



Media Release

State Water Board's 2019 Citizen Monitoring Calendar Alerts Public to Key Clean Water Action Days

For immediate release
January 8, 2019

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Were you aware that 76 percent of nationwide boating deaths in 2017 were due to drowning, according to the latest statistics from the United States Coast Guard? That 84.5 percent of victims were not wearing a life jacket?

Did you know that only one percent of the earth's water is useable, 99 percent of which is groundwater?

And what about those adorable turtles than in prior generations were purchased at pet stores and given names such as "Tippy" and "Tilly" and "Toby?" Not anymore. World Turtle Day reminds everyone that the sale of any turtle or tortoise smaller than four inches is illegal in the U.S.

These are just a few examples of the events, activities and useful facts that can be found in the 2019 calendar compiled by the Clean Water Team – the citizen monitoring program - at the State Water Resources Control Board. The purpose of the annual undertaking is two-fold: To highlight the importance of California's surface waters and celebrate the citizen volunteers who work to improve and protect water quality by monitoring the state's waterways. Available now, it can be downloaded for free on the State Water Board's website [here](#).

The "something for everybody" approach offers a wealth of games, charts, activities and adventures directed at our youngest volunteers, as well as for citizens looking for a deeper dive. For those curious about the marriage of politics and water, the calendar includes the [legislature's full schedule of events](#).

Those eager to test their knowledge about groundwater can jump into National Trivia Day or National Groundwater Awareness Week. Those who like math and science can participate during Engineers Week and National Chemistry week, while those eager to learn more about the health of the state's streams, rivers and lakes can experiment with maps and links on Love Your River Day, Lakes Month and The Secchi Dip-In.

Additionally, this year's calendar offers links to websites devoted to collecting water quality data, evaluating fish habitat, counting birds, or making visual observations of stream health, and a mapping tool that helps identify communities most vulnerable to pollution.

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