

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, August 24, 2011 – 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Conference Room 550 – Fifth Floor
 Joe Serna Jr. Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
 1001 I 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, and related meeting and Monitoring Council 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 WebEx. To join the WebEx on-line meeting, click on this link <https://waterboards.webex.com/waterboards/j.php?ED=170139852&UID=0&PW=NZTY1MDg4NGE5&RT=MIMO>, 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 in 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 WebEx meeting. Participation by teleconference only is available by dialing (888) 764-9721 and entering the attendee access code 363 618 0.

For a map to the Cal/EPA Building, visit: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>. For security purposes, all visitors are required to sign in and receive a badge at the Visitor Center off the lobby upon entering the building. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level. Please allow up to 15 minutes for this process. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the State Water Board's Office of Employee Assistance, at (916) 341-5881.

ITEM:	1	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING	10 minutes
Purpose:	1) Introductions 2) Review draft notes from June 15, 2011 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting <i>Note: Agenda Item #5 may need to be moved to accommodate the speaker.</i>	
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve June 2011 Monitoring Council meeting notes b) Preview what will be presented today and overall meeting expectations c) Adjust today's agenda, as needed	
Attachment Links:	Draft notes from June 15, 2011 Council meeting	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-341-5514

ITEM:	2	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	10 minutes
Purpose:	a) Linda Sheehan leaving the Monitoring Council (Sara Aminzadeh)	

	b) State budget update (Karen Larsen, Rich Breuer, Leah Walker)	
Desired Outcome:	Information	
Background:	Linda Sheehan has announced that she will be stepping down from her position as Executive Director of the California Coastkeeper Alliance to start a new environmental nonprofit. At the same time, she plans to relinquish her position on the Monitoring Council.	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	3	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	PROPOSED CALIFORNIA TIDEPOOL PORTAL	60 minutes
Purpose:	Jayson Smith of CSU Fullerton will present a proposed Internet portal on California's rocky intertidal ecosystems developed for the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINE)	
Desired Outcome:	a) Review and comment b) Approval to make the portal live for the public	
Background:	<p>At the September 2009 Monitoring Council meeting, Mary Elaine Helix presented information on the activities of MARINE to monitor California's rocky intertidal ecosystems. The Monitoring Council decided that MARINE's data was the most ready for future portal development of those organizations addressing aquatic ecosystem health. The Council identified the following needed items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question-based assessment framework • Connection to agency decision making and funding • Public focus <p>Terry Fleming attended the annual MARINE meeting in October 2009 to propose a relationship with the Monitoring Council. In early 2010, SWAMP was able to direct \$10,000 to fund portal development, based on the Monitoring Council's guidelines, and a contract was developed with CSU Fullerton, which has worked with MARINE's data for many years. Jon Marshack attended the January 2011 annual MARINE meeting to become more familiar with their programs and to discuss portal development.</p>	
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2009 Monitoring Council meeting notes (see Item #4) • September 2009 MARINE presentation • Monitoring Council's Guidelines for Workgroups and the Development of My Water Quality Theme-Based Internet Portals 	
Contact Person:	Jayson Smith, CSUF	jasmith@exchange.fullerton.edu , (657) 278-4233

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MONITORING EFFECTIVENESS OF WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	60 minutes
Purpose:	Karen Larsen and Leslie Laudon will update the Monitoring Council on efforts to monitor grant project effectiveness and improve data accessibility	
Desired Outcome:	Decision to assign review and development of recommendations on accessibility of grant effectiveness data to the Data Management Workgroup	
Background:	<p>In SB 1070, California Water Code Section 13181(a) states, in part:</p> <p>(6) Among other things, the memorandum of understanding shall describe the means by which the monitoring council shall formulate recommendations to accomplish both of the following:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(B) Ensure that water quality improvement projects financed by the state provide specific information necessary to track project effectiveness with regard to achieving clean water and healthy ecosystems.</p> <p>Water Code Section 13181(e) states, in part:</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251 et seq.) and implementing guidance, the state board shall develop, in coordination with the monitoring council, all of the following:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(4) Methodology for compiling, analyzing, and integrating readily available information, to the maximum extent feasible, including, but not limited to, data acquired from discharge reports, volunteer monitoring groups, local, state, and federal agencies, and recipients of state-funded or federally funded water quality improvement or restoration projects.</p> <p>The MOU between Cal/EPA and the Natural Resources Agency that formed the Monitoring Council included the following task for the two agency secretaries:</p> <p>The Secretaries will establish policies and procedures to ensure that water quality improvement projects, including bond-funded grant projects financed by the state, include the ability to track project effectiveness with respect to specific water quality and ecosystem health.</p> <p>The MOU also included the following task for the Monitoring Council:</p> <p>In an effort to: ... 2) ensure that water quality improvement projects financed by the state provide specific information necessary to track project effectiveness with regard to achieving clean water and healthy ecosystems, the Monitoring Council responsibilities under this MOU include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <p>4. Report, on or before December 1, 2008, to the Secretaries of Cal/EPA and Resources, and the public its recommendations for: ... tracking the effectiveness of water quality improvement projects financed by the state in achieving clean water and healthy ecosystems; and, for ensuring that collected data are maintained and available for use by decision makers and the public. The Monitoring Council shall consult with and consider input from the U.S. EPA in preparing these recommendations.</p> <p>The Monitoring Council' Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy recommendations discuss grant project monitoring (Section 2.2.6 beginning on page 29) and presents the following recommendation (page 46):</p> <p>monitoring of state- and federally-funded water quality and ecosystem</p>	

	<p>improvement projects be coordinated and enhanced to ensure that the effectiveness of such projects is evaluated and that the generated data are available for use in larger-scale assessments. The Monitoring Council will enlist the support and cooperation of granting agencies to evaluate options and implement the necessary changes.</p> <p>There are many grant programs administered by various departments, boards, agencies and conservancies that also fund water quality improvement projects. Statutes establishing these programs often have specific requirements for monitoring and reporting project effectiveness.</p> <p>A number of factors make measuring effectiveness of grant-funded water quality improvement projects difficult. In most cases, direct water quality monitoring cannot be used because the post-project time frame for monitoring is often very short, and the amount of sampling required to statistically demonstrate improvement is cost prohibitive. And individual projects are often too small to result in measureable water quality and/or ecosystem changes.</p> <p>To assist grantees to comply with statutory monitoring and reporting requirements and utilize appropriate performance measures, State Water Board staff developed guidance and provided training. The Water Boards standardized reporting and provided templates to grantees. The Boards make the information available through on-line sources that are publically available including the Division of Financial Assistance's on-line application system Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST), and the Natural Resources Project Inventory (NRPI) database. However, data are not easily accessible or searchable in the current formats. (Information about water quality improvement projects that are part of the Clean Beaches Initiative is displayed in the Monitoring Council's Safe to Swim portal.)</p> <p>Some Water Board-funded projects do include water quality monitoring and efforts are underway to improve data accessibility. The Water Board grant to fund development of the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) specifically addresses coordination of grant project monitoring data. Another grant is funding development of a web-based tool for grantees to upload environmental data to CEDEN and error check the data. In the Non-Point Source program, Water Board staff and USEPA are developing proposals for improving the usefulness of grant project monitoring. For the Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) Grant Program, the Natural Water Quality Committee has developed specific recommendations to assist grantees with effectiveness monitoring of grant projects. Those recommendations are discussed in Section 2.2.6 of the Monitoring Council's Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy.</p> <p>Grants for water quality improvement projects are also managed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Department of Public Health (CDPH) and other Agencies and Conservancies.</p>	
<p>Attachment Links:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 1070 (see Section 13181(a)(6) and (e)(4)) • MOU between Cal/EPA and the Natural Resources Agency (see Sections IV.2. and V.4.) • Monitoring Council' Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy (see Section 2.2.6 beginning on page 29 and Recommendation on page 46) 	
<p>Contact Persons:</p>	<p>Karen Larsen Leslie Laudon</p>	<p>klarsen@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 319-9769 llaudon@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5499</p>

ITEM:	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL (OPC), DRAFT STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN	30 minutes
Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amber Mace, Executive Director of the OPC, will present the draft plan • Monitoring Council comments 	
Desired Outcome:	<p>Agreement to reflect appropriate aspects of the Monitoring Council's Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California in the OPC's plan</p>	
Background:	<p>The Ocean Protection Council is seeking feedback from partners and the public on its draft five-year strategic action plan for ocean and coastal protection for 2012-2017. This draft plan was developed with input from relevant California state agencies and technical experts and will provide overarching vision and direction to advance ecosystem management and protection in California over the next five years. Comments on the plan are due September 12, 2011.</p> <p>The OPC is a cabinet-level body created in 2004 to help ensure that state and local actions are conducted in a manner that is consistent with the protection, conservation, maintenance of healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems and the economy they support. The OPC's overarching role is to coordinate and lead ocean management and protection in California in three primary ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) By addressing cross-cutting ocean issues that do not fall neatly under the purview of one agency; 2) By developing forward-looking policy recommendations to advance new or refine existing laws and regulations; and 3) By coordinating across state institutions whose decisions affect coastal waters and the ocean environment. <p>Among other things, Section 35510 of the California Ocean Protection Act (COPA) provides that a goal of all state actions shall be to improve monitoring and data gathering, and advance scientific understanding, to continually improve efforts to protect, conserve, restore, and manage coastal waters and ocean ecosystems. Section 35515 requires the OPC to carry out the following duties and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate activities of state agencies to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect ocean and coastal resources. • Establish policies to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific data related to ocean and coastal resources. • Identify and recommend to the Legislature changes in state law and policy needed to achieve the goals of COPA. • Recommend to the Governor and the Legislature actions the State should take to encourage needed changes in federal law and policy. <p>One of the OPC's key goals is improving the use of scientific and geospatial information in ocean and coastal resource decision making, as defined by AB 2125 (Ruskin, 2010).</p> <p>There are obvious parallels with the mission of the Monitoring Council pursuant to SB 1070. For this reason, the Monitoring Council's Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California identifies the OPC as the best fit to</p>	

	lead the ocean ecosystem workgroup and portal development effort. Monitoring Council Member Linda Sheehan urged the OPC to embrace the Monitoring Council's vision at their September 2010 meeting. Jon Marshack briefed OPC management and staff in January and April of this year and made a presentation on the Monitoring Council at the March 2011 OPC meeting. The Monitoring Council briefing for Natural Resources Secretary John Laird, also in March of this year, included a request for OPC involvement.	
Attachment Links:	OPC Draft Five-Year Strategic Action Plan for 2012-2017	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	TRACKING PORTAL USAGE	30 minutes
Purpose:	Jon Marshack will present recent information on My Water Quality portal usage	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Background:	At the December 2010 Monitoring Council meeting, Jon Marshack presented limited statistics on portal usage derived using Google Analytics. Mike Connor recommended that portal hit statistics be compared with other websites, such as Heal the Bay, Water Keepers, and Water Boards, to provide a perspective on the success of the portals. He recommended that tracking of portal hits should be expanded to all portal pages. Information on the types of users (e.g. agency) and trends in use would also be helpful. Steve Steinberg indicated that it would be useful to know how many queries were made on each page, to judge use of the tools provided. He also suggested that it be determined how far toward the top the portals appear on Google searches for terms like "California swimming".	
Attachment Links:	My Water Quality portals	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	7	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MEETING WRAP-UP	10 minutes
Purpose:	a) Summarize meeting b) Plan agenda for October 26, 2011 Council meeting – potential items include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Valley Monitoring Directory • Detailed report on Data Management Workgroup and CEDEN development • USEPA Healthy Watersheds Initiative, California pilot proposal • Department of Public Health involvement in Safe to Drink and other workgroup efforts, including encouraging water purveyors to place their Consumer Confidence Reports on the USEPA website 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitoring Council meeting dates for 2012 – <i>bring your calendars!</i>	
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda items for the next meeting	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

August 12, 2011