



Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) Web Site Release (Central Coast Region)

What is it?

The Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) is a SWAMP-funded monitoring program implemented by the Central Coast Regional Water Board. Since 2000, CCAMP has made maps, tables, and graphs of CCAMP data available on their website (www.ccamp.org).

In 2010 CCAMP significantly redesigned the website to incorporate new tools, features, and software. The website uses interactive maps which allow the viewer to learn more about locations of agricultural and urban areas, impaired surface waters, groundwater nitrate impairment, pesticides applications, marine protected areas, and more. The website also provides access to tables of data summarized from the National Land Cover Dataset and Department of Pesticide Regulation Pesticide Use Database. For each site, the percent of land cover in the upstream watershed and immediate catchment are shown. Also, the pounds of various pesticides applied in the upstream watershed are shown. The website includes data from both CCAMP and from the other large monitoring program in the Region, the Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture.

The website currently includes data on conventional water quality, toxicity, and bioassessment. Water quality data is accessible as colored site dots on the maps, as graphs that can be displayed in several ways (bar charts, box plots, scatter plots, time series) and at multiple scales. Detailed descriptions of each water quality analyte are available by drop down menus that explain the compound of interest or concern, and the water quality standards and thresholds that were applied to evaluate the data. The website provides information on detected changes in water quality, and where statistical change is measured at a specific site, site dots are depicted as colored arrows, showing the direction of change. All data is provided in summary tables at the scale of the watershed, the waterbody, or the individual site.

Future improvements to the website will include addition of multiple parameter indices, to allow “report card” type views of sites, stream reaches and watersheds. This will allow the viewer to quickly assess areas with major water quality problems,, and the location of pristine stream reaches.

Why is it important to the State?

The new website is an innovative approach to view the data and help in using the data with multiple applications in the future. It is highly interactive, making data collected by SWAMP in the Central Coast Region readily viewable and easily accessible in multiple formats. It provides water quality managers and decision makers with access not only to water quality data in various scales and formats, but with a large amount of contextual information to help understand that data.

Why is it important to me?

This tool allows interested parties to view how water quality problems relate to local land uses, human populations, and chemical applications. Local residents can learn more about water quality in their watershed; the website provides a way to enter a local address in order to zoom the map to the neighborhood of interest. Documentation provided on the website provides information on why a particular pollutant is important, and whether a watershed is considered in good, fair, poor or very poor condition relative to that pollutant. Residents can use this information to advocate for better water quality in their community or watershed, which is a benefit to us all.

How will this information be used?

The data available on the website can be used in many ways by many different people. Staff rely heavily on the website for developing TMDLs, understanding Regional priorities, making decisions on permit conditions, and following up with enforcement actions. The website has been used in the field to inform growers about the water quality in their areas. Staff also direct the public to the website to help answer questions about water quality. Many consultants and researchers use the data for their specific data needs. Regional Water Board staff gain tremendous “value added” from the monitoring data located on the website because the data is readily available and useable by many individuals, agencies, and organizations in addition to our own.