



California Water Quality Monitoring Council



Jonathan Bishop & Dale Hoffman-Floerke, Co-Chairs

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



John Laird
Secretary for
Natural Resources

Monitoring Council Members

Jonathan Bishop
Environmental Protection Agency

Dale Hoffman-Floerke
Natural Resources Agency

Gary Yamamoto
Dept. of Public Health

Armand Ruby
Stormwater

Mike Connor
Publicly Owned Treatment Works

Parry Klassen
Agriculture

Steven Steinberg
Citizen Monitoring

Linda Sheehan
Public

Stephen Weisberg
Scientific Community

Sarge Green
Water Supply

TO: Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for Environmental Protection
California Environmental Protection Agency

John Laird
Secretary for Natural Resources
California Natural Resources Agency

DATE: May 4, 2011

FROM: Jonathan S. Bishop, Monitoring Council Co-Chair
Representing the California Environmental Protection Agency
Chief Deputy Director
State Water Resources Control Board
Dale K. Hoffman-Floerke, Monitoring Council Co-Chair
Representing the Natural Resources Agency
Acting Deputy Director for Delta and Statewide Water Management
Department of Water Resources

SUBJECT: WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL PURSUANT TO
SENATE BILL (SB) 1070 (KEHOE): REPLACEMENT MEMBERS
RECOMMENDATION

On November 26, 2007, the Secretaries for Environmental Protection and Natural Resources signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Council) as required by SB 1070 (Kehoe, 2006). Following the signing of the MOU, I was directed to work with the Natural Resources Agency's representative to develop a potential list of Council members, which were presented to the Agency Secretaries in April 2008. The list of members was approved in May and the Council had its first meeting in June. Prior to the August 2008 meeting, two Council Members tendered their resignations and were replaced, as detailed in our September 11, 2008 memo to you. On February 1 and July 12, 2010, we sent recommendations to replace two additional members, due to their retirements.

At the end of last year, Gary Yamamoto retired as Chief of the Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management, the Monitoring Council Member

California Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Agencies

representing the California Department of Public Health. The new Division Chief, Leah Godsey Walker, is hereby recommended to replace Mr. Yamamoto as a Monitoring Council Member. Ms. Walker's biographical information is attached.

Dr. Steven Steinberg, Co-Director of the Klamath Watershed Institute at Humboldt State University, has represented citizen monitoring groups on the Monitoring Council since the Council's inception in 2008. At the end of June of this year, Dr. Steinberg will end his service with the Institute and will leave the Monitoring Council. In March, the Monitoring Council announced this upcoming vacancy and received a number of applications. We interviewed three candidates on April 28, and selected John Norton of the Sierra Streams Institute to recommend to you as Dr. Steinberg's replacement on the Monitoring Council. Mr. Norton's biographical information is attached.

SB 1070 requires the Council to review existing water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting efforts being conducted in California and to recommend specific actions and funding needs necessary to coordinate and enhance those efforts statewide. The legislation also requires that the Council develop a comprehensive water quality monitoring program strategy for California, in cooperation with the State Water Resources Control Board. The Monitoring Council transmitted the recommended strategy to you on December 28, 2010 and implementation is on-going.

To ensure that the Council continues to move forward and meet the requirements of SB 1070, we would appreciate your decision regarding the proposed replacement of the Council Members as outlined above by May 31, 2011. We will assume that you concur with these changes if we have not received a response by this date. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Jon Bishop at (916) 341-5820 or JSBishop@waterboards.ca.gov or Dale Hoffman-Floerke at (916) 653-8045 or dalehf@water.ca.gov.

Attachments (2)

cc: Members of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council

Leah Walker, P.E.
Chief, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management
California Department of Public Health

John Norton
Sierra Streams Institute

Tom Howard, Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board

Biographical Summary

Leah Godsey Walker, P.E.
Chief, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management

California Department of Public Health
1616 Capitol Ave, MS 7400
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-449-5577

Leah Walker is the Chief of the Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management of the California Department of Public Health. The Division has over 400 employees in offices located throughout the state.

Ms. Walker is responsible for the Drinking Water Program in California, which oversees the regulation of nearly 8,000 public water systems serving most of the population of the state. In addition to direct regulation of water systems, the Drinking Water Program activities include Water Infrastructure Funding Programs, Water Treatment Technology, Water Recycling and Groundwater Recharge, Regulatory Development, Policy Development, Operator Certification, and Water Treatment Device Certification.

Ms. Walker is also responsible for the CDPH Environmental Management Branch (EMB), which regulates and oversees several environmental programs including medical waste generators, shellfish production and harvesting operations, recreational health, sanitary surveillance of state institutions, and radiological surveillance, and the department's Nuclear Emergency Response Program.

Ms. Walker is also responsible for the Drinking Water and Radiation Laboratory Branch (DWRLB) which provides analytical services, reference measurements and technical support to the State's Drinking Water Program. The Division also includes the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) which provides evaluation and accreditation of environmental testing laboratories.

Ms. Walker has been with CDPH for over 17 years, starting in the Santa Rosa office of the Drinking Water Program, and progressing through management levels within the program until her promotion to Division Chief in January 2011.

Ms. Walker is a registered Civil Engineer in California. She has a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and an M.S. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from San Jose State University.

John Norton
Vice President of the Board of Directors
Sierra Streams Institute / Friends of Deer Creek

17972 Chaparral Drive
Penn Valley, CA 95946
(530) 432-2962

John Norton is a registered professional engineer with over 28 years experience in water resources control and 10 years of experience in the private sector. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and pursued graduate studies in environmental toxicology and ecology. Mr. Norton brings a strong record of making improvements in California's water quality through collaborative and innovative approaches. Since his retirement in December 2005, he has devoted his time and expertise towards protecting and enhancing the water resources of local watersheds.

John Norton was elected to the Board of Directors of the Sierra Streams Institute/Friends of Deer Creek in April 2006. He currently serves as vice president of the Board. Friends of Deer Creek has become a model of a science based citizen monitoring organization and the Sierra Streams Institute is dedicated toward helping other watershed groups become successful. Mr. Norton has built a partnership between the Institute and the Lake Wildwood Community. Since January 2006 as a volunteer creek monitor, Mr. Norton has performed the regular collection of water samples and aquatic invertebrates from Deer Creek and Squirrel Creek.

Since early 2006, John Norton has been a member of Lake Wildwood Lake Committee, and is currently the Chair of the Committee. The Committee recommends measures to the Lake Wildwood (LWW) Board for maintaining the Lake's beneficial uses. The Committee oversees monitoring, sediment removal, weed control, nutrient management, education, and other management issues.

Appointed by the County Board of Supervisors in July 2007, Mr. Norton serves on the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Nevada County Sanitation District, advising the District on wastewater treatment issues. Mr. Norton is currently vice Chair of the Committee. Mr. Norton has also served as Interim Director Division 5 of the Nevada Irrigation District. Under contract with the University of California at Davis Extension, he served as Executive Producer for a water resource film directed at young professionals to inspire and motivate them towards careers in water resource protection.

Until December 2005, John Norton worked for the State Water Resources Control Board, heading the Office of Statewide Initiatives and the Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Unit. Some of his key accomplishments included:

- Improved Beach Water Quality – authored the Clean Beaches Initiative and established the Beach Water Quality Workgroup (a consortium of regulators, scientists and environmental groups) that directed millions of dollars of grant funds to help local agencies clean up their beaches.
- Performance Management/Water Quality Report Card – brought the concepts of performance management and performance measurement to the Water Boards based on an approach taught in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard; including the development of a regulatory program for sanitary sewer systems with sewage spill reporting requirements and a data management system through a two year collaborative process that achieved the support of both the regulated and environmental communities.
- Water Board Enforcement – established the State Water Boards enforcement Unit in 1998; the Unit developed violation and enforcement tracking systems and an Enforcement Policy to coordinate statewide enforcement efforts toward common statewide objectives.