

**California Water Quality Monitoring Council  
Council Meeting Agenda**

**July 27, 2009 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

Conference Room 550 – Fifth Floor  
Joe Serna Jr. Cal/EPA Headquarters Building  
1001 I Street, Sacramento

**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 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/](http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/).

Remote access to the meeting will be available via WebEx. To join the WebEx on-line meeting, go to <https://waterboards.webex.com/waterboards/j.php?ED=99146917&UID=0&PW=1a3a7b3b025a411e07>; enter your name and email address; enter the meeting password "cwqmc"; click "Join Now" and follow the instructions that appear on your screen. You may log on up to 15 minutes before the meeting starts to allow WebEx to set up the meeting connection. WebEx will automatically set up Meeting Manager for Windows the first time you join a meeting. Participation by teleconference only is available by calling (888) 764-9721 and entering the attendee access code 3636180.

For a map to the Cal/EPA Building, visit: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>. For security purposes, all visitors are required to sign in and receive a badge at the Visitor Center off the lobby upon entering the building. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level. Please allow up to 15 minutes for this process. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the State Water Board's Office of Employee Assistance, at (916) 341-5881.

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING</b>	15 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	1) Introductions 2) Approve <a href="#">notes from May 22, 2009 Council meeting</a> 3) Review agenda for today's meeting	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	1) Approve May 22, 2009 Monitoring Council meeting notes 2) Adjust today's agenda, as needed	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">draft_notes_052209.pdf</a>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Jon Marshack	<a href="mailto:jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a> , (916) 341-5514

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES</b>	1 hour
<b>Purpose:</b>	1) Legal questions posed by the Monitoring Council at the May 22, 2009 meeting. A <a href="#">memorandum of responses</a> has been prepared.	

	(Jon Marshack, Ted Cobb, Nathan Jacobsen) 2) Welcome Karen Larsen, new Assistant Director of the State Water Board's Office of Information Management and Analysis 3) State budget update (Jonathan Bishop) 4) Support for geographic-based and citizen monitoring efforts - California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network (Melenee Emanuel) 5) Progress of outreach to state government organizations (all)	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	1) Information 2) Understanding of Monitoring Council Member and staff responsibilities under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act 3) Recommendation on the timing of Monitoring Council efforts, including implementation of the comprehensive monitoring program strategy, in light of the current state budget situation (discussion may best occur during items # 4 and 5, below)	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">legal_q_and_a.pdf</a> <a href="#">California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network web page</a> <a href="#">outreach_to_bdcs.pdf</a>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Jon Marshack	<a href="mailto:jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a> , (916) 341-5514

<b>ITEM: #</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>INTERAGENCY ECOLOGICAL PROGRAM</b>	1 hour
<b>Purpose:</b>	Anke Mueller-Solger, IEP Lead Scientist, will present an overview of IEP monitoring and research efforts/program, followed by a discussion about how IEP products can feed into the Monitoring Council's efforts.	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Determination on IEP role in Monitoring Council efforts and next steps.	
<b>Background:</b>	The Interagency Ecological Program is a long-term monitoring and research program by nine State and Federal agencies that was initiated in 1970. IEP Agencies often partner with universities and others to cooperatively conduct ecological investigations in the San Francisco Estuary aimed at producing high-quality information for management and conservation of the estuary. Many IEP monitoring activities are legally mandated and subject to regular reviews by the IEP Science Advisory Group. For more information about the IEP and access to IEP data and other information products, see <a href="http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/">http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/</a> .	
<b>Attachments:</b>	none	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Anke Mueller-Solger	<a href="mailto:Anke.Mueller-Solger@Calwater.ca.gov">Anke.Mueller-Solger@Calwater.ca.gov</a> , (916) 445-0147

<b>ITEM: #</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>PUBLIC ROLL-OUT OF THE WEB PORTALS</b>	1 hour 45 min.
<b>Purpose:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Review Safe-to-Swim web portal (Jon Marshack)</li> <li>2) Review proposal to rephrase web portal questions (David Clegern)</li> <li>3) Review proposed communication plan for the web portals (David Clegern)</li> </ol>	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Approval of initial public release of the Safe-to-Swim web portal</li> <li>2) Decision on the level of review by the Monitoring Council of the other three portals prior to public release</li> <li>3) Final decision on the phrasing of main web portal questions</li> <li>4) Approval of a portal publicity plan</li> </ol>	
<b>Background:</b>	<p>In its <a href="#">December 1, 2008 recommendations report</a>, the Monitoring Council outlined identified four theme-based web portals for initial development, based on existing efforts by workgroups already in existence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Groundwater sub-theme of “Is our water safe to drink?” – Water Boards’ Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) program</li> <li>2) Coastal beaches, bays, and estuaries sub-theme of “Is it safe to swim in our waters?” – Beach Water Quality Work Group (BWQW)</li> <li>3) Sport fish sub-theme of “Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?” – Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (BOG) of the Water Boards’ Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)</li> <li>4) Wetlands sub-theme of “Are our aquatic ecosystems healthy?” – California Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup (CWMW)</li> </ol> <p>At the May 2009 meeting, the Monitoring Council decided that these portals should be released individually, over a period of a few months, to maximize publicity for the work of the Monitoring Council and the theme-based work groups. The Safe-to-Swim portal, a product of State Water Board staff, is ready for initial public release. The Beach Water Quality Workgroup has agreed to guide further development of this portal, once it has been released. The other three portals are expected to be released in the following order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Safe-to-Eat Sport Fish</li> <li>2) Wetland Ecosystem Health</li> <li>3) Safe-to-Drink Groundwater</li> </ol> <p>In a meeting with State Water Board Public Affairs Director, William Rukeyser, over web portal publicity, Bill questioned the appropriateness of the main portal questions. A <a href="#">proposal for rephrasing these questions</a> has been prepared for Monitoring Council consideration.</p> <p>Publicity will accompany the release of each of the four initial web portals. The State Water Board’s Office of Public Affairs has prepared a <a href="#">plan for publicizing their public release</a> for consideration by the Monitoring Council.</p>	

<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">portal_questions.pdf</a> <a href="#">portal_publicity_plan.pdf</a>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Jon Marshack	<a href="mailto:jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a> , (916) 341-5514

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>COMPREHENSIVE STATE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM STRATEGY</b>	1 hour 45 min.
<b>Purpose:</b>	Monitoring Council approach to a comprehensive long-term strategy for implementing the Council's December 2008 recommendations. An <a href="#">annotated outline of the strategy</a> will be presented for review and comment, which will provide the basis for drafting the report describing the strategy.	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Direction on drafting a proposed strategy and integration with the SWAMP monitoring and assessment strategy.	
<b>Background:</b>	<p>In its <a href="#">December 1, 2008 recommendations report</a>, the Monitoring Council committed to provide recommendations for this strategy to the agency secretaries, as part of a December 2009 progress report.</p> <p><a href="#">SB 1070</a> added Water Code Section 13181(a) and (e), which provide direction for this effort.</p> <p>In 2005, the Water Boards' Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) developed a <a href="#">Comprehensive Monitoring and Assessment Strategy to Protect and Restore California's Water Quality</a> that focuses on USEPA's 2003 <i>Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program</i>, which identifies 10 basic elements of a state program. At the February 2 Monitoring Council meeting, Val Connor provided an <a href="#">overview of progress on the SWAMP strategy</a>. The SWAMP strategy and the Monitoring Council's December 2008 recommendations could provide a foundation of the Monitoring Council's recommendations for its comprehensive long-term strategy.</p> <p>In its <a href="#">2008 recommendations</a>, the Monitoring Council consolidated EPA's 10 elements into 6 performance measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program strategy, objectives, and designs</li> <li>• Indicators and methods</li> <li>• Data management</li> <li>• Consistency of assessment endpoints</li> <li>• Reporting</li> <li>• Program sustainability</li> </ul>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">annotated_strategy_outline.pdf</a> <a href="#">sb_1070_full_report_final.pdf</a> <a href="#">sb1070chptrd.pdf</a> <a href="#">cw102swampcmas.pdf</a> <a href="#">swamp_overview.pdf</a>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Brock Bernstein	<a href="mailto:brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net">brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net</a> , (805) 646-8369

<b>ITEM: #</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>MEETING WRAP-UP</b>	15 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	1) Summarize meeting 2) Plan agenda for next Monitoring Council meeting on September 29, 2009 in Costa Mesa	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Jon Marshack	<a href="mailto:jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a> , (916) 341-5514

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July 16, 2009  
Revised July 21, 2009