From: Templin, William
To: Oppenheimer, Eric; Ngatia, Murage; DiGiorgio, Carol; Agee, Bruce; Fong, Sid; Pepper, Kelley; Guy, Donald; Burkhard, William J.;
cc: Templin, William;
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At the end of our 1st DES QA Workgroup meeting on Nov. 10, 2010, Eric Oppenheimer asked me to:

1) Provide **a "nutshell" of what "SWAMP Comparability" means**, and

2) **What would need to do** to be SWAMP Comparable?

Additionally, if I understood correctly, Sid had some concerns about whether we could meet SWAMP comparability requirements for data archiving of old original records.

In preparing this summary, I reviewed SWAMP online information in search of information on 1) SWAMP comparability, 2) what we would need to do to be comparable and 3) any reference to their requirements for data archiving, specifically for old hard copies of original data.

I was unable to find any archiving requirements online so I contacted the SWAMP staff. Unfortunately Adam Ballard (916-341-5556), Beverly van Buuren, Stacey Swenson and Cassandra Lamerdin (who we heard from via teleconference on Oct. 21, 2010) were tied up on another conference call. However, Rusty Fairey (SWAMP Program Manager, 831-771-4161) was available and I asked him about any SWAMP archiving requirements.

Rusty assured me that there were no hard and fast requirements for data archiving and that SWAMP staff think that they are very cooperative with other state agency staff in regards to getting other agency data into SWAMP or more likely into CEDEN. He also mentioned that the concern that all state data must be "SWAMP Comparable" is not something that we need to worry about, but some knowledge of how the data are collected, and processed are required for data users to know if the data are comparable. Rusty also assured me that data in SWAMP (and CEDEN) are retrievable, but some training may be required.

Following are the "Nutshell" explanation of SWAMP Comparability and what we would need to do, if we want to be SWAMP comparable, if that is possible or even needed.

1) **A "nutshell" of what "SWAMP Comparability" means** - The Water Boards provide several websites dealing with "SWAMP Comparability" summarized in their Comparability Fact Sheet

a. California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) Comparability Fact Sheet is intended to help program participants understand

the concept of "SWAMP Comparability" and provides guidelines and tools for those seeking to become SWAMP-comparable. It has 3 components:

i. Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does SWAMP-comparable mean? ***The U.S. EPA defines "comparability" as "The measure of confidence with which one data set, element, or method can be considered as similar to another."***

a. ***"SWAMP Comparable" means that the data meet the requirements of two key SWAMP documents***:

i. The SWAMP Data Management Plan (DMP) – This document describes business rules, field sampling guides, data formats, and data management processes helpful in sharing SWAMP-comparable data.

ii. The SWAMP Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPrP) – This document describes the program's

1. Organizational structure

2. Functional responsibilities of management and staff

3. Lines of authority, and

4. Interfaces for those planning, implementing and assessing all activities conducted.

ii. Comparability Tools

1. SWAMP Help Desk (this would be Cassandra Lamerdin (831-771-4163) and Stacey Swenson (831-771-4114)

2. SWAMP Water Quality Monitoring email list

3. SWAMP Advisor

4. SWAMP QAPP Templates

5. SWAMP QAPP Review Checklists – used to assess each element of a completed SWAMP-comparable QAPP QAMP or QAPrP.

iii. Online Resources

2) **What would need to do** to be SWAMP Comparable?

a. **Do we have to use specific methods for field sampling?** Yes, field measurements must be conducted according to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and must meet the holding times specified in QAPrP Appendix B: Sample Handling.

b. **Do we have to use specific methods for laboratory and field analyses?** No. However, SWAMP measurement quality objectives (MQOs) must be met. These are acceptance criteria for data precision, bias, representativeness, completeness, comparability, and sensitivity.

c. **Do we have to use SWAMP-audited laboratory as my contract laboratory?** No, but SWAMP advises that quality assurance and quality control requirements be written into the laboratory's contract.

d. **What if my project can't meet all of the requirements of the QAPrP?** For deviations, contact your program manager, contract manager, and project QA Officer; or the QA portion of the SWAMP Help Desk (Cassandra Lamerdin (831-771-4163) and Stacey Swenson (831-771-4114))

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