

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 7, 2013 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Training Room 1 East/West – First 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 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?ED=201086652&UID=0&PW=NMDczNGVmZmU4&RT=MIM0>, 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 in up to 15 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. Participation by teleconference only is available by dialing (888) 764-9721 and entering the attendee access code 363 618 0.

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. All visitors must be escorted above the second floor. 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.

ITEM:	1	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING	10 minutes
Purpose:	1) Introductions 2) Review draft notes from November 28, 2012 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting	
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve November 28, 2012 Monitoring Council meeting notes b) Preview what will be covered today and overall meeting expectations c) Adjust today's agenda, as needed	
Attachment Links:	Draft notes from November 28, 2012 Council meeting	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	Jon.Marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-341-5514

ITEM:	2	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	30 minutes
Purpose:	These are expected to be brief informational items that could be expanded into more detailed discussions for future meetings: a) Request from Karl Longley to provide comments on technology needs for the	

	<p>California Water Plan to support implementation of the Monitoring Council's goals and objectives</p> <p>b) Letter of support for continued coordination between California and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on Mussel Watch monitoring</p> <p>c) Resignation of Monitoring Council Member John Norton, representing citizen monitoring organizations</p> <p>d) Other announcements and updates related to the Monitoring Council's mission pursuant to Senate Bill 1070 (Kehoe, 2006)</p>
Desired Outcome:	<p>a) Approval of letter to Karl Longley of CCST</p> <p>b) Approval of letter to NOAA on Mussel Watch monitoring coordination</p>
Background:	<p>a) At the November 28, 2012 Monitoring Council meeting, Karl Longley of the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) presented a draft memorandum on water related technology needs, which is intended to provide input to the California Water Plan 2013 Update. The Monitoring Council agreed to provide comments addressing impediments to data sharing and use and communication between potential partner organizations/agencies. A reminder email was sent to Monitoring Council Members and Alternates on January 16, 2013. The only comments received were from Alternate Stephanie Spaar.</p> <p>b) At the August 29, 2012 Monitoring Council meeting, Dominic Gregorio presented information regarding the California pilot of the National Mussel Watch monitoring program. The Monitoring Council tasked Dominic Gregorio and Steve Weisberg with drafting a letter from the Monitoring Council to NOAA extolling the importance of the National Mussel Watch Program and of continued partnership with California.</p>
Attachment Links	<p>a) Draft notes from November 28, 2012 Council meeting (see Item 5) Draft Monitoring Council letter to Karl Longley of CCST</p> <p>b) Notes from the August 29, 2012 Monitoring Council meeting (see item 5) Draft letter to NOAA on Mussel Watch monitoring coordination</p>
Contact Person:	<p>Jon Marshack Jon.Marshack@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5514</p>

ITEM:	3	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	NEW WETLANDS PORTAL AND ECOATLAS	70 minutes
Purpose:	Meredith Williams of the SFEI will present a new proposed California Wetlands Portal and a new version of Wetland Tracker called EcoAtlas	
Desired Outcome:	Approval to release the new California Wetlands Portal to the public	
Background:	Developed by SFEI originally for the San Francisco Regional Water Board, Wetland Tracker is a web-enabled tool that provides map-based access to information about the location, extent, and condition of California's wetlands and wetland restoration projects. Wetland Tracker's functionality was developed	

	<p>mainly for use by regulatory and resource management agency staff and researchers under the direction of the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup. The original California Wetlands Portal, released to the public in March 2010, was adapted from the Wetland Tracker by adding a number of management questions linked to web pages presenting additional information geared toward the interests of the general public. This portal did not follow the Monitoring Council's portal development guidelines, but was envisioned as an interim solution to deliver wetland ecosystem health information with a moderate amount of effort. The State Water Board amended an existing contact with SFEI to fund creation of a new California Wetlands Portal that would fully implement the Monitoring Council's guidelines. The Wetland Monitoring Workgroup has been working with SFEI and web developers at the State Water Resources Control Board to bring this new portal to life.</p> <p>At the same time, the Wetland Workgroup has guided the development of Wetland Tracker into the new EcoAtlas, which includes broader water resource data management and analytical functionality. EcoAtlas is proposed to be released concurrently with the new California Wetlands Portal, at which time the old portal and Wetland Tracker would be retired. Information on EcoAtlas was presented to the Monitoring Council at the August 29, 2012 meeting.</p>
Attachment Links:	Notes from the August 29, 2012 Monitoring Council meeting (see item 4)
Contact Persons:	Meredith Williams meredith@sfei.org ; (510) 746-7396

ITEM:	4 Item Postponed to a Future Meeting	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	SAFE TO DRINK PORTAL MOCKUP	60 minutes
Purpose:	Mark Emmerson of the Department of Public Health will present a mock-up of a new Safe to Drink Portal to be linked from the My Water Quality website	
Contact Persons:	Mark Emmerson memmerso@cdph.ca.gov; (916) 445-6190	

ITEM:	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAMS IN NORTHERN AND CENTRAL CALIFORNIA	60 minutes
Purpose:	<p>This item is continued from the November 28, 2012 Monitoring Council meeting. Each of the following monitoring programs will provide a short introduction, followed by discussion guided by the questions below.</p> <p>Programs (presenters/representatives)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. San Joaquin River Regional Monitoring Program (Parry Klassen, Rudy Schnagl) 2. San Francisco Bay Stormwater Regional Monitoring Coalition (Armand Ruby) <p>Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What caused the coordination to occur? b. Why has it been successful? 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Has the coordination resulted in tools that would benefit coordination efforts by others? d. Would a tool like the Central Valley Monitoring Directory have been helpful in getting the coordination going? e. How are the data being managed and made available? f. What are measures of success? g. How are portals fitting into your programs? h. What agency data are being integrated? i. What is the role of citizen volunteer monitoring? j. What do you need from the Monitoring Council? 		
Desired Outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elucidate the reasons why some collaborative regional monitoring efforts are successful • Can those successes benefit or be transferred to other monitoring efforts and if so, how? 		
Background:	<p>An agenda item on successful collaborative regional monitoring programs in Southern California was part of the May 2012 Monitoring Council meeting. This item was held as a consolidated panel discussion to enhance direct sharing of information between established monitoring programs and to include additional monitoring programs that are not yet fully developed.</p> <p>At the August 2012 Monitoring Council meeting, Item #7 similarly focused on collaborative regional monitoring programs in Northern and Central California. There was insufficient time for all programs to present. Presentations by the remaining programs were continued to the November meeting. However, two of the presenters were not able to attend; so their presentations were postponed.</p>		
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Valley Monitoring Directory brochure • Draft notes from November 28, 2012 Council meeting (see Item 6) • Notes from August 29, 2012 Council meeting (see Item 7) • Notes of May 2012 Monitoring Council Meeting (see Item 6) 		
Contact Person:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Jon Marshack</td> <td>Jon.Marshack@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5514</td> </tr> </table>	Jon Marshack	Jon.Marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514
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LUNCH	Approx. Time:
On your own. Cafe on first floor. Other restaurants in close proximity to building.	60 minutes

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	UPDATE ON USEPA HEALTHY WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE, CALIFORNIA PROJECT	90 minutes
Purpose:	Corey Godfrey and Laura Blake of Cadmus Group, contractors to USEPA, will present draft results of their multi-metric analysis of California watershed health	

Desired Outcome:	Review and comment, particularly on how the results of the analysis should be presented	
Background:	<p>In mid-2011, USEPA's Healthy Watersheds Initiative offered to provide USEPA-funded contractor support for a new project to identify healthy watersheds throughout California based on a systematic integration of a number of monitored and modeled parameters. The Monitoring Council's Healthy Streams Partnership has been guiding the contractor, Cadmus Group and the results of the assessment are envisioned to be presented in the Healthy Streams Portal. At the November 2011 meeting, the Monitoring Council reviewed a Draft Technical Approach developed by Cadmus. At the February 2012 meeting, the Monitoring Council was given a presentation on a draft summary of proposed indicators for use in the assessment. The Monitoring Council offered a number of constructive comments and recommendations to refine the list of indicators. Karen Larsen presented an update on the project to the Monitoring Council on August 29, 2012. A final set of indicators has been selected and preliminary results of the analysis are being generated. A final report of the analysis and all supporting project data are to be submitted to both USEPA and the Healthy Streams Partnership by mid-May of this year.</p>	
Attachment Links:	Notes from August 29, 2012 Council meeting (see Item 2a)	
Contact Person:	Lori Webber	Lori.Webber@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5556

ITEM:	7	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MONITORING COUNCIL, WORKGROUPS, AND MY WATER QUALITY INTERNET PORTALS	90 minutes
Purpose:	Discussion of progress made in 2012 by the Monitoring Council and its eight workgroups to improve California's program to monitor and assess the quality of our waters and the health of associated ecosystem and to provide the resulting data and information to decision makers and the public via the Internet	
Desired Outcome:	Direction on the focus and content of the annual report to the Secretaries of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency	
Background:	<p>As required by SB 1070 (Kehoe, 2016), the Monitoring Council developed a comprehensive monitoring program strategy for California to guide the improvements mandated by the legislation. As an advisory body, the Monitoring Council submitted this strategy for review, comment, and subsequent implementation in two reports to the two agency secretaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring Council Recommendations to Agencies, December 2008 • A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California, December 2010 <p>The Monitoring Council presented a vision for implementation that was to be guided by the Council. Briefings were held with the Agency Secretaries and both appeared to be genuinely impressed with the strategy and the progress made by the Council and its workgroups.</p> <p>In the cover letter to the December 2008 recommendations report, the</p>	

Monitoring Council committed to provide the Agency Secretaries with annual progress reports on strategy implementation. Progress reports have been submitted for 2009, 2010, and 2011. In the 2011 progress report, the Monitoring Council made a number of requests for action by the Agency Secretaries:

- 1) Formally encourage the organizations within both agencies to
 - a) Implement the Monitoring Council's strategy,
 - b) Actively engage with the Monitoring Council and its workgroups, and
 - c) Utilize the tools developed by these workgroups.The text of a proposed letter to organizational directors was enclosed.
- 2) Encourage additional collaboration in water quality and related ecosystem health monitoring, assessment, and reporting with organizations outside of Cal/EPA and the Natural Resources Agency.
- 3) Endorse state stewardship of the National Hydrography Dataset and the National Wetland Inventory.
- 4) Encourage the California Ocean Protection Council to embrace the Monitoring Council's strategy.
- 5) Raise awareness of the *My Water Quality* web portals and the coordination efforts of the Monitoring Council and its workgroups.

Cal/EPA Secretary Rodriguez was briefed in early 2012. He expressed interest in the strategy, portals, and workgroup activities. But the letter requested in (1) above was never sent, even after repeated inquiries had been made. Secretary Rodriguez directed that we wait on item (4) until the new Ocean Protection Council Director had been appointed.

Repeated inquiries were made to schedule a briefing with Natural Resources Secretary Laird. To date there has been no response to the annual report or to the request for a briefing to discuss the Monitoring Council's requests.

With limited funds, most of which have been supplied by the State Water Board, and only one full-time staff person dedicated to this effort, amazing progress has been made implementing the Monitoring Council's strategy in some key areas – wetland health, bioaccumulation (safe to eat), estuary health, and stream health. Wetlands has also received funding through the Water Board's development of a wetland and riparian area protection policy and from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), a federal funding program to help oil and gas producing states to conserve, protect and preserve coastal areas including wetlands. The Bioaccumulation Oversight Group and the Healthy Streams Partnership were logical outgrowths of the Water Boards' Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program and their activities are largely funded by the Board and USEPA. Additional support has come to Healthy Streams through USEPA's Healthy Watersheds Initiative (agenda item 6 above). These three workgroups have developed impressive My Water Quality portals to bring their information to the public and are actively coordinating water quality and associated ecosystem health data collection and assessment activities, drawing on a multitude of partner organizations. The State and Federal Contractors Water Agency is funding and co-leading initial development of the California Estuaries portal along with The Bay Institute; and significant progress is being made through collaborative efforts of a number of state and private entities focusing on the San Francisco Bay-Delta.

Other thematic areas have had less success. Viable leadership for an Ocean Health Workgroup and funding for portal development are still being sought. After a new data management system (BeachWatch) was developed to speed

	<p>the delivery of bacterial indicator data, Safe-to-Swim still focuses exclusively on coastal beach monitoring, even though data systems have been developed with State Water Board staff and funding to make inland bacterial indicator data readily available through CEDEN. The Safe-to-Drink portal only got off the ground after seed money was provided through a Water Board contract. While that contract is likely to generate an interesting and informative portal, no effort has been made to coordinate water quality monitoring and assessment efforts in this area. A Data Management Workgroup was formed over a year ago to tackle issues of data management and sharing, web development, and geospatial information that are common to all thematic areas. However, existing silos of data continue to exist in all of the state governmental organizations listed in the legislation. Breaking them down to provide access to each other's data will require a substantial investment by each organization. While selected staff participation in these workgroups has occurred from a number of state and non-governmental organizations, management commitment to fully engage has only been achieved at the Water Boards. The lack of dedicated funding, high existing agency workloads, and the general absence of management direction to move coordination to a high priority have largely stymied progress to implement the Monitoring Council's vision.</p> <p>With a single coordinator and funding committed mainly from the Water Boards, implementation has nearly reached capacity. Without dedicated funding to initiate and maintain interagency coordination of monitoring, assessment, and reporting and the interconnection of agency data systems, and without management leadership from the nine government organizations listed in SB 1070 that coordination is a high priority, little more can be achieved.</p> <p>SB 1070 calls for full implementation within a 10 year period. Commencing The legislation also calls on the Cal/EPA Secretary to conduct a triennial audit of the effectiveness of the monitoring program strategy.</p>		
<p>Attachment Links:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 Annual Progress Report to the Agency Secretaries • 2012 Monitoring Council Workgroup Annual Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safe to Swim Workgroup ○ Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish) ○ Safe Drinking Water Workgroup ○ Wetland Monitoring Workgroup ○ Healthy Streams Partnership ○ Estuary Monitoring Workgroup ○ Ocean Health Workgroup Proposal (not yet available) ○ Data Management Workgroup ○ Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network 		
<p>Contact Persons:</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Jon Marshack</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Jon.Marshack@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5514</td> </tr> </table>	Jon Marshack	Jon.Marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514
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ITEM:	8	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MEETING WRAP-UP	10 minutes
Purpose:	<p>Plan agenda for May 29, 2013 Monitoring Council meeting in Costa Mesa. Potential items include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 2012 Monitoring Council Annual Report to Agency Secretaries, including Workgroup reports 2) Update on the USEPA Healthy Watersheds Initiative, California Project to assess watersheds throughout the state and identify healthy watersheds 3) Update on potential state stewardship for California's portion of the National Hydrography Dataset and the National Wetlands Inventory (Jonathan Bishop and Dale Hoffman-Floerke) 4) Possibility of holding an annual conference. A representative from the Maryland Monitoring Council should be invited to participate by phone (see May 2012 notes, Item 2d) 5) Water Board new effort to gather groundwater monitoring data in support of potential future programmatic actions (Eric Oppenheimer, John Borkovich) 6) Potential endorsement by the Monitoring Council of a regional approach to monitoring, rather than end-of-pipe monitoring 7) Department of Fish & Game monitoring (Glenda Marsh, Adam Ballard, Robert Holmes, Josh Grover, Chad Dibble, Pete Ode, Tom Lupo) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Coordination b) Financial support c) Flow d) Data Management – CEDEN for water quality data? e) Monitoring Council endorsement of collaboration? 8) Ocean Ecosystem Health <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Plans for Ocean Ecosystem Workgroup and new Ocean Health Portal b) Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) monitoring (Ken Schiff) c) Marine Protected Area (MPA) Monitoring Enterprise (Liz Whiteman) 	
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda for the next meeting	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ADJOURN