

California Water Quality Monitoring Council

Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, November 18, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Training Room 1 East/West – First Floor

Joe Serna Jr. Cal/EPA Headquarters Building

1001 I Street, Sacramento

Monitoring Council members in attendance:

Jonathan Bishop, Terry Macaulay (for Joe Grindstaff), Rufus Howell, Armand Ruby, Sam Mowbray, Melissa Turner (for Parry Klassen), Angela Haren (for Linda Sheehan), Steven Weisberg, Sarge Green

SB 1070 Work Group members in attendance:

Brock Bernstein, Valerie Connor, Terry Fleming, Karl Jacobs, Jon Marshack

Others in attendance:

Tom Peltier, Carolyn Yale, Gail Linck

ITEM: #	1	Assigned to:
Title of Topic:	HOUSEKEEPING & ANNOUNCEMENTS	Jon Marshack
Purpose:	a. Approve notes from October 15, 2008 Council meeting b. Review agenda for today's meeting c. Hear about State Water Board recent actions (Jonathan Bishop)	
Attachments:	Notes 10-15-08.doc	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	(jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-341-5514)
Notes:	a. Jonathan Bishop announced that the State Water Board approved temporary (two years) funding for beach water quality monitoring (AB 411) that had been eliminated by the Governor's earlier action on the state budget. b. \$4 million in unexpended grant funds have been identified that could be used to support development of CEDEN and the four regional data centers for three years, so as to get grant data entered. The State Water Board will decide whether to allocate these funds for this purpose at their December 2, 2008 meeting.	
Decisions:	a. October 15, 2008 Council meeting notes approved without changes. b. Monitoring Council should set the agenda for how the regional data centers are developed. The Data Centers Work Group and the	

	SWAMP Round Table will develop a proposal for Monitoring Council consideration.
Action Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Monitoring Council commended the State Water Board action to fund beach water quality monitoring. This should be mentioned when the Monitoring Council presents its recommendations to the State Water Board on December 2, 2008. b. Jonathan Bishop will attend the February 4, 2009 meeting of the Beach Water Quality Monitoring Work Group to make a short presentation on the Monitoring Council recommendations. c. A process is needed to select and engage new theme-based work groups. c. Invite Clean Beach Task Force to attend an upcoming Monitoring Council meeting. d. Approach the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring & Assessment program to work with Monitoring Council on drinking water information. e. Several Monitoring Council members will attend the December 2, 2008 State Water Board meeting to support the allocation of grant funds for CEDEN and the regional data centers. f. Jon Marshack and Terry Fleming should look into submitting an application for a National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) grant to help get monitoring data from additional sources into CEDEN and the regional data centers. g. Terry Macaulay will check with the Department of Water Resources (and will get back to Val Connor) on the availability of unallocated bond funds that may be able to be allocated for development of CEDEN and the regional data centers and to set up communication with other sources of monitoring data. h. Data Centers Work Group and the SWAMP Round Table should develop a proposal for Monitoring Council consideration for how the regional data centers are developed.

ITEM: #	2	Assigned to:
Title of Topic:	DECEMBER 2008 CWQMC RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT	Jon Marshack
Purpose:	The complete report is to be delivered to Cal/EPA and the Resources Agency on December 1, 2008.	
Desired Outcome:	Council to finalize the body of their initial recommendations report and provide direction on the report appendices.	

Attachments:	SB 1070 Report draft 11-17-08 mark-up.doc SB 1070 Report draft appendices 11-17-08.doc	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack & Brock Bernstein	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-341-5514) brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net , 805-646-8369)
Notes:	<p>There was some discussion about whether the Monitoring Council should be more than a body that simply provides recommendations. It was generally decided that the agency secretaries will be looking to the Monitoring Council to provide direction.</p> <p>The Monitoring Council needs to come across as working with existing groups. A process is needed to guide formation of theme-based work groups, including representation of appropriate stakeholders and expertise.</p> <p>Improved data access develops excitement and empowers people.</p>	
Decisions:	<p>Modify the draft recommendations report as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Add to Foreword a discussion that provides context – why the Monitoring Council is focusing on data access via web portals and that subsequent activities will address the broader focus (maximizing efficiency and effectiveness...) and reference appendices that begin the assessment of existing programs. b. A cover letter is needed that highlights the recommendations and actions we want agency secretaries to take (e.g., endorse recommended framework, empower Monitoring Council as a continuing entity to coordinate monitoring efforts, direct BDOs to coordinate activities with Monitoring Council, seek resources to implement recommendations). c. An executive summary should be added, including a streamlined version of the recommendations and a list of the desired agency secretary actions. Include a statement that Monitoring Council will provide annual reports to agency secretaries that can provide the foundation of the triennial audit of the effectiveness of the monitoring program strategy [CWC §13181(h)(1)] and that the first annual report, in December 2009, will include recommendations for the comprehensive monitoring program strategy [CWC §13181(e)(1)]. d. To reflect the Monitoring Council’s standing, credibility, duty, and responsibility, the first annual report should also include Monitoring Council governance structure/process, including membership, chairmanship, replacement of members, use of surrogates at meetings. e. Add reference(s) to Water Data Institute. f. Add survey of existing water quality monitoring and data collection 	

	efforts [CWC §13181(c)] as new Appendix 2.
Action Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jon Marshack and Brock Bernstein – see Decisions, above. b. Monitoring Council to develop annual report on progress; first report to include Monitoring Council governance and recommendations for comprehensive monitoring program strategy.

ITEM: #	3	Assigned to:
Title of Topic:	RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTATION	Jon Marshack
Purpose:	Monitoring Council recommendations to be presented to the State Water Board on December 2, 2008 by Jonathan Bishop (Cal/EPA) and Leo Winternitz (Resources). This presentation will also be used to present this information to other organizations.	
Desired Outcome:	Council to finalize a PowerPoint presentation of their initial recommendations.	
Attachments:	Monitoring Council Recommendations 11-17-08.ppt	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	(jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-341-5514)
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Revise the PowerPoint as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fewer words, less detail, more graphic elements 2. 15 minute presentation – delete slides 5, 7, 8, 18 3. Start with the big picture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Existing system broken – see SB 1070 legislative declarations ii. Don't get lost in the details iii. Monitoring Council's solution – focus on data access; show web portal pages 4. Magnitude of problem – map of state showing #lakes, rivers, coastline, etc. 5. Emphasize that the problem presents opportunities 6. Diagram workgroup activities under umbrella of Monitoring Council 7. Themes for immediate action – replace list with photos and questions from web portal b. Presentations to both agency secretaries should be made in 2009. 	

Action Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Other Monitoring Council members encouraged to speak at December 2 State Water Board meeting. b. Monitoring Council member presentation on recommendations to both agency secretaries at Ocean Protection Council meeting in 2009 (February 5 and 6 - Santa Barbara)
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ITEM: #	4	Assigned to:
Title of Topic:	MEETING WRAP-UP	Jon Marshack
Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Summarize meeting b. Review action items c. Develop schedule of future Monitoring Council meetings 	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	(jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-341-5514)
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Next Monitoring Council meeting between mid-January and mid-February. b. Agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next steps – 4 identified work groups 2. Data Centers 	
Action Items:	Jon Marshack – schedule next meeting and develop agenda.	

December 29, 2008