

Healthy Streams Partnership Update for the CA Water Quality Monitoring Council

The State Water Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) took the lead in forming a Work Group to the Council to coordinate monitoring and develop a portal for the Ecosystem Health theme dubbed the Healthy Streams Partnership (HSP). The major intent of the HSP is to promote the improvement of water quality in California streams by informing and encouraging changes in present perspectives and resource management decision and actions. Thus, it could function as the bridge between assessed conditions and desired conditions of a given stream. In addition, it should provide a shift from concern only about impaired streams, but to also expand understanding about healthy stream systems and their characteristics.

The HSP consists of representatives from the State and Regional Water Boards, the Department of Fish and Game, the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency, and the Coast Keeper Alliance. The HSP Work Group met several times in 2010 to mock up a *My Water Quality* web portal to present to the Council. The HSP presented the mock-up to the Council in June 2010 and the Council approved moving forward with developing the portal.

The HSP has identified a number of data sources relevant for presentation on the portal including:

- SWAMP Perennial Streams Assessment
- SWAMP Stream Pollution Trends Monitoring
- SWAMP Regional Monitoring
- CalFish Database
- Department of Water Resources' resource extent GIS layers

The next step is to take the relevant data sources and present meaningful assessments that utilize various data types (i.e., chemistry, biology, physical habitat, toxicity, etc.). The HSP is exploring models for developing indices that translate the various data types into a report card format that provides an assessment of overall stream condition. A variety of possible methods will be evaluated and a preferred method will be presented to the Council for consideration.

Finally, the State Water Board has initiated a project to interview data users from local, state, and federal agencies as well as non-governmental organizations to get recommendations for implementing the HSP. A summary report including recommendations will be completed by the end of 2010.