

California Water Quality Monitoring Council

Council Meeting Agenda

September 29, 2009 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Large Conference Room
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)
3535 Harbor Blvd., Suite 110, Costa Mesa

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 Natural Resources Agency.

Handouts, presentations, and related meeting and Monitoring Council information will be available prior to or after the meeting at http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/.

Remote access to the meeting will be available via teleconference by calling (916) 574-1755. Presentations made during the meeting may be viewed remotely via video link. To use the video link, go to <http://conference.sccwrp.org>. First time users will need to register by clicking the "Register" button and entering their current work email address and a password of their choosing. To join the meeting, users go to the same website and sign on with their email address and password before selecting the "large conference room". The number of connections via teleconference and video link may be limited. Remote attendees are encouraged to access these services in groups where possible to allow the greatest number of people to participate.

For a map to SCCWRP, driving directions, and accommodations information, visit www.sccwrp.org/view.php?id=39. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, at (714) 755-3200.

ITEM:	1	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING	15 minutes
Purpose:	1) Introductions 2) Review notes from July 27, 2009 Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting	
Desired Outcome:	1) Approve July 27, 2009 Monitoring Council meeting notes 2) Adjust today's agenda, as needed	
Attachments:	Draft notes from July 27, 2009 Council meeting	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	2	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	45 minutes
Purpose:	a) State budget update (Jonathan Bishop) b) Progress of outreach to state government organizations (all) c) Data management-focused outreach and proposal of an data	

	management group to coordinate IT functions (Brock Bernstein) d) Progress on My Water Quality web portal deployment (Jon Marshack)	
Desired Outcome:	a) Information b) Approval to develop data management group	
Attachments:	Data Management Group Proposal	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	3	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	COMPREHENSIVE STATE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM STRATEGY	2 hours
Purpose:	Monitoring Council approach to the comprehensive long-term monitoring program strategy required by SB 1070. A draft of the strategy will be presented for review and comment.	
Desired Outcome:	Direction on developing the proposed strategy. Integration with the SWAMP monitoring and assessment strategy.	
Background:	<p>In its December 1, 2008 recommendations report, the Monitoring Council committed to provide recommendations for this strategy to the agency secretaries, as part of a December 2009 progress report.</p> <p>SB 1070 added Water Code Section 13181(a) and (e), which provide direction for this effort.</p> <p>In 2005, the Water Boards' Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) developed a Comprehensive Monitoring and Assessment Strategy to Protect and Restore California's Water Quality that focuses on USEPA's 2003 <i>Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program</i>, which identifies 10 basic elements of a state program. At the February 2 Monitoring Council meeting, Val Connor provided an overview of progress on the SWAMP strategy. An update of the SWAMP strategy could be coordinated with the Monitoring Council's comprehensive long-term monitoring program strategy.</p> <p>In its 2008 recommendations, the Monitoring Council consolidated EPA's 10 elements into 6 performance measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program strategy, objectives, and designs • Indicators and methods • Data management • Consistency of assessment endpoints • Reporting • Program sustainability 	
Attachments:	a) Draft Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy b) December 2008 Recommendations Report - full	

	c) Senate Bill 1070 - Chaptered	
	d) SWAMP Monitoring and Assessment Strategy	
	e) SWAMP Overview	
Contact Person:	Brock Bernstein	brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net , (805) 646-8369

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	2 hrs, 45 min
Purpose:	<p>a) Short (15 minute) introductions to the following existing aquatic ecosystem monitoring and assessment programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern California Kelp Forests (Michael D. Curtis, MBC Applied Environmental Sciences) • Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (Mary Elaine Helix, MARINe - tentative) • Benthic invertebrates, sediment quality objective focus (Steve Weisberg, SCCWRP) • Anadromous fish population data (speaker to be determined) • SWAMP Healthy Streams Initiative (Val Connor, State Water Board) • Shallow marine reefs (Colleen Wisniewski, Reef Check) <p>b) Discussion of how to organize and manage the aquatic ecosystem health theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sub-themes should be covered? • What level of detail for each? • How dependent or independent are the sub-themes? • Should some sub-themes be lumped together? • Who are the players in each sub-theme? • Are there established work groups? • What are the low-hanging fruit? • What kinds of data should be included (water quality, ecosystem)? • How to handle good data that covers only a portion of the state? 	
Desired Outcome:	Direction on how this theme should be handled	
Background:	<p>Aquatic ecosystem health is one of the five main themes proposed for development in the Monitoring Council's December 2008 recommendations report. Appendix A1 of the report proposed the following set of sub-themes for aquatic ecosystem health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wadeable streams • Rivers • Lakes • Coastal waters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shallow marine reefs ○ Intertidal ○ Subtidal benthos ○ Enclosed bays and estuaries • Wetlands • Fisheries 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anadromous fish ○ Freshwater fish ○ Marine fish ● Invasive species ● Harmful algal blooms <p>Appendix 3 of the Monitoring Council's December 2008 recommendations report presents a theme-by-theme evaluation the current status of existing monitoring programs for each theme and sub-theme and the extent to which they meet the criteria for effective portals. The aquatic ecosystem health portion of Appendix 3 provides a basis for discussion.</p> <p>The California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup (CWMW) has agreed to tackle the Wetlands sub-theme, but has pointed out the extensive overlap with other sub-themes, including riparian areas. The CWMW presented information to the Monitoring Council about their monitoring and assessment activities at the May 22 and April 2, 2009 and October 15, 2008 meetings.</p> <p>The Healthy Streams Initiative of the Water Boards' Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) includes efforts to integrate the Stream Pollution Trends (SPoT) program, the Perennial Streams Assessment (PSA), the Reference Condition Management Program (RCMP), and stream fish contaminant monitoring of the Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (BOG). SWAMP is also a critical player in the Water Boards' development of biologically-based water quality objectives (bio-objectives) for California. The relationship between SWAMP and the Monitoring Council was discussed at the April 2, 2009 meeting.</p> <p>The Interagency Ecological Program presented information to the Monitoring Council about their monitoring and assessment activities at the July 27, 2009 meeting.</p>
Attachments:	Appendix 3, aquatic ecosystem health portion of the December 2008 Monitoring Council Report
Contact Person:	Brock Bernstein brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net , (805) 646-8369

ITEM: #	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MEETING WRAP-UP	15 minutes
Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Summarize meeting b) Plan agenda for next Monitoring Council meeting on December 7, 2009 in Sacramento c) Begin selection of Monitoring Council meeting dates for 2010 	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

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