Low-Hanging Fruit Sub-Theme Updates

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Selected Sub-Themes

- Is our water safe to drink?
  - Groundwater – GeoTracker GAMA
- Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?
  - Sportfish – Bioaccumulation Oversight Group
- Is it safe to swim in our waters?
  - Coastal beaches – Beach Water Quality Work Group and Clean Beach Task Force
- Are our aquatic ecosystems healthy?
  - Wetlands – Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup

February 2, 2009   California Water Quality Monitoring Council   2

GeoTracker GAMA

- Cooperative effort to develop new web accessible database highlighting groundwater data from a variety of sources including:
  - Water Boards' site cleanup programs
  - Department of Public Health's drinking water program
  - Department of Water Resources
  - U.S. Geologic Survey
  - Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

February 2, 2009   California Water Quality Monitoring Council   3

GeoTracker GAMA

- Database & web interface by EcoInteractive
- Public access beta version
  - Data suppliers meet February 19 to review and comment and receive input on needed changes
    - Important issue – non-disclosure of water intake location information for security reasons
  - Limited pubic release ~ March 1
    - Public Advisory Committee (PAC)
    - Monitoring Council
- Marshack to attend upcoming PAC meeting
  - Present Monitoring Council's recommendations
  - Links to GeoTracker GAMA from CWQMC website

February 2, 2009   California Water Quality Monitoring Council   4

Bioaccumulation Oversight Group

- ♦ BOG subcommittee of SWAMP Roundtable
  - ♦ State and Regional Water Board SWAMP staff
  - ♦ Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
    - ♦ Fish consumption advisories and safe-to-eat thresholds
  - ♦ California Department of Fish & Game
  - ♦ USEPA
  - ♦ San Francisco Estuary Institute
  - ♦ Moss Landing Marine Laboratory

February 2, 2009   California Water Quality Monitoring Council   5

Bioaccumulation Oversight Group

- ♦ Peer Review Panel – program evaluation
- ♦ Products and Activities:
  - ♦ Review past bioaccumulation monitoring
    - ♦ PCBs, mercury, & legacy pesticides
    - ♦ Technical report and fact sheet (September 2008)
    - ♦ Past Mussel Watch data being converted to SWAMP format
  - ♦ Evaluation of sportfishing beneficial use
    - ♦ Lakes and reservoirs (2007 and 2008)
      - ♦ First year report out March 2009
    - ♦ Coastal waters, bays and estuaries (2009 and 2010)
      - ♦ Draft sampling design developed and peer reviewed
    - ♦ Rivers and streams (2011)
    - ♦ Repeat 5-year monitoring cycle (beginning 2012)

February 2, 2009   California Water Quality Monitoring Council   6

Beach Water Quality Work Group

- ⬥ Membership
  - ⬥ Water Boards
  - ⬥ County Health Agencies
  - ⬥ Coastal Stormwater and sanitation agencies
  - ⬥ Water agencies
  - ⬥ Scientists (e.g., SCCWRP)
  - ⬥ Environmental organizations (e.g. Heal the Bay)
- ⬥ Bishop & Marshack to attend Feb 4 meeting
  - ⬥ Present Monitoring Council's recommendations
  - ⬥ Demonstrate test Safe-to-Swim website
  - ⬥ Encourage working relationship with Monitoring Council

February 2, 2009   California Water Quality Monitoring Council   7

Beach Water Quality Work Group
Clean Beaches Task Force

- ⬥ Current Issues
  - ⬥ AB 411 funding cuts
    - ⬥ Impact on county monitoring programs
  - ⬥ Better integration of beach water quality monitoring
    - ⬥ Regulated entities
    - ⬥ County health agencies
    - ⬥ Water Board TMDL monitoring
  - ⬥ Better data flow between
    - ⬥ Data generators
    - ⬥ SCCWRP
    - ⬥ State Water Board
    - ⬥ Heal the Bay
    - ⬥ USEPA

February 2, 2009   California Water Quality Monitoring Council   8

Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup

- Review draft State of the State Wetlands report
  - Provide comments prior to public review (early April)
  - Already provided comments on draft recommendations
- WetlandTacker web portal development
  - View planned, in progress, and completed projects
  - View CRAM scores and some basic info on each project
  - Map based or tabular project info
    - e.g., permit info, monitoring reports
  - Generate summary reports for regions, counties, etc.
  - Proposed forming wetland IT group
    - Coordinate data management and portal design

February 2, 2009   California Water Quality Monitoring Council   9

Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup

- Development of a State Wetlands Policy
  - Wetlands Workgroup to provide feedback
    - Proposed wetland definition
    - Proposed monitoring and assessment program

February 2, 2009   California Water Quality Monitoring Council   10

Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup

- 2009 Action Plan
  - Develop Wetland Monitoring Strategy for California
    (outline by March 2009 meeting)
    - Monitoring methods
    - Performance criteria
    - Funding strategy
  - Support activities of Monitoring Council
    - Developing the wetland-related data portal
    - Developing data management system
  - Continue discussions of policy issues
    - Wetland classification
    - Riparian definition
    - Reference sites

February 2, 2009   California Water Quality Monitoring Council   11