



# FINDINGS ON CITIZEN MONITORING CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE MONITORING OF CALIFORNIA WATERS AND BENEFICIAL USES

## What is it?

Citizen monitors make significant contributions to the State's water quality monitoring programs. Using a wide range of sampling regimes, they generate much needed data from thousands of monitoring sites and hundreds of streams/river miles throughout the state. To assist their efforts and to further improve the State's water quality programs, the Clean Water Team (CWT) documented and quantified some of their contributions towards watershed stewardship and water quality monitoring. A summary of these findings was released in 2012.

## Why is it important?

With a population of over 38 million people, the demand for California's most precious resource, water, is growing exponentially. The usability of our water depends on its quality. Citizen monitors and watershed stewardship organizations can have vital roles in helping the State improve and protect water quality, especially during times of budgetary declines, staff downsizing, and an urgency to grow programs. To further assist the State in meeting its water quality objectives, the Clean Water Team strives to encourage citizen monitoring programs and collaborations, and to share their contributions. The positive impact that citizen monitors have on our watersheds, by contributing thousands of volunteer hours and millions of dollars' worth of program services, is a story that needs to be told.

## How will this information be used?

This information will be used to show how California's citizen monitoring programs are contributing tens of thousands of volunteer hours, worth millions of dollars, to water quality monitoring efforts throughout the state. Their work will assist the documentation of annual

organizational and monitoring budgets, and serve to inform potential collaborators about the wide range of activities in which citizen monitors are engaged. The information gathered through this Clean Water Team project will further inform potential collaborators about California's citizen monitoring programs, the diversity of these programs, and the wide range of parameters being surveyed (pesticides, metals, toxicity, trash, fecal indicator bacteria, and others).

For more information, view the [\*Summary of Findings on Citizen Monitoring Contributions Towards the Monitoring of California Waters and Beneficial Uses\*](#).