



**CALIFORNIA  
COASTAL  
COMMISSION**

**California Water Quality Monitoring Council  
Water Quality Monitoring by State Agencies  
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**California Coastal Commission  
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**History of program/ Program Background**

The California Coastal Commission (CCC), in partnership with coastal cities and counties, plans and regulates the use of land and water in the coastal zone. Development activities, which are broadly defined by the Coastal Act to include (among others) construction of buildings, divisions of land, and activities that change the intensity of use of land or public access to coastal waters, generally require a coastal permit from either the Coastal Commission or the local government.

CCC has a small water quality staff that divides their time between 1) providing technical support to the CCC and its planners on specific coastal development projects; and 2) working with the State and Regional Water Boards to implement the California Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program.

**Overview of data collection efforts – what is collected, where, how often, etc**

CCC does not have a comprehensive water quality monitoring program. Water quality monitoring is infrequently required for coastal development projects where nonstandard practices are used to control polluted runoff. This occurs when the project developer can document that well-understood and effective management practices (i.e., Best Management Practices or BMPs) cannot be used.

**Availability of data – internal and/or external use?**

The data that is collected is not collected in a uniform manner or made available to the public. It is collected so that staff can be better informed about the effectiveness of these nonstandard BMPs and continually improve our site specific recommendations to the Coastal Commission.

**Can data be used by the public?**

In most cases the data could be made available to the public, but since the data is project specific and focused on nonstandard methods, it may not have much utility for answering questions beyond the specific coastal development project.

**Are there any sensitivity or security issues?**

Typically no, but we would have to look at data case by case.

**What is the format of the data (including metadata)?**

Typically in short quarterly or annual reports. Since the requirements for water quality monitoring are infrequent, the CCC water quality staff have not developed a standard reporting format, protocols for data transfer or standard quality assurance project plans.