2014 SWAMP Review
Presentation to CWQMC
February 23rd, 2015

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State Water Resources Control Board

Theme-Specific Workgroups and Portals

| WATER BODY TYPES	**T H E M E S**			
	Is Our Water Safe to Drink?	**Is It Safe to Swim in Our Waters?**	**Is It Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish from Our Waters?**	**Are Our Aquatic Ecosystems Healthy?**
Streams & Rivers	**Safe Drinking Water Workgroup**		**SWAMP Bioaccumulation Oversight Group**	**SWAMP Healthy Streams Partnership**
Lakes				
Estuaries				**Estuary Monitoring Workgroup**
Ocean Waters	N/A	**Safe to Swim Workgroup**		**Ocean Health Workgroup(s)**
Wetlands	N/A	N/A		**Wetland Monitoring Workgroup**
Groundwater	**Safe Drinking Water Workgroup**	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tap Water		N/A	N/A	N/A

2014 SWAMP Review

- Requested by Water Board management
- Purpose of Review
  - Evaluate program functions and effectiveness in implementing SWAMP Strategy
  - Recommend actions to ensure program's continued success
- Review Team – Regional and State Water Board staff and managers, USEPA

SWAMP
Surface Water
Ambient Monitoring
Program
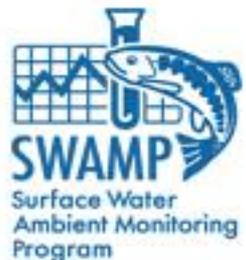
Summary of Findings

- Ambient monitoring supports Water Boards' mission
- Successes
  - Monitoring & assessment programs
  - SWAMP "tool box" – QA/QC, SOPs, data management
  - Partnerships to leverage existing resources
  - *~See **SWAMP Achievements Report:***
  http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/achievements/index.shtml
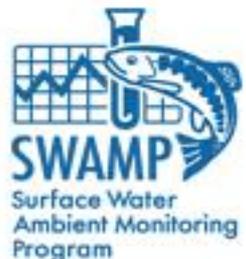
Summary of Recommendations

- "Internal" programmatic improvements
  - Feedback between SWAMP, management, and other Water Board programs
  - Internal functions (roles, responsibilities, etc.)
- Focus on data synthesis and reporting
- Feedback loop for users of SWAMP "tools"

Feedback?
Questions?

SWAMP website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/
SWAMP Review Report:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/reports/2014_swamp_review_rpt.pdf

Lori Webber, SWAMP Coordinator
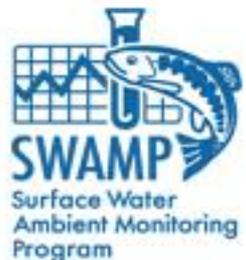**State Water Board**
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Findings

1. Ambient monitoring is essential to support the Water Boards mission.

2. SWAMP is a technically capable and functioning monitoring program

3. Both statewide and regional assessments are needed

4. SWAMP data and products are valuable and used by many others

Findings (cont.)

5. Water Board monitoring needs greatly exceed existing resources.

6. Better monitoring coordination would provide multiple benefits, but it is time-consuming and resource intensive.

7. Improvements can be made.

SWAMP Achievements

- Provide data for Integrated Reports
- Support for policies and actions – e.g. bio-integrity, nutrient objectives, trash control policy, wetlands policy, statewide mercury program
- Statewide monitoring programs – Bioaccumulation, RCMP, PSA, SPoT
- Regional monitoring programs
- SWAMP "toolbox" – SOPs, QA, data management

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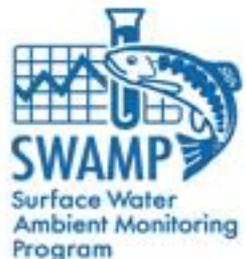
Recommendations

1. SWAMP should maintain its focus on ambient monitoring as its core function.

2. SWAMP should maintain robust statewide assessments and regional assessments

3. The Deputy Management Committee (DMC) should work with SWAMP as the DMC refines the Water Boards' process for allocating "discretionary" contract funds toward targeted monitoring projects.
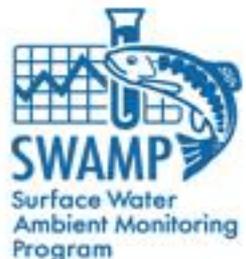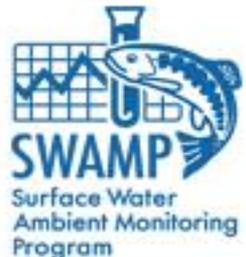
Recommendations (cont.)

4. In regards to monitoring coordination, Water Board executives should establish a process to compile coordination needs, set priorities, and deliberate options for fostering the highest priority coordination tasks.

5. Water Board management (MCC, DMC, State Board Exec) should promote question-driven science to answer key management questions, in part by encouraging (or requiring) other programs to utilize the many available "SWAMP Tools."

Recommendations (cont.)

6. The SWAMP Review Team (Water Board and USEPA staff) should update the SWAMP work plan as requested by the DMC.

  ➢ DMC's *Roles and Responsibilities* document

  a. Define the roles and responsibilities for both the full SWAMP Roundtable and the smaller Review Team.

  b. Establish an annual strategic planning process to evaluate (and adjust as appropriate) the objectives and priorities for SWAMP's statewide ambient assessments.

  c. Develop a specific definition/s of monitoring "coordination" and articulate the coordination tasks to be conducted (with available funds) by SWAMP staff at the State and Regional Water Boards.

Recommendations (cont.)

6. Cont.

d. Specify actions to synthesize data into information that can readily be used by managers to aid in decision-making.

e. Create a feedback loop for users of SWAMP tools to communicate issues, problems, and ideas/suggestions for improvement, and to prioritize improvements.

f. Identify new or improved environmental outcome-based Performance Measures for the Water Boards based on SWAMP's assessments, data, and tools.