support for other theme/sub-theme workgroup efforts and numerous monitoring entities throughout the state in the areas of monitoring objectives and design, quality assurance/quality control, data comparability, indicators/thresholds, and bioassessment.
- Data management support, connectivity, and standardized data formats through SWAMP's California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN), providing
  - Data management for theme/sub-theme workgroup efforts
  - Data feed to the My Water Quality Internet portals
  - Data exchange connectivity between existing databases at various agencies and organizations
  - Data management support to citizen monitoring efforts and others through the Regional Data Centers

SWAMP also provided funding, expert facilitation, and contract support to the Monitoring Council for the development of its statewide [Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy](#) [pursuant to California Water Code §13181(e)], a ten-year program to ultimately develop a cost-effective, coordinated, integrated, and comprehensive statewide network for collecting and disseminating water quality information and ongoing assessments of the health of the state's waters and the effectiveness of programs to protect and improve the quality of those waters.

In concert with this strategy, SWAMP released an update of its Monitoring and Assessment Strategy, Assessment Framework, and Needs Assessment, which reflect the benefits of increased coordination and integration of information from other agencies and information sources, as mandated by SB 1070 and the Monitoring Council's strategy.

These on-going cooperative efforts of the Monitoring Council and SWAMP have already gone a long way toward facilitating and improving statewide coordination of all State and Regional Water Board ambient monitoring efforts. Both SWAMP and the Monitoring Council continue to work on the goals of increasing coordination and integration of information with other agencies and information sources, and improved participation in regional monitoring programs.