

The California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network Announces

Swimmable California Webinar Series

Join the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network along with James Alamillo from Heal the Bay and Michael Gjerde from the SWRCB for the presentation “*A Swimmable California: The Importance of Safe to Swim Policies and Programs*”. Please join us on Wednesday September 20, 2017 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 [California Safe-to-Swim Workgroups](#) and become more aware of safe-to-swim resources like the “[The California Microbial Source Identification Manual: A Tiered Approach to Identifying Fecal Pollution Sources to Beaches](#)”. 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: A Swimmable California: The Importance of Safe to Swim Policies and Programs

This webinar will discuss the importance of Importance of Safe to Swim Policies and Programs in ensuring that California’s waters are swimmable. Federal and state clean water laws have facilitated dramatic improvements in controlling pollution from industrial and municipal treatment work pipes. Continued efforts are needed to address polluted stormwater runoff, trash, and other threats to the health of California’s ocean, coastline, and waters. California coastal areas, beaches, estuaries, rivers, streams, and lakes enhance the quality of life and well-being of all Californians and an estimated 238 million people use and enjoy California’s beaches each year. Urban rivers and other waters provide free exercise and recreational opportunities for low-income communities that might otherwise have limited access to natural environments or open spaces. California depends on clean water for its recreational and ecotourism, fishing industry, international ports, and other coastal or ocean-dependent industries. It’s been calculated, that California’s ocean economy generates more than \$40 billion annually, with the tourism and recreation sectors accounting for 76 percent of all coastal employment. Ensuring that these beneficial uses and values are met depends largely on water quality monitoring and strong pollution prevention measures that are critical for protecting those recreating from waterborne diseases.

Currently the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is proposing a [statewide control program](#) to protect recreational users from the effects of pathogens in California water bodies. The program would be adopted as amendments to both the Inland Surface Water, Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan and the California Ocean Plan. We will receive an update on this and news regarding the transitional process of the SWRCB's California Beach Water Quality Coordinator as our current Coordinator is retiring soon.

Presenters:

James Alamillo

James focuses on water quality issues in urbanized watersheds, and manages [Heal the Bay's](#) Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Environment Initiative and the WAYS Park project. He received his bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Economics from UCSC and his master's in Urban Planning from UCLA. At Heal the Bay since 1992, James is the designated keeper of organizational lore.

Michael Gjerde

Michael has been the California Beach Water Quality Coordinator for the last ten years, manager of the [California Beach Water Quality Information Page](#), facilitated the Southern California and Northern California Beach Water Quality Workgroups, and served as Beach Program Grant Manger for the last 5 years. Michael will be retiring at the end of year. This webinar will allow him to give a brief update on transitions within the SWRCB.

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/cwqmcn.

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