

# California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

## “SWAMP” Overview 2004

*SRWP Workshop*

*August 19, 2004*

# Why monitor?

- To provide the necessary information for effective watershed (water quality) management.



# Why do we monitor?

- Describe status and trends
- Describe and rank existing and emerging problems
- Design management and regulatory programs

*From the Final Report of the  
Intergovernmental Task Force on  
Monitoring (1995)*



# SWAMP Background

- ☛ Required by AB 982 WC sec.13192
- ☛ Comprehensive state program (surface water)
  - Coordinate all Board ambient water quality monitoring Programs/projects
  - High Quality Data
  - Comparable data
  - Accessible

# Proposal for a Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program November 2000

Comprehensive monitoring program to  
meet all Clean Water Act needs for all  
water types and pollutant sources

## Requested

\$59 to \$115 Million

87 to 132 positions

## Reality

\$3.4 Million

10 positions  
fees

# Reality Check

- Existing goals do not match the fiscal reality or current program
- Longer-term implementation strategy
- Realistic short-term objectives
- Collaborative alternatives to data generation

# ***Articulating a longer term implementation strategy--***

## USEPA “10 Elements of a Monitoring Program”

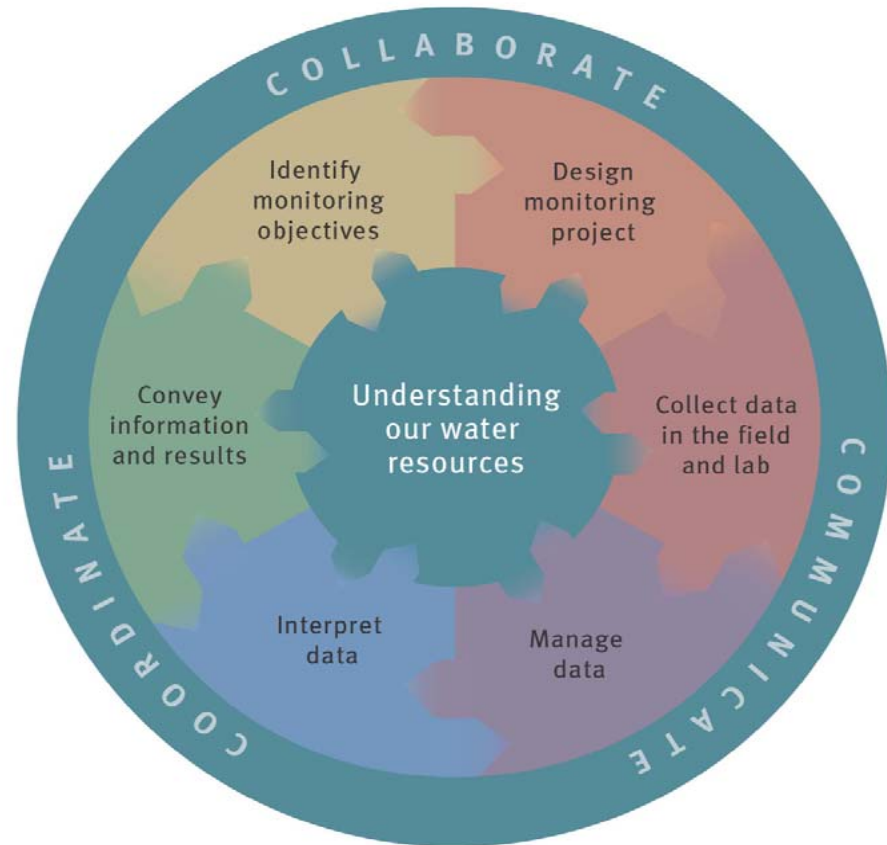
- ✓ Monitoring Program Strategy
- ✓ Monitoring Objectives
- ✓ Monitoring Design
- ✓ Core Indicators of Water Quality
- ✓ Quality Assurance
- ✓ Data Management
- ✓ Data Analysis/Assessment (CALM)
- ✓ Reporting
- ✓ Programmatic Evaluation
- ✓ General Support and Infrastructure

# SWAMP Elements

- ☞ Monitoring Objectives
- ☞ Regional watershed assessments
- ☞ **Intra-agency consistency** (“umbrella” guidance for all Water Board programs collecting ambient data)
- ☞ Core indicators
- ☞ **Consistent field methods**
- ☞ **Comparable lab analyses** (Performance Based Methods System)
- ☞ **Credible data** (Quality Assurance)
- ☞ **Publicly accessible data**
- ☞ Timely assessments
- ☞ Public reporting
- ☞ Technically defensible program (externally peer reviewed)
- ☞ Coordination with other entities (including volunteer monitoring efforts)
- ☞ Adaptive management
- ☞ Adequate sustainable funding

# Providing a state framework for ambient water quality monitoring

- Coordination of high quality, consistent, scientifically defensible methods, strategies
- To allow for integration and use of data within broader context



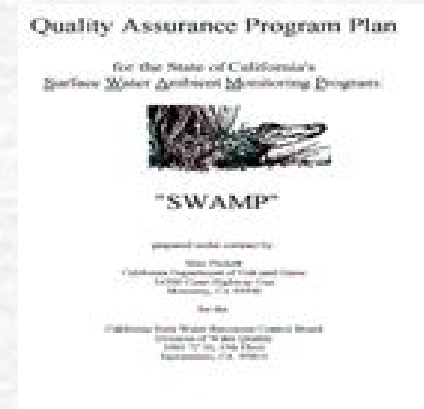
# Goal: Consistent and objective sampling, analysis and assessment methods

- Sampling: standard field protocols
  - Training Module (CD) - 2004
- Analysis: performance based
- *Assessment: 303(d) Policy - draft 2004*

# Goal:

## Consistent data quality assurance

- Statewide Quality Assurance Management Plan (1st edition)
  - Need for regional, lab, field audits
  - Laboratory intercalibration studies
  - External review
  - Revision
- Tools
  - Training Courses
  - Template, Models



# **Goal: Data management- inclusive, integrated, accessible**

- Inclusive of all types of water quality monitoring data
- Integrated
- Public Access

# SWAMP:

- ☛ Required by AB 982 (WC sec.13191)
- ☛ Comprehensive state program (surface water)
  - **Coordinate all Board ambient water quality monitoring Programs/projects**
  - High Quality Data
  - Comparable data
  - Accessible data

# Status Program Coordination

## ☞ Fiscal Year 02-03

- TMDL Program
- Grant Projects

## ☞ Fiscal Year 03-04

- (US EPA) EMAP (--->305b, 319h, EPIC)
- Agriculture Waiver Program

## ☞ Fiscal Year 04-05

- Regional Storm Water Monitoring

# “Standardization” Legislation

## AB982

- Established SWAMP
- Consistency among Water Boards

## SB72

- Consistency among stormwater permittees with SWAMP

## AB1747

- Consistency among grant projects with SWAMP

# Advisory Groups

- AB 982 Public Advisory Group
  - 12 “regulated” community
  - 12 “environmental” groups
- SWAMP Roundtable
- Scientific Planning and Review Committee (SPARC)

# Outstanding Issues - Insufficient Resources

- Increase in SWAMP “partners”
- Consistency/Comparability = Training
- QA Coordination

# Resources

SWAMP Website <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/swamp/>

SWAMP Quality Assurance Management Plan  
(First version)

[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/swamp/qapp.html#swamp\\_qapp](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/swamp/qapp.html#swamp_qapp)

SWAMP Information Management Plan (Interim  
Draft)

[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/swamp/docs/appxj\\_infomgmtsystemplan.doc](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/swamp/docs/appxj_infomgmtsystemplan.doc)

SWAMP Regional Workplans

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/swamp/reports.html>

# Questions?

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