

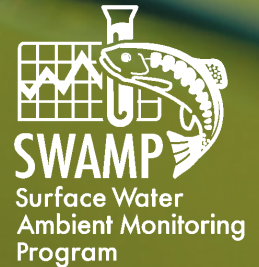
## Tid Bits

### New Web Postings

SWAMP documents, including regional watershed assessments, fact sheets and technical reports are available for download at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/reports.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/reports.html). New postings include:

- Standard Operating Procedure for Benthic Macroinvertebrates and Associated Data for California Bioassessments.
- Screening California Surface Waters for Estrogenic Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals with a Juvenile Rainbow Trout Liver Vitellogenin mRNA Procedure.
- Information materials for Southwest Association of Freshwater Invertebrate Taxonomists.

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# THE SWAMP Monitor



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### SWAMP on the Web

For more information regarding the SWAMP program, please visit : <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/>. To subscribe to The SWAMP Monitor, please visit [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lyrisforms/swrcb\\_subscribe.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lyrisforms/swrcb_subscribe.html).



## Quality Assurance Project Plan Reviews for Grant Recipients

**S**WAMP has just made your life easier! Using SWAMP's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) template will help you create a SWAMP-comparable document.

The Quality Assurance (QA) Research Group at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, which administers SWAMP's QA program, also works with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Financial Assistance to review grant recipient quality assurance project plans (QAPPs) against U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements and SWAMP measurement quality objectives.

While not part of the QAPP approval process, the QA Research Group provides



document recommendations to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) Grant Coordinators who then have the responsibility to decide if the revised QAPP will meet project objectives. They may decide that certain recommendations are not required.

To create your next QAPP, use SWAMP's Quality Assurance Project Plan Template [[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/docs/swampqapp\\_template032404.doc](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/docs/swampqapp_template032404.doc)] and the Quality Assurance Project Plan Review Checklist [[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/docs/qa\\_checklist061404.xls](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/docs/qa_checklist061404.xls)]. These tools will help you draft a SWAMP-comparable document that is ready for review. If you are interested in using the QAPP review service, please contact your Regional Water Board Grant Coordinator.

## A New Quality Management Plan for SWAMP



The SWAMP Quality Assurance (QA) program has drafted the new Quality Management Plan for the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program. This plan was written in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) quality system document, EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (U.S. EPA QA/R-2) with input from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Regional Water Boards, field sampling crews, laboratories, expert technical groups, other board programs, non-profit environmental organizations, and the regulated community. Bill Ray, State Water Board QA Program Manager, and the U.S. EPA Region 9 Office of Quality Assurance have reviewed the forthcoming document. SWAMP anticipates its approval and Web release by Fall 2007. The program officially thanks the many individuals and organizations that provided us with hours of input and offers a special thanks to Bill Ray and David Taylor, U.S. EPA, for invaluable expert advice and assistance.

## Quality Assurance Training Courses

The SWAMP QA program offers several QA training sessions each year. The sessions are held at the CalEPA Building in Sacramento or at Regional Water Board offices throughout the state. The trainings are open to the public, as space allows, at no cost. Examples of topics include general introductions to data quality objectives, QA project plans and SWAMP comparability. Trainings are announced on the SWAMP Web



<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/index.html>

site approximately two months in advance of their

scheduled dates. Although the next scheduled training in Orange County on September 14, 2007, is already full, more training sessions will be available in the near future.

## The SWAMP Partnership Nutrient Holding Time Study

The SWAMP QA Team has partnered with the Lahontan Regional Water Board, the County of Orange Resources and Development Management Department, the Central Coast Regional Water Board and the High Sierra Water Laboratory to design a holding time study for nutrients in water samples. The study includes samples from areas of low, medium and high range concentrations and differing sources and will examine results of approximately 1,200 samples in various matrices and ranges.

The current short holding time (48 hours) required to comply with U.S. EPA and SWAMP protocols results in substantial shipping and analytical costs. These costs have a significant impact on the budgets of agencies with limited financial resources for environmental monitoring. The goal of the study is to see if the holding time may be extended.

When complete, the study design and its results will be posted on the SWAMP Web site.

### Did You Know?

## S.F. Bay Regional Water Board Reports on Contaminants in Reservoir Fish and Trash in Streams

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board has completed two reports: one on contaminants in fish caught in 10 reservoirs where people catch and consume fish and a second applying a rapid trash assessment method to measure trash in streams in the Bay Area.

Results from the first study showed that all 10 reservoirs had fish that exceeded the U.S. EPA water quality criterion for mercury, and 9 had fish with PCB levels above the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's (OEHHA) screening value. Mercury was highest in largemouth bass, and PCBs were highest in carp and channel catfish.

As a result of this study, OEHHA and the county environmental health departments developed consumption advisories for all reservoirs. The counties and reservoir managers developed signs in multiple languages describing the advisory. A follow-up study has been conducted.

The trash assessment study found that levels of trash in streams in the San Francisco Bay Region are very high. Trash levels did not vary with county or region. High trash levels were most common at lower watershed sites in urban areas, where trash accumulates from both upstream sources and local littering. Trash hotspots were associated with parks, schools, roads or poorly kept commercial facilities.

Both reports are available on the SWAMP Web site at [<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/regionalreports.html#rb2>].

In July, two additional reports will be available evaluating water quality conditions in 13 watersheds in the San Francisco Bay Region.