April Seminar Series:
DESIGNING AND ADMINISTRATING THE COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPACTS SURVEY

Join Dr. Bethany Robinson, Dr. Scott Coffin, and Dr. Marielle Pinheiro on April 29 at noon for the next Seminar Series presentation. This team will present on their work designing and administrating the COVID-19 Financial Impacts Survey.
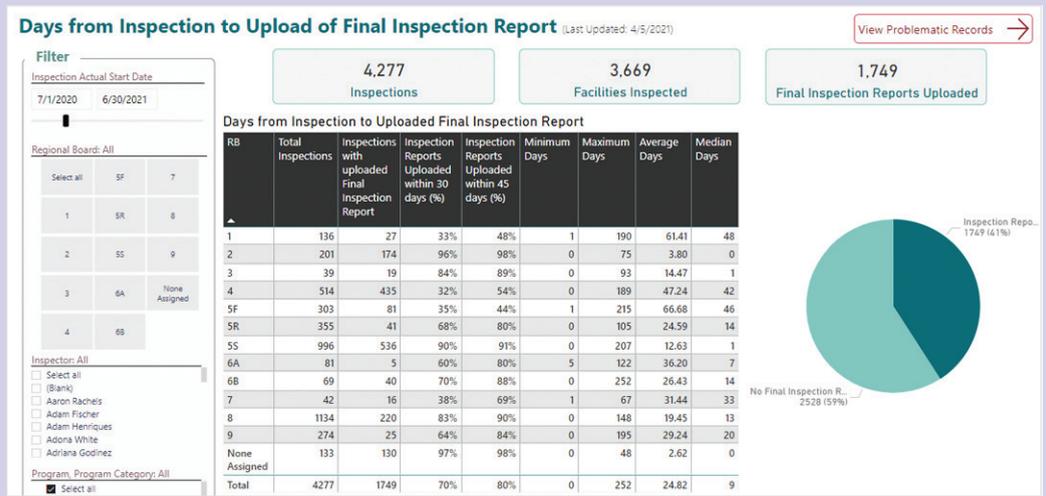
At the end of 2020, State Water Board staff were tasked with gathering information on the financial impacts of COVID-19 to agencies and households throughout the state. The final dataset covered a statistically significant sample of agencies throughout the state, gathering both qualitative and quantitative information on agency finances and customer debt levels. This presentation details the work undertaken to write and administer the survey, as well as manage the incoming data using Python, Excel, and SQL.

Register for this Zoom webinar **here**.

DATA BYTES

You don't have to have a finalized data table to work in **Power BI** – your prep work can be done right in the program! Using Power BI's **Power Query** tools allows you to easily combine datasets from different sources, reformat the data (change data types, remove columns, add columns), and create custom columns using the M query formulas. For example, this inspection data visualization presents data from GeoTracker and CIWQS Reports. Power Query was used to merge the data from the systems and make them look consistent as well as create fields of calculated values.

More on Power Query can be found at **this** Youtube video. If you haven't tried Power BI yet, Water Board employees can get if from the Microsoft Store (while NOT connected to VPN) and **this** information can get you started. If you are wanting to make your visualization public, contact **waterdata@waterboards.ca.gov** for more details about options.

Water Data Digest Spotlight:
WATER DATA SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

The 6th Annual Water Data Science Symposium is coming up on June 29 and 30. While registration opened recently, Environmental Scientist and Data Literacy Guru, Anna Holder, has been working on this event since before last year's event ended. Anna took a few minutes to talk to us about this signature event.

WDD: What is the goal of the Annual Water Data Science Symposium?

Anna: *The main goal of the Symposium is to provide a space for and shine a light on the great water data work that is happening in California and beyond.*

More recently we are also trying to include the nexus of racial equity and environmental justice into that work and provide a space where more difficult and challenging conversations can exist. We are really trying to build community so presenters and participants can build relationships and leverage them to improve their work and the community overall.

WDD: Last year's event was pivotal in a couple of ways. First, it was co-coordinated with a community group and second, like most events in 2020, it couldn't be held in-person. Can you talk about if these changes will continue in the future?

Anna: *The inclusion of community groups actually started in 2019 when a participant in that year's event, LaDonna Williams of All Positives Possible, highlighted and expressed concern about lack of diversity in the event. The planning team agreed with and appreciated this constructive criticism and used it to strengthen the development of future events. Ms. Williams helped us build the Community Advisory Committee, which was pivotal in bringing the different voices to the table that launched last year's Symposium. It opened the community up to wanting more perspectives and more diversity in the people that present and attend the event year-to-year.*

When it comes to being virtual, this year will be virtual again due to COVID-19. We are cognizant of and concerned about safety and don't want to open up too early. And we are having discussions now about what the future of the Symposium will look like. There are many benefits of being virtual: there are no travel costs, it allows more people to attend that would not be able to attend otherwise so that opened up the audience. There is also a cost to being virtual. The interactions that people had in the hallways or during a poster session just aren't the same on Zoom. Seeing each other, talking to each other, sharing a meal face-to-face and having conversation about the work that we are doing and the challenges we are facing—that's just hard to replicate virtually. I hope that beyond 2021, we can have a blend of the in-person and virtual experience so that we can keep the best of both situations. I don't know what that is going to look like but we'll figure it out.

WDD: What do you think will make this year's event stick out and make it worth attending?

Anna: *We are trying to encourage presenters to talk about how their work intersects with racial equity and environmental justice because it is a safe place and we are all there to learn. We are also partnering with the US Geological Survey and they will be hosting a workshop to go through their Bay-Delta Data Sandbox so people will be able to sign up to look at the dataset and provide feedback in an inter-active session.*

WDD: Where can we learn more about this year's Symposium?

Anna: *The event is advertised on the* **College of Water Informatics Events Page** *and information is also provided on the* **Symposium's website**.