



Seasonal Trend Monitoring at Central Valley Integrator Sites (Central Valley Region)

What is it?

The Seasonal Trend Monitoring study is conducted by SWAMP at the Central Valley Regional Board (Region 5) with the goal of facilitating a Region-wide assessment of water quality. Initiated in 2009, this study is designed to answer the following questions:

1. What is the spatial variability of ambient water quality in the Central Valley?
2. What is the seasonal variability of ambient water quality in the Central Valley?
3. Is there evidence beneficial uses are not being protected?

A network of about 30 integrator sites has been established that includes locations at the base of large watersheds and on main rivers above or below major tributary inputs. Key water quality parameters are collected at these sites at regular intervals to assess seasonal and spatial trends in water quality and to evaluate beneficial uses. Monitoring activities are coordinated with the Department of Water Resources through the Sacramento Watershed Coordinated Monitoring Program and with the Statewide Stream Pollution Trend Monitoring at Integrator Sites (SPoT) program (see also the SPoT Achievement Report [[link](#)]).

Why is it important to the State?

This monitoring will help assess the health of Central Valley waterbodies and ensure the most effective use of limited State resources. The study design also provides a framework that can be expanded upon to answer additional management questions as necessary. Data collected by this program are SWAMP comparable and will be uploaded and made available to multiple users on the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN).

Why is it important to me?

Data from this study will be channeled into the My Water Quality web portals to inform the public on how well we are protecting the beneficial uses of the water important to them in the Central Valley – fish consumption safety, recreation, drinking water and ecosystem health.

How will this information be used?

Findings from the first two years of monitoring will be published in a report in 2011. The findings will be used to identify monitoring needs and inform future overall program design. Additionally, the data will be used in the Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d) Integrated Report assessing Central Valley water ways and identifying impairment.

For more information about this program and other Region 5 SWAMP activities click here.