

CEDEN March 17, 2015 Workshop Comments

#	Organization	Contact	Comment/Recommendation	Category
A1	Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD)	Kelly Hahs	Staff at Regional Data Centers (RDC) have varying levels of experience with different aspects of CEDEN. Having access to staff experienced in multiple aspects of CEDEN (e.g. programming AND chemistry) would be invaluable for accurate and timely data submission. Recommendation: Allocate staff according to their strengths rather than location, e.g. one RDC or State Board be utilized for performing database updates, others for evaluating updates by specialty such as chemistry, toxicity, benthic macro-invertebrates, etc.	Process/ Administration [RDC]
A2	VCWPD	Kelly Hahs	Streamline the process for LookUp list modifications. RDCs currently act as a middle man between those who request modifications and those who approve them, which can result in long delays as emails are relayed back and forth between the parties when clarification is needed. Additionally, Lookup lists can vary between RDCs and do not always match the master list at SWAMP/CEDEN. Recommendation: Centralize the LookUp lists so that all RDCs have identical LookUp lists, and modify the process for requesting updates to allow the parties involved to communicate directly with the approval authority and not via the RDC.	Process/ Administration [Controlled Vocab]
A3	VCWPD	Kelly Hahs	The QACode LookUp list does not adequately inform end users of potential data limitations, e.g. matrix spike records that are not within the quality control limits are only given one option, "GB", which does not provide information as to whether the matrix spike was above or below the limits, which can affect the interpretation of the result. Recommendation: Improve the QACode LookUp list with input from laboratories and data generators to better inform end users of potential data limitations.	Data Out [QA]
A4	VCWPD	Kelly Hahs	Retroactive data changes should involve the data generators, when possible, to ensure that the integrity of submitted data is protected. For example, when renaming constituents, ensure that the new name is equivalent to the old name. District data was renamed by CEDEN from Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) to "TPH as Gasoline" and "TPH" was removed as an analyte, however the new name was not equivalent to the old name, and did not meet our Permit requirement for "TPH". Recommendation: Ensure the integrity of submitted data is protected by working with the data generators when retroactive changes are made.	Process/ Administration [Process for making changes]
A5	VCWPD	Kelly Hahs	The source of data can be important when evaluating the quality of the data, e.g. is the laboratory ELAP certified? Was the data collected by a governmental agency, citizen monitoring group, NGO, business, private party etc.? Recommendation: Provide a system to notify end users of the source of the generated data so it can be taken into consideration when querying and/or evaluating the data.	Data Out
A6	VCWPD	Kelly Hahs	Knowing the order in which different modules are being developed, including milestones and targeted time lines, is important for agencies to allocate resources in order to determine priorities for producing CEDEN compatible data. Recommendation: Provide an overview of the work plan for CEDEN development and keep data generators informed of any changes.	Process/ Administration
A7	VCWPD	Kelly Hahs	Changes to data import templates create problems for laboratories trying to create CEDEN compatible reports. Laboratories are reluctant to spend money for software developers to make changes when the target keeps changing. Recommendation: Form a work group with laboratories/software developers and limit the frequency of template updates.	Process/ Administration [changes to templates]
A8	VCWPD	Kelly Hahs	Information about CEDEN's developmental process, status, goals, and features is not readily available for data users and generators. Recommendation: Start a newsletter/blog and Lyris list to regularly inform CEDEN users of changes, plans, schedules, tips, features, etc.	Process/ Administration [communication]

A9	VCWPD	Kelly Hahs	There is not currently an option to download a record of the errors identified by the automated data checkers. Downloading the errors would allow data generators to more efficiently correct problem data, e.g. sorting by type of error, deleting records that have already been corrected, etc. Recommendation: Provide an exportable report (e.g. MS Excel, .csv, etc.) of errors identified by the automated data checkers and note whether there is a maximum number of errors able to be identified by the data checker per review.	Data In [error checker]
B1	City of Los Angeles Sanitation, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, Orange County Sanitation District, and City of Sand Diego Ocean Monitoring Program (So CA POTWs)	Shelly Walther	We would like to express our concern about the timely transfer of the receiving water data in CIWQS to CEDEN in support of the 303(d) and 305(b) listing process. As an example, NPDES permits for the LA County Sanitation Districts' seven water reclamation plants require receiving water monitoring for antimony, arsenic, beryllium, boron, cadmium, total chromium, copper, iron, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, and zinc. The NPDES permits additionally require that all monitoring for these metals be conducted using methods approved under 40 CFR Part 136, which specifies that the total concentration of the metals must be analyzed. Since water quality standards for metals are set as dissolved (soluble) concentrations, a more accurate assessment of water quality is made by directly comparing soluble metals concentrations to water quality standards. In order to better characterize the receiving waters, in July 2010 we began analyzing our receiving water metals samples for soluble metals concentrations in addition to total metals concentrations. This data was compatible with and uploaded to CIWQS. As such, there is a critical mass of data for the 303(d) and 305(b) listing process currently in CIWQS for 29 receiving water stations in the San Jose Creek, San Gabriel River, Rio Hondo, and Santa Clara River watersheds. While it is prudent to indicate in the database that the source of this data is not only CIWQS and therefore is missing some required fields, we request that it be noted that these analyses were performed by ELAP certified labs to put to rest concerns over the data quality. We look forward to assisting the State in this important effort to transfer CIWQS data to CEDEN through our involvement in the CIWQS eSMR user group.	Process/ Administration
B2	So CA POTWs	Shelly Walther	As anyone can submit data to CEDEN, only data of a certain quality should be used for 303(d) and 305(b) list determinations. Recommendation: The State and EPA should work with a CEDEN user group to discuss which data are appropriate to use for these listings.	Data Out
B3	So CA POTWs	Shelly Walther	It has been clear from past experience working with Regional Data Centers (RDC's) that there is a need for CEDEN to provide knowledgeable staff with authority to facilitate SWAMP/CEDEN interaction and to effect change directly to the CEDEN vocabulary and lookup lists on an ongoing basis. What provisions are being planned for facilitating direct user group/CEDEN/SWAMP interaction?	Process/ Administration
B4	So CA POTWs	Shelly Walther	Taxonomic standardization of biological monitoring data assures that the same name is applied to an organism by different agencies each time that organism is encountered. This is an important quality control concern in any biological monitoring program. Due to the complexity and often ephemeral nature of invertebrate naming systems, and the differences in expertise involved in monitoring within the region, regional cooperation and communication among the taxonomists responsible for the surveys is essential. The annually updated list of standardized taxonomy of marine invertebrates from benthic habitats within the region put together by Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists (SCAMIT) is central to that effort. The list contains species names that are uniformly and consistently applied to organisms in research and monitoring programs within the region. Taxonomic listings are only tools, that, in order to be used appropriately, must be maintained as names change. How will ecological data submitted to CEDEN be maintained as names change over time? Will a tool be built to automate necessary updates?	Process/ Administration [structure]
B5	So CA POTWs	Shelly Walther	The CIWQS user group has been an effective way for agencies to communicate with one another and with CEDEN directly regarding data needs. Recommendation: Form a CEDEN user group	Process/ Administration

C1	Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB 9)	Carey Nagoda	It is important to the San Diego Water Board that CEDEN RDCs receive the funding necessary to fully function as a reliable database and help desk, and to preserve the infrastructure and complete the future needs of the system. In addition, the RDCs provide a critical local connection for the data providers.	Process/ Administration
C2	RWQCB 9	Carey Nagoda	RDCs should be allowed some flexibility to employ adaptive strategies for CEDEN.	Process/ Administration
D1	Department of Water Resources	Ted Swift	Query tool should be designed with users in mind and not programmers. The site is fragile; tools and selections are confusing; too much emphasis on sites without coordinates without direction on how to get to those points; too many “?” indicating that the site is too confusing; should accommodate various screen sizes better; web site shouldn’t have a preferred browser. [Additional details provided in email] Recommendation: As an example of a better-designed data-query web page, I suggest http://www.baydeltalive.com/ . Though it is not perfect, it is much more welcoming, yet powerful.	Data Out [new query tool needed]
E1	San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)	Randy Turner	Organizations that SFEI work with have significant data from sondes and temperature probes that is currently not accepted by CEDEN. Recommendation: Make accepting continuous data into CEDEN a priority	Data In [continuous data]
E2	SFEI	Randy Turner	Recommendation: For fields with Lookup lists, include a dropdown list within these cells to more easily select from and avoid errors. Would be best for fields without regular additions to their controlled vocabulary.	Data In [Templates]
E3	SFEI	Randy Turner	Recommendation: Include definitions within cell comments for field names in row 1. Some fields do have comments within the header cells and include notes regarding default values and whether it is associated with a lookup list. Adding the definitions from the CEDEN ChemIM Plan would help.	Data In [Templates]
E4	SFEI	Randy Turner	Recommendation: Include Macros or other tools where if I insert data for “Nitrogen, Total”, it will automatically apply appropriate data for other specific fields in order to increase the speed of data entry? It would have to have example data categories pre-entered but would speed the data entry and decision making process significantly.	Data In [Tools]
E5	SFEI	Randy Turner	Recommendation: Link to tools on RDC sites- With tools like EcoAtlas on SFEI’s website that helps with data visualization using existing CEDEN data, can CEDEN link back to these tools to help users analyze and display data?	Data Out
E6	SFEI	Randy Turner	Recommendation: Post the online Lookup lists in Excel format- This make it easier to sort and search for the appropriate result. This would need updating as new items are added to the lists and could be offered in addition or as a replacement to the online list. The date of last update could be included next to the link and within the file name so users could know if their version is out of date.	Data In
E7	SFEI	Amy Franz	What should we do with stormwater, BMP, and LID data? Is CEDEN the best place for it? Should we stop uploading it to CEDEN? Besides matrix, what other fields can we use to identify these samples? Is there one field that we can use to identify samples as being part of a stormwater, BMP, LID monitoring project? Does CEDEN have guidance or suggestions about this? Are there clear rules on what is displayed and what isn’t?	Process/ Administration [storm water]
F1	CDM Smith	Nola Mitchell	Recommendation: Lookup table descriptions and definitions could be improved	Data In
G1	West Coast Ocean Data Portal	Todd Hallenbeck	Recommendation: Publish metadata (fgdc, iso standards) and web services (OGC, REST mapping services) that we could harvest and consume for our web application. This would also serve to advertise the great data CEDEN holds to a diverse audience of other state agencies, tribal governments, and academia. Recommendation	Data Out

H1	Russian Riverkeeper	Bob Legge	Photographs are a central tenet of the SMARTS, the SWAMP and the EMAP. You must include the ability to upload photos into CEDEN that are relevant to the data that is collected and entered. Recommendation: CEDEN should incorporate the ability to upload photographs	Data In
H2	Russian Riverkeeper	Bob Legge	Recommendation: Provide basic, interactive training	Process/ Administration
I1	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Grace Komjakraphan	SCCWRP has been a great resource and as we start utilizing CEDEN more and more, it would be great if we could continue to go to them for assistance.	Process/ Administration
J1	Caltrans	Bhaskar Joshi	When I click on a map data point and got to "Parameter counts" a table of results comes up but It is not possible to export data as excel files. Also the table does not scroll horizontally and it is not possible to see all columns	Data Out
K1	Department of Pesticide Regulation	Xuyang Zhang	Inconsistent results downloaded at different times: I have tried to download data from CEDEN at different times using the same search criteria but got different results. I know CEDEN undergoes frequent updates, but for users, this causes problems when we use the data. Recommendation: Provide users a way for users to know what records have been updated as of what time.	Data Out
K2	Department of Pesticide Regulation	Xuyang Zhang	CEDEN receives data from so many different studies, which have their own objectives and designs. Recommendation: Provide links to the study report or similar type of information where available.	Data Out
K3	Department of Pesticide Regulation	Xuyang Zhang	Recommendation: build an algorithm to remove duplicate records.	Data In
L1	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFCWCD)	Penny Nanney	Recommendation: Due to the difficulty with labs being able to change their submission data forms, it would be helpful if the entry template(s) stayed the same for a reasonable amount of time.	Process/ Administration
L2	RCFCWCD	Penny Nanney	Recommendation: Make active online checkers and templates to work together for checking and uploading data.	Data In
L3	RCFCWCD	Penny Nanney	Recommendation: Create fewer templates that combine various data and have common 'Required' fields.	Data In
L4	RCFCWCD	Penny Nanney	Metadata, such as if the sample was collected from ponded water needs to be 'attached' to the rest of the data in some way so it can be used appropriately if downloaded by others. Could all data submittals for one event (Chemistry, Toxicity, Field, Habitat, etc.) be linked together for extractions OR perhaps a 'pop-up' could list 1) the event's important notes (such as 'ponded water', 'rising groundwater', etc.) and 2) the data types available	Process/ Administration
L5	RCFCWCD	Penny Nanney	Recommendation: Establish protocols on which agency name should be named in a data set when a contract agency submits on behalf of client agency. Seems it should be the 'Client' agency (owner of the data).	Data In
L6	RCFCWCD	Penny Nanney	Recommendation: Establish standard file naming conventions for submission files, and matching RDC/CEDEN upload receipts that name the file that was uploaded	Data In

M1	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)	Bob Brodberg	Recommendation: Clearly identify a contact person	Process/ Administration
M2	OEHHA	Bob Brodberg	Data pulled out of CEDEN doesn't match known historical values and contains duplicates. [Several detailed examples provided to be investigated]	Data Out
M3	OEHHA	Tran Pham	Let users know if new datasets have been uploaded to CEDEN or if there have been new updates to existing projects. Recommendation: Add a "what's new" tab on the home page, with the date that the data is uploaded or updated to CEDEN's database. This information would be useful so we can compare to earlier downloads.	Process/ Administration
M4	OEHHA	Tran Pham	It is unclear who to contact for particular issues after you land on the "Contact Us" page. Recommendation: Improve the current "Contact Us" links and page on the web. Clarify who we should contact to address errors or inconsistencies and provide acknowledgement receiving questions.	Process/ Administration
M5	OEHHA	Tran Pham	Recommendation: Notify users on the web when the database is down.	Process/ Administration
M6	OEHHA	Tran Pham	Recommendation: Improve lookup list definitions	Process/ Administration
M7	OEHHA	Tran Pham	Fish length is a priority for our program. It is also used by SWAMP and is the basis for some values displayed in My Water Quality by the State Board. Recommendation: Make fish length a required field.	Data In
N1	Aquatic Bioassay and Consulting Labs	Karin Patrick	It is concerning as a data provider to not know how the data will be used and that it may be misinterpreted.	Data Out
N2	Aquatic Bioassay and Consulting Labs	Karin Patrick	Recommendation: Improve lookup list definitions	Data In
N3	Aquatic Bioassay and Consulting Labs	Karin Patrick	Recommendation: Make separate bioassessment tables for different types of organisms	Process/ Administration
O1	California Estuary Portal	Dave Osti	Recommendation: Create web services (containing specific fields) to serve data needs for specific portals.	Data Out
P1	Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition	Mike Troughon	Recommendation: Provide more communication regarding changes to CEDEN	Process/ Administration

Q1		Robert Gore	Recommendation: Fee payers shouldn't pay for other uses	Process/ Administratio n
R1	San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB 2)	Kevin Lunde	Recommendation: Reorganize and add functionality to the query tool to better serve the needs of users searching under specific scenarios. [Additional details provided in email.]	Data Out
R2	RWQCB 2	Kevin Lunde	Recommendation: Business rules on station names should be developed and enforced so that the names are more meaningful to data consumers.	Data Out
S1	Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB 3)	Mary Hamilton	Recommendation: Implement a file tracking tool (could be as simple as a spreadsheet) that shows the status of any given data file delivered to the RDC's checkers.	Process/ Administratio n
S2	RWQCB 3	Mary Hamilton	The query tool does not display all data submitted to the RDCs for various reasons. Recommendation: A process of completeness checking should be developed and implemented.	Data Out