



**Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program
Realignment**

**San Diego Realignment Advisory Committee
Recommendations**

Acknowledgements

This Recommendations Document was prepared by the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (R9) as part of the SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program's Realignment efforts in the San Diego Region.

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Introduction

A key component of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) [Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Plan](#) involves documenting recommendations made by the San Diego Realignment Advisory Committee (Committee). This document presents recommendations that were made by the Committee throughout the three-year Realignment process.

The SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program will take all recommendations under consideration immediately and begin to implement them as appropriate and as the resources necessary to implement them are available. The logistics of fully addressing or implementing many of the below recommendations will require multiple discussions, and long-term partnership and coordination between SWAMP as well as Tribal and agency partners (e.g. Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment [OEHHA], California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW], etc.).

Recommendation Summary

To be developed in the third year of the Realignment process (Fall/Winter 2023).

Year 1 Recommendations

The below recommendations were made by San Diego Realignment Advisory Committee Members during or after the first year of the Realignment Process in the San Diego Region.

For more detailed descriptions of Advisory Committee Meeting discussions, please refer to the meeting notes: [Meeting 1](#) (Jun. 2021), [Meeting 2](#) (Sep. 2021), [Meeting 3](#) (Nov. 2021).

Recommendations related to bioaccumulation monitoring

- In addition to the species considered in the [San Diego Region Monitoring and Analysis Workplan](#) (Table 4, Appendices 3 - 6), the Committee recommended the Program and partners consider assessing the safety of consuming non-animal species as they relate to tribal consumption and cultural purposes. For example, some individuals regularly consume kelp, seaweed, and cattail roots. It would be helpful if there was more guidance on the safety of consuming these types of species, especially in the context of algal toxin exposure.
- The Committee recommended that the SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program work with the [SWAMP Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom \(FHAB\) Program](#) and OEHHA partners involved with FHAB response, monitoring, and research to determine the extent to which the SWAMP Bioaccumulation and FHAB Programs can partner to monitor, understand, and address FHABs as they relate to consumption of fish and shellfish in 2022 and into the future. See Appendix 7 for more details.
- The Committee requested a Native Monitor be present when sampling near creeks so they can ensure sampling is sensitive to cultural resources.

Recommendations related to [OEHHA Fish Consumption Advisories](#)

- The Committee recommended the Program work with OEHHA to determine the extent to which consumption advisories can be adapted or developed to include advisories for those who consume fish and shellfish at a rate and manner consistent with subsistence and sustenance by traditionally underrepresented communities, as well as Tribal traditions, culture, and subsistence (i.e., a rate that can be much greater than four servings per week for some communities). See the San Diego Realignment Species and Tissue Types Section for more details.
- The Committee recommended an inventory of locations that do not require a fishing license throughout the state (e.g. piers and jetties) be developed and compared to locations of where OEHHA fish consumption advisories are physically posted near water

bodies. The goal is to get a better understanding of (1) how many locations are lacking advice, and (2) the locations at which physical postings should be added.

Recommendations related to future Realignment & engagement efforts

- The Committee recommended future Realignment efforts continue to:
 - Center Tribal and community perspectives, needs, and recommendations
 - Include representatives from Tribal governments, state and federal agencies, and community-based organizations that have an interest in California bioaccumulation monitoring, assessment, and information
 - Include discussion of specific locations, species, and pollutants that are of interest for monitoring
 - Utilize Advisory Committee meetings and conversations to build relationships and recruit for participation in other efforts that may be of interest to Committee members
- The Committee recommended more time be dedicated to:
 - Holistic outreach and engagement - particularly with Tribes - *before* the start of a Realignment process within a region. This will likely increase the number and diversity of Tribes and organizations that are able to commit to and fully engage in the process.
 - Year 2 Monitoring and Analysis Workplan development and review. Specifically, it is recommended that Workplan review, feedback, and discussions occur over two meetings instead of one.
- The Committee recommended future Realignment efforts be held in-person whenever safe and logistically feasible. Including snacks or light refreshments at in-person meetings would also be appreciated.
- The Committee recommended the SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program keep track of how the concerns raised during future Realignment efforts vary throughout the state. There was particular interest in understanding how pollutants of concern vary across cultures and latitudes/regions.

Year 2 Recommendations

The below recommendations were made by San Diego Realignment Advisory Committee Members during or after the second year of the Realignment Process in the San Diego Region.

For more detailed descriptions of Advisory Committee Meeting discussions, please refer to the meeting notes: Meeting 4 (TBD 2022), Meeting 5 (TBD 2022).

To be developed in the second year of the Realignment process (Fall/Winter 2022).

Recommendations related to communication needs

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Recommendations related to future Realignment & engagement efforts

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Year 3 Recommendations

The below recommendations were made by San Diego Realignment Advisory Committee Members during or after the third year of the Realignment Process in the San Diego Region.

For more detailed descriptions of Advisory Committee Meeting discussions, please refer to the meeting notes: Meeting 6 (TBD 2023), Meeting 7 (TBD 2023).

To be developed in the third year of the Realignment process (Fall/Winter 2023).

Recommendations related to TBD

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Recommendations related to future Realignment & engagement efforts

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