

California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

# Citizen Monitoring: Working Conditions for Field Persons

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Erick Burres

Citizen Monitoring Coordinator

SWRCB-Clean Water Team

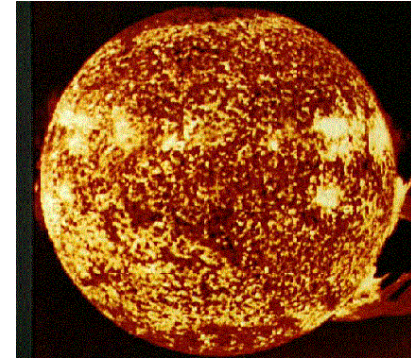
[eburres@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:eburres@waterboards.ca.gov)

(213) 576-6788





# Climate:



- Normal conditions avoid bad weather.
- First flush monitoring is conducted during a rain event and can occur during the night or early morning.
- Temperatures range from 30's in winter to high 80's in summer.
- Precipitation can range from none to rain, or snow.

# Terrain:



- Waterbodies typically monitored are creeks, streams, and rivers.
- These are usually accessed by hiking down a ravine or steep embankment (up to +/-70%).
  - Surface conditions are variable: well kept trails, boulder-hopping, slick inclined concrete, unstable soils, decomposing granite, clay/gabbroitic soils, muddy.
  - Not uncommon is the need to go over, under or through fences/gates (barbed/smooth wire, hurricane...).



# Locale:

Sampling stations can be as close as street-side or a ½ hour hike away.



# Streams

## Conditions:

- Wadeable flows, trickles, ponded water.
- Non-wadeable flows are sampled with tethered devices and buckets.
- Streambeds consisting of sand, gravel, cobble, mud or bedrock and sometimes slicked by a covering of periphyton or excessive algae.



# Sampling Gear:



Equipment and samples (water, sediment, invertebrates) are either transported in a backpack or within a box and by hand. Typically this is under 20 lbs but varies depending on the number of persons available to split up the items amongst. Ice chests of various sizes are also used.



# Citizen Monitoring Workshops



Workshops usually consist on a day in a classroom and a day in the field. Field conditions usually are not too rough due to the need for quick easy access and the need to accommodate a large number of people. Coordinators bring many boxes of handouts (11"x9.5"x17") and equipment (footlocker sized boxes) as required.

# Special Citizen Monitoring Events

Events usually require Coordinators to bring/or handle many boxes of equipment (footlocker sized boxes), tables, chairs, and /or canopies as required.

