

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL
Joint Monitoring Council & SWAMP Roundtable Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, June 9, 2010 – 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/

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=136236327&UID=0&PW=NOTNHOTJiNGFj&RT=MIM0>; enter your name and email address; enter the meeting password "swamp"; 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 (866) 905-0102 and entering the attendee access code 650 465 4.

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ITEM:	1	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING	15 minutes
Purpose:	1) Introductions 2) Review notes from February 10, 2010 Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting	
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve February 10, 2010 Monitoring Council meeting notes b) Preview what will be presented today and overall meeting expectations c) Adjust today's agenda, as needed	
Attachments:	Draft notes from February 10, 2010 Council meeting	
Contact Person:	Karen Larsen	klarsen@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-319-9769

ITEM:	2	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	15 minutes
Purpose:	1) Agriculture Representative on Monitoring Council (Karen Larsen) 2) Briefing with Natural Resources Agency Secretary Lester Snow (Dale	

	Hoffman-Floerke, Val Connor) 3) Letter of direction to the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup on implementation of their State Wetland & Riparian Area Monitoring Program (Eric Stein) 4) National Water Quality Monitoring Conference (Val Connor, Karen Larsen) 5) State budget update (Jonathan Bishop, Dale Hoffman-Floerke)	
Desired Outcome:	1) Welcome Parry Klassen's return to the Monitoring Council 2) Information 3) Approval to send letter to California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup directing them to implement their wetland monitoring strategy.	
Background:	1) Parry Klassen returns to the Monitoring Council after a year-long absence. 2) On June 2, 2010, Natural Resources Agency Secretary Lester Snow is to be briefed on SB 1070 and the Monitoring Council's vision for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of water quality and associated ecosystem monitoring, assessment, and reporting. The Monitoring Council requested that both Agency Secretaries and key legislators be briefed on the Council's vision and comments received prior to finalizing the Council's comprehensive monitoring program strategy. Cal/EPA Secretary Linda Adams was briefed in January. Briefings with Senators Kehoe and Alquist (authors of SB 1070) will be scheduled in the near future. 3) At the February 2010 meeting, the Monitoring Council endorsed in concept the strategy document "Tenets of a State Wetland & Riparian Area Monitoring Program (WRAMP)" developed by the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup (CWMW). The CWMW desired more specific instruction from the Monitoring Council to implement their strategy. A draft letter from the Monitoring Council to the CWMW has been prepared to fulfill this need and was sent to Monitoring Council Members for comment. A new paragraph has been added near the end of the memo to identify an early collaboration between USEPA, SWAMP and the Natural Resources Agency to fund and conduct focused wetland monitoring in the San Diego Region to augment the National Wetland Condition Assessment in 2011. The CWMW plans to use this letter to influence organizations within Cal/EPA and the CA Natural Resources Agency to better coordinate their monitoring, assessment, and reporting efforts through the CWMW, according to their strategy.	
Attachments:	WRAMP Implementation Letter	
Contact Person:	Karen Larsen	klarsen@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-319-9769

ITEM:	3	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	THE WATER BOARD'S SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM (SWAMP)	60 minutes
Purpose:	Set the stage for later discussions of how: a) SWAMP integrates into the Monitoring Council's comprehensive monitoring	

	<p>program strategy</p> <p>b) SWAMP and the Monitoring Council can help each other to reach common goals</p>
Desired Outcome:	Better understanding of SWAMP background, monitoring programs, tools, and support efforts and how these integrate with Monitoring Council efforts
Background:	<p>Val Connor will summarize the background of SWAMP, including enabling legislation, contracts versus staffing issues, and recommendations for improvement from the Scientific Planning and Review Committee. In the context of waterbody types and beneficial uses addressed, Karen Larsen will review SWAMP's statewide monitoring programs, including bioassessment (Reference Condition Management Plan, Perennial Streams Assessment, and development of biological objectives), Stream Pollution Trends (SPoT), the Healthy Streams Partnership, and the Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (BOG). Karen Worcester will summarize SWAMP regional monitoring efforts, focusing on how these augment and enhance statewide monitoring programs and address important regional water quality issues while coordinating and leveraging resources with the monitoring efforts of others, and explaining key differences in monitoring between urban and rural regions. Finally, Karen Larsen will summarize SWAMP-developed tools and support structures – including data management (SWAMP database, California Environmental Exchange Network), Quality Assurance program, Help Desk, Clean Water Team, and Integrated Report tools – that clearly demonstrate how SWAMP expertise is helping others and SWAMP's ability to provide support and assistance to other theme-based workgroups and the development of new web portals.</p>
Attachments:	<p>Matrix of waterbody types and beneficial uses</p> <p>SWAMP statewide monitoring factsheet</p> <p>SWAMP regional monitoring factsheet</p> <p>CEDEN factsheet</p> <p>Clean Water Team factsheet</p> <p>Integrated Report Tools factsheet</p>
Contact Person:	<p>Karen Larsen klarsen@waterboards.ca.gov, 916-319-9769</p>

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	SWAMP'S INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS	60 minutes
Purpose:	Review existing roadblocks to SWAMP success, what could be accomplished with additional funding, and how the Monitoring Council may be able to help	
Desired Outcome:	Increased understanding of constraints on SWAMP and development of potential solutions	
Background:	SWAMP efforts are hampered by a number of constraints, including laborious contracting procedures, restrictions on out-of-state travel, fluctuating and uncertain funding, and inadequate staffing in Water Board planning and standards programs.	

Contact Person:	Tom Suk	tsuk@waterboards.ca.gov, 530-542-5419
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LUNCH	Approx. Time:
Restaurants in Cal/EPA Bldg lobby, across street to south, and in local area.	45 minutes

ITEM:	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	UPDATED SWAMP MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY	60 minutes
Purpose:	Review and comment on major changes in the SWAMP Comprehensive Monitoring and Assessment Strategy	
Desired Outcome:	Conceptual approval of the updated SWMP strategy, to be appended to the Monitoring Council's strategy document	
Background:	<p>Pursuant to Water Code Section 13181(e)(7), the Water Board, in coordination with the Monitoring Council, is tasked with updating the SWAMP Comprehensive Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (called "needs assessment" in the legislation) "in light of the benefits of increased coordination and integration of information from other agencies and information sources." The SWAMP Strategy was written and accepted by USEPA in 2005. The SWAMP Strategy is being updated to dovetail better with the Monitoring Council's strategy and to incorporate the last five years of progress.</p> <p>The Monitoring Council has emphasized that both documents should clarify the connection and differences between the SWAMP strategy and the Monitoring Council's comprehensive monitoring program strategy. Existing budgetary constraints need to be considered in how the Monitoring Council moves forward in the short and longer term. In developing its strategy update, SWAMP has narrowed strengthened its focus on those beneficial use/water body types and other items where it has strengths, leaving other beneficial use/water body types to the Monitoring Council's strategy and other theme-based workgroups.</p>	
Attachments:	Updated SWAMP Strategy, Summary of Vision Statements, Goals and Objectives	
Contact Person:	Karen Larsen	klarsen@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-319-9769

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM STRATEGY	45 minutes
Purpose:	Review and comment on the latest draft of the Monitoring Council's strategy document	
Desired Outcome:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Approval of the changes made since the January 2010 draft 2) Direction on what points to emphasize in the document's Foreword 	

	3) Direction on how funding will be addressed in the document	
Background:	<p>At the February 2010 meeting, the Monitoring Council provided comment on a January 2010 draft of the strategy (see Draft notes from February 10, 2010 Council meeting, Item #8). Potential items to emphasize in the Foreword include</p> <p>a) Experience with workgroup formation and the development of initial web portals demonstrates that the Monitoring Council vision, as outlined in the December 2008 Recommendations Report, works</p> <p>b) To ensure success into the future, high-level management support will be needed, including broad-based organizational involvement and conflict resolution</p> <p>On funding, it has become apparent that seed money is needed to get coordination going (i.e., workgroup formation) and to fund initial portal development. To date, such funding has come largely from SWAMP and USEPA. A similar funding commitment is needed from organizations within the Natural Resources Agency. Direction from the Monitoring Council is needed regarding who to ask for funding and from where the funding should come. Council Members also may need to get involved in seeing outside funding opportunities.</p>	
Attachments:	Monitoring Council Strategy, March 2010 draft	
Contact Person:	Brock Bernstein	brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net , 805-646-8369

ITEM:	7	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	SWAMP ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK	60 minutes
Purpose:	Review and comment on a proposed assessment framework for SWAMP that could also be used by other theme-based workgroup assessment efforts	
Desired Outcome:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Approval on the general direction of a proposed SWAMP Assessment Framework 2) Approval to use the Assessment Framework to guide other theme-based workgroup efforts outside of SWAMP 3) Approval to include the Assessment Framework as an appendix to the Monitoring Council's strategy document 	
Background:	<p>As part of the update of the SWAMP Strategy, the Statewide Assessment Framework for SWAMP is being developed. Similar frameworks from other states have been evaluated in the process of developing the draft. Emphasis of the document is on the development of assessment questions, methods to answer those questions, thresholds by which to guide the assessment, and report cards to convey the assessment results. Comparability with other programs so as to increase the ability to use data from other sources is emphasized. While written for SWAMP, the Assessment Framework could also guide the efforts of other theme-based workgroups, thereby integrating with the Monitoring Council's strategy.</p>	

Attachments:	SWAMP Assessment Framework annotated outline	
Contact Person:	Brock Bernstein	brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net , 805-646-8369

ITEM:	8	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	HEALTHY STREAMS PORTAL DEVELOPMENT	45 minutes
Purpose:	Review and comment on a mockup of a new theme-based portal on stream aquatic ecosystem health	
Desired Outcome:	Approval to build the new portal, based on the mockup and Monitoring Council comments	
Background:	In December 2009, the Monitoring Council asked SWAMP to develop a mockup of a stream ecosystem health portal based on SWAMP's statewide monitoring programs.	
Attachments:	Healthy Streams Portal Mockup	
Contact Person:	Karen Larsen	klarsen@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-319-9769

ITEM:	9	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MEETING WRAP-UP	15 minutes
Purpose:	a) Summarize meeting b) Plan agenda for next Monitoring Council meeting on August 11, 2010 in Sacramento – proposed emphasis on monitoring and assessment efforts within the California Natural Resources Agency and how they should be involved in fulfilling the Monitoring Council's vision	
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda items for August 11 meeting.	
Contact Person:	Karen Larsen	klarsen@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-319-9769