

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 – 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Twenty-first Floor, Hearing Room
State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance
Renaissance Tower, 801 K 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 Century Link. 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 with guest passcode 586740. Existing audio equipment in our meeting room may limit the quality of the connection.

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:	a) Introductions (in the room and on the phone) b) Review draft notes from the February 28, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting c) Review draft notes from the February 23, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting to which no comments were received, but inadvertently had not been approved; Council Members were polled by email; only two responses were received d) Review agenda for today's meeting	
Desired Outcome:	b) Approve February 28, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting notes c) Approve February 23, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting notes d) Preview what will be covered today and overall meeting expectations; adjust today's agenda, as needed	
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft notes from February 28, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting • Draft notes from the February 23, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting 	
Contact Persons:	Jon Marshack Kris Jones	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514 kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756

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:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	60 minutes
Purpose:	<p>These are expected to be brief informational items that could be expanded into more detailed discussions at future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) New Monitoring Council Member representing the Public (Karen Larsen) b) AB 1755, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act, implementation update (Jon Marshack, Kris Jones, and/or Tony Hale) c) My Water Quality connection to regional monitoring programs and their data display websites (Jon Marshack and Kris Jones) d) Human Right to Water connection to My Water Quality (Wendy Killou) e) STORMS pesticide monitoring data map on the Healthy Streams Portal (Noelle Patterson and Matthew Freese) f) Other brief announcements and updates related to the Monitoring Council's mission pursuant to Senate Bill 1070, Statutes of 2006 	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Background:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>New Public Member</i> – Sara Aminzadeh resigned from the Monitoring Council in late January 2016. Sara's alternate, Travis Pritchard, continued to serve until he left the San Diego Coastkeeper organization. An announcement for this Council Member vacancy was widely circulated in November and fifteen candidates applied. Based on criteria outlined in the Council's Governance document, candidates were vetted with a number of environmental organizations and the field of candidates was narrowed to three. Interviews were conducted in early March, and Ray Hiemstra of the Orange County Coastkeeper was recommended by Monitoring Council Co-Chair Karen Larsen for approval by the Secretaries of CalEPA and the Natural Resources Agency. b) <i>AB 1755 implementation</i> – In September 2016, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755) was signed into law, requiring the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in consultation with the Monitoring Council, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Fish 	

	<p>and Wildlife, to create, operate, and maintain a statewide integrated water data platform; to develop protocols for data sharing, documentation, quality control, public access; to facilitate the use of decision support tools related to water data; and to submit a report to the Legislature on these activities. DWR seeks to work with the Monitoring Council, its other partners, and interested stakeholders to meet statutory requirements of AB 1755. DWR is gathering information in the form of data-driven-decision “use cases” through a series of workshops to inform the technical and functional requirements of the data platform and protocols required by the legislation. The Monitoring Council’s Data Management Steering Committee has instructed the Data Management Workgroup to begin developing relevant information to assist DWR. The Wetland Monitoring Workgroup has submitted a “use case” example for consideration, based on their Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan. DWR, the California Council on Science and Technology, and UC Water held the second of their Water Data Workshops on May 8 to explore use cases.</p> <p>c) Regional monitoring data websites – The Monitoring Council’s 2010 Strategy emphasized the need for its workgroups and portal development efforts to include a significant statewide focus. Since the Monitoring Council’s 2014 Triennial Audit, the Council has entertained the concept of including connections with monitoring efforts that are not necessarily statewide in scope. As a first step, a new page on the My Water Quality website now provides connections with a number of data-rich regional monitoring websites. Could the Council’s goal of improved access to data and information also be achieved through coordination with these regional efforts? During Item 5 of this agenda, or at a future meeting, the Monitoring Council may wish to explore what approaches should the Council and its workgroups take to further connect with these regional initiatives.</p> <p>d) Human Right to Water – At the December 13, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 6 of meeting notes), Wendy Killou of the State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water presented a working draft of a new website intended to provide the public with information on compliance by drinking water systems throughout the state. The Human Right to Water Portal was launched in early February of 2017. As an initial step in providing drinking water related information through the Council’s My Water Quality website, a new “Is our water safe to drink?” web page is being created that connects with the Human Right to Water Portal and other relevant drinking water related information.</p> <p>e) STORMS pesticide data map – At the December 13, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 5 of meeting notes), Noelle Patterson and Matthew Freese of the State Water Board’s Division of Water Quality presented an overview of the Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Storm Water (STORMS) and its water quality projects, including one related to pesticides in storm water. The Council instructed Jon Marshack to work with Noelle to add STORMS data to one of the My Water Quality portals.</p>
<p>Attachment Link:</p>	<p>a) Letter to Agency Secretaries recommending Ray Hiemstra to fill the vacant Public Member position on the Monitoring Council</p> <p>b) AB 1755, The Open and Transparent Water Data Act, chaptered September 23, 2016</p> <p>c) New My Water Quality web page linking to regional monitoring data websites</p> <p>d) “Is our water safe to drink?” web page (page in construction)</p>

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ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MONITORING COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL/ECOSYSTEM INSTREAM FLOW COORDINATION	40 minutes
Purpose:	Eric Stein of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project will provide an overview of efforts to develop a framework for establishing statewide environmental instream flow recommendations, followed by a discussion regarding potential Monitoring Council support for a new collaboration effort involving environmental/ecosystem flows and open data.	
Desired Outcome:	Monitoring Council endorsement of the use of the State Open Data Portal and the Council's My Water Quality website and the establishment of a new workgroup effort to facilitate knowledge transfer and data sharing on statewide environmental instream flows across agencies and programs.	
Background:	<p>Managing environmental instream flows in a state as diverse as California requires interdisciplinary and multifaceted technical approaches that are both scientifically rigorous and flexible enough to address the broad range of needs across the state. California's streams vary widely in terms of rain and snowfall patterns, geologic setting, and elevation and slope. Consequently, the ecological communities of concern vary and can include anadromous fish, migratory birds, benthic invertebrate communities, or riparian habitat. In addition, management pressures differ around the state based on land use, setting and social and economic pressures, and can include demands associated with agricultural diversions, dam and reservoir management, stormwater retention and reuse, timber production, and most recently irrigation of cannabis grows. A single approach to managing environmental instream flows is not practical considering this complexity and variability. A tiered framework for establishing statewide environmental instream flows has been developed by a team of technical experts representing academia, agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The framework is organized around a statewide stream classification based on dominant hydrologic processes. Screening level flow targets are developed for each stream class based on similarity of functional flow elements to unaltered conditions for that stream class. More detailed watershed-specific flow recommendations can be derived based on methods and flow metrics that account for location specific physical and biological considerations, local management needs and constraints. The framework is intended to provide a way to facilitate coordination and information sharing on development and implementation of environmental instream flows across agencies and programs in California.</p>	
Contact Person:	Eric Stein	eric@sccwrp.org , (714) 755-3233

LUNCH	Approx. Time:
On your own. Several restaurants on K Street and in close proximity to building.	60 minutes

ITEM:	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	PLANNING THE MONITORING COUNCIL'S FUTURE	170 minutes
Purpose:	Jon Marshack and Kris Jones will conduct a retrospective of the Monitoring Council's legislative charge and accomplishments to date, highlighting aspects that have worked and those that have hampered progress. They will then lead an open discussion on the future direction of the Monitoring Council, punctuated by perspectives from a variety of current and potential collaborators and clients.	
Desired Outcome:	<p>Provide direction to Council staff and fellow Council Members as to potential adjustments in approach and initiatives to enhance the Council's success. Questions the Council and its guests may wish to explore include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What has worked well and what has not? 2) Who should the Council serve? Who are its clients? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Who needs the Council and for what purpose? b) To whom should the Council report? c) How do we know if we are meeting their needs? 3) What changes are needed in the Council's mission, focus, goals, and key initiatives? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) How should the Council's workgroup efforts be adjusted to improve potential outcomes? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Could broader participation in the Council's workgroups help ensure that the perspectives of specific organizations are adequately represented and efforts are better serving their needs? ii) How should broader participation be achieved? b) Could the Council's goal of improved access to data and information also be achieved through coordination with regional monitoring efforts? c) Should the Council's Strategy be updated to reflect these changes? d) Should cost estimates for the Council and workgroup efforts be revisited based on experience gained over the past nine years? e) What sources of funding are available and should be explored? 4) Are changes needed in the Monitoring Council's membership? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) What's in it for the organizations currently represented by the Council? b) Current membership was established to inform development of the Strategy. Does implementation necessitate adjustments to membership? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Should organizations that need to work better together, but are currently not well represented on the Council, be added? ii) Is technical expertise needed in data management data sharing? 5) Is new or updated legislation needed to effect change? 6) What outreach is needed to increase awareness of the value of Council and workgroup tools, products and activities, and to attract greater participation? 7) Should new tasks be assigned to the Council's staff? 8) What additional actions can Council Members take to further the cause? 	

Background:

Since publication of the Council's [initial recommendations](#) in 2008, and its [A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California](#) in 2010, the collaborative efforts of eight volunteer workgroups, staffed by issue experts representing key stakeholders from both within and outside state government, have significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of water quality and aquatic ecosystem monitoring, assessment and reporting in California. Method and data management standardization have improved data comparability and accessibility. Through these efforts, data and information are now more readily available to decision makers and the public as envisioned in the Council's enabling legislation, [SB 1070 \(Statutes of 2006\)](#), with numerous examples presented in the theme-based web portals at www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov.

- Is it safe to swim in our waters?
- Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?
- Are our aquatic ecosystems healthy?
 - Wetlands
 - Estuaries
 - Streams and rivers
 - Rocky intertidal coastal habitats
- Are harmful algal blooms affecting our waters?

In the process, lasting relationships have been established between programs and agencies that better inform member organizations about each other's efforts, challenges, and potential solutions.

As the result of our 2014 [Triennial Audit](#) and feedback from CalEPA, The Council formed a Planning Subcommittee to explore changes to the Council's direction. The Planning Subcommittee met on November 16, 2015 (see [meeting notes](#)) and recommended a more deliberative and opportunistic approach. Rather than attempting to address all beneficial uses of all water body types, greater emphasis should be placed on key initiatives important to the administration and delivering data and information to support departmental decision making. To attract additional participation, regional monitoring, assessment and reporting efforts and water supply issues relevant to water quality and ecosystem health should be explored. Portal development should not necessarily be a driver to improve monitoring, assessment and reporting. Instead, workgroups should strive to provide dashboards of information needed to inform key agency decisions.

More recently, the Council and its workgroups have adjusted focus to enhance the delivery of data and information to inform decision-making in several key areas. The Wetland Monitoring Workgroup convinced a number of state agencies to include standardized language in their Proposition 1 Water Bond solicitations to ensure that grant recipients generate comparable data and submit those data to systems that make it readily accessible to others. The Estuary Monitoring Workgroup has partnered with the water contractors to develop web-based dashboards of information to help with adaptive management decision making in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Working in conjunction with the Water Boards' Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, the Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom Network has developed a standardized system to monitor and assess harmful algal blooms and to engage water body managers, local health officers, and the public regarding the dangers posed by cyanotoxins. The Data Management Workgroup, guided by its new interagency Steering Committee, is developing a standardized understanding of key data management concepts and tools, as well as use-case information to help the

	<p>Department of Water Resources implement AB 1755, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act.</p> <p>During its February 28, 2017 meeting (see Items 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 of meeting notes), the Monitoring Council discussed a number of key topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection criteria for a new Council Director • Implementation of AB 1755 • The future of California’s environmental data • Connection with data initiatives outside the Council or its workgroups • Monitoring Council membership <p>Given that this will be Jon Marshack’s last meeting as Council Director, the Council decided that the majority of the May 23 meeting should be devoted to a discussion of the Council’s accomplishments since its inception and planning for the Council’s future. A subcommittee consisting of Karen Larsen, Steve Weisberg, Bruce Houdesheldt, and Armand Ruby met with Jon Marshack and Kris Jones on March 10 to help plan the agenda for this meeting.</p>	
<p>Attachment Links:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling legislation – SB 1070 (Statutes of 2006) • 2007 Memorandum of Understanding between the California Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Agencies, establishing the Council • Current Monitoring Council membership • 2008 Initial Recommendations to the Agency Secretaries • 2010 A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California • 2014 Triennial Audit - Increasing Efficiency and Effectiveness Through Collaboration • Legislative Priorities Spring 2016 fact sheet • 2016 Monitoring Council Workgroup Annual Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inland Beaches Workgroup (Safe to Swim) ○ Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish) ○ Safe Drinking Water Workgroup – not currently active ○ Wetland Monitoring Workgroup ○ Healthy Watersheds Partnership ○ Estuary Monitoring Workgroup ○ Ocean Health Workgroup – not yet convened ○ California Cyanobacterial and Harmful Algal Bloom Network ○ Data Management Workgroup and Steering Committee ○ Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network 	
<p>Contact Persons:</p>	<p>Jon Marshack Kris Jones</p>	<p>jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5514 kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov, (916) 376-9756</p>

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	NEXT MEETING AGENDA	10 minutes
Purpose:	<p>Plan August 29, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Decide on location – Costa Mesa (SCCWRP) or Sacramento (CalEPA) 2) Potential agenda topics include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continued Monitoring Council strategic planning b) EcoAtlas Business Plan (Tony Hale, Shakorra Azimi-Gaylon, Josh Collins, Melissa Scianni) c) Estuary portal enhancements – living resources and D-1641 Delta water quality report (Estuary Monitoring Workgroup) d) Estuary Portal – addition of other estuaries (Estuary Monitoring Workgroup) e) STORMs Monitoring Coordination Framework (Matthew Freese) f) Data management, quality, sharing, and visualization – related to AB 1755, initiatives of the Council’s Data Management Steering Committed and Workgroup, the State Water Board and other departments and organizations, SWAMP (Greg Gearheart, Tony Hale, Melissa Morris, others) g) State stewardship for the National Hydrography Dataset by the Department of Water Resources (Greg Smith, DWR) h) Interagency Ecological Program governance model – fostering ad hoc teams for specific tasks (Greg Erickson and Sakura Evans of CDFW) 	
Desired Outcome:	Decide on the location and agenda topics for the August 29, 2017 meeting	
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756

ADJOURN

May 11, 2017