

Date: June 2, 2011

To: The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) Roundtable

From: The SWAMP Quality Assurance Team (QAT)

Subject: SWAMP Roundtable Vote Results: Grain Size Guidelines

Background

At the May 11, 2011 meeting of the SWAMP Roundtable, voters were asked to accept or reject two proposed updates to Table B4: *Sample Handling and Preservation – Conventional in Sediment* of the *Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Program Plan* (QAPrP).

1. SWAMP's sample handling recommendations for grain size should be adjusted to reflect EPA's *National Coastal Assessment Quality Assurance Project Plan*.
2. SWAMP's current method-based holding time requirement for grain size should be replaced by the one-year guideline of EPA's *National Coastal Assessment Quality Assurance Project Plan*.

These two proposed QAPrP updates are summarized in the following table:

Document	Recommended Preservation*	Required Holding Time
QAPrP (Current)	Cool to 6 °C in the dark up to 28 days. Do not freeze	Please refer to method
QAPrP (Proposed)	wet ice to 6 °C in the field, then refrigerate at 6 °C	1 year

Summary

The May 11, 2011 SWAMP Roundtable vote was unanimously in favor of both proposed updates. It is summarized in the following table:

Voter	Proposed Preservation*	Proposed Holding Time
Region 1	Accepted	Accepted
Region 2	Accepted	Accepted
Region 3	Accepted	Accepted
Region 4	Accepted	Accepted
Region 5	Accepted	Accepted
Region 6	Accepted	Accepted
Region 7	Accepted	Accepted
Region 8	Accepted	Accepted
Region 9	Accepted	Accepted
State Board	Accepted	Accepted

Outcome

The approved updates will become effective on July 1, 2011, and will be incorporated into the forthcoming revision of the QAPrP. In the meantime, this memo will be:

- Emailed to the SWAMP Roundtable;
- Distributed to subscribers of the State Board’s SWAMP Lyris list; and
- Posted online at: <http://swamp.mpsl.mlml.calstate.edu/resources-and-downloads/quality-assurance/quality-assurance-memos>.

References*

[Analysis of Sediment Samples for USEPA Region IV](#)

Folk, R. L. 1974. *Petrology of Sedimentary Rocks*. Hemphill Publishing Co., Austin, Texas.

Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act; National Primary Drinking Water Regulations; and National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations; Analysis and Sampling Procedures; Final Rule. *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 122, 136, et al, Title 40, 2007.

[National Coastal Assessment Quality Assurance Project Plan](#)

Plumb, R.H. Jr. 1981. *Procedures for Handling and Chemical Analyses of Sediment and Water Samples*. U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS.

[Southern California Bight Regional Marine Monitoring Survey Quality Assurance Plan](#)