The California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network Announces

Swimmable California Webinar Series

Join the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network along with Marisa Van Dyke and Ali Dunn from the SWRCB for the presentation "*Harmful Algal Blooms and Water Recreation*". Please join us on Wednesday February 21, 2018 from 11:30 AM -12:30 PM (PST).

Sponsored by the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network the goal of this webinar series is to focus on elements that support California's water monitoring and management programs that provide for a *Swimmable California*. Safe to Swim water quality programs are an important part of ensuring public health while people recreate at the State's many beaches and swimming holes or using these same waters for cultural or subsistence uses. As California's population continues to grow, more people are recreating in surface waters, especially freshwater. Water quality monitoring and management continue to be challenging for many agencies and the webinar series should be of assistance to many groups as they face these challenges. Organizers of this webinar series encourage participants to engage with the California Water Quality Monitoring Council's <u>California Safe-to-Swim Workgroups</u> and or the <u>California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom (CCHAB) Network</u>. Through networking, sharing and building capacity we can work together supporting a swimmable California.

Webinar Topic and Agenda Pages can be found here.

All webinars will be recorded and placed within the "Swimmable California Webinar Series" Playlist here.

Topic: Harmful Algal Blooms and Water Recreation

Cyanobacteria are small microbes that live in nearly every habitat on land and in the water. They have existed for millions of years as essential components of freshwater ecosystems and form the foundation of most aquatic food chains. But, when environmental conditions favor their growth – such as warm temperatures and low or stagnant water flows - they can multiply very rapidly creating what is called a harmful algal bloom (HAB). Some cyanobacteria are capable of producing cyanotoxins that can harm pets, people, livestock and wildlife that come into contact with them. In response to increase in extent, frequency and duration of HABs statewide, California water quality managers and scientists have developed a Freshwater HABs Program that is guided by a coordinated statewide monitoring, assessment, and reporting strategy (Strategy). As part of Strategy implementation, the State Water Resources Control Board and nine Regional Water Boards (California Water Boards) in partnership with other programs and agencies, are actively supporting and coordinating statewide HAB incident response and have many publically available resources, including field sampling guidance and lab analysis resources. The HABs Portal is a one stop shop for HABs statewide and functions as a central website to share information, report a bloom, and track multiple blooms statewide. For more information, please visit: http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/

Presenters:

Marisa Van Dyke is an environmental scientist with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). She is the co-lead for the Freshwater HABs Program and Bacteria Data Manager for the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). Her past experience has involved wetlands permitting, construction storm water, and fish disease research. She received her BS degree in Microbiology from Oregon State University and a MS in Environmental Management, with emphasis on risk assessment and engineering, at University of San Francisco. E-mail: marisa.vandyke@waterboards.ca.gov; 916-322-8431

Ali Dunn is an environmental scientist with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). She is the co-lead for the Freshwater HABs Program and lead watershed scientist for the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). Her past experience includes work in municipal storm water, habitat conservation planning, and habitat restoration. She obtained BS her degree in Biology at California State University, Sacramento with a focus in Biological Conservation. E-mail: ali.dunn@waterboards.ca.gov; 916-319-8458

CWQMCN Communication:

- CWQMCN webinar listserv:
- www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml After opening the above web-site, enter your email address and name, click on State Water Resources Control Board Covering statewide issues, next click General Interests, and then place a check mark next to "Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network Webinar Sessions", then click the "subscribe" button.
- We have set up a webpage for the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring council/collaboration network/index.html
- We also have a LinkedIn Group, California Water Quality Monitoring Professional Network. This group was formed to facilitate water quality monitoring communication and discussions. www.linkedin.com.
- Watch CWQMCN videos and find video playlists organized by topic at www.youtube.com/cwgmcn.

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