

A California Water Boards Treasure Chest

It's a Compendium

by Erick Burres, State Water Board
(erick.burres@waterboards.ca.gov)

Many Californians have joined other members of their community to care for and monitor local streams, lakes, and beaches to help ensure their protection. Since 1999 their go-to place for assistance has been the California Water Boards' Clean Water Team (Team).

The Team helps watershed monitoring efforts that rely wholly or in part on citizen scientists. The Team does this by providing technical assistance and guidance documents, training, quality assurance/quality control support, temporary loans of equipment, and communication to citizen monitoring programs and watershed stewardship organizations. One of the Team's greatest resources is their [Guidance Compendium for Watershed Monitoring and Assessment](#). It's like a treasure chest filled with many gems.

The Clean Water Team's Compendium is a collection of How to Manuals (starting and running a monitoring program), Fact Sheets (presenting ecological significance and regulatory benchmarks), Information Papers (method "menus" and principles), Standard Operating Procedures (step-by-step instructions), and more. This Compendium was created to help citizen monitoring programs organize and produce actionable data for watershed stewardship. Many groups outside of California and internationally also use the Compendium. And it's not just citizen monitoring programs; researchers, agencies, and colleges use the Compendium as well.



information about measurements taken at one point in a water body, you will find them and many water quality Fact Sheets in [Section 3](#). [Section 4](#) is filled with guidance related to stream measurements (e.g., flow, visual observations, trash, wildlife). Measurements taken in a watershed such as rainfall, sediment, or geographic information for watershed use are in [Section 5](#) and [Section 6](#). Programmatic quality assurance and quality control (QA, QC, and QAPP) along with data quality management (DQM) are demystified in [Section 7](#) and [Section 8](#). The compendium even includes guidance on specific staff and volunteers roles as they relate to data quality management ([Section 9](#)).

The Compendium is a living resource in that it continues to grow as more guidance and organizational management documents are added to it. To date it includes over 300 items. You don't have to be a [pirate](#) to enjoy this treasure chest – just be a scientist, resource manager, or a caring citizen.

www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/cwt_guidance.shtml



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Noun a collection of concise but detailed information about a particular subject, especially in book or other publication.

Se Habla Español?

Did you know that Compendium has many resources written in Spanish? These include Fact Sheets on all [5 Vital Signs, aquatic invertebrates](#) and a list of Spanish language water quality monitoring resource [Web-Links](#).