

**CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL**

**Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, October 13, 2010 – 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/](http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/).

Remote access to the meeting will be available via WebEx. To join the WebEx on-line meeting, go to <https://waterboards.webex.com/waterboards/j.php?ED=139572167&UID=0&PW=NZDE1ODFhNDII&RT=MIM0>; enter your name and email address; enter the meeting password "cwqmc"; click "Join Now" and follow the instructions that appear on your screen. You may log on up to 15 minutes before the meeting starts to allow WebEx to set up the meeting connection. WebEx will automatically set up Meeting Manager the first time you join a meeting. Participation by teleconference only is available by calling 1-888-764-9721 and entering the attendee access code 363 618 0.

For a map to SCCWRP, driving directions, and accommodations information, visit [www.sccwrp.org/ContactUs.aspx](http://www.sccwrp.org/ContactUs.aspx). Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project at (714) 755-3200.

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING</b>	10 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	1) Introductions 2) Review draft notes from August 11, 2010 Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	a) Approve June, 2010 Monitoring Council meeting notes b) Preview what will be presented today and overall meeting expectations c) Adjust today's agenda, as needed	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Draft notes from August 11, 2010 Council meeting</a>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Jon Marshack	<a href="mailto:jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a> , 916-341-5514

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES</b>	10 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	1) State budget update (Jonathan Bishop) 2) Riparian mapping for Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (Eric Stein)	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	1) Information	

<b>Background:</b>	<b><i>Wetland and Riparian Mapping for the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan</i></b> At the August 11, 2010 meeting, the Monitoring Council supported the request from the Wetland Monitoring Workgroup for the Natural Resources Agency to use of the WRAMP riparian mapping tool in development of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. See Item 2 in the <a href="#">notes from the August 11, 2010 Monitoring Council meeting</a> .	
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<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT – 303(d)/305(b)</b>	60 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Brief Council Members on the process of developing the Water Board's Integrated Assessment Report.	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Information and discussion	
<b>Background:</b>	<p>Clean Water Act Section 303(d) requires that every two years, states and tribes develop lists of water bodies that do not meet water quality standards (impaired water bodies). Listing a water body as impaired in California is governed by the <a href="#">Water Quality Control Policy for developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Listing Policy</a>. Clean Water Act Section 305(b) requires states and tribes to periodically develop a report on the quality of waters within their jurisdictions. In California, the Water Boards develop both lists. Beginning with the 2010 California assessment, these reports have been combined into a single "Integrated Report". The 2010 Integrated Report was approved by the State Water Board in August of this year. Approval by USEPA is required before these listings become final. Additional information on California's Integrated Report is on the <a href="#">State Water Board website</a>.</p> <p>Two of the <i>My Water Quality</i> portals, Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish and Safe to Swim, include web pages that present impaired waters information.</p> <p>During the August 11, 2010 Monitoring Council meeting, Council Members raised the issue that data from Natural Resources Agency sources are not necessarily used in current 303(d) listing process by Water Boards, that Natural Resources Agency data would make listings more robust. Jonathan Bishop indicated that it may be better to focus such an effort on 305(b) assessments.</p>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet, 2010 Integrated Report on Water Quality with Web-Based Interactive Map, April 2010</a> <a href="#">State Water Board Integrated Report website</a> <a href="#">Safe to Swim portal – impaired waters page</a> <a href="#">Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish portal – impaired waters page</a>	
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<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>SAFE TO DRINK PORTAL</b>	45 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Review beta version of portal	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Direction on portal development and public release	
<b>Background:</b>	<p>The Safe to Drink portal, focusing on groundwater, is one of the four portals identified by the Monitoring Council for initial development, based on existing efforts that had already made significant progress. The four initial portals are intended to be used as proof of concept of the <a href="#">Monitoring Council's December 2008 recommendations</a> to the Agency Secretaries.</p> <p>This portal is based on the existing <a href="#">GeoTracker GAMA information system</a> that was developed to satisfy separate statutory mandates.</p> <p>At the May 2009 Monitoring Council meeting, Water Board staff made a presentation on the GeoTracker GAMA information system and proposed a concept for a Safe to Drink portal. The Monitoring Council directed staff to provide a more detailed mock-up of Safe-to-Drink portal for Monitoring Council comment and approval and to define assessment questions and existing data sources, add higher level statistics from GAMA program and others (e.g. nitrate data), and include what is being done to improve groundwater quality.</p> <p>At the February 2010 meeting, the Monitoring Council reviewed a mockup of the Safe to Drink portal and directed staff to develop a working draft of the "Safe to Drinking, Groundwater" portal, to add statewide assessment statistics, e.g. as canned queries generated by GeoTracker GAMA, and to add color key in the legend.</p> <p>Key questions for the Monitoring Council to consider are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the portal meet the <a href="#">Monitoring Council's guidelines</a>?</li> <li>• Does the portal sufficiently address earlier Monitoring Council direction?</li> <li>• Are the assessment questions presented in the portal appropriate?</li> <li>• Are the presented data and information readily understandable and appropriate to address each question?</li> <li>• Is sufficient background information presented?</li> <li>• Is the portal ready for public release?</li> </ul>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<p><a href="#">View the beta version of the Safe to Drink portal</a>  user name = cwqmc; password = council  <i>Note: This beta version is considered DRAFT and has not been approved for public release.</i></p> <p>Monitoring Council, <a href="#">Guidelines for Workgroups and the Development of My Water Quality Theme-Based Internet Portals</a>, September 23, 2010</p> <p><a href="#">Meeting notes</a> of the February 10, 2010 Monitoring Council meeting (see item 4)</p> <p><a href="#">Meeting notes</a> of the May 22, 2009 Monitoring Council meeting (see item 4)</p>	
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<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM HEALTH</b>	120 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore structure and function of workgroups, portals, and data management infrastructure that address the theme <i>Are Our Aquatic Ecosystems Healthy?</i></li> <li>• Meredith Williams of the San Francisco Estuary Institute will make a presentation on the proposal to develop an Aquatic Atlas data management tool that would be utilized by all aquatic ecosystem health workgroups</li> <li>• Consider whether the California Ocean Protection Council should be asked to form a workgroup to develop an ocean portal</li> </ul>	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Direction on how this theme should be addressed	
<b>Background:</b>	<p>Aquatic ecosystem health is one of five primary questions presented in the Monitoring Council's <i>My Water Quality</i> website. The Monitoring Council approved dividing this theme into five portals – estuaries, lakes, streams &amp; rivers, ocean, and wetlands. The Monitoring Council has approved coordination with the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup; their California Wetlands Portal addresses this theme for wetlands. The Monitoring Council has also approved formation of the Healthy Streams Partnership and tasked that workgroup with developing a stream health portal, a mockup of which was approved at the June 9, 2010 Monitoring Council meeting.</p> <p>At the August 2010 meeting, the Monitoring Council directed staff to conceptualize alternatives to address the aquatic ecosystem health theme for next meeting, to outline potential strategies and approaches to integrate biological monitoring components into ecosystem health workgroups and to address portal navigation and workgroup interaction. In addition, the Monitoring Council instructed staff to not stop working on healthy streams and estuaries workgroups. Item 6 of this agenda presents an estuary workgroup and portal proposal.</p> <p>Brock Bernstein has developed an <a href="#">Ecosystem Portal Options</a> paper that addresses portal and workgroup structure, assessment approaches, and data management. Josh Collins of the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup has proposed that all ecosystem health themes utilize a common Aquatic Atlas data management tool.</p>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<p>My Water Quality website <a href="#">Are Our Aquatic Ecosystems Healthy? page</a>  <a href="#">Meeting notes</a> of the August 11, 2010 Monitoring Council meeting (see item 3)  <a href="#">Ecosystem Portal Options</a> paper</p>	
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<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>ESTUARY WORKGROUP AND PORTAL</b>	45 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Formation of California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup and development of a California Estuaries Portal, initially focusing on the San Francisco Bay-Delta	

<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Approval to form workgroup and develop portal	
<b>Background:</b>	<p>For the <i>My Water Quality</i> website, the Monitoring Council approved dividing the theme <i>Are Our Aquatic Ecosystems Healthy?</i> into five portal categories, one of which would focus on estuaries.</p> <p>At the July 2009 and August 2010 Monitoring Council meetings, Anke Mueller-Solger made presentations on the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) that focuses on the health of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem. Additional presentations were made at the August 2010 meeting regarding Natural Resources Agency programs, some of which also focus on the Delta. At that meeting, Richard Breuer made a presentation on IEP data management.</p> <p>Additional background is presented in the <a href="#">Proposal to Develop a California Estuaries Portal</a>.</p>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<p>My Water Quality website <a href="#">Are Our Aquatic Ecosystems Healthy? page</a></p> <p><a href="#">Proposal to Develop a California Estuaries Portal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Meeting notes</a> of the August 11, 2010 Monitoring Council meeting (see item 3)</p> <p><a href="#">Meeting notes</a> of the July 27, 2009 Monitoring Council meeting (see item 3)</p>	
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<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING PROGRAM STRATEGY</b>	30 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Review the latest draft of the <a href="#">Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy</a>	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Comment and direction on finalizing the strategy	
<b>Background:</b>	<p>The strategy is required by <a href="#">California Senate Bill 1070 (Kehoe, 2006)</a> and the <a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)</a> between Cal/EPA and Natural Resources. Each of these documents provides specific direction on the content of the strategy.</p> <p>The Monitoring Council considered the March 2010 draft of the strategy at its June 2010 meeting and provided specific comments and direction.</p> <p>The Monitoring Council requested briefings with the two Agency Secretaries and with key legislators prior to finalizing the strategy. Agency Secretary briefing have occurred and both Secretaries provided support for the direction of the strategy. A briefing with Senator Kehoe's staff is scheduled for October 21.</p> <p>The Monitoring Council is requested to provide direction on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should the Agency Secretaries be asked to sign off on the strategy?</li> <li>• Should the Strategy identify next steps, and if so, which ones?</li> <li>• Does the new strategy section on grant project monitoring accurately reflect the Monitoring Council's recommendations?</li> <li>• Do recommendations accurately reflect the Monitoring Council's consensus?</li> <li>• What issues/items should be stressed in the transmittal letter?</li> </ul>	

<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">California Senate Bill 1070</a> [see Section 13181(a) and (e)] <a href="#">MOU</a> between Cal/EPA and Natural Resources <a href="#">Meeting notes</a> of the June 9, 2010 Monitoring Council meeting (see item 6) <a href="#">Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy - 9/23/10 Draft</a>	
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<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>2010 MONITORING COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT</b>	30 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Report to Agency Secretaries, due by end of 2010	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direction on content and emphasis of the progress report</li> <li>• Direction on additional interaction with Agency Secretaries</li> </ul>	
<b>Background:</b>	<p>In the transmittal letter to its December 2008 Recommendations, the Monitoring Council agreed to deliver annual progress reports to the Agency Secretaries.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)</a> between Cal/EPA and Natural Resources includes the following under State Agency Responsibilities, "The Secretaries will meet annually to review the Monitoring Council's progress in integrating and coordinating water quality monitoring programs with state, local, and federal agencies, and with the public to identify additional opportunities for progress."</p> <p>The Monitoring Council is requested to provide direction on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulation of the relationship between the Council and the Secretaries, as requested by the MOU</li> <li>• Additional feedback process that involves the Secretaries in addition to the Monitoring Council's annual report, such as annual briefings</li> </ul>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">2009 Annual Progress Report of the Water Quality Monitoring Council Transmittal Letter</a> to the December 2008 Monitoring Council Recommendations <a href="#">MOU</a> between Cal/EPA and Natural Resources	
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<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>MEETING WRAP-UP</b>	10 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	a) Summarize meeting b) Plan agenda for next Council meeting on December 8, 2010 in Sacramento	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Develop agenda items for December 8 meeting	
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