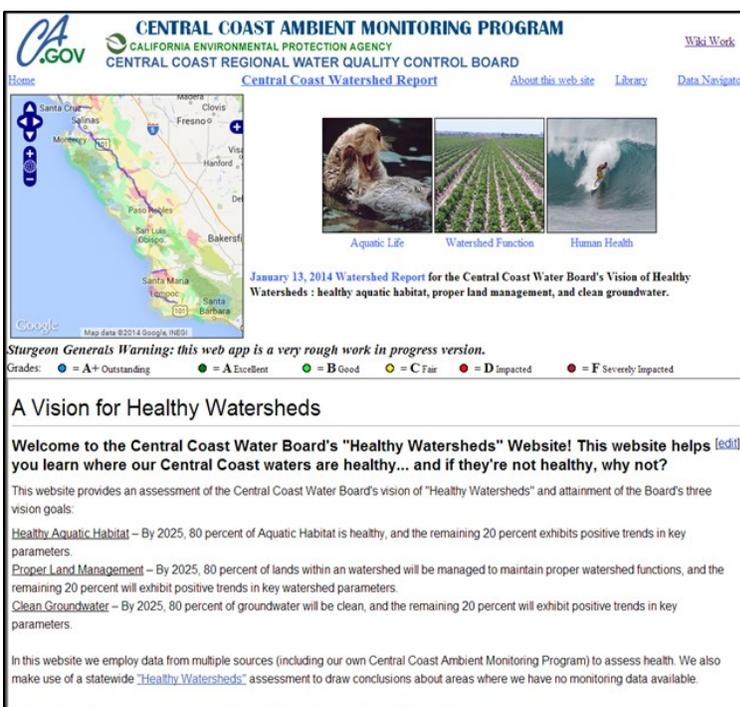


## Central Coast Healthy Watersheds Project

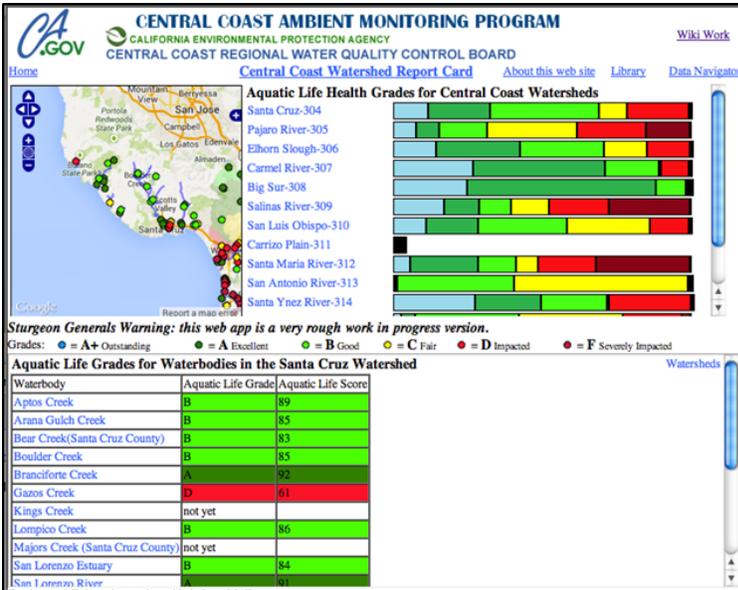
### What is it?

The Central Coast Region is developing a new website for the [Healthy Watersheds Project](#). The goal of The Healthy Watersheds Project, which is being carried out in close coordination with the San Diego Region's Environmental Report Card Project and the State's Healthy Watersheds initiative, is to broadly assess the health of watersheds to address the three Central Coast Regional goals of healthy aquatic habitat, proper land management, and clean groundwater. A scoring approach for multiple measures of health, including chemistry, biology, and physical habitat data, is being used to produce color-coded report cards for Central Coast sites, water bodies, and watersheds. More information about this project is available on the SWAMP website: [Healthy Watersheds Project](#).

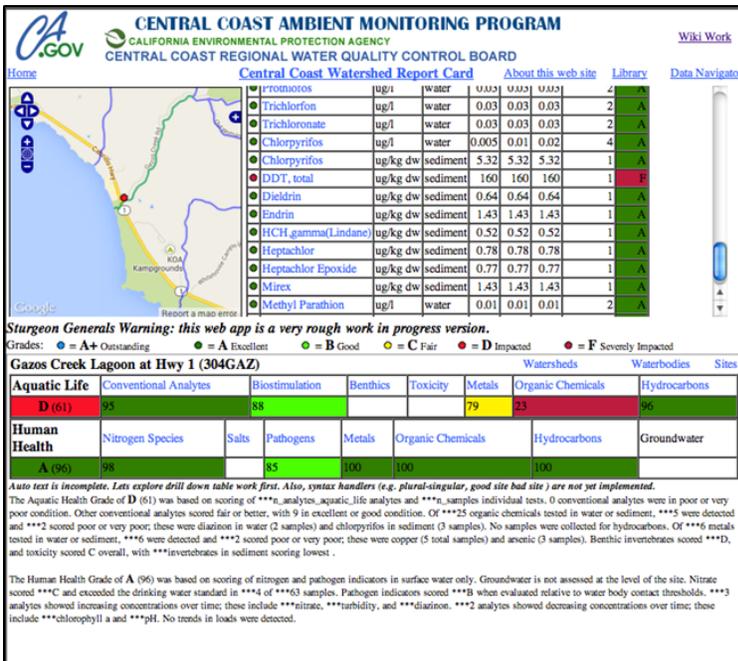


### 1. INTRODUCTION

The opening webpage of the new Healthy Watersheds website will show a view of the entire Region, scored by watershed (HUC10) for health. From this webpage, the user will be able to select a realm of health to explore: aquatic life, watershed function, or human health.



**2. SITE-SPECIFIC REPORT CARDS**  
 Each hydrologic unit and the waterbodies within will be given a score for health. In this example, Gazos Creek receives a “D.”



**3. DETAILED DATA**  
 Further exploration reveals that Gazos Creek has high levels of DDT in the lagoon, which is the source of the poor score.

In addition to site-specific report cards, the new website will also provide access to time-series data, trend analysis, flow and loading information, and upstream stressor assessment. The user will be able to explore both water quality and land use data in detail to learn more about a location of interest. The project website will be ready for beta testing in the winter of 2013 for an estimated public release date of July 2014. Once completed, the website will be accessible through the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) [website](#).

### **Why is it important?**

The Central Coast Healthy Watersheds project makes complex and often inaccessible data more available to the general public, water quality managers, and decision makers. Use of the Healthy Watersheds website will allow users to quickly learn the sources and causes of problems and explore whether any improvements have been detected. Combining multiple types of data together into a single spatial and analytical framework will allow for more informed decisions about the impacts of water quality on overall watershed health.

### **How will this information be used?**

Report cards, maps, and associated interpretive information will be available through the Central Coast Region's [CCAMP website](#), and on the statewide [My Water Quality Portal](#). This information will be used to prioritize water quality problems, coordinate monitoring efforts, and guide decision-making to better protect and restore California's water resources.

For more information, contact Karen Worcester ([kworcester@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kworcester@waterboards.ca.gov), or 805-549-3333).