

Get involved... Information Resources

Websites

The State Board and the nine Regional Boards each have an internet website. All have common features designed to inform the public about their goals, activities, and opportunities for public involvement. Among these common features are maps, calendars, meeting agendas and minutes, links to plans and policies, listing and description of Board programs, and listing of pending decisions. In addition, on the websites, you can subscribe to email lists, search databases, file an environmental complaint, search employment opportunities, access links to other state environmental agencies, and contact staff regarding Board programs and activities. See www.waterboards.ca.gov.

E-mail Subscription Mailing Lists

The State and Regional Water Boards use electronic subscription mailing lists, known as Lyris, for disseminating information. Becoming a member of an electronic mailing list allows you to receive announcements by e-mail on a specific topic. If you don't have access to a computer, just let us know. Give us a call or send us a request in writing and we can add you to a hard copy mailing list. For a listing of all Lyris lists and to subscribe, see http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/index.shtml

WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

Home | Board Info | Board Decisions | Water Issues | Publications/Forms | Press Room

Email List Subscription Form

Become a member of one or more of our email lists, and receive periodic updates by email.

Email Address: (required)

Your Full Name: (required) (e.g. John Smith)

Instructions:

1. Complete the information requested above.
2. Select one or more email lists below and check the box next to it.
3. Click on the "subscribe" button located at the upper right hand corner.
4. An email notice will be sent to you for each selection. Please respond to the message to confirm your membership.

Categories:

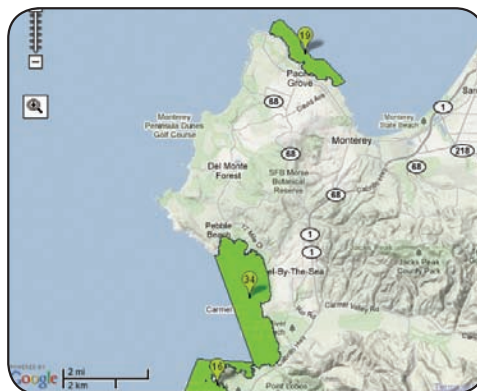
- General Interest
- Financial Assistance (Grants & Loans)
- Legal Notices from the Office of Chief Counsel
- Water Quality
- Water Rights
- More Information

GENERAL INTEREST TOPICS

- The State Water Boards Home Page
- Blue-Green Algae
- Board Meetings
- Board Workshops
- Climate Change: Water Impacts
- Enforcement

Data and Databases

The State and Regional Water Boards maintain a variety of databases that can be accessed by the public to provide comprehensive data with which to examine the health of any watershed in the State, identify data gaps, and download data sets for further use or analysis. To see a discussion of available data and databases, see http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/data_databases/



NOTE TO NON-NET USERS:




The Guide contains many references to websites as well as weblinks to many sites. The Boards recognize that not all Californians have access to the internet. Thus, any member of the public may contact the Water Boards by telephone or US Mail to communicate concerns, ask questions, request information, or inquire about public participation opportunities. The Water Boards are interested in hearing from all Californians.

...working Together

EXAMPLES OF AVAILABLE DATABASES

My Water Quality

This web portal, supported by a wide variety of public and private organizations, presents California water quality monitoring data and assessment information that may be viewed across space and time. Portal data is focused in five areas:

	<p>IS IT SAFE TO SWIM IN OUR WATERS?</p> <p>Swimming safety of our waters is linked to the levels of pathogens that have the pote</p>
	<p>IS IT SAFE TO EAT FISH AND SHELLFISH FROM OUR WATERS?</p> <p>Aquatic organisms are able to accumulate certain pollutants from the water in which that could harm consumers. More>></p>
	<p>ARE OUR AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS HEALTHY?</p> <p>The health of fish and other aquatic organisms and communities depends on the c</p>

Is our water safe to drink? Safe drinking water depends on a variety of chemical and biological factors regulated by a number of local, state, and federal agencies.

Is it safe to swim in our waters? Swimming safety of our waters is linked to the levels of pathogens that have the potential to cause disease.

Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters? Aquatic organisms are able to accumulate certain pollutants from the water in which they live, sometimes reaching levels that could harm consumers.

Are our aquatic ecosystems healthy? The health of fish and other aquatic organisms and communities depends on the chemical, physical, and biological quality of the waters in which they live.

What stressors and processes affect our water quality? Beneficial uses of our waters are affected by emerging contaminants, invasive species, trash, global warming, acidification, pollutant loads, and flow. <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/>

Geotracker

GeoTracker is the Water Boards' data management system for managing sites that impact groundwater, especially those that require groundwater cleanup. These include Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and Department of Defense Cleanup sites. GeoTracker also manages data from permitted facilities such as operating USTs and land disposal sites. GeoTracker's utilizes data sets from multiple State Water Board programs and other agencies through an easy-to-use Google maps GIS interface. This allows users to view data in relationship to streets/roads, satellite imagery, and terrain map views as well as other sites that affect groundwater quality and wells and other beneficial uses that may be affected.

GeoTracker enables regulators and local agencies to manage case loads, schedule and track when deliverables or reports are due from responsible parties, evaluate sites for risk and allocate staff resources. Geotracker provides the public with most of the public record through over 350,000 documents. Data can be layered and can include such information as highways and roads, watershed boundaries and groundwater basins.

<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/>



Get involved...

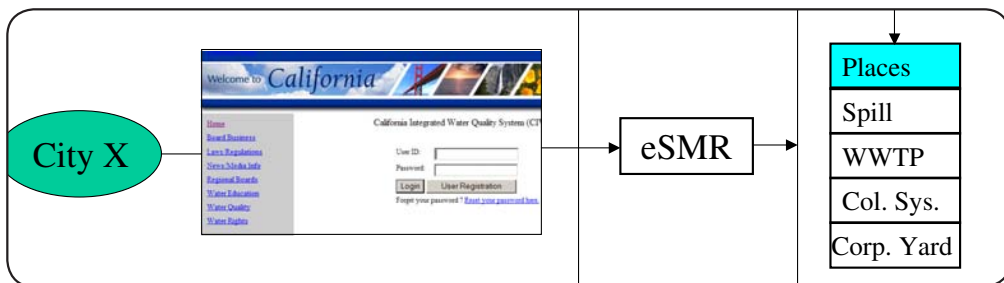
EXAMPLES OF AVAILABLE DATABASES (...continued)

California Integrated Water Quality System

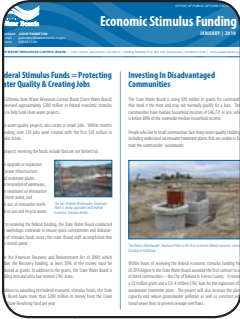
The California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) is a web-based relational database for core regulatory data. Using this system, both staff and the public can access data related to places of environmental interest, permits and other orders, inspections, and violations and enforcement activities. Because this is a relational database, different record types can, and in specific cases should, be linked to each other. For instance, a regulatory measure must be linked to a place record to describe where the activity being regulated is taking place. The public interfaces with CIWQS through the public reports page, where information is displayed in an easy fashion. Using the public reports page, users can track permits and orders, inspections and self-monitoring reports, violations and enforcement activities, and reports of regulatory information. Water Board Programs utilizing CIWQS include NPDES (discharges to surface waters), WDRs (discharges to land or non-federal water, including recycled water), Landfills, Water Rights (eWRIMS), and Irrigated Lands [for enforcement and to facilitate billing only]. For more information, see http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/publicreports.shtm/

eWRIMS

The web-based Enhanced Water Right Information Management System (eWRIMS) tracks information regarding water rights in California. It contains information on water right permits and licenses issued by the State Water Board and other claimed water rights. eWRIMS is a module of the CIWQS program. eWRIMS combines a tabular database with a Geographic Information System (GIS) database system. It provides information on water right holders, location of water rights and other information mandated by state law. It also provides the public with copies of water right permits, licenses, registrations and revocations. Internal to the Water Boards, eWRIMS is used for calculating and billing the water right annual fees. All public users or stakeholders have access to eWRIMS data and can download information pertaining to water rights into an Excel spreadsheet. Using eWRIMS, users can search for details about water rights by: water right status, water right type, primary owner, water right ID; (application, permit or license number), watershed, county, or source of the water. Further information can be found by going to: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ewrims>



Appendix #1



Ombudsman

The Water Boards have appointed an Ombudsman to respond to general inquiries and concerns from the public as well as inquiries related to Small Business, Water Recycling, and Agriculture. The Ombudsman's role involves the handling of both simple questions as well as the handling of complex and sensitive issues; the complex issues may involve a variety of governmental jurisdictions and constituencies. The Ombudsman does not argue for or against a particular point of view, and oftentimes is more of a facilitator or mediator.

Water Words Dictionary

This on-line guide was created to provide readers with a general understanding of some of the many terms and abbreviations used by the California Water Boards. While the definitions do not constitute the Water Boards' official use of terms and phrases for regulatory purposes, they are helpful to the public's understanding of the Board's programs and activities. The Water Words Dictionary can only be viewed in "PDF" format, which requires Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you do not already have this program on your computer, click the "Get Adobe Reader" icon in the grey navigational column to the left to download a free copy.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/available_documents/water_words.shtml

Business Help

The Water Boards offer assistance to vendors and contractors regarding business opportunities with the Water Boards. The Water Boards also have designated a staff member to serve as small business liaison. In addition to contracting opportunities, the Liaison can also assist in providing information regarding fees, available financial assistance in the form of water grants and loans, as well as forms and permits.

Commonly used Acronyms

The Water Boards maintain a list of acronyms commonly used by Water Board staff. These can be accessed online. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/available_documents/water_words/acronyms.pdf



Public Records Center

The State Water Board maintains many public records in its files. However, it typically does not maintain site-specific water quality files. Those can be found at the Regional Boards. If you are looking for such records, please contact the appropriate Regional Board directly. Each Regional Board website indicates how you can obtain public records from them. You can gain easy access to the Regional Board Websites by clicking on the desired Region on the map on the following link. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml

Fact Sheets

The Water Boards periodically prepare fact sheets on a variety of topics. Sometimes these provide general information on a topic and sometimes they provide more specific information related to an action being taken by the Boards. For example, the Regional Boards will often prepare fact sheets related to a cleanup site with which they are involved. These may be accessed on line through the internet sites maintained by the Boards.

www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/publications/factsheets/



The California Public Records Act gives you the rights to view and obtain copies of public documents. Note that it is not always necessary to submit a formal request for information under the Act. Much of the information sought by the public is already available through public information offices and on the website.

To Learn More about the Water Boards

- California Water Boards: Who We Are and What We Do http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/publications/factsheets/docs/stateboard.pdf
- A Dozen Things You Never Knew About the Water Boards http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/publications/factsheets/docs/dozenthings.pdf

Educational Materials

The Water Boards maintain a supply of educational materials suitable for the K through 8 grades. These include book marks, coloring books and a water quiz. These can be requested by contacting OPP at 916 341-5254 or at info@waterboards.ca.gov.

