

# Legislative Priorities

SPRING | 2016

[www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov](http://www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov)

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## The California Water Quality Monitoring Council

*Improving the quality of and access to California's water resource monitoring data and assessment information*

### The Council's Enabling Legislation—SB 1070 (Statutes of 2006)

- Tasked the Monitoring Council with developing a comprehensive monitoring program strategy for California
- To improve the effectiveness of California's water quality and associated ecosystem monitoring and assessment system
- To ensure that the resulting data and information are made available to decision makers and the public via the internet

### Proposed 2015-16 Legislation Seeks to Address Similar Needs

- [AB 501, Resources: Delta research \(Levine\)](#)—would require that state-funded Delta research (broadly defined; includes monitoring) make their primary data, metadata, and other supporting materials accessible to other researchers. This bill would authorize the formation of an interagency group to adopt coordinated guidelines to provide consistent procedural and technical requirements for Delta research.
- [AB 1755, The Open and Transparent Water Data Act \(Dodd\)](#)—would require the integration of existing water data, as well as the development of protocols for data sharing, documentation, quality control, public access, and the promotion of open source platforms and decision support tools for water data.

### The Monitoring Council Is Already Well Positioned to Satisfy These Needs

- Both proposed legislation provide an opportunity to sustain the Monitoring Council and enable it to continue its core mission to enhance the availability of water data statewide using a proven collaborative, built upon state agencies (State Water Board and Department of Water Resources) and water stakeholders.
- The Monitoring Council's legislative mandate addresses the needs laid out in the proposed legislation.
- The Monitoring Council's theme-specific interagency workgroups currently focus on delivering data and information to resource managers, regulators, and the public via their portals at [www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov](http://www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov).
- The Council's Data Management Workgroup is already developing recommendations for data federation, data management plans, and sharing data using web services to make high-quality water data readily available.



### Lessons Learned from SB 1070—Additional Authority and Resources Needed

- SB 1070 provided no dedicated funding and no authority to compel state governmental organizations to participate.
- Progress made to date is largely through in-kind services, voluntary efforts, and occasional grants.
- Dedicated resources and greater authority needed to allow the Monitoring Council to fulfill its mission.

#### Welcome to My Water Quality

Welcome Prop 1 Applicants!  
 Guidance on the WRAMP framework for monitoring and assessment.

#### Is Our Water Safe to Drink?

Safe drinking water depends on a variety of chemical and biological factors regulated by a number of local, state, and federal agencies. [\[Future Portal\]](#)

#### Is it Safe to Swim in Our Waters?

Swimming safety of our waters is linked to the levels of pathogens that have the potential to cause disease. [Learn more >>](#)

#### Is it Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish From our Waters?

Aquatic organisms are able to accumulate certain pollutants from the water in which they live, sometimes reaching levels that could harm consumers. [Learn more >>](#)

#### Are Our Aquatic Ecosystems Healthy?

The health of fish and other aquatic organisms and communities depends on the chemical, physical, and biological quality of the waters in which they live. [Learn more >>](#)

#### What Stressors and Processes Affect our Water Quality?

Beneficial uses of our waters are affected by emerging contaminants, invasive species, trash, global warming, acidification, pollutant loads, and flow. [\[Future Portal\]](#)

#### About Us

The Monitoring Council seeks to provide multiple perspectives on water quality information and to highlight existing data gaps and inconsistencies in data collection and interpretation. [Learn more >>](#)