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State Water Resources Control Board

Office of Information Management and Analysis

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 15, 2008
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
3535 Harbor Blvd., Suite 110
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Water Quality Monitoring Council will meet to discuss issues relating to its responsibilities pursuant to Senate Bill 1070 (Kehoe, 2006).

BACKGROUND

In November 2007, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Secretaries of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the California Resources Agency to establish the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Monitoring Council). The MOU was mandated by Senate Bill 1070 (Kehoe, 2006) and requires the boards, departments and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the California Resources Agency to integrate and coordinate their water quality and related ecosystem monitoring, assessment, and reporting.

Current Monitoring Council members include representatives from Cal/EPA, the Resources Agency, the Department of Public Health, the public, regulated publicly owned treatment works, regulated stormwater interests, and the scientific community. Additional representation from water supply interests has been proposed to the agency secretaries. The Monitoring Council is also required by SB 1070 to consult with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, whose representatives attend all Monitoring Council meetings.

SB 1070 and the MOU require that the Monitoring Council develop specific recommendations to improve the coordination and cost-effectiveness of water quality and ecosystem monitoring and assessment, enhance the integration of monitoring data across departments and agencies, and increase public accessibility to monitoring data and assessment information. While the Monitoring Council may recommend new monitoring or management initiatives, it will build on existing effort to the greatest extent possible.

California Environmental Protection Agency

California Water Code Section 13181(b) requires that the Monitoring Council report by December 1, 2008 to Cal/EPA and the Resources Agency “with regard to its recommendations for maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of existing water quality data collection and dissemination, and for ensuring that collected data are maintained and available for use by decisionmakers and the public.”

The Monitoring Council has identified data and assessment information availability as its first priority. The goal is to develop a theme-based statewide water quality web portal. Water quality data and assessment information will be organized into portal elements that address each of the following questions:

- Is our water safe to drink?
- Is it safe to swim in our waters?
- Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?
- Are our aquatic ecosystems healthy?
- What stressors and processes affect our water quality?

MEETING PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this meeting is for the Monitoring Council to review a preliminary draft of their first recommendations report and a conceptual design of a proposed statewide water quality web portal. An informational briefing will also be presented by members of the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup, which also acts as a subcommittee of the Monitoring Council.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

By close of business October 10, 2008, the final meeting agenda and a draft of the Monitoring Council recommendations report will be available via the Internet on the State Water Board Web site at: http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/

Paper copies of the agenda and draft report will also be available upon request by writing or calling:

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LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

A map and directions to the offices of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) can be found at: <http://www.sccwrp.org/contact/map.htm>. The SCCWRP building is accessible to people with disabilities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct technical questions about this notice to Jon Marshack at (916) 341-5876 or jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov.

September 24, 2008

Date

Dr. Jon B. Marshack
SB 1070 Coordinator