SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency

AGENDA

Delta Conservancy Public Outreach Meeting on Water Quality Monitoring Programs

MAY 14, 2013, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Stockton Ag Center - 2101 E. Earhart Ave., Stockton, CA 95206

MAY 16, 2013, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Courtland Auditorium - 146 Primasing Ave., Courtland, CA 95615

5:00 p.m. Introduction – Delta Conservancy

5:15 p.m. Interagency Ecological Program

Delta Science Program

5:30 p.m. First Panel Agency Representatives

- US EPA
- US Geological Survey
- US Bureau of Reclamation

Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

6:10 p.m. Break and Open Forum: visit tables

6:50 p.m. Second Panel Agency Representatives

- Department of Water Resources
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
    - Water Quality Coalitions
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Water Quality Monitoring Council
    - Estuaries Portal

Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

7:50 p.m. Wrap-Up (potential future outreach, surveys)

Water Quality Monitoring Outreach in the Delta

The purpose of this Water Quality Monitoring Outreach meeting is to communicate to the public the water quality monitoring efforts being conducted by State and federal agencies and other organizations in the Delta.

There are many reasons water quality is monitored. Certain regulations require monitoring to demonstrate compliance with said regulation. Monitoring is also conducted to determine how effective pollution prevention activities are. Monitoring can be used to assess the quality of habitat for aquatic species and the impacts from restoration projects.

Federal and state agencies participating in this outreach will provide highlight of their agencies monitoring program and will address your questions during panel presentation or at their agency table. Some of the monitoring types that you will hear from the presenter will include the following:

1) Monitoring for compliance purposes (are treatment plants, city stormwater management departments, and farmers that use chemicals on their crops meeting their permit requirements and avoiding excessive pollutant input into waters of the state?)
2) Monitoring to find out how effective pollution prevention activities are by individual homeowners, industry, sewage treatment plant, dredgers, farmers, and any other potential contributor of pollution to our waters (are the cumulative activities of those that contribute pollutants to water bodies doing what they are supposed to do, which is to keep our drinking water clean, prevent fish and other critters from dying or accumulating toxins, so you might experience health risks when you eat them)
3) Monitoring water quality improvement trends (check if undesirable conditions are getting better or continue to decline)
4) Fish monitoring monitor some water quality variables important to fish such as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, and turbidity

Interagency Ecological Program

Overview

The Interagency Ecological Program[1] (IEP) for the San Francisco Estuary is a collaborative science program with nine member agencies (USFWS, USBR, USGS, USACE, USEPA, NMFS, SWRCB, DWR, DFW). The mission of the IEP "is, in collaboration with others, to provide ecological information and scientific leadership for use in management of the San Francisco Estuary.[2]" The IEP was founded in 1970 to investigate and monitor the effects of water project operations on fish and wildlife in the estuary[3]. Since then, the scope of the IEP has broadened to provide scientific information for a variety of high priority management and policy needs and fulfill regulatory monitoring requirements.

Description of Monitoring Programs

Most of the IEP monitoring programs revolve around fish and are long-term. For example, the oldest IEP monitoring program, DFW's "Summer Townet (STN) Survey" was initiated in 1959 to determine relative distribution and abundance of young striped bass in the Delta. All IEP fish monitoring programs also monitor some water quality variables important to fish such as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, and turbidity. More comprehensive water quality data is collected each month by the IEP's "Environmental Monitoring Program" (IEP EMP) led by DWR. The EMP also monitors algae and invertebrates. In addition, the IEP sponsors and/or maintains many stations equipped with continuously recording sensors that measure flow and tide stage, wind speed, air and water temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, turbidity, pH, and algal fluorescence. An increasing number of continuous stations also include nutrient and organic carbon sensors. Currently, the IEP does not monitor pesticides and heavy metals or their effects on aquatic organisms. The IEP is working with the Central Valley Water Board and others to initiate a comprehensive Regional Monitoring Program[4] for contaminants in the Delta.

Coordination with other Agencies

The IEP achieves its mission through science coordination and collaboration among its member agencies and with other groups. Much of the IEP's science coordination and collaboration takes place in more than 20 collaborative IEP teams. The IEP stakeholder group and IEP technical teams which the IEP calls "Project Work Teams" (PWTs) are open to the public and team meetings are announced on the IEP web calendar[5]. A goal for the future of the IEP is to more clearly define and strengthen its role as the "interagency core of a collaborative Bay-Delta aquatic science network with a focus on Bay-Delta aquatic ecology but coordinated within the full watershed.[6]"

How the Public Can Access the Data

IEP data can be accessed via the internet at http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/products/data.cfm. New approaches to IEP data management, access, and display are currently under development by DWR and the California Water Quality Monitoring Council.

Contact Information

IEP Lead Scientist: Anke Mueller-Solger, anke,mueller-solger@deltacouncil.ca.gov
IEP Program Manager: Kelly Souza, Kelly.Souza@wildlife.ca.gov
IEP Coordinators Chair: Gregg Erickson, Gregg.Erickson@wildlife.ca.gov

[1] See http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/
[2] See http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/about/mission.cfm
[3] See http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/docs/Herrgesell_IEP_Report_FINAL.pdf
[4] See http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water_issues/delta_water_quality/comprehensive_monitoring_program/index.shtml
[5] See http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/activities/calendar.cfm
[6] See http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/docs/IEPDesignPrinciplesFinal_Jan2013.pdf

Delta Stewardship Council – Delta Science Program

Overview

The Delta Stewardship Council was established to achieve the co-equal goals for protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem, and providing for a more reliable water supply for California in a manner that protects and enhances the unique character of the Delta as a an evolving place. The Delta Science Program aims to achieve the vision of '*One Delta, One Science*' – a framework for an open Delta science community that works together to build a shared state of knowledge with the capacity to adapt and inform future water and environmental decisions.

Description of Monitoring Programs

The Delta Science Program does not directly monitor water quality, but rather supports monitoring efforts by funding special studies, providing expert advice and review, and focusing on information synthesis from a variety of sources to answer overarching questions about the health of the Delta.

The Delta Science Program's purpose is to deliver the best available science to support policy and management decisions. We coordinate and facilitate science synthesis activities that contribute to holistic understanding of the Bay-Delta.

Coordination with Other Agencies

This is one of the key priorities of the Delta Science Program, so that scientists and managers can jointly explore "what if" questions and evaluate alternative futures.

How the Public Can Access the Data

The Delta Science Program strives to transform data into information and make available the most recent discoveries in ways that can easily be understood.

Contact Information

Dr. Rainer Hoenicke, Delta Science Program
Phone: 916-445-5825
e-mail: rainer.hoenicke@deltacouncil.ca.gov
Website: http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program

U.S. Geological Survey

Overview

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), California Water Science Center has several offices throughout California, with the main offices in Sacramento (on the Sacramento State University campus) and in San Diego.

The mission of the USGS is to serve the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

Within the framework of the USGS mission, the California Water Science Center, in cooperation with local, state, and other federal agencies, collects, interprets, and provides unbiased and timely scientific information of the highest quality for the responsible planning, use, and management of California's water resources. The USGS California Water Science Center achieves this by means of the following goals: to continuously advance the quality and relevance of Earth Science; to provide relevant scientific information to decision-makers and the public; to effectively manage its scientific program.

Description of Monitoring Programs

What is being monitored: USGS monitors more than just the magnitude of earthquakes and the scientists at the California Water Science Center monitor a great number of things. The focus of this information sheet is the California Water Science Centers programs to measure flow, sediment, and physical and chemical constituents of surface waters in the Delta.

- USGS scientists working in the hydrodynamics group continuously measure flow at 35 locations throughout the Delta and provide the data in "real-time."

- USGS scientists working in the sediment group continuously measure turbidity and/or suspended sediment at 19 locations in the Delta and provide the data in "real-time."

- USGS scientists working in the National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program measure surface water, sediments, and aquatic animals for constituents like nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), pesticides, suspended sediment, pH, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance (a measure of dissolved solids such as salt), chloride, sulfate, and ecological conditions: sampling frequency varies from several times a month to monthly.

***Purpose of the Monitoring Programs*:** The flow station network is the foundation for understanding the Delta, and the stations have been located to be able to understand transport (the movement of water and everything in it).

The goal of the sediment monitoring is to learn more about Delta sediment transport processes and the effects of sediment and turbidity on the uses of the Delta, as well as to use this information to generate models that can evaluate actions that could impact the Delta.

The goals of the NAWQA Program are to describe current water quality conditions, to understand if those conditions are getting better or worse over time, and to describe how natural features and human factors affecting water quality.

Where is the Monitoring Being Conducted: The flow network consists of 35 stations throughout the Delta, as far north as Freeport, as far south as the Delta Mendota Canal, as far east as Stockton on the San Joaquin River and as far west as Mallard Island.

U.S. Geological Survey

In addition to a historical sediment site in the Delta (at Mallard Island), the USGS also monitors turbidity and/or sediment at 15 other sites, including at Freeport, Liberty Island, North and South Fork Mokelumne Rivers, and Stockton.

The NAWQA stations in the Delta are located on the Sacramento River at Freeport and the San Joaquin River near Vernalis.

Where are the Data Being Stored: All USGS data is stored on the National Water Information System (NWIS) database and can be accessed via NWISWeb. Some data are also stored on the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) website.

Coordination with Other Agencies

USGS works closely with a number of agencies in the Delta. We work most closely with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP). Our scientists also collaborate with scientists from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and with scientists from other USGS offices.

How the Public Can Access the Data

Below are links that might be helpful when searching for USGS data:

National Water Information System (NWIS) for California: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/nwis or http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/

National Water Information System (NWIS) Mapper: http://maps.waterdata.usgs.gov/mapper/

USGS California Water Science Center Real-time Water Quality Sites: http://ca.water.usgs.gov/gmaps/wq_rt_map.html

National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program: http://ca.water.usgs.gov/sac_nawqa/nawqa.html or http://infotrek.er.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=136:1:0::NO:::

Sediment Group, Continuous Sediment Monitoring in the San Francisco Bay and Delta: http://sfbay.wr.usgs.gov/sediment/cont_monitoring/ or http://ca.water.usgs.gov/projects/baydelta/

California Data Exchange Center (CDEC): http://cdec.water.ca.gov/

Contact Information

For more information on USGS monitoring in the Delta, please contact Darcy Austin at (916) 278-3182 or dgaustin@usgs.gov.

US Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region

Overview

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is a branch of the United States Department of Interior created by the Reclamation Act of 1902. Its mission is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region was created in 1942 and is headquartered in Sacramento. The Region encompasses lands from Klamath Falls, Oregon, south to Bakersfield, California, and most of northwestern Nevada. It manages one of the largest water storage and conveyance systems in the world, the Central Valley Project (CVP). The CVP includes Shasta, Folsom, New Melones and Friant dams, the Delta Cross Channel Gates, the Tracy Fish Collection Facility, the Jones Pumping Plant and the Delta-Mendota Canal. Prior to 1992, the principal goals of the CVP were to provide a reliable supply of raw water for irrigation and municipal and industrial uses and to generate hydroelectric power. Passage of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) in 1992 expanded the CVP's goals to include the protection, restoration and enhancement of fish, wildlife and associated habitats in the Central Valley and Trinity River basins.

Description of Monitoring Programs

Reclamation conducts and funds water quality monitoring activities in order to comply with water quality objectives and other requirements of its water right permit and to adjust reservoir releases, gate operations and the timing and amount of its pumping plant operations to protect delta smelt, winter run Chinook salmon and other fish populations listed under the Endangered Species Act. These activities include monitoring the salinity of the San Joaquin River and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the concentration of dissolved oxygen near the mouth of the Stanislaus River, and water temperature downstream of its reservoirs. It also funds a network of continuous flow and water quality stations throughout the Delta.

Coordination with Other Agencies

The CVP is operated in close coordination with the State Water Project a branch of the California Department of Water Resources. As a charter member of the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP), Reclamation's monitoring and other science activities are well coordinated with the work of the other IEP member agencies.

How the Public Can Access the Data

Water quality can be accessed via the internet at http://cdec.water.ca.gov. Tidal flow and continuous water quality data are available at the U.S. Gelogical Survey's National Water Information System web site at http://waterdata.usgs.gov . IEP data can be accessed at http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/products/data.cfm.

Contact Information

Reclamation IEP Coordinator: Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse, evannieuwenhuyse@usbr.gov.

California Department of Water Resources

Overview

In 1956, the Legislature passed a bill creating the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to plan, design, construct, and oversee the building of the nation's largest state-built water development and conveyance system. Today, DWR protects, conserves, develops, and manages much of California's water supply including the State Water Project which provides water for 25 million residents, farms, and businesses. DWR's mission is to manage the water resources of California in cooperation with other agencies, to benefit the State's people, and to protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments.

Description of Monitoring Programs

Division of Environmental Services

a. *Environmental Water Quality and Estuarine Studies (EWQES)*
   - Multiple projects: to ensure the collection of data on the factors affecting ecological resources in the Sacramento – San Joaquin Estuary and convert it to information for agency and public use.
   - Goals: to ensure compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Rights Decision D-1641, and to detect ecological changes in the upper estuary that are related to water project operations.

b. *Mercury Monitoring Section (MMS)*
   - Ensures that all DWR's regulated activities are in compliance with the adopted amendments to the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basin Plan that established the Delta Mercury Control Program.
   - Pending approval by the Regional Board, monitoring programs will begin the fall of 2013. Monitoring will occur in both the Yolo Bypass and the Delta. Monitoring activities are projected to occur through 2016.

c. *Municipal Water Quality Investigations (MWQI)*
   - Conducts water quality monitoring for drinking water constituents important to municipal and industrial uses
   - Produces and disseminates daily and weekly Real Time Daily Forecasting reports that are used as early warnings of changing conditions in source water quality.

d. *Suisun Marsh Monitoring (SMM)*
   - Plans and supervises DWR's Operation & Maintenance (O&M)'s operation of facilities to mitigate water quality degradation due to Delta exports.
   - Goals: to ensure compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Rights Decision D-1641.

North Central Regional Office (NCRO)

a. *Flow Monitoring and Special Studies Section*
   - Flow monitoring has been requested internally by a few DWR groups to support a variety of reasons. The data is used by several entities with DWR for project operations and restoration

b. Surface Water Data Section and Water Quality Evaluation Section

- Maintains three projects that focus on water quality in the central and south delta.
  1. Central Delta network:
     - Joint DWR / US Geological Survey Project
       Primary objective: Data collection for understanding State and federal water projects alteration of flow patterns and water quality upstream and within the delta.
  2. South Delta network:
     - Joint DWR / US Geological Survey Project
       Primary Objective: Investigate water quality conditions in the South Delta for affects of temporary barrier installations and operations and to identify sources and extent of water quality degradation, specifically salt loading within Rock Slough.

Monitoring Mandates

The mandate that dictate the monitoring programs described above include: The Basin Plan; Mercury TMDL; Delta Smelt Biological Opinion; Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement; Water Quality Certification (Section 401) for the Temporary Barriers Program; and Water Right Decision 1641.

Monitoring Elements

The general types of elements monitored as part of these programs include chemical and physical (e.g. chloride, dissolved oxygen, temperature) and biological (e.g. phytoplankton).

Monitoring Stations

This fact sheet covers 10 monitoring programs and 179 stations throughout the Delta. Please see program maps and websites for station locations.

Coordination with Other Agencies

Each program, included in this fact sheet, coordinates with multiple agencies. Below is a list of all agencies that coordinate with the 10 programs included in this fact sheet. For a list specific to an individual monitoring program, please see the individual program's website.

Federal: Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife, and US Geological Survey.

State: California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, California Rice Commission, California Regional Water Quality Control Boards, California State Land's Commission, and State Water Resources Control Board.

Regional: Central Valley Flood Protection Board, Interagency Ecological Program, San Francisco Estuary Institute, San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition, San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District, and South Delta Water Agency.

Non Profit Organizations: The Nature Conservancy.

Consultants: Westervelt Ecological Services.

California Department of Water Resources

How the Public Can Access the Data

Division of Environmental Services

- Environmental Monitoring Program*:* http://www.water.ca.gov/bdma/meta
- Mercury Monitoring: Once monitoring begins, access will be through the water data library; http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/
- Municipal Water Quality Investigations*:* http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/
- Suisun Marsh Monitoring*:* http://cdec.water.ca.gov/

North Central Regional Office

- Flow Monitoring and Special Studies Section*:* http://cdec.water.ca.gov/
- Surface Water Data Section*:* http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/
- Water Quality Evaluation Section*:* http://cdec.water.ca.gov/ *and* http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/

Contact Information

Division of Environmental Services

Environmental Monitoring Program: Karen.Gehrts@water.ca.gov; 916-376-9694; http://www.water.ca.gov/ewqes

Mercury Monitoring*:* carol.digiorgio@water.ca.gov; 916-376-9743

Municipal Water Quality Investigations: Cindy.Garcia@water.ca.gov; 916-376-9715

Suisun Marsh Monitoring: Bill Burkhard Bill.Burkhard@water.ca.gov

North Central Regional Office

Flow Monitoring and Special Studies Section*:* Dave.Huston@water.ca.gov

Surface Water Data Section*:* Kenneth.Karcher@water.ca.gov ;916-376-9674

Water Quality Evaluation Section*:* Shaun.Phillippart@water.ca.gov ; 916-376-9661; http://www.water.ca.gov/waterqualityevaluation/index.cfm

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Overview

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is one of nine regional boards within the State Water Resources Control Board. The mission of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is to protect water quality by regulating potentially water polluting practices and enforcing state and federal laws and policies.

Agency goals include:

- Surface waters are safe for drinking, fishing, swimming, agriculture, and support healthy ecosystems and other beneficial uses.
- Groundwaters are safe for drinking, agricultural and industrial uses.
- Individuals and other stakeholders support our efforts and understand their role in contributing to water quality.
- Water quality is comprehensively measured to evaluate protection and restoration efforts.

Description of Monitoring Programs

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

> Wastewater Program: regulates wastewater discharges to surface waters. Permits are issued which prescribe the volume, type, and concentration of wastes that can be discharged. Monitoring is essential to ensure dischargers are in compliance with permit requirements.
>
> Storm water Program: regulates runoff from construction, industrial and municipal areas. Discharges are regulated by permits and orders and typically include a monitoring component.

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)

> SWAMP is a program that is implemented statewide and includes the collection of information about the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the environment in order to provide overall assessments of water quality.

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)

> Irrigated lands, farms, nurseries and wetlands, that have water run off their fields into surface waters, such as rivers and streams, are subject to regulations under the ILRP. Pollutants such as pesticides, fertilizers/nutrients, salts, pathogens, and sediment can be found in the runoff. The ILRP regulates the discharges and requires monitoring of potentially impacted waters.

Delta Regional Monitoring Program (Delta RMP)

> The Delta RMP is a developing program with the mission of informing decisions on how to protect, and where necessary, restore beneficial uses of water in the Delta, by producing objective and cost-effective scientific information critical to understanding regional water quality conditions and trends. The Delta RMP will combine some of the monitoring from a variety of Water Board and other agency programs in a more efficient manner that can answer broader, regional questions.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Special Studies

The Regional Board will periodically conduct or fund special water quality studies within the Delta. Recent examples include ammonia impacts on the aquatic food web and methylmercury production in wetlands. .

Coordination with other Agencies

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the focus on the most pressing water issues in the state and it is one of the highest priority water quality programs for the Regional Board. The Central Valley Water Board coordinates with numerous agencies in a variety of issues. To improve coordination of the state's activities in the San Francisco Bay and Delta, the State Water Board and the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Regional Boards formed a Bay-Delta team. Additionally, the Central Valley Water Board participates in Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) activities and the Delta RMP include stakeholders from numerous agencies and organizations who are helping to develop and guide the coordinated monitoring program.

How the Public Can Access the Data

Data from State and Regional Water Board programs can be found in a number of databases. The California Environmental Data Exchange Network, better known as CEDEN, is a central location to find and share information about California's water bodies, including streams, lakes, rivers, and the coastal ocean. Many groups in California monitor water quality, aquatic habitat, and wildlife health to ensure good stewardship of our ecological resources. CEDEN aggregates this data and makes it accessible to environmental managers and the public.

More information about Water Board databases can be found here:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/data_databases/index.shtml

Contact Information

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES):

Jim Marshall (916) 464-4772 james.marshall@waterboards.ca.gov

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program:

Susan Fregien (916) 464-4813 susan.fregien@waterboards.ca.gov

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP):

Alisha Wenzel (916) 464-4717 alisha.wenzel@waterboards.ca.gov

Delta Regional Monitoring Program:

Meghan Sullivan (916) 464-4858 meghan.sullivan@waterboards.ca.gov

General Office Contact:

Web: www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/

Mail: 11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Phone: (916) 464-3291

San Joaquin Delta and Water Quality Coalition

Overview

The San Joaquin Delta and Water Quality Coalition monitors water for constituents that may come from agriculture as part of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). The results of this monitoring are reported to the CVRWQCB. When elevated levels of constituents are discovered, the following actions are taken:

- Initiate local meeting, mailings and/or direct contact with growers
- Encourage growers to adopt practices to prevent the movement of constituents into the water ways
- Develop management plans to address multiple exceedances

Description of Monitoring Programs

The program monitors for pesticides, including herbicides and insecticides, most commonly used in agriculture; nitrates; metals; and other water quality parameters like pH and dissolved oxygen. Monitoring is conducted monthly during the irrigation season and during at least two storm events in the winter.

How the Public Can Access the Data

Monitoring results information can be found on the CVRWQCB website at http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/#waterquality

Contact Information

Website: www.sjdeltawatershed.org
Email: info@sjdeltawatershed.org
Phone: (209) 472-7127 ext. 125

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Overview

The mission of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

CDFW addresses the conservation needs of fish, wildlife and habitat, which includes the need to protect water quality. Achieving water quality protection requires coordination with our partner agencies so we can better inform policy, legislation, and implementation of water quality standards.

Coordination with Other Agencies

The Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) is a collaboration of six federal and three state agencies, including CDFW, with resource protection or water delivery responsibilities in the Delta. IEP conducts monitoring and research in the San Francisco Estuary and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) is aimed at improving and increasing aquatic and terrestrial habitats and ecological function in the Delta and its tributaries. ERP is a multi-agency effort coordinated among the Delta Stewardship Council, the Delta Conservancy, the State and Regional Water Boards, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, CDFW, as well as other partners.

Description of Monitoring Programs

IEP Monitoring – Originally charged to quantify the impacts of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project water operations, IEP seeks to understand the environmental factors that affect the ecology of the San Francisco Estuary. CDFW Bay Delta Region participates by monitoring the abundance and distribution of species of concern, including endangered species.

ERP Projects –A fundamental tenet of the ERP is to provide good water quality for environmental, agricultural, drinking water, industrial, and recreational beneficial uses. Key water quality concerns investigated by ERP funded grants have included mercury, dissolved oxygen, selenium, nutrients, and fish health. As the state implementation agency for ERP, CDFW's primary program role is to fund and manage grant projects within the ERP Focus Area that address the ERP goals and objectives.

How the Public Can Access the Data

IEP Monitoring Data can be found at the Studies and Surveys page of the CDFW Bay-Delta Region website http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/data/

ERP project data can be accessed at multiple locations based on the type of project. Learn more about the ERP projects at https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/ERP/projects.aspx

California Water Quality Monitoring Council

Overview

The California Water Quality Monitoring Council is mandated by statute (California Senate Bill 1070 of 2006) to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of California's system of water quality and associated ecosystem monitoring and assessment and to make the resulting information available to decision makers and the public via the Internet. The California Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Agencies entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to implement the legislation in 2007. The legislation and MOU required the Monitoring Council to develop recommendations to improve the coordination and cost-effectiveness of water quality and ecosystem monitoring and assessment, enhance the integration of monitoring data across departments and agencies, and increase public accessibility to monitoring data and assessment information. In 2010 the Monitoring Council published its recommended *Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California*. The Monitoring Council is currently working to oversee implementation of those recommendations.

Description of Monitoring Programs

The Monitoring Council developed a system of theme-specific workgroups to provide the mechanism for monitoring and assessment coordination. These include:

- Safe to Swim Workgroup – Are our waters safe to swim?
- Bioaccumulation Oversight Group – Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?
- Safe Drinking Water Workgroup – Is it safe to drink our water?
- Healthy Streams Partnership – Are our stream and river ecosystems healthy?
- Wetland Monitoring Workgroup – Are our wetland ecosystems healthy?
- Estuary Monitoring Workgroup – Are our estuarine ecosystems healthy?

Each workgroup is developing an Internet portal to display relevant information for their theme. The Estuary Monitoring Workgroup is primarily focused on the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.

Coordination with Other Agencies

The Monitoring Council has ten members representing California's natural resource, environmental protection, and public health agencies; regulated storm water, wastewater treatment, and agricultural communities; citizen monitoring groups; the public; the scientific community; and water supply interests. A representative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also participates. Theme-specific workgroups have members representing federal, state, and local governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions.

How the Public Can Access the Data

On the Internet at http://www.CaWaterQuality.net

Contact Information

Jon B. Marshack, D.Env., Monitoring Council Coordinator
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
Phone: (916) 341-5514
Email: jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov