

Bay Area Stormwater Permit Promoting Integrated Regional Monitoring

What is it?

Adopted at the October 14th, 2009 meeting of the San Francisco Regional Water Board, this new regional municipal stormwater permit provides incentives for forming a regional monitoring coalition. The permit stresses that water quality monitoring should encompass assessment of water quality status in creeks and waterways within the Permittees' jurisdictions on a rotating basis; assessment of long-term trends in water quality in representative creeks and waterways; identification of stressors or pollutant sources, investigation of treatment measures, and other special monitoring projects; and assessment of the loads of pollutants of concern to the Bay from urban runoff. The permit requires that all applicable monitoring be SWAMP comparable. It also contains requirements to reduce the discharges of trash, PCBs, and mercury.

Why is it important to the State?

This action is important as it continues to promote a coordinated, collaborative approach to regional water quality monitoring. Furthermore, it reinforces that data collected should be SWAMP comparable, making the data of known and documented quality so that it can be combined with other regional data for larger scale assessments of water quality.

Why is it important to me?

For residents of the San Francisco Bay region, this action reinforces the Water Board's commitment to coordinate and integrate monitoring efforts to minimize costs and collect data in an efficient and comprehensive manner. Finally, it allows residents to understand more about where their waters are safe and healthy and where more help is needed to keep them clean. It is easier for citizens to understand and advocate for clean water when it is clear to them where water quality is adequately maintained and where it is not.

How will this information be used?

This data will be used to assess local water quality and combined with other data to conduct larger scale water quality assessments. Data collected will be used to update the 303(d) list and 305(b) report.

Partners: Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties and the cities of Fairfield, Suisun City, and Vallejo; SWAMP, San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board

To learn more about this project, click [here](#)

