

# Fact Sheet

SPRING | 2016

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A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCIES | [www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov](http://www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov)

## The California Water Quality Monitoring Council

*Improving the quality of and access to California's water resource monitoring data and assessment information*

### The Monitoring Council's Mission

- The Monitoring Council was tasked in legislation ([Senate Bill 1070, Statutes of 2006](#)) with developing a comprehensive monitoring program strategy for California
- To improve the effectiveness of California's water quality and associated ecosystem monitoring and assessment system
- To ensure that the resulting data and information are made available to decision makers and the public via the internet.

### Using Theme-Specific Workgroups to Coordinate Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting

- The Monitoring Council believes that the best way to coordinate and enhance California's monitoring, assessment and reporting efforts is to focus first on providing a platform for intuitive, streamlined access to water quality and aquatic ecosystem information that directly addresses users' questions.
- Theme-specific workgroups evaluate existing monitoring, assessment and reporting efforts and work to enhance those efforts so as to improve the delivery of water quality and associated ecosystem health information to the user in the form of theme-based internet portals at [www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov](http://www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov).
- Each workgroup endeavors to coordinate existing monitoring programs within their theme, developing monitoring and assessment methods and data management procedures according to performance measures defined by the Monitoring Council.

### Making Data Accessible for Real Time and Adaptive Management of the Delta

- The Council's Estuary Monitoring Workgroup is coordinating the development of interagency data display and analysis tools to enhance its [California Estuaries Portal](#), currently focused on the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary.
- Through a partnership with [Bay-Delta Live](#), the Estuary Workgroup is developing a series of dashboards to directly inform real-time resource management decision making, drawing data from a variety of state and federal governmental partners.
- The Estuary Monitoring Workgroup is coordinating with other efforts developing similar data access and visualization tools for the San Joaquin River and Sacramento River Watersheds.

### Breaking Down Silos for Improved Scientific Understanding

- The Council's Data Management Workgroup is developing tools and concepts that address recommendations contained in the Delta Stewardship Council's Environmental Data Summit vision paper, [Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information](#), including options for data federation, data management plans, and sharing data using web services—working towards making high-quality data readily available for researchers and resource managers.



#### Welcome to My Water Quality

Welcome Prop 1 Applicants!  
 Guidance on the WRAMP framework for monitoring and assessment.

##### Is Our Water Safe to Drink?

Safe drinking water depends on a variety of chemical and biological factors regulated by a number of local, state, and federal agencies. [\[Future Portal\]](#)

##### Is it Safe to Swim in Our Waters?

Swimming safety of our waters is linked to the levels of pathogens that have the potential to cause disease. [Learn more >>](#)

##### Is it Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish From our Waters?

Aquatic organisms are able to accumulate certain pollutants from the water in which they live, sometimes reaching levels that could harm consumers. [Learn more >>](#)

##### Are Our Aquatic Ecosystems Healthy?

The health of fish and other aquatic organisms and communities depends on the chemical, physical, and biological quality of the waters in which they live. [Learn more >>](#)

##### What Stressors and Processes Affect our Water Quality?

Beneficial uses of our waters are affected by emerging contaminants, invasive species, trash, global warming, acidification, pollutant loads, and flow. [\[Future Portal\]](#)

##### About Us

The Monitoring Council seeks to provide multiple perspectives on water quality information and to highlight existing data gaps and inconsistencies in data collection and interpretation. [Learn more >>](#)