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# California water system monitored by UC Berkeley tweeting robots

May 17, 2012 | By [Scott Sterling](#)

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Water quality is serious business in California. In order to keep an even closer eye on what exactly is going in the state's rivers, a research team from the University of California Berkeley has developed a fleet of aquatic robots known as the Floating Sensor Network that can not only monitor water quality, but also relay the results on Twitter.

As reported by [Treehugger](#), 100 of the robots were released into the Sacramento River earlier this week, in order to measure the salinity, pollution and water flow of the essential Sacramento-San Joaquin water system, responsible for the majority of the state's drinking water and irrigation supply. The ones outfitted with Android phones along with GPS systems are doing the tweeting.



Nicholas Kamm/AFP/Getty Images

"This is the way of the future," said Alexandre Bayen, associate professor at the University of California, Berkeley and project supervisor to [Techworld](#). "We're moving from an age when humans were deploying things and babysitting them to an age where you just put the robots in the water, they do their job, they come back or they call you if they have a problem."

Follow the tweeting robots: [@fsnandroid61](#).

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