


Strategy and Membership Subcommittee Report

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Monitoring Council Strategy



The Sub-Committee Charge

- Identify ways we can improve the quality and impact of the products that the Council already provides.
- What can the Council do to better address its mission and vision?
- Are there changes to the Council strategy and membership that will allow it to better achieve its mission and vision?

The Council's Mission

The Council's Enabling Legislation—SB 1070

- Tasked the Council with developing a comprehensive monitoring program strategy for California
- To improve the effectiveness of California's water quality and associated ecosystem monitoring and assessment system
- To ensure that the resulting data and information are made available to decision makers and the public via the internet.



The Council's Mission

The Council's three main functions:

1. Improved access to monitoring data.
2. Standardize methods to improve data comparability & interoperability.
3. Develop data access and visualization tools to inform decision making.

Currently focus on #1, but propose focusing more on #2 & 3



Assessment

The Council has been successful at:

- Improving coordination and collaboration through its eight interagency workgroups; AND
- Making data available for the public and decision makers via its six theme-specific portals.

However, there's room to improve...



Areas for Improvement

Methods and data standardization

Increase focus on standardization—to improve data comparability and interoperability; *potential added value for AB 1755.*

Data access and visualization tools

Increase focus on products that help to inform resource decision making.

Communication and outreach

Important to successfully fulfill our charge—enhance for all aspects of Council work.

We need to also consider what has AND has not worked...

Recommended Actions

1. Re-evaluate existing workgroups and products

Proposed Action: hold workgroup summit on lessons learned and report back on May 30.

2. Develop updated guidance for workgroups

Proposed Action: after Council and subcommittee input (Action 1), staff will develop updated guidance material and propose updates to the Comprehensive Strategy (by September 5).

3. Develop formal communication strategy

Proposed Action: develop a strategy that addresses communications to Agency Secretaries, Legislature, monitoring groups, and the public.

Monitoring Council Membership



Assessment

The Council has successfully brought together:

- Stakeholders from various sectors
 - California Natural Resources and EPA
 - Drinking Water Program
 - Regulated Community
 - Agriculture
 - Citizen Monitoring
 - Public
 - Scientific Community
 - Water Supply

However, our membership and approach can be enhanced...

Recommendations

Seek additional membership

Proposed Action: task subcommittee with identifying candidates from Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Dept. of Public Health, Dept. of Food and Agriculture, ACWA, *Others?*

Seek members with influence and authority

Proposed Action: consider candidates with access to Agency Secretaries/Legislature, who can speak for their sector, and who can volunteer time & resources.

Improve communication and outreach with members

Proposed Action: task staff with developing improved orientation materials, to ensure consistent understanding of Council's goals and expectations for members.