

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 23, 2016 – 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Second Floor, Klamath Room
 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, notes, and related Monitoring Council meeting 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 Global Meet. To join the on-line meeting, click on this link <https://stateofcaswrcbweb.centurylinkccc.com/CenturylinkWeb/JonMarshack>. Enter as a guest by typing your first and last name and email address into the boxes provided. Please log in a few minutes before the meeting starts to allow Global Meet to set up the meeting connection software on your computer by clicking on the "Launch Application" button if prompted to do so. Audio connection is via teleconference. Enter your phone number and click "Connect Me" to have GlobalMeet call your phone and add you to the meeting. Alternatively click "Dial-In" and then call (877) 820-7831. Existing audio equipment in our meeting room may limit the quality of the connection.

For a map to the Cal/EPA Headquarters 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 to the left of the lobby upon entering the building. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the State Water Board's Equal Employment Opportunity Office at (916) 341-5881.

ITEM:	1	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING	10 minutes
Purpose:	1) Introductions (in the room and on the phone) 2) Review draft notes from August 27, 2015 Monitoring Council meeting and the November 16, 2015 Planning Subcommittee meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting	
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve August 27, 2015 Monitoring Council meeting notes and the November 16 Planning Subcommittee meeting notes b) Preview what will be covered today and overall meeting expectations c) Adjust today's agenda, as needed	
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft notes from August 27, 2015 Monitoring Council meeting • Draft notes from November 16, 2015 Planning Subcommittee meeting 	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	2	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	PUBLIC FORUM	10 minutes

Purpose:	Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Monitoring Council relating to any matter within the Council's jurisdiction under California Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006) provided the matter is not on the agenda.	
Desired Outcome:	Information and potential agenda topics for a future meeting. No decisions can be made regarding items that have not received prior public notice.	
Attachment Link:	California Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006)	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	3	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	SWAMP – CALIFORNIA FRESHWATER HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT STRATEGY	30 minutes
Purpose:	Beverly Anderson-Abbs will provide an introduction to and summary of the Statewide Harmful Algal Bloom Strategy released by SWAMP	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Background:	Harmful algal blooms (HABs) and algal toxins have increased globally in geographic range, frequency, duration, and severity in recent years. These increases have been attributed to various anthropogenic factors; the most significant of which include climate change, nutrient loading, and water residence time. HABs are problematic because they can affect multiple beneficial uses including recreation, aquatic life, and drinking water by reducing aesthetics, lowering dissolved oxygen concentrations, causing taste and odor problems, and producing potent toxins. SWAMP has developed a strategic plan for statewide coordination to address cyanoHABs and other Freshwater HABS. SWAMP is also funding a number of projects for assessment of HABs throughout the State and materials to support water managers who are dealing with HAB issues. These projects include satellite monitoring, a centralized website, and reporting system, guidance document on event response and management strategies, laboratory resources to support local event response, and a training program. Additionally, SWAMP is involved with the California CyanoHAB Network (CCHAB) to update the 2010 Guidance Document for dealing with HABs.	
Attachment Link:	California Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms Assessment and Support Strategy	
Contact Person:	Beverley Anderson-Abbs	beverley.anderson-abbs@waterboards.ca.gov ; (916) 322-2014

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	CALIFORNIA CYANOHAB NETWORK – UPDATE TO VOLUNTARY GUIDANCE FOR RECREATIONAL WATERS	70 minutes
Purpose:	Introduce updates to the Draft Voluntary Statewide Guidance for Blue-Green Algae Blooms (July 2010). And to update the Monitoring Council on the concepts and progress of the California CyanoHAB Network .	

Desired Outcome:	Information and comment on the proposed guidance updates and next steps for the California CyanoHAB Network.	
Background:	<p>In 2010 the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) made available a Draft Voluntary Statewide Guidance for Blue-Green Algae Blooms (Guidance Document) in an effort to assist local agencies and organizations in dealing with recreational water use impacts from harmful algal blooms in California waters. Since that time additional research has been completed on harmful algal blooms and additional information has been made available.</p> <p>The State Water Board, CDPH, OEHHA and U.S. EPA have been working together, along with other valuable partners, including tribes, local government agencies, water managers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and scientific institutions to update portions of the Guidance Document. These updates were presented to the California CyanoHAB Network on January 21, 2016. We plan to make these draft updates available on the web for the 2016 Harmful Algal Bloom season, which typically begins around June in many waters in the State.</p>	
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyanobacteria in California Recreational Water Bodies: Providing Voluntary Guidance about Harmful Algal Blooms, Their Monitoring, and Public Notification by the Blue Green Algae Work Group (July 2010 Draft) • Proposed updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decision Tree and Narrative for Posting and De-posting Health Advisories for CyanoHABs ○ Signage ○ CyanoHAB Trigger Levels for Human Health ○ Appendix A – Description of cyanotoxin triggers in recreational waters 	
Contact Persons:	Zane Poulson Angela Akens	(916) 341-5488; zane.poulson@waterboards.ca.gov (916) 341-6899; angela.akens@waterboards.ca.gov

LUNCH	Approx. Time:
On your own. Cafe on first floor. Other restaurants in close proximity to building.	60 minutes

ITEM:	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	50 minutes
Purpose:	<p>These are expected to be brief informational items that could be expanded into more detailed discussions for future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Monitoring Council membership changes (Jon Marshack) b) Update from the Data Management Workgroup (Tony Hale, SFEI) c) Inland Beaches Workgroup (Carly Nilson, Lahontan Regional Water Board) 	

	d) Update on CA Estuary Monitoring Workgroup and Portal (Val Connor)
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment
Background:	<p>a) Monitoring Council Membership Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public – Sara Aminzadeh has resigned from the Public position on the Monitoring Council, effective January 19. Staff will be seeking replacement candidates to represent the Public constituency, specified in the Council’s Governance document as “Individual Waterkeepers; Natural Resources Defense Council; Heal the Bay; Southern California Watershed Alliance.” • Division of Drinking Water – Karen Larsen has been appointed as the State Water Board Deputy Director to lead the Division of Water Quality. Since she no longer represents the Division of Drinking Water, a new Monitoring Council Member will need to be selected by that Division. Bruce Burton is the Alternate for this Council position. • Agriculture – Many months ago, Parry Klassen has indicated he will be resigning from the Monitoring Council and endorsing his Alternate, Bruce Houdesheldt of the Northern California Water Association, to take his place. Parry offered to stay on as an Alternate in this position. <p>b) Update from the Data Management Workgroup</p> <p>The Council’s Data Management Workgroup (DMWG) meets regularly to coordinate information technology-related efforts, offer guidance and information to other Council workgroups, and advance information sharing regarding water quality data and technology opportunities.</p> <p>During its most recent meetings, the DMWG has been tackling the recommendations published in the Delta Stewardship Council’s white paper Enhancing the Vision for Managing California’s Environmental Information and has formed subcommittees designed to develop informational products that further illustrate the concepts mentioned in the white paper. The resulting presentations, memos, and FAQ sheets will be of use to inform state agency decision makers of key concepts such as “data federation,” “data management plans,” and “web services.”</p> <p>In the latest meeting, the workgroup sought additional guidance for its efforts through the formation of a steering committee composed of high-level decision makers with a stake in their agency’s participation in information management initiatives. Such a steering committee could help to optimize the labor of the DMWG to participate in an emergent effort to implement the Delta Stewardship Council’s recommendations. Potential steering committee members have been drafted. However, before the committee is convened, the DMWG must better lay the groundwork by defining a pilot project for the steering committee to tackle and a clearer outline of roles and intended outcomes.</p> <p>c) Inland Beaches Workgroup</p> <p>At the November 2015 Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program strategic review meeting, the need for an inland beaches program was proposed. A subgroup of the SWAMP Roundtable developed a draft proposal including an inland beaches work group, a safe-to-swim portal upgrade that includes inland beaches bacterial indicator data from CEDEN with clear public messaging, promoting input of relevant bacterial indicator data into CEDEN,</p>

	<p>and a framework that potentially includes standard operating procedures for monitoring (ambient and targeted), development of a central location for access to methods and guidance documents, and guidance for performing microbial source tracking in inland surface waters.</p> <p>d) Update on CA Estuary Monitoring Workgroup and Portal</p> <p>The Estuary Workgroup is working on a significant revision to the existing portal, including the development of data dashboards under a new “management tools” tab. Significant progress has also been made in working with USFWS to include their fish data on the portal. Current challenges include how to add estuaries beyond the Bay Delta without a source of funding. The Estuary Workgroup received a green light from the Council to update the portal. That update is one of the current areas of focus.</p>
<p>Attachment Links:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delta Stewardship Council’s white paper Enhancing the Vision for Managing California’s Environmental Information • Data Management Workgroup meeting notes, January 5, 2016
<p>Contact Person:</p>	<p>Jon Marshack jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5514</p>

<p>ITEM:</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Approx. Time:</p>
<p>Title of Topic:</p>	<p>MONITORING COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING</p>	
<p>Purpose:</p>	<p>Jon Marshack will lead a discussion of potential changes in direction of the Monitoring Council, including organization, governance, and emphasis</p>	
<p>Desired Outcome:</p>	<p>Consensus from the Monitoring Council on the organization’s future direction</p>	
<p>Background:</p>	<p>At the Monitoring Council’s August 27 quarterly meeting, the Council formed a Planning Subcommittee to develop ideas for full Council consideration. Jonathan Bishop, Sara Aminzadeh, Sarge Green, Steve Weisberg, and Phil Markle offered to participate on the subcommittee.</p> <p>On November 16, the Planning Subcommittee met. But Jonathan Bishop and Sara Aminzadeh were unable to attend. Monitoring Council Alternates Greg Gearheart and Stephani Spaar were also in attendance. The Subcommittee heard from CalEPA Undersecretary Gordon Burns, who commended the Council for accomplishments to date and urged the Council to determine how it could support efforts of high importance to the administration. He advised the Council to once again apply for resources to address such issues. Gordon offered that a letter of support from CalEPA for the Monitoring Council was possible, once the Council had decided on its new direction.</p> <p>After reviewing topics that arose from the Monitoring Council’s August 27 discussion of the Monitoring Council’s future, the Planning Subcommittee discussed current and future Monitoring Council membership and structure, existing focus of the Council and its workgroups, and potential changes in direction.</p> <p>On February 1, Greg Gearheart, Stephani Spaar, Kris Jones, and Jon Marshack met to deliberate on the above information and to discuss options for the full Council’s consideration.</p>	

Two major conclusions arose from these discussions:

- a) To more-fully engage additional state governmental organizations in the Monitoring Council's activities and to bring additional staff and resources to bear, members should be added to the Council structure to represent high-level managers of key departments including, but not limited to –
 - i) Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - ii) Delta Stewardship Council, especially its Delta Science Program
 - iii) Department of Pesticide Regulation
 - iv) Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire)

Letters of recommendation from the Agency Secretaries could be used to help recruit new members. Two options for adding members were discussed – creating a separate Steering Committee or merely adding members to the existing Monitoring Council. Membership by federal partner organizations has also been suggested.
- b) The Council needs to address water issues in a more pragmatic and flexible manner, rather than rigidly adhering to the current [matrix of water body types and beneficial use themes](#).
 - i) Workgroups should be formed and fostered based on current issues of importance to the administration, including those revolving around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the challenges of drought and climate change. What are the top water issues that are not currently being addressed?
 - ii) The Council should tap into existing collaborative structures, such as the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) and the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC), to explore how value can be added.
 - iii) The Council should no longer insist on a statewide focus for workgroups. Regionally focused efforts should also be encouraged.
 - iv) New issues should be embraced as they arise, such as harmful algal blooms and the cyanotoxins they create. Constituents of emerging concern (CECs) should be an important focus.
 - v) Monitoring Council staff time should not continue to be focused on efforts that have proven to be unsuccessful.
 - vi) Water quantity and water supply should be addressed in addition to water quality and aquatic ecosystems where those aspects logically fit the issues being addressed.
 - vii) Improved data management, access to data, and data synthesis should remain key components of Monitoring Council and workgroup efforts.
 - viii) Support for citizen monitoring through the Council's Monitoring Collaboration Network should continue.
 - ix) The Council could foster the formation of work teams for project-related collaboration to develop needed products.

Finally, the name of our organization has proven to be problematic to growing participation. The name "Water Quality Monitoring Council" gives some individuals and organizations the impression that Council efforts are mainly focused on chemical and physical aspects of water. Dropping "Quality" or "Water Quality" from the name could encourage greater participation by

	organizations focusing mainly on biological aspects of water.	
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft notes from November 16, 2015 Planning Subcommittee meeting • Draft notes from August 27, 2015 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 7) 	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov ; (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	7	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	NEXT MEETING AGENDA	10 minutes
Purpose:	<p>Plan agenda for May 24, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting in Costa Mesa. Potential items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assessing aquatic habitat connectivity and low-flow ecological thresholds (Robert Holmes, CDFW Water Branch) b) Data quality and data management standardization efforts of SWAMP (Melissa Morris, SWRCB) c) Healthy Watersheds Partnership – tool development for agency decision makers (Lori Webber [SWRCB], Jeanette Howard [The Nature Conservancy] and Kurt Fesenmyer [Trout Unlimited]) d) State stewardship for the National Hydrography Dataset by the Department of Water Resources (Greg Smith, DWR) e) Possibility of holding a Monitoring Council annual conference f) Monitoring Council strategic planning 	
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda ideas for the May 24 meeting.	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov ; (916) 341-5514

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