



California Water Quality Monitoring Council



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Jonathan Bishop & Stephani Spaar, Co-Chairs

Mailing Address: c/o Jon Marshack, Monitoring Council Executive Director
1001 I Street, 19th Floor, 60F • P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California • 95812-0100
(916) 341-5514
www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor



John Laird
Secretary for
Natural Resources

July 11, 2016

Monitoring Council Members

See attached addressee list

Sent via email

Jonathan Bishop
Environmental Protection
Agency

Stephani Spaar
Natural Resources Agency

Vacancy
Division of Drinking Water

Armand Ruby
Stormwater

Phil Markle
Publicly Owned
Treatment Works

Parry Klassen
Agriculture

Beth Christman
Citizen Monitoring

Vacancy
Public

Stephen Weisberg
Scientific Community

Sarge Green
Water Supply

Monitoring Council Staff

Jon Marshack
Executive Director

Kristopher Jones
Assistant Director

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE DATA MANAGEMENT WORKGROUP

On behalf of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Monitoring Council), we wish to invite you to serve on the Steering Committee of the Data Management Workgroup (DMWG) of the Monitoring Council. Since 2011, the DMWG has been serving as the steward of technical knowledge related to water quality data management, data utilization, and associated technology development. The workgroup has now reached a point in its evolution when it requires a steering committee to advise its actions and maximize its impact.

This moment is prompted by the publication of the Environmental Data Summit white paper in September 2015: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/enhancing-the-vision-for-managing-californias-environmental-information>. The white paper issued several key recommendations that have since been embraced by environmental data users, data providers, and the Monitoring Council itself, which sees in the recommendations many reflections of its enabling legislation, SB 1070 (Statutes of 2006). Fostering greater data-sharing among agencies and the public is inherent to the white paper and the Monitoring Council alike.

Why a Steering Committee?

We need your service on the Steering Committee to help guide ongoing initiatives in constructive ways to favor smart choices over incapacitating and wasteful obstructions. Our aim is to have your organization represented by one or two members to ensure that your short- and long-term objectives remain in focus. Your expertise, authority, and experience could help to influence this effort and play an important role in the forthcoming development of an interagency Science Action Agenda that the Delta Science Program is spearheading in close collaboration with its Delta Science Plan implementation partners, key among which is the Monitoring Council.

With several data-sharing initiatives already underway across California's natural resource and environmental protection agencies, each effort is optimized to meet a given agency or programmatic mandate. However, with a modest level of coordination, these individual efforts can be mutually integrated to yield much greater value for all.

Work of the Steering Committee

We anticipate that the Steering Committee, among its tasks, will provide oversight to tackle the following:

- Review the recommendations enumerated in the white paper;
- Identify challenges to implementation of the recommendations;
- Propose recommended strategies for overcoming these challenges, so they can be included in the forthcoming Science Action Agenda;
- Evaluate the practicality and efficacy of specific forms of interagency coordination/collaboration;
- Foster communication among the various data initiatives and the higher authorities leading them; and
- Review and approve the strategic goals and annual work plans of the DMWG.

In all the latest data-sharing efforts, a truism is emerging: value for today's information is measured not only in how well it meets a narrow set of individual needs but also in how well it integrates with other systems. The value of our data is improved by its reuse. You can have a prominent role in measuring and amplifying that value for your own agency's benefit.

Anticipated Time Commitment

We anticipate quarterly meetings, at most, out of respect for your busy schedule and competing commitments.

A Rare Opportunity

In several places, the white paper references a "broad-based workgroup" to guide implementation of its recommendations. Meanwhile, proposed legislation such as AB 1755, "The Open and Transparent Water Data Act," also call for greater information exchange. There are smart ways to achieve such goals, but presumably, without adequate thought and planning, there could instead be inefficient and onerous solutions.

This is the time to set a smart course for more robust data sharing. And we feel that you are a critical part of the right team to make it happen.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director
State Water Resources Control Board
Monitoring Council Co-Chair
Representing Cal/EPA



Stephani Spaar, Chief, Office of Water Quality
Division of Environmental Services
Department of Water Resources
Monitoring Council Co-Chair Alternate
Representing the Natural Resources Agency

cc: Members of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council
Rainer Hoenicke, Deputy Executive Officer for the Science Program, Delta Stewardship Council

List of Addressees

Tom Lupo, Deputy Director / Chief Information Officer
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 9th Street, 12th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
tom.lupo@wildlife.ca.gov

Steve Goldman
Geospatial Information Officer / GIS Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 9th Street, 4th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
steve.goldman@wildlife.ca.gov

Kamyar Guivetchi, P.E., Manager
Statewide Integrated Water Management
California Department of Water Resources
901 P Street, Room 202
Sacramento, CA 95814
kamyar.guivetchi@water.ca.gov

Rich Juricich, Chief
Data Publications, Exchange and Management
California Department of Water Resource
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5515
rich.juricich@water.ca.gov

Nancy Miller, Deputy Chief Information Officer
Division of Technology Services
California Department of Water Resource
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5515
nancy.miller@water.ca.gov

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691
campbell.ingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

John Ryan, Program Manager II
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814-5515
john.ryan@deltacouncil.ca.gov

Dennis Grossman
Senior Advisor for Environmental Science and Policy
California Strategic Growth Council
denny.grossman@sgc.ca.gov

Stuart Drown, Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Accountability
California Government Operations Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95814
stuart.drown@govops.ca.gov

Scott Gregory, Deputy Director
California Department of Technology
1325 J Street, Suite 1600
Sacramento, CA 95814
scott.gregory@state.ca.gov
scott.gregory@technology.ca.gov

Kathy Owen, Chief Information Officer
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 8th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
kathy.owen@waterboards.ca.gov

Greg Gearheart, Deputy Director
Office of Information Management and Analysis
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 19th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
greg.gearheart@waterboards.ca.gov

Les Spahnn, Legislative Director
Office of Assemblyman Bill Dodd
State Capitol
P.O. Box 94249
Sacramento, CA 94249-0004
leslie.spahnn@asm.ca.gov

Ilya Zaslavsky, Director
Spatial Information Systems Laboratory
University of California, San Diego
San Diego Supercomputer Center
9500 Gilman Drive, Room 276E, MC 0505
La Jolla, CA 92093-0505
zaslavsk@sdsc.edu

Fraser Shilling, Co-Director
Road Ecology Center
University of California, Davis
Department of Environmental Science and Policy
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616
fmshilling@ucdavis.edu

Samsor Safi, Associate Civil Engineer
Sacramento Regional Sanitation
Sacramento Area Sewer District
10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento CA 95827
safis@sacsewer.com