



SWAMP Strategy 2010 Update

What is it?

SWAMP's guiding document is the Comprehensive Monitoring and Assessment Strategy to Protect and Restore California's Water Quality (SWAMP Strategy), developed in 2005. The SWAMP Strategy lays out a vision and a roadmap for creating a coordinated and comprehensive monitoring and assessment framework for all Water Board programs. Based on USEPA guidance for developing statewide monitoring programs, the SWAMP Strategy describes program actions that will be taken to develop the framework. These actions include conducting statewide and regional monitoring projects to address priority water quality issues. They also include providing guidance and assistance with monitoring project design, monitoring objective and indicator selection, quality assurance, data management and data analysis and reporting. And they include extensive collaboration and outreach efforts with other monitoring programs throughout the state.

The SWAMP Strategy is updated every five years. This 2010 SWAMP Strategy update discusses the current status of the program and reports on the progress SWAMP has made in the first five years of implementing its monitoring and assessment framework. It also highlights steps necessary to complete the framework and integrate it into other Water Board programs and improve coordination with other water quality monitoring efforts in California. The 2010 update is designed to be fully consistent with the State Board's Strategic Plan as well as the California Water Quality Monitoring Council's initiative to develop a statewide monitoring strategy.

Why is it important to the State?

The Water Boards rely on water quality data to evaluate the condition of the state's waters and to identify problems and track the effects of management actions. The SWAMP Strategy update supports these activities by laying out specific steps that will be taken to standardize and coordinate monitoring efforts among the State and Regional Boards and with other organizations to improve the availability of quality monitoring data, facilitating the Water Board's efforts to enhance and preserve water quality in California.

Why is it important to me?

SWAMP's overall mission is to provide resource managers, decision makers, and the public with timely information to evaluate the condition of California's surface waters. The 2010 update guides the SWAMP program in support of this mission, which will enable water managers to make more effective decisions regarding California's water resources. Improved access to water quality data will also help local watershed organizations and other small groups to produce more rigorous scientific assessments of their watersheds and it will boost outreach efforts aimed at raising the public's awareness of water quality issues.

How will this information be used?

The 2010 SWAMP Strategy update will inform and guide SWAMP actions over the next five years. It is available for program managers, staff, outside agencies, the general public and other parties who have an interest in the steps the program is taking to fulfill its goal of developing a coordinated statewide monitoring and assessment framework.

For more information on the 2010 Strategy click here