California Water Quality Monitoring Council

Data Management Workgroup Charter

Purpose

The Data Management workgroup will establish the overall approach to transform existing data management systems into a distributed system of databases, catalogs, and assessment and mapping tools to enable users to access data, metadata, and assessment products from a single entry point, or web portal. As defined in the Council's Comprehensive Strategy, a key responsibility of the data management workgroup is to ensure that the theme-specific workgroups:

- Meticulously define their data requirements.

- Identify data requirements that cut across multiple themes and that therefore should be coordinated.

- Employ data management strategies that comply with appropriate national and state guidelines.

- Have a well-established mechanism for communicating data management issues to a body with overall responsibility for oversight and support of individual themes' data management efforts.

The goal is to achieve only that degree of standardization necessary to meet users' needs. In addition to looking inward toward the theme-specific workgroups, the Monitoring Council's Data Management Workgroup will look outward to other partners within and outside of state government to ensure that the Monitoring Council's data management strategy aligns with State and Federal initiatives and takes advantage of opportunities to utilize useful tools and approaches developed elsewhere

Background

The California Water Quality monitoring Council approved the formation of a Data Management Workgroup in its recommendations in its [Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy](#) for California released in December 2010. The Data Management Workgroup will support data management efforts of existing and future theme-specific workgroups, as well as playing a coordinating role where data requirements cut across multiple themes.

Current workgroups include:

- Beach Water Quality Work Groups

- Bioaccumulation Oversight Group

- California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup

- California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup

- California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network

- Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program

- Healthy Streams Partnership

- Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe)

In addition to looking inward toward the theme-specific workgroups, the Monitoring Council's data management workgroup will look outward to other partners within and outside of state government to ensure that the Monitoring Council's data management strategy remains aligned with State and federal initiatives and takes advantage of opportunities to utilize useful tools and approaches developed elsewhere.

Individuals, agencies, and organizations throughout the state need easy and reliable access to regional-scale scientific and geospatial information to make informed, science-based decisions. The California Water Quality Monitoring Council has identified access to statewide monitoring data via theme-based portals as a core element of their strategy.

Identify opportunities to leverage past and current efforts

Currently, a number of web repositories, data display applications and tools are successfully serving state-level or subject-specific audiences. The Data Management Workgroup will identify and assess existing and available tools, data structures and methods that meet the needs of the theme specific workgroups to identify best practices and to provide recommendations to the objectives of the theme specific workgroups.

Goals of the Data Management workgroup:

1. Coordinate closely with theme-based workgroups to help them meet their needs for data and data-sharing solutions. Provide example mappings between various existing data systems will be developed.

2. The DMWG will develop recommendations and guidelines for data management (federated system), web development, and geospatial data in plain English to make it accessible to the workgroups.

3. Where applicable, provide recommendations and/or evaluation of tools and software stacks appropriate to meeting the needs (analytical/business needs) of the workgroups while maintaining compatibility with guidelines. (DMWG develop an IT standards cookbook as a framework for developers).

4. Serve as a point of contact to data producers, data users, data managers, tool developers, and GIS experts toward the Council's data goals.

    - Develop or utilize existing metadata catalog

- Develop a library of existing/recommended standards

5. As required, establish sub-committees of the Data Management workgroup to carry out specific tasks including data prioritization and structure, IT infrastructure, and outreach tasks.

How would the Data Management Workgroup operate?
The workgroup would be composed members drawn from state, federal, tribal, NGO, industry, and academic representatives. The ACT would serve as a point of contact to address questions and provide advice relating to data, and IT tasks. A primary goal of the Data Management Workgroup would be to interact with and support the theme specific workgroups in their accessing, managing, and sharing of relevant water quality and geospatial data.

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