

California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network Progress Report for 2010

The California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network allows members of the monitoring community to network and exchange information and ideas on topic of interest. The Network helps support a state framework to coordinate consistent and scientifically defensible methods and strategies for improving water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting. As of November 2010 the Webinar email list consisted of 885 subscribers and we have 21 organizations listed as Network participants on our Web-page.

In 2010 the Network continued presenting Webinars and maintaining its Web-pages. A total of 12 Webinars were Web-posted this year. Each Webinar was presented by an expert of the subject presented. Presentations were recorded live and then Web-posted along with a PDF version of the PowerPoint used in the presentation and any additional items.

Web-pages are maintained on a monthly basis and a page of Web-links to other water monitoring Webinars (EPA, USGS, National Water Monitoring Council...) was also created

http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/collaboration_network/weblinks.shtml

Webinars presented through the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network spanned a wide variety of monitoring interests. From emerging contaminants to state of the art pollutant monitoring solutions; reporting and public outreach to successful collaboration efforts.

- Developing a Comprehensive Watershed-wide Monitoring Program for Surface Water
- Invasive Species Risk Assessment and Planning (ISRAP): A New Tool for Managing the Risk of Moving Aquatic Invasive Species in Natural Resource Monitoring and Management Activities
- Using the California Data Exchange Network (CEDEN)
- Developing a California Whole System Report Card
- Microbial Source Tracking (MST)
- Genetic Testing of Cyanobacteria Blooms
- Site-specific Profiles of Fish Feminization in Surface Waters of California Indicate Multiple Causes of Estrogenic Activities
- An Introduction to the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) for California Wetlands
- Riparian Proper Functioning Condition Assessment (PFC) as a Tool to Inform Land Managers about Priorities for Addressing Water Quality
- Friends of Deer Creek: Linking Science, Water and People;
- Orange County CoastKeeper: Redefining the Realm of Citizen Monitoring

- Collaborations for Healthier Streams: California Watersheds and AmeriCorps Programs

In keeping with the spirit of collaborations the October Webinar, “Using the California Data Exchange Network (CEDEN)”, was co-presented with the National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC). An announcement was made so that members of the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network could join the NWQMC Webinar announcement email list. In addition, the USFWS and the Network collaborated to host a Webinar and Web-posted materials on Invasive Species Risk Assessment and Planning (ISRAP). Invasive species planning and prevention is very important to groups monitoring water quality in California and our Web-page is the only place where ISRAP material can be found.

The Webinar series has been well received and will continue to be successful in presenting topics of interest to those that monitor water quality in California, “Topics for Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network Webinar Sessions” http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/collaboration_network/docs/topics.pdf. It has given a rare and unique platform for many to share their research, water quality monitoring tools, and experiences for the benefit of California’s water quality monitoring community and also to those abroad. At present we can only track the number of logged in Webinar participants, but the actual live audience is larger due to multiple people watching the Webinar on the same computer. We also know that a large number of people utilize the recorded Webinar presentation but as there are no counters for these, we have no accounting for the number of uses each recording receives. Fortunately, informal feedback on recorded Webinar has been very positive and some groups are using them as training tools for their staff and volunteers.

Topics and presenters for Webinar presentations from January through June 2011 have already been selected and scheduled (Abandoned Mines: Waste Characterization and Water Quality Monitoring; Water Quality Monitoring Directories; Monitoring Sensors and their Applications; Selecting and Working with Commercial Laboratories; An Introduction to the National Environmental Methods Index (NEMI)). These Webinars will continue the Network’s goals of providing Webinar sessions to share technical and support tools for monitoring, assessment and reporting; to encourage discussion on common concerns like information management and program development; and to provide a forum for networking and collaboration.