

California Water Quality Monitoring Council



Maximizing the Effectiveness
of Water Quality Data
Collection and Dissemination

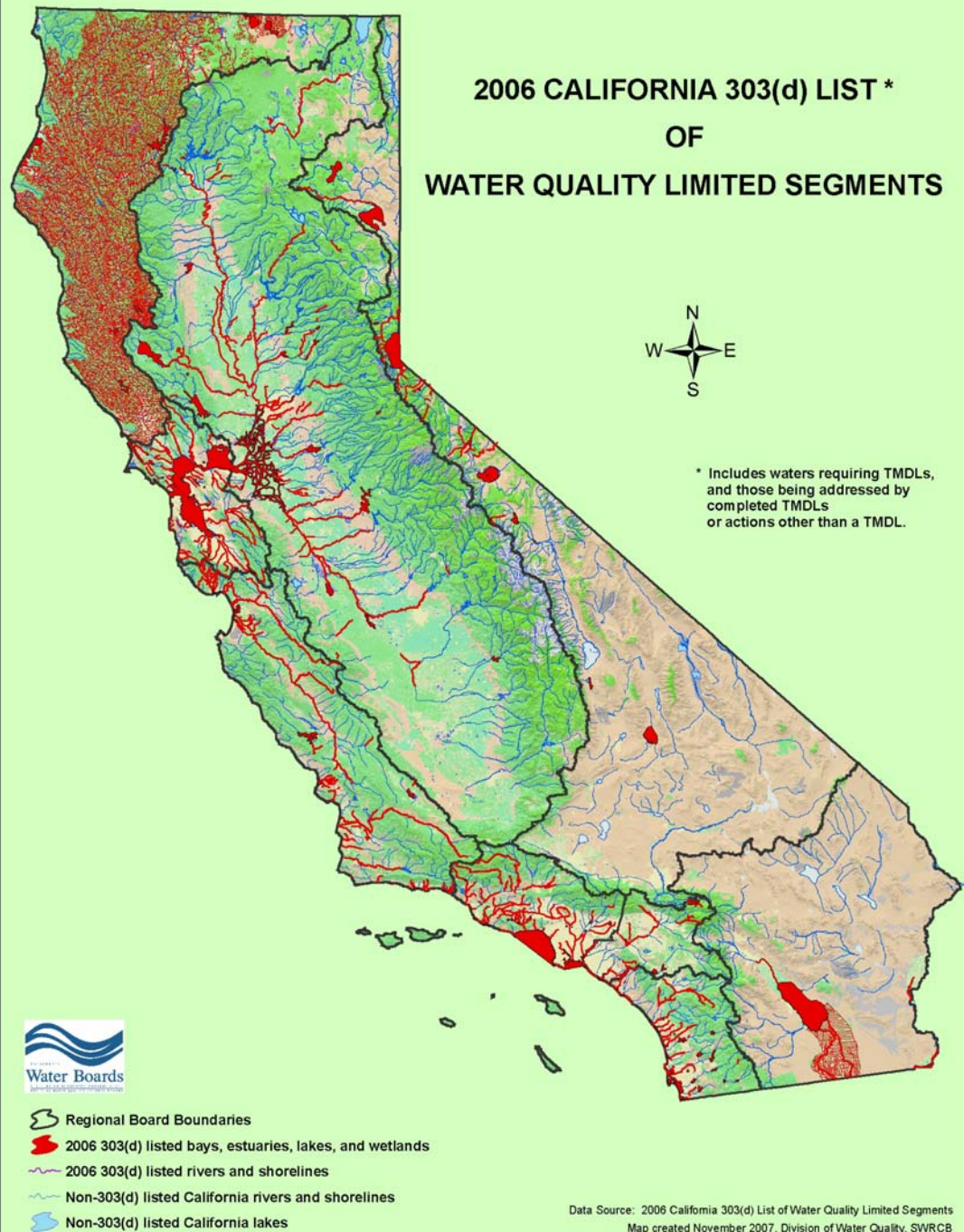
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/
programs/monitoring_council](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/monitoring_council)

Everyone Needs Data

- 💧 211,000 miles of rivers & streams
- 💧 >1.6 million acres lakes
- 💧 1,100 miles of coastline
- 💧 1.3 million acres of bays and estuaries
- 💧 15 million acre-feet of groundwater extracted per year



The Water Quality Information Problem



Monitoring Council Members



The Monitoring Council's Solution

Don't get mired in technical details!

- 💧 Focus first on streamlined data access
 - 💧 Theme-based web portals
 - 💧 Single global point of entry
- 💧 Issue-specific workgroups
- 💧 Overarching Monitoring Council guidance

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

[Home](#)[Safe to Drink](#)[Safe to Swim](#)[Safe to Eat Fish](#)[Ecologic Health](#)[Stressors & Processes](#)[Contact Us](#)

My Water Quality - hosted by the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) |

GOVERNOR
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- Cal/EPA
- The Resources Agency
- About the California Water Quality Monitoring Council
- State & Regional Water Boards
- Web Portal Partners
- Monitoring Programs, Data Sources & Reports
- Water Quality Standards, Plans and Policies
- Regulatory Activities
- Enforcement Actions
- Research

- About SWAMP
- SWAMP Tools



Welcome to My Water Quality

This web portal, supported by a wide variety of public and private organizations, presents California water quality monitoring data and assessment information from a variety of perspectives that may be viewed across space and time.



IS OUR WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

Safe drinking water depends on a variety of chemical and biological factors regulated by a number of local, state, and federal agencies. [More >>](#)



IS IT SAFE TO SWIM IN OUR WATERS?

Swimming safety of our waters is linked to the levels of pathogens that have the potential to cause disease. [More >>](#)



IS IT SAFE TO EAT FISH AND SHELLFISH FROM OUR WATERS?

Aquatic organisms are able to accumulate certain pollutants from the water in which they live, sometimes reaching levels that could harm consumers. [More>>](#)



ARE OUR AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS HEALTHY?

The health of fish and other aquatic organisms and communities depends on the chemical, physical, and biological quality of the waters in which they live. [More>>](#)



WHAT STRESSORS AND PROCESSES AFFECT OUR WATER QUALITY?

Beneficial uses of our waters are affected by emerging contaminants, invasive species, trash, global warming, acidification, pollutant loads, and flow. [More>>](#)

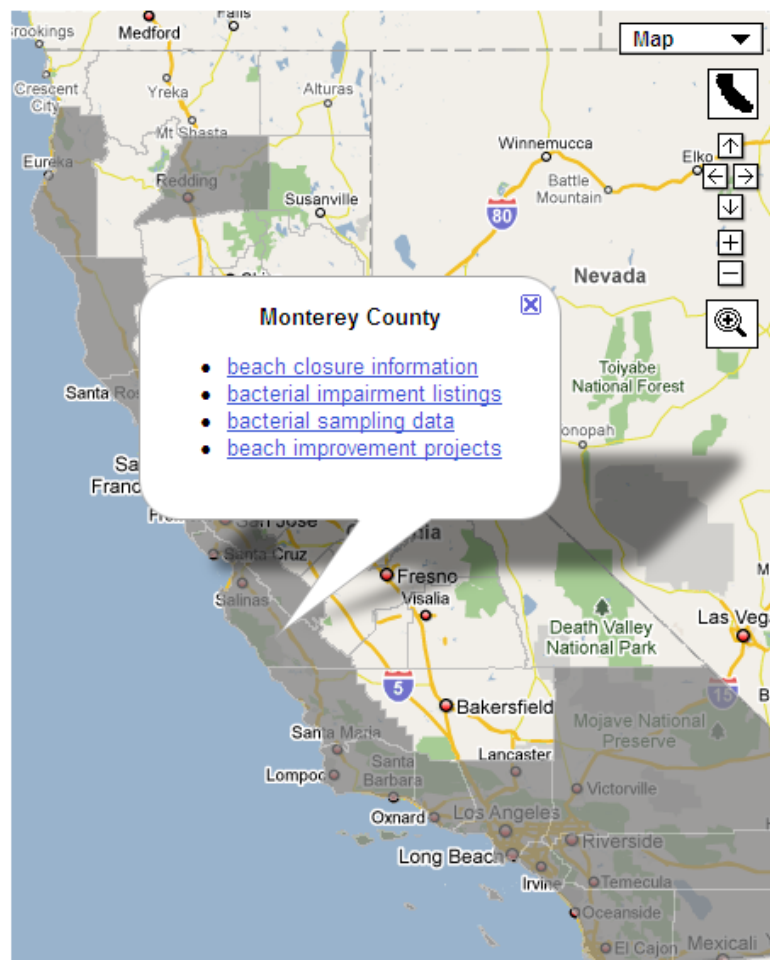
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Boards

SAFE TO SWIM LINKS

- Pollution Sources & Health Risks
- Laws, Regulations & Standards
- Regulatory Activities
- Enforcement Actions
- Research
- Monitoring Programs, Data Sources & Reports

[Home](#) → [Safe To Swim](#)

Is It Safe to Swim In Our Waters?

Show County Info: 

Monterey County

- [beach closure information](#)
- [bacterial impairment listings](#)
- [bacterial sampling data](#)
- [beach improvement projects](#)



Beach water quality monitoring and strong pollution prevention measures are critical for protecting beach goers from waterborne diseases. Monitoring is performed by county health agencies, publicly owned sewage treatment plants, other dischargers, environmental groups and numerous citizen-monitoring groups.

View Monitoring and Assessment Information

- Click on a county or;
- Select from the Show County Info menu.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- [Can I swim at my beach, lake, or stream?](#)
- [How clean was my beach, lake, or stream during the past week or month?](#)
- [What are the long-term trends at my beach, lake, or stream?](#)
- [Which beaches, lakes, and streams are currently closed by county health agencies?](#)
- [Which beaches, lakes, and streams are listed by the State as impaired?](#)
- [Are the problems getting better?](#)

Theme-Specific Workgroups

Issue-experts represent key stakeholders



The diagram illustrates the structure of the Monitoring Council. At the top is a large white umbrella with the text "Monitoring Council" inside. Below the umbrella is a blue rectangular box with the text "Develop web portal". Below this box are three green oval shapes, each containing text. Arrows point from each of these three ovals up to the "Develop web portal" box. The ovals are labeled: "Develop monitoring & assessment methods & data management procedures" (left), "Achieve standardization" (center), and "Coordinate monitoring programs" (right). The background is blue with faint white concentric circles at the bottom.

Monitoring Council

Develop web portal

**Develop
monitoring &
assessment methods
& data management
procedures**

**Achieve
standardization**

**Coordinate
monitoring
programs**

Role of the Monitoring Council

- Establish policies and guidelines
- Clearinghouse for
 - Standards
 - Guidelines
 - Collaboration

Next Steps



IS IT SAFE TO SWIM IN OUR WATERS?

- 💧 Coastal beaches, bays & estuaries



ARE OUR AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS HEALTHY?

- 💧 Wetlands – early November



IS IT SAFE TO EAT FISH AND SHELLFISH?

- 💧 Sport fish – early December



IS OUR WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

- 💧 Groundwater – early January

Next Steps



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Comprehensive Integrated Water Quality Monitoring Program Strategy

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