CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Friday, May 29, 2015 - 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Large Conference Room Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) 3535 Harbor Blvd., Suite 110, Costa Mesa



IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!

Meetings of the Monitoring Council are open to the public. Times indicated in the agenda are approximate. The order of agenda items is subject to change. Actions of the Monitoring Council are advisory to the Secretaries of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency.

Handouts, presentations, and related meeting and Monitoring Council information will be available prior to or after the meeting at http://www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/meetings.

Remote access to the meeting will be available via WebEx. To join the WebEx on-line meeting, click on this link https://waterboards.webex.com/waterboards/j.php?MTID=m04ba321442853b16c2b35bb51bd7cd6e, enter your name and email address, enter the meeting password "cwqmc", click "Join" and follow the instructions that appear on your screen. Please log in a few minutes before the meeting starts to allow WebEx to set up the meeting connection. WebEx will automatically set up Meeting Manager the first time you join a WebEx meeting. Audio connection is by teleconference by dialing (877) 931-5081 and entering the attendee access code 222 652 6. Existing audio equipment in our meeting room may limit the available quality of the connection.

For a map to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, driving directions, and accommodations information, visit www.sccwrp.org/view.php?id=39. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact SCCWRP at (714) 755-3200.

ITEM:	1 Approx. Tin		
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING 10 minutes		
Purpose:	 Introductions (in the room and on the phone) Review draft notes from February 23, 2015 Monitoring Council meeting Review agenda for today's meeting 		
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve February 23, 2015 Monitoring Council meeting notesb) Preview what will be covered today and overall meeting expectationsc) Adjust today's agenda, as needed		
Attachment Link:	Draft notes from February 23, 2015 Monitoring Council meeting		
Contact Persons:	Kris Joneskristopher.jones@water.ca.gov, (916) 376-9756Jon Marshackjon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5514		

ITEM:	2	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	PUBLIC FORUM	Unknown
Purpose:	Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Monitoring Council relating to any matter within the Council's jurisdiction under California Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006) provided the matter is not on the agenda.	

Desired Outcome:	Information and potential agenda topics for a future meeting	
Attachment Links:	California Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006)	
Contact Persons:	Jon Marshackjon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5514Kris Joneskristopher.jones@water.ca.gov; (916) 376-9756	

ITEM:	3 Approx. Time:			
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES 20 minutes			
Purpose:	These are expected to be brief informational items that could b more detailed discussions for future meetings:	These are expected to be brief informational items that could be expanded into more detailed discussions for future meetings:		
	a) Monitoring Council Position Changes (Jon Marshack)			
	b) November 30 meeting conflict			
	c) Environmental Data Summit White Paper			
	 d) Other brief announcements and updates related to the Mor mission pursuant to Senate Bill 1070, Statutes of 2006 	itoring Council's		
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment			
Background:	a) Monitoring Council Position Changes			
		 Public – Sara Aminzadeh has named Travis Pritchard of the San Diego Coastkeeper as her Alternate on the Monitoring Council, replacing Sean Bothwell. 		
	his resignation and the California Association of Sanitat recommended that Phil Markle of the County Sanitation Angeles County (LACSD) replace Mr. Connor on the Co has served as the Alternate to Mr. Connor on the Monit May 13, a letter was sent from the Council Co-Chairs to	his resignation and the California Association of Sanitation Agencies recommended that Phil Markle of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) replace Mr. Connor on the Council. Mr. Markle has served as the Alternate to Mr. Connor on the Monitoring Council. On May 13, a letter was sent from the Council Co-Chairs to the two Agency Secretaries recommending that Phil Markle become the Member		
	• Agriculture – Parry Klassen has indicated he will be resigning from the Monitoring Council and endorsing his Alternate, Bruce Houdesheldt of the Northern California Water Association, to take his place. Parry has offered to stay on as an Alternate in this position.			
	Monitoring Council meeting of 2015, November 30, is in co in-person meeting of the National Water Quality Monitoring NOAA National Water Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Ca Council Director Jon Marshack is also a member of the Nat	 November 30 meeting conflict – The selected date for the last California Monitoring Council meeting of 2015, November 30, is in conflict with the next in-person meeting of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council at the NOAA National Water Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. California Monitoring Council Director Jon Marshack is also a member of the National Monitoring Council. He will ask the California Monitoring Council whether they would like to reschedule their meeting so that Jon can attend. Environmental Data Summit White Paper – The Delta Science Program of the Delta Stewardship Council held the Environmental Data Summit in June 2014. Since then, the Delta Science Program has been developing a "vision document" or "white paper" outlining findings and recommendations that 		
	the Delta Stewardship Council held the Environmental Data 2014. Since then, the Delta Science Program has been de			

	arose from that two-day meeting. Monitoring Council Members commented on a preliminary draft of the white paper at the December 2014 meeting and voted to formally endorse the document as a restatement and refinement of data management and data access recommendations found in the Monitoring Council's earlier recommendations. A <u>public review draft of the</u> <u>white paper</u> was released in February. The public comment period closed on March 27.		
Attachment Links:	a) Phil Markle Recom	Phil Markle Recommendation Letter to Agency Secretaries	
	b) National Water Qua	National Water Quality Monitoring Council website	
	c) 2014 Environmenta	2014 Environmental Data Summit website	
		 Public review draft white paper, <u>Enhancing the Vision for Managing</u> <u>California's Environmental Information</u> 	
Contact Persons:	Jon Marshack jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5514		
	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov; (916) 376-9756	

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:	
Title of Topic:	NATIONAL WATER QUALITY PORTAL 30 minutes		
Purpose:	Jim Kreft of the US Geological Survey will present and demons capability of the National Water Quality Portal	trate the	
Desired Outcome:	Discuss the utility of this portal for data access between monito	ring programs	
Background:	The Water Quality Portal (WQP) is a cooperative service sponsored by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC) that integrates publicly available water quality data from the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) the USEPA STOrage and RETrieval (STORET) Data Warehouse, and the USDA ARS Sustaining The Earth's Watersheds - Agricultural Research Database System (STEWARDS).		
	which is the USEPA's repository of water quality monitoring dat water resource management groups across the country. Organ states, tribes, watershed groups, other federal agencies, volunt universities, submit data to the STORET Warehouse in order to publicly accessible. For more information about STORET, see the <u>Home Page</u> . The Water Boards' California Environmental Data Network (CEDEN) has uploaded data into STORET through the Quality Exchange (WQX) and is working to develop two-way co between these systems. Such connections make CEDEN data the National Water Quality Portal. Other state organizations (e	PA water quality data originate from the STORET Data Warehouse, the USEPA's repository of water quality monitoring data collected by source management groups across the country. Organizations, including bes, watershed groups, other federal agencies, volunteer groups and es, submit data to the STORET Warehouse in order to make their data accessible. For more information about STORET, see the <u>STORET</u> age. The Water Boards' California Environmental Data Exchange (CEDEN) has uploaded data into STORET through the national Water xchange (WQX) and is working to develop two-way communication these systems. Such connections make CEDEN data available through nal Water Quality Portal. Other state organizations (e.g., Division of Water, Department of Water Resources) are pursuing linkages of one	
	The USGS water quality data originate from the NWISWeb Database. The database contains current and historical water data from more than 1.5 million sites across the nation and is used by state and local governments, public and private utilities, private citizens, and other federal agencies involved with		

	managing our water resources. For more information on what data are available and how NWIS data are mapped to the Water Quality Exchange (WQX) format, visit <u>NWIS Water Quality Web Services</u> .		
	The ARS water quality data originate from the STEWARDS (Sustaining The Earth's Watersheds - Agricultural Research Database System) database and were developed as part of the Conservation Effects Assessment Program (CEAP). STEWARDS contains long-term hydrologic, weather, and water quality data from 17 ARS benchmark research watersheds. For more information about STEWARDS, see the <u>STEWARDS Home Page</u> .		
Attachment Link:	National Water Quality Portal		
Contact Person:	Jim Kreft	jkreft@usgs.gov; (608) 821-3919	

ITEM:	5		Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	BRIEFINGS WITH CAL/EP	A SECRETARY AND UNDERSECRETARY	50 minutes
Purpose:	Update the Monitoring Council on recent feedback to the Triennial Audit Report from Cal/EPA Secretary Matthew Rodriquez and Undersecretary Gordon Burns		
Desired Outcome:	Discussion and direction to Monitoring Council staff		
Background:	The Monitoring Council's enabling legislation, SB 1070 (Statutes of 2006), requires that the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency conduct a triennial audit of the effectiveness of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy, adopted by the Monitoring Council in December 2010. Cal/EPA Secretary Matthew Rodriquez requested that the Monitoring Council conduct a self-evaluation. The resulting <u>audit report</u> was approved by the Council at the December 2014 meeting and sent to the Agency Secretaries and made available to the public on December 23. A briefing on the audit for Secretary Rodriquez was held on February 24. Two follow-up meetings were held with Undersecretary Burns on February 27 and April 3.		
Attachment Links:	 Increasing Efficiency and Effectiveness Through Collaboration: First Triennial Audit Report <u>Audit Report Cover Letter to Cal/EPA Secretary Rodriquez</u> 		
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5514		916) 341-5514

LUNCH	Approx. Time:
Lunch will be provided at SCCWRP. A donation of \$10 is requested to cover costs.	60 minutes

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK AND INDICATORS FOR THE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF HABITATS IN SANTA MONICA BAY	40 minutes
Purpose:	Dr. Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration	

	Commission will share the efforts made by the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program to assess and report on the ecosystem health of Santa Monica Bay		
Desired Outcome:	To facilitate collaboration in collection of more monitoring data and sharing of these data useful in assessment of ecosystem health		
Background:	The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) is part of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) which was established by federal EPA and the State to develop and implement a comprehensive restoration plan for Santa Monica Bay. The Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) include hundreds of objectives, milestones, and action recommendations, which align with the program's mission to improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the Bay's human benefits and values. Began in the mid-1990s, a comprehensive monitoring program (CMP) was developed and have been refined and implemented for providing a regional, long-term picture of the status and trends of the Bay's environmental conditions, and more importantly for linking these status and trends to the progress made toward achieving the goals and objectives of the BRP. Specifically, the CMP was aimed to shift the focus of monitoring effort from physical and chemical measurements of major pollutant discharges to biological monitoring needed to fulfill many identified data gaps in the Bay's habitats and natural resources. The need for developing a new habitat health assessment reflects several changes in recent years including: greater awareness of the regional nature of environmental stressors and impacts; increased interest in assessing and managing habitats and resources on a regional basis; and greater knowledge of the interactions between sources of anthropogenic impact and environmental processes. The new habitat health assessment framework was developed to encompass and link all stressors, processes, and impacts for all major habitats in the Bay. The framework will be used to guide the update of the CMP and the development of a comprehensive Sate of the Bay report every five years.		
Attachment Links:	State of the Bay 2010 Report		
Contact Person:	Guangyu Wang	gwang@waterboards.ca.gov, (213) 576-6639	

ITEM:	7	Approx. Time:	
Title of Topic:	CONVENING OF THE OCEAN AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEM30 minutesWORKGROUP AND DEVELOPMENT OF A MY WATER QUALITYPORTAL ON THE THEME OF OCEAN AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMHEALTH		
Purpose:	L Aaron McGregor and Liz Whiteman of the Ocean Science Trust will present framework for initial development of an ocean-themed workgroup and portal that links Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) monitoring programs and serves to advance an integrated, sustainable ocean monitoring program that supports multiple mandates around ocean health.		
Desired Outcome:	Support by the Monitoring Council to develop workgroup and portal		
Background:	The Ocean Science Trust oversaw a partnerships-based process to develop a		

	<u>Roadmap</u> , which lays out a stepped process for the development of one or more collaborative workgroups and a portal focusing on ocean and coastal ecosystem health. One of the potential issue-areas highlighted in the Roadmap is the link between MPA monitoring, mainly focusing on aquatic organisms, and water quality monitoring, particularly ASBS monitoring. This topic is ripe for focused attention and portal implementation when considering increased interest and funding of these programs that have well-developed management questions, regulatory and management structures, ongoing monitoring that is relatively well coordinated, and active efforts to develop more integrated assessment approaches.		
	Following the phased-approach detailed in the Roadmap, it is proposed that a subgroup be created to advance the development of a portal linking MPA and ASBS monitoring programs, with an initial focus on rocky intertidal habitats. The charge of this workgroup will include determining core management questions, identifying currently available relevant data and which is authoritative, and defining current data access capability. The workgroup will also help develop the portal for presentation of authoritative information and data, and conduct outreach to decision makers, the public, and agency staff.		
Attachment Links:	My Water Quality Ocean Portal Roadmap		
Contact Persons:	Aaron McGregor	aaron.mcgregor@oceansciencetrust.org; 510-251-8328	
	Liz Whiteman	liz.whiteman@oceansciencetrust.org; 510-251-8317	
	Jim Wicker	jim.wicker@oceansciencetrust.org; 510-251-8330	

ITEM:	8		Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	A WATER QUALITY PORT WATERSHED	30 minutes	
Purpose:	Stephen McCord of the Sacramento River Watershed Program will describe a new project by the Sacramento River Watershed Program to develop a web- based water quality portal for the Sacramento River Watershed		
Desired Outcome:	Provide input and feedback on the proposed project's goals and initial steps		
Background:	Similar to the CA Estuaries portal being developed under the Monitoring Council, and to the recently produced San Joaquin Watershed RMP portal, this portal will address regional questions and issues of interest. The portal is expected to be developed by late 2016 with substantial stakeholder outreach and input.		
Attachment Link:	Sacramento River Portal fact sheet		
Contact Person:	Stephen McCord	sam@mccenv.com; (530) 220-3165	

ITEM:	9	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	WATERSHED AND REGIONAL REPORT CARDS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM EFFORTS IN THE SAN DIEGO RIVER WATERSHED	40 minutes

Purpose:	Brock Bernstein will provide an update on progress, challenges, and opportunities in developing regional report cards		
Desired Outcome:	Identify additional opportunities for coordinating similar efforts across the state		
Background:	Efforts by the State Water Board and others to develop improved and more consistent indicators of condition in streams and other water bodies have occurred in concert with increased interest in how regional and landscape scale processes affect conditions in and around streams. At the same time, progress in cleaning up gross sources of contamination along with increased understanding of how habitat affects biological condition has begun to shift attention away from a narrow focus on pollutants to broader concerns about the influences of instream, riparian, and upland habitats. A number of report card efforts have attempted to capture this broader range of cause-effect relationships, to varying degrees of success.		
	relationships, to varying degrees of success. An ongoing collaborative project in the San Diego River watershed illustrates the challenges and opportunities involved in developing useful report cards. This effort succeeded in engaging a wide range of participants and in capturing and using an equally wide range of data types. Rigorous scoring methods were available for some data types but not others. Where scoring methods existed, they were usually on different scales. Indicators included a mix of qualitative and quantitative metrics. Different programs sampled / measured on different time and space scales. While the draft report card highlighted the utility of integrating a wide range of indicator types, it also highlighted challenges in two main areas. First, additional technical effort is needed to develop scoring methods and approaches for integrating disparate indicators to answer different types of questions. Second, applying a regional report card requires the active and ongoing participation of parties that extend beyond the usual water quality suspects. There is significant potential for collaboration and integration across multiple similar efforts ongoing and/or planned in southern California and the Central Coast.		
Contact Person:	Brock Bernstein brock@brockbernstein.com, (805) 646-8369		

ITEM:	10	Approx. Time:	
Title of Topic:	HEALTHY WATERSHEDS PARTNERSHIP	30 minutes	
Purpose:	Lori Webber, facilitator of the Healthy Streams Partnership, will present a proposal to change the workgroup's name and focus to the Healthy Watersheds Partnership.		
Desired Outcome:	Monitoring Council feedback and support for proposed change		
Background:	Since the beginning of 2015, Healthy Streams Partnership has been working on a charter and a business plan for the work group. During this process, group members have recognized that the group's signature products – the "Healthy Streams" Portal and the CA watershed assessments – consider more than stream systems and, in fact, take a broader, watershed-wide perspective. The group has also recognized that there are significant opportunities to collaborate with other ecosystem health work groups, such as the Wetlands Work Group, on watershed-level analyses of aquatic ecosystem health. As a result, the Healthy		

	Streams Partnership proposes to change their name to the Healthy Watersheds Partnership, to better reflect the existing work products as well as future projects and collaboration opportunities identified in the business plan currently under development by the group.		
Attachment Links:	Healthy Streams Partnership webpage		
	Healthy Streams Portal		
Contact Person:	Lori Webber	lori.webber@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5556	

ITEM:	11	Approx. Time:	
Title of Topic:	PROPOSITION 1 WATER BOND	50 minutes	
Purpose:	Kris Jones of the Monitoring Council and Sara Aminzadeh of the California Coastkeeper Alliance will lead a discussion regarding Proposition 1 funding and the potential links to Monitoring Council workgroup related efforts.		
Desired Outcome:	Information and discussion		
Background:	In November 2014, the voters approved the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop 1), which provides \$7.5 billion in general obligation bonds for water storage, water quality, flood protection, and watershed protection and restoration projects. Proposition 1 includes funding specifically intended to achieve the three overarching goals described in the Plan: restoration, resilience, and reliability. The Budget proposes \$532.5 million to begin the first year of a multiyear Proposition 1 expenditure plan. Approximately half of the Prop 1 Guidelines have been released and others are still under development. The first solicitations for Prop 1 are <u>scheduled</u> to be posted in July 2015. It is unknown whether the unreleased Guidelines will provide any direct or indirect support for the Monitoring Council's related efforts; the majority of draft Guidelines aim to fund on-the-ground projects that create additional water supplies, protect existing water supplies, or improve water quality and habitat. However, there are several Prop 1 programs that may either directly provide support to programs or projects already developed or being developed by Monitoring Council workgroups, or could provide indirect support by requiring data from individual grant projects be collected according to workgroup-developed protocols (e.g., SWAMP or WRAMP) and submitted to data systems that support the Monitoring Council's portals (e.g., CEDEN and EcoAtlas).		
	During the discussion, representatives from various agencies will provide a brief overview of Prop 1 funding, as it relates to their respective programs—how funding is acquired and spent, brief overview of agency-specific Proposition 1 guidelines, as well as the grant solicitation process. Representatives from the Monitoring Council's workgroups will also engage in the discussion to ask questions and gain insights regarding leveraging these resources for their respective efforts.		
Attachment Links:	 <u>Proposition 1: the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014</u> Natural Resources <u>Bond Accountability</u> 		

	 <u>Draft Guidelines for Proposition 1</u> Draft Proposition 1 <u>Program Development Schedule</u> 		
Contact Person:	Kris Jones kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov; (916) 376-9756		

ITEM:	12		Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	NEXT MEETING AGENDA		10 minutes
Purpose:	Plan agenda for Augus Potential items include	st 27, 2015 Monitoring Council meeting ir	n Sacramento.
	,	CEDEN especially as it relates to becom mpaired waters listings SWAMP Tools Us	0
	b) The California Freshwater Species Database (Jeanette Howard, The Nature Conservancy)		
	 c) Assessing Aquatic Habitat Connectivity and Low-flow Ecological Thresholds (Robert Holmes, CDFW Water Branch) 		
	 d) Story-telling Initiative of the Water Board's Office of Information Management and Analysis (Greg Gearheart) 		
	e) New groundwater law		
	f) Possibility of holding a Monitoring Council annual conference		
	 g) Presentations from organizations within the Natural Resources agency (e.g., those identified in SB 1070) and next steps for outreach 		
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda ideas for the August 27 meeting		
Contact Persons:	Jon Marshack jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5514		

ADJOURN

May 18, 2015