

Tid Bits

SWAMP Audits



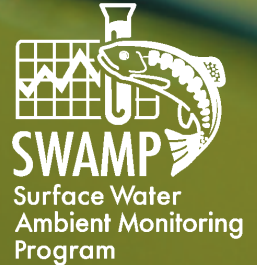
The SWAMP Quality Assurance Team is gearing up to start the 2006 on-site audits of laboratories.

The audits evaluate laboratory performance and consistency with SWAMP quality control requirements.

SWAMP Review

SWAMP organized the Scientific Planning and Review Committee to conduct a triennial review of study design, approaches, indicators and other relevant topics. For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/docs/sparc_prelimrpt.pdf

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THE SWAMP Monitor

March 21

Scientific Planning and Review Committee Meeting
Orange County, CA

May 7-11

2006 National Water Quality Monitoring Council Meeting
San Jose, CA



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Making Data Available

The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) began developing its Information Management System (IMS) in 2002 with the focus of sharing data to help produce an integrated assessment of the state's surface waters. Documentation for the IMS details the specific formats, standards and protocols to standardize data and to increase data sharing efficiency across the many regions, agencies and laboratories within SWAMP. The system has evolved to include consideration and protocols for groups outside of SWAMP which want to share data with SWAMP.

Part of what makes the SWAMP data management unique is a concerted effort to capture field and analytical information. This combination gives the user a more complete picture of information associated with the project. SWAMP data currently consists of field observations,



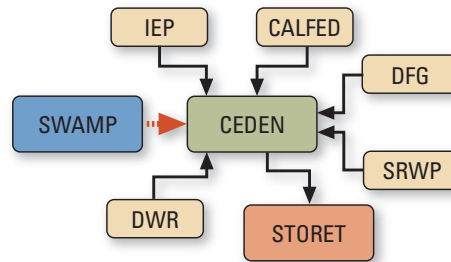
discrete field measures and laboratory, bacteria indicators, and toxicity results for sediment and water samples. Data are georeferenced for site location and the associated quality control samples are stored in the database. Tissue, bioassessment (organisms and physical habitat) and time series data are being added to the database design. The SWAMP data is available to program participants and to the public by



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.

SWAMP on the Web

SWAMP: Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, CEDEN: California Environmental Data Exchange Network, IEP: Interagency Ecological Program, DFG: Department of Fish & Game, SRWP: Sacramento River Watershed Program, DWR: Department of Water Resources, CALFED: State and Federal Interagency Group



the Internet. The California Resources Agency, with the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Resources Control Board and Moss Landing Marine Labs, have created a central clearinghouse where project participants and the public may retrieve data, including SWAMP data, by the Internet. The California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) is a data exchange system that consolidates



You can access CEDEN at <http://www.bdat.ca.gov>

environmental data from many different sources into a consistent format in one location (see figure above). With the combined resources of the state agencies and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, more groups throughout the state are included with the 50 organizations already contributing data voluntarily to the exchange network. The network is open to federal, state, county and private organizations interested in sharing data.

Did You Know?

You can find SWAMP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) at <http://mpsl.mlml.calstate.edu/swsops.htm>. You can use these SOPs as guides for related programs.

You can find a SWAMP Quality Assurance Project Plan Checklist and Quality Assurance Project Plan template at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/docs/qa_checklist061404.xls and http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/docs/swampqapp_template032404.doc.

How to Be SWAMP-Comparable

What does it mean to be SWAMP-comparable?

It means the Measurement Quality Objectives (MQOs) for your project are equivalent to or better than SWAMP MQOs.

- > Use the SWAMP Quality Assurance Management Plan (QAMP) as a guideline for your project's requirements: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/qamp.html> - check Appendix C which contains SWAMP MQOs.
- > The EPA has a document that assists users in selecting data quality objectives: EPA guidance document for the Data Quality Objectives Process (EPA QA/G-4; <http://www.epa.gov/quality/qs-docs/g4-final.pdf>).

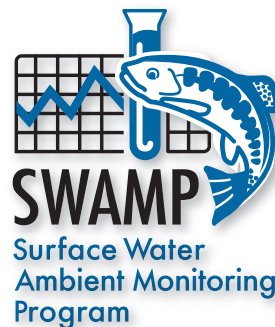
It means your data is formatted to match the database requirements of the SWAMP Information Management System (IMS).

- > <http://mpsl.mlml.calstate.edu/swdbcompare.htm> contains information regarding the required formatting, field data sheets and electronic templates.
- > Appendix J of the SWAMP QAMP also contains information regarding the SWAMP IMS.

Who must be SWAMP-comparable?

All Water Board programs and projects that collect surface ambient water quality monitoring data. In addition, any projects funded through the Water Board such as grants or Propositions 13, 40, and 50 that also collect this type of data.

For more information see <http://mpsl.mlml.calstate.edu/swcompare>.



New QAPP Tool

The SWAMP Advisor is an expert software system that will help users produce a SWAMP-comparable draft of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). It is an interactive program that will provide guidance in an element-by-element format and lead users to reference links for supporting information. The Advisor will be available on the Web and will allow users to save their data on their computer as they work. The program is halfway through the development phase, with an anticipated completion date of the end of 2006.