

Welcome to this issue of the SWAMP Newsletter. Every few months we plan to bring you the latest surface water ambient monitoring news from the State Water Resources Control Board. We welcome your feedback at [swamp@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:swamp@waterboards.ca.gov).

## California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup Meeting a Success!

by [Toni Marshall](#)

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual CABW meeting was held on the campus of UC Davis on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Once again, bioassessment practitioners and scientists from throughout California and surrounding states gathered to discuss the latest technical developments, research, and applications of bioassessment science to assess and manage California's freshwater resources. This year's workshop was considered one of the best ever based on the evaluation comments received; here is what participants are saying:

*"This workshop helps tie the aquatic bioassessment fields together. It will help me to interpret the field sampling results and see how the data we collect is being used for big picture studies"*

*"I was not aware of all the resources available through SWAMP. I will definitely research more and see how these tools can help in my work in the Water Quality Monitoring Program"*



*"There were some great ideas for how to analyze our data and infer stream health and causes of stress"*

*"Great opportunity to meet others in field, share ideas, and make connections with potential collaborators"*

An overview and presentations from the 2016 workshop can be found [here](#). A newsletter for the California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup/California Chapter Society for Freshwater Science is posted [here](#).

## New Safe Eating Advisory for Fish in California Coastal Waters



by [Jay Davis](#)

In 2009 and 2010, the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) conducted a survey of contaminants in fish from 68 locations across the entire coast of California. The survey, performed in collaboration with the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in San Francisco Bay and the Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program, provided the first systematic statewide assessment of contaminants in coastal fish.

Based to a large extent on data from this survey, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) published consumption advice covering the entire California coast in November. → [Learn More](#)



## Integrated Report Paints California's Water Quality Picture

by [Jessie Maxfield](#) and [Lori Webber](#)

Two documents generated in response to subsections of the federal Clean Water Act provide an overall assessment of the quality of California's waters – the 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies and the 305(b) Report. Together they form California's "Integrated Report." The 303(d) List identifies waterbodies that are impaired; that is, waterbodies with one or more beneficial uses that are not being supported. The 305(b) Report describes overall surface water conditions and includes waterbodies that are known to be in good condition (i.e. beneficial uses are being supported), as well as waterbodies where data indicate beneficial uses may not be supported. A great deal of data generated by Water Board programs such as SWAMP, by other governmental agencies, and by non-governmental organizations help to inform what appears in the Integrated Report. → [Learn More](#)



## San Diego Water Board Uses Bioassessment Data in Latest Integrated Report

by [Chad Loflen](#)

On October 12, 2016, the San Diego Water Board adopted its [Clean Water Act Sections 305\(b\) and 303\(d\) Integrated Report](#), which relied heavily on data collected by SWAMP and its partners. Benthic macroinvertebrate data, in the form of calculated [California Stream Condition Index \(CSCI\)](#) scores, were used to identify sites that had a degraded biological condition for subsequent placement on the Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies.

Importantly, Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act requires the identification of waterbodies in "good" condition with beneficial uses attained. San Diego Water Board staff used the CSCI, [algal indices of biotic integrity](#), the [California Rapid Assessment Method \(CRAM\)](#), and sites screened under SWAMP's [Reference Condition Management Program](#) to identify those streams that did not exhibit biological degradation for subsequent placement into "Category 1" under Section 305(b). In total, over 500 samples from 68 streams were assessed and included in the Integrated Report. San Diego Water Board members identified the use of bioassessment data as one of the primary highlights of this Integrated Report.

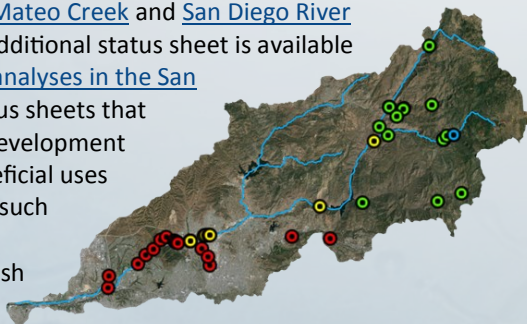


## Region 9 "Status Sheets" Report on Key Beneficial Uses in Key Water Bodies

by [Betty Fetscher](#)

The San Diego Water Board is preparing a series of "status sheets" as brief communications to apprise the public of the condition of watersheds and waterbodies in the region, based on data collected via SWAMP and other regional monitoring programs and partners. The focus of the two-page status sheets is on monitoring results that provide insight into attainment of key beneficial uses in key water bodies.

So far, status sheets have been prepared describing the ecological condition of the [San Mateo Creek](#) and [San Diego River](#) watersheds, and an additional status sheet is available on recent [fish-tissue analyses in the San Diego River](#). The status sheets that are currently under development focus on priority beneficial uses in the San Diego Bay, such as water contact recreation, and shellfish consumption.



## The Open and Transparent Water Data Act



by [Jon Marshack](#)

In September, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 1755 (Bill Dodd), adding the [Open and Transparent Water Data Act](#) to the California Water Code.

This legislation mandates: (1) coordination and integration of existing water data from multiple sources; (2) development of data documentation and sharing protocols to which future grant recipients must adhere in order to obtain state funding; and (3) creation, operation, and maintenance of a statewide integrated water data platform for water data. The Department of Water Resources is responsible for the second and third tasks, in consultation with the Water Boards, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Water Quality Monitoring Council. → [Learn More](#)

