

SWAMP Monitoring Strategy

Central Valley Regional Water Board

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has four overarching goals for its SWAMP efforts:

- Evaluate ambient water quality, beneficial use protection and potential sources of impairment.
- Evaluate effectiveness of the Water Board water quality improvement policies.
- Coordinate internal and external monitoring efforts to leverage limited resources.
- Ensure timely availability of monitoring results.

During the first five years of SWAMP, the Central Valley Regional Water Board coordinated with and built off of existing frameworks within each individual basin (San Joaquin River, Upper and Lower Sacramento River, and Tulare Lake) in order to leverage limited resources. Separate approaches were developed based on each basin's unique characteristics, existing monitoring programs, and water quality issues. SWAMP resources were also used to purchase equipment and developed standard operating procedures to perform in-house water sample analyses for total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria.

Following the statewide SWAMP scientific review in 2005, Central Valley Water Board staff re-evaluated the program. The revised focus aims to better coordinate internal monitoring efforts and data assessments (including supporting the region's 303d/305b Integrated Report development), ensure regional efforts are aligned with the statewide strategy and assessment framework, and facilitate a region-wide program.



To meet these objectives staff initiated [region-wide trend monitoring](#) that builds off of 30 Central Valley integrator sites identified by the statewide Stream Pollution Trends monitoring. The region-wide effort will allow seasonal evaluation at key sites, more detailed evaluation of the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Tulare Lake Basins on a rotating basis, and a consistent framework for coordination efforts. Key findings from earlier monitoring have been used to inform the current monitoring designs.

Coordination is still a primary goal of the Central Valley Water Board's SWAMP and includes but is not limited to:

- Staff support to coordinate the development of the [Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Regional Monitoring Program](#), as well as funding for Delta monitoring and tool development studies.
- Continued monitoring and data management support for the multi-agency [Grassland Bypass Project](#).
- [Coordinated trend monitoring](#) with the Department of Water Resources in the upper Sacramento River Basin—focused on measuring ambient water quality at lower watershed integrator sites and coordinated with the statewide SWAMP Stream Pollution Trends.
- [Safe to swim](#) studies that monitor and assess bacteria concentrations at popular swimming holes throughout the Central Valley in coordination with local watershed groups—follow-up studies attempt to identify sources and specific pathogens at sites with elevated bacteria levels.
- Data management support for the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) to streamline data transfers to CEDEN and improve data quality.
- Development of the web-based [Central Valley Monitoring Directory](#) to improve internal and external coordination.

The Central Valley SWAMP has created a five year plan that identifies and prioritizes projects for funding for fiscal years 10/11 through 14/15. This plan simplifies budgeting and aids transparency of how resources are allocated.

The five year plan and detailed information on the Central Valley Water

Board SWAMP, including links to over 40 water quality assessment reports, water quality data for the San Joaquin River Basin, and historic and current program information, is available on the [Central Valley Water Board SWAMP website](#).

