

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 30, 2011 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 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=174275552&UID=0&PW=NOTA3MDcxNzkz&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 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.

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ITEM:	1	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING	15 minutes
Purpose:	1) Introductions 2) Review draft notes from August 24, 2011 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting	
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve August 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 August 24, 2011 Council meeting	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-341-5514

ITEM:	2	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	90 minutes
Purpose:	a) New Monitoring Council Member representing the Public (Jon Marshack) b) State budget update (Jonathan Bishop, Dale Hoffman-Floerke, Leah Walker)	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Monitoring Council meeting dates for 2012 d) Finalize comments on MARINE's draft rocky intertidal (tide pool) portal and 5-year online report (Jon Marshack) e) Support letter from Monitoring Council to MARINE (Jon Marshack) f) Safe to Drink Workgroup formation (Jon Marshack) g) Annual report to Agency Secretaries (Jon Marshack)
Desired Outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information • Selection of 2012 meeting dates • Direction on annual report to Agency Secretaries including specific requests • Finalize comments on proposed Rocky Intertidal portal • Finalize support letter to MARINE
Background:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In early August, Linda Sheehan stepped down from her position as Executive Director of the California Coastkeeper Alliance to start a new environmental nonprofit. At the same time, she relinquished her position on the Monitoring Council. A vacancy notice was circulated on August 30, eight candidates responded, and three individuals were interviewed by the Monitoring Council Co-Chairs in late October. They recommended to the Agency Secretaries that Sara Aminzadeh of the California Coastkeeper Alliance be appointed to the vacant position. Sara had been Linda Sheehan's Alternate on the Monitoring Council. c) With the current budget situation, implementation of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy has slowed. As a result, a number of Monitoring Council meetings were canceled in 2011. It has been proposed that the Monitoring Council meet once per quarter in 2012 on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, February 29 • Wednesday, May 30 • Wednesday, August 29 • Wednesday, November 28 d) At the August Monitoring Council meeting, Jayson Smith of the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINE) presented a proposed Rocky Intertidal Portal and associated 5-year report (see Item 3 of the August meeting notes). Monitoring Council Members were generally complimentary of what was presented, but want to review the site in more detail before providing specific comments. Monitoring Council Members and Alternates were to review the proposed portal and 5-year report and provide detailed comments to Jayson Smith and Jon Marshack. e) Also at the August meeting (see Item 3 of the August meeting notes), the Monitoring Council agreed to send a letter of support that MARINE could use to encourage support from its partners for funding of future portal maintenance. f) In the October 2010 meeting (see Item 4), the Monitoring Council reviewed a proposed Safe to Drink portal initially focusing on groundwater and based on the Water Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment

	<p>program’s GeoTracker GAMA information system. The Monitoring Council decided that the portal was not ready for public release without providing information on the quality of water at the tap. The proposed portal was developed by the Water Board’s GeoTracker GAMA contractor without input from a formal Monitoring Council workgroup. On August 18, representatives of the State Water Board, Department of Water Resources and Department of Public Health met to begin formation of a new theme-specific workgroup to address the theme “Is our water safe to drink?” with three perspectives: water at the tap, groundwater and surface water.</p> <p>g) In its December 2008 recommendations, the Monitoring Council committed to make annual progress reports to the Agency Secretaries and such reports were delivered in December 2009 and 2010. The Monitoring Council’s theme-specific workgroups and the Data Management Workgroup are being asked to summarize their progress during 2011. That information will be included in the next annual report, to be delivered in December. This presents an opportunity for the Monitoring Council to make specific requests of the Agency Secretaries.</p>	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	3	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	DATA MANAGEMENT	
Purpose:	<p>Reports on the following data management topics (Steve Steinberg):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Activities of the new Data Management Workgroup (Steve Steinberg) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Request by Department of Water Resources include flow/supply data to assist in California Water Plan development and other efforts b) CEDEN development (Steve Steinberg) c) CEDEN grant project summary outcomes, including data types, quality, portal relevance (Karen Larsen) d) Assistance provided to grantees by the Regional Data Centers (Karen Larsen) 	
Desired Outcome:	Information and direction from the Monitoring Council	
Background:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy, the Monitoring Council identified the need for a Data Management Workgroup to address issues of data management, data sharing, web development, and geospatial information that are common to the theme-specific workgroups. The new Data Management Workgroup has met twice. b) The California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) is developing to provide broad access to ambient water quality data for the Water Boards, including water and sediment chemistry, water and sediment toxicity, fish tissue contaminants, and bioassessment data. Map-based data visualizations tools are available through the CEDEN website. CEDEN is envisioned to be a key data source for several of the My Water Quality internet portals. Linkages with other databases have been created or are envisioned. 	

	<p>c) At the August 24 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 4), Leslie Laudon provided information about Water Board requirements to document grant project effectiveness. Karen Larsen provided information about work that is being done to assess the feasibility of moving Water Board grant water quality data into CEDEN. A large bond project is funding the upload of existing/current completed grant project water quality data. As a follow-up to that discussion, the Monitoring Council asked for a summary of CEDEN grant project outcomes, including data types, data quality, and portal relevance.</p> <p>d) The CEDEN network includes four Regional Data Centers at SCCWRP, SFEI, Moss Landing Marine Labs, and Central Valley (Davis). In addition to entering and managing ambient monitoring data, the RDCs provide assistance to outside entities in preparing data for with CEDEN templates for submission, data management, QA, and controlled vocabulary.</p>
Attachment Links:	CEDEN Website (www.ceden.org)
Contact Person:	Steve Steinberg steves@sccwrp.org , (714) 755-3260

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	CENTRAL VALLEY MONITORING DIRECTORY	
Purpose:	<p>a) Provide the background, current status and a short demonstration of the directory (Anne Littlejohn)</p> <p>b) Review potential improvements identified by users and the feasibility of meeting those items (Thomas JabuschAnne Littlejohn/Michael May)</p> <p>c) Discuss how the directory can support the Monitoring Council's goals and the "My Water Quality" format (Thomas Jabusch/All)</p>	
Desired Outcome:	Information and feedback from the Monitoring Council on current directory capabilities, possibilities to implement improvements identified in Feasibility Report, and linkage to Monitoring Council's goals.	
Background:	<p>The Central Valley Monitoring Directory is a web-based tool developed to help improve the coordination and integration of existing and future surface water monitoring efforts. Initiated as a USEPA pilot project in the San Joaquin River Basin in 2007, the directory was updated and expanded to the entire Central Valley under the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's SWAMP effort. The monitoring directory provides access to program details and metadata for current water quality monitoring efforts in the Central Valley (Delta, San Joaquin River, Sacramento River and Tulare Lake Basins).</p> <p>Features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interactive map for searching and viewing of monitoring locations and program information. • Tabbed basin summary tables of programs, agencies, parameters, and sites that interact with the map and are also available to download in Excel format. • Individual program pages that identify the lead agency and partners; provide links to available contacts, monitoring plans, and data products; and summarize program details (objectives, duration, funding) and metadata 	

	<p>(sampling sites, frequency, parameters).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Password-protected domains as a convenient tool for program managers to enter and update monitoring information. <p>The updated version of the Central Valley Monitoring Directory went live in August 2010 and user feedback has since been solicited via an online survey and workshops with a variety of stakeholders. A feasibility report, documenting stakeholder identified constraints as well as costs and time lines to implement improvements, is being developed.</p>	
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Valley Monitoring Directory website: http://www.centralvalleymonitoring.org 	
Contact Person:	Anne Littlejohn	alittlejohn@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 464-4840

ITEM:	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT ECOLOGICAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK	60 minutes
Purpose:	Luisa Squires of the Santa Clara Valley Water District staff will present the District's Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Framework, as demonstrated in the Stream Ecosystem Profile for Coyote Creek Watershed	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment on this integrated approach to evaluating watershed health in support of management decision making	
Background:	Luisa Squires of the Water District's staff made a presentation to the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup on the District's Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Framework and how they have applied it in the Coyote Creek Watershed. The approach is consistent with the "Level 1-2-3 Framework" of Wetland Workgroup's Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Strategy , which was endorsed by the Monitoring Council. The approach links the monitoring data to clear management questions and uses the watershed assessments to inform management and stewardship decisions. The Wetland Monitoring Workgroup wrote a letter of support to Water District management.	
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stream Ecosystem Profile – Coyote Creek Watershed Report • California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup letter of support 	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	USEPA HEALTHY WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE, CALIFORNIA PROJECT	60 minutes
Purpose:	Presentation of a proposal for identification of healthy watersheds in California based on a systematic integration of a number of existing data sets.	
Desired Outcome:	Monitoring Council direction on the proposal	

Background:	In the June meeting of the Monitoring Council (see Item 3), Laura Gabanski of USEPA, Healthy Watershed Initiative, offered to provide USEPA-funded contractor support for Healthy Streams portal development that integrates data types, including those not previously considered. The Monitoring Council asked that a concrete proposal be developed for how to use USEPA Healthy Watershed Initiative contractual support, for consideration at a later meeting.	
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HWI, California Project Proposal • Draft Technical Approach (Cadmus Group) 	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	7	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MEETING WRAP-UP	15 minutes
Purpose:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Summarize meeting 2) Plan agenda for next Monitoring Council meeting – potential items include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ocean Ecosystem Health <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) monitoring ii) Marine Protected Area (MPA) Monitoring Enterprise iii) Plans for new Ocean Health Portal b) Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (BOG) Strategy c) Healthy Streams Portal d) Department of Water Resources grant project effectiveness monitoring e) Monitoring Council goals for 2011 f) Outreach strategy to increase portal usage 	
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda items for the next meeting	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514