



# California Water Quality Monitoring Council



**Matthew Rodriguez**  
*Secretary for  
Environmental Protection*

Mailing Address: c/o Jon Marshack, Monitoring Council Executive Director  
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**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
*Governor*



**John Laird**  
*Secretary for  
Natural Resources*

November 18, 2016

Attn: Ms. Salena Reynolds  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Environmental Information  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Mail Code 2823-T  
Washington, DC 20460

## **SUPPORT FOR THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY'S PROPOSAL TO THE FY 2017 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE NETWORK GRANT PROGRAM**

Dear Ms. Reynolds,

As the Co-Chair of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council representing the California Environmental Protection Agency, I am pleased to support the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy's proposal to the FY 2017 National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program. The Monitoring Council helps facilitate the dissemination of information and data generated through monitoring and research efforts to a variety of audiences, including the public, managers, and policy makers. The Monitoring Council is creating opportunities to make monitoring efforts more efficient, reduce redundancies, and improve coordination among member agencies.

High quality and readily accessible continuous water quality data is critical to understanding and managing natural resources in the Delta watershed. I strongly support this effort to provide quality assurance and quality control for continuous water quality data from the Delta as well as centralized data storage and access. Recently, the need to assemble and share standardized data has been recognized, but efforts to address standardizing and sharing continuous data have been limited. This project would leverage investments in data sharing for the Delta and the State, and growing momentum for data sharing and transparency while addressing the needs for infrastructure specific to continuous data.

I applaud the Delta Conservancy's collaborative approach to data sharing—such as those demonstrated by the Delta Environmental Data for the Understanding of a California Estuary (DEDUCE) effort. Similarly, the efforts detailed in this

proposal should be in coordination with other data management and quality assurance procedures being developed by the Methods and Data Comparability Board, Aquatic Sensor Workgroup of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council (<http://www.watersensors.org/>). Such coordination will build on existing efforts, and strengthen their chances of success.

The proposed project will greatly enhance the quality and accessibility of continuous water quality data in the Delta watershed—data that is critical for the effective management of the system. I urge your close and careful consideration to providing a National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant to assist the Delta Conservancy with this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Larsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and the last name "Larsen" clearly legible.

Karen Larsen, Deputy Director  
Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Monitoring Council Co-Chair  
Representing CalEPA

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cc: Members of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council