

**CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL**  
**Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Wednesday, February 29, 2012 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

Training Room 1 East/West – First 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](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=177904322&UID=0&PW=NOWMyNzNjNzh&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.

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.

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING</b>		15 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	1) Introductions 2) Review draft notes from November 30, 2011 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting		
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	a) Approve <a href="#">November 2011 Monitoring Council meeting notes</a> b) Preview what will be covered today and overall meeting expectations c) Adjust today's agenda, as needed <i>Note: We will need to take up Item 2(f) at 10:00 to accommodate Eric Stein's schedule.</i>		
<b>Attachment Links:</b>	<a href="#">Draft notes from November 30, 2011 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>		90 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	a) Annual report to Agency Secretaries (Jon Marshack)		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) Briefing for Cal/EPA Secretary Rodriguez (Jonathan Bishop, Leah Walker, Sara Aminzadeh, Jon Marshack)</li> <li>c) Support letter from Monitoring Council to MARINe (Jon Marshack)</li> <li>d) State and federal budget update (Jonathan Bishop, Karen Larsen, Dale Hoffman-Floerke, Leah Walker)</li> <li>e) San Joaquin River Monitoring Forum (Parry Klassen, Karen Larsen)</li> <li>f) Wetland Monitoring Workgroup’s planned Training Workshop on Implementation of the State Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Program (WRAMP) (Eric Stein)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Desired Outcome:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and feedback</li> <li>• Finalize support letter to MARINe</li> </ul>
<p><b>Background:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) In its <a href="#">December 2008 recommendations</a>, the Monitoring Council committed to make annual progress reports to the Agency Secretaries and such reports were delivered in December <a href="#">2009</a> and <a href="#">2010</a>. The <a href="#">2011 annual report</a> included a cover letter that presented specific requests of the Agency Secretaries, a summary of 2011 progress by the Monitoring Council and its workgroups, and the text of a proposed letter to be sent by the Secretaries to the Directors of their boards, commissions, conservancies, departments, and offices. To provide their input into the annual report, number of the Monitoring Council’s workgroups produced their own progress summaries (see links below).</li> <li>b) On February 6 as a follow up to the <a href="#">2011 annual report</a>, Monitoring Council Members, Alternates, and the Coordinator briefed California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Matthew Rodriguez on <a href="#">SB 1070</a>, the Monitoring Council and its <a href="#">Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy</a>, <a href="#">workgroups</a> and <a href="#">My Water Quality web portals</a>. Specific requests for action by Secretary Rodriguez were also discussed.</li> <li>c) At the August Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 3 of the <a href="#">August 2011 meeting notes</a>), the Monitoring Council agreed to send a letter of support that Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) could use to encourage support from its partners for funding of future portal maintenance. A <a href="#">draft letter</a> has been prepared for Monitoring Council review and approval.</li> <li>e) On February 14, a number of stakeholders involved in San Joaquin River monitoring met in Modesto to discuss forming a regional monitoring program, identifying common needs, goals, and assessment questions. The purposes of the meeting were to showcase water monitoring and assessment on the San Joaquin River and to gain input on the document, <a href="#">“Strawman Proposal for a San Joaquin River Regional Monitoring Program.”</a></li> <li>f) In February 2010, the Monitoring Council approved in concept the <a href="#">Tenets of a State Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Program (WRAMP)</a> prepared by the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup (CWMW). The goal of WRAMP is to track trends in wetland extent and condition in order to assess the performance of wetland, stream, and riparian protection policies, programs, and projects. The primary strategy is to implement standardized assessment methods and data management through all of the State’s wetland, stream, and riparian monitoring efforts in ways that improve them while minimizing new costs and maximizing public access to assessment information. Several programs across California have begun implementing</li> </ul>

	<p>various aspects of WRAMP. These early adopters provide case studies of how WRAMP tools and approaches for wetland monitoring and assessment are being used to support wetland regulatory and management decisions. A planned training workshop will provide a forum for sharing experiences and lessons learned regarding implementation of the tools of WRAMP. The goal is to broaden the network of partners familiar with WRAMP tools and to build capacity among water board staff and other practitioners for continued implementation of these tools. USEPA has committed to fund the workshop.</p>	
<p><b>Attachment Links</b></p>	<p>a) <a href="#">2011 Annual Progress Report of the Water Quality Monitoring Council</a></p> <p>    i) <a href="#">California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup 2011 Progress Report</a></p> <p>    ii) <a href="#">"Safe to Swim" Workgroup 2011 Progress Report</a></p> <p>    iii) <a href="#">Bioaccumulation Oversight Group 2011 Progress Report</a></p> <p>    iv) <a href="#">California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup 2011 Progress Report</a></p> <p>    v) <a href="#">Update on the Data Management Workgroup</a> – presentation by Steve Steinberg at the November 2011 Monitoring Council Meeting</p> <p>    vi) <a href="#">California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network 2011 Progress Report</a></p> <p>c) <a href="#">Draft Letter of support for the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network</a></p> <p>d) <a href="#">Strawman Proposal for a San Joaquin River Regional Monitoring Program</a></p>	
<p><b>Contact Person:</b></p>	<p>Jon Marshack</p>	<p><a href="mailto:jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a>, (916) 341-5514</p>

<p><b>ITEM:</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Approx. Time:</b></p>
<p><b>Title of Topic:</b></p>	<p><b>HEALTHY STREAMS PORTAL</b></p>	
<p><b>Purpose:</b></p>	<p>Review proposed Stream and River Ecosystem Health Portal (Jon Marshack and Meredith Williams)</p>	
<p><b>Desired Outcome:</b></p>	<p>Approval to release new portal to the public</p>	
<p><b>Background:</b></p>	<p>In December 2009, the Monitoring Council asked SWAMP to develop a mockup of a stream ecosystem health portal based on SWAMP's statewide monitoring programs. In June, 2010, a <a href="#">mockup of a Healthy Streams Portal</a> was presented for review and comment and the Monitoring Council decided that the Healthy Streams Partnership of SWAMP should proceed with developing the portal. That mockup was intended to show the kinds of information that would eventually be able to be presented, reflecting a multiple-indicator perspective. The Aquatic Science Center was awarded a contract by the State Water Board to develop the initial working portal.</p> <p>The workgroup met in December, 2010 and January and March of 2011 and decided to focus the initial portal release on the three statewide SWAMP monitoring and assessment efforts. At the <a href="#">Monitoring Council's June 2011 meeting</a> (see Item 4 on page 7), members of the Healthy Streams Partnership presented information on the three statewide monitoring and assessment efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Perennial Streams Assessment (PSA)</a></li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Statewide Toxicity</a> (see slides 1 to 17)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Stream Pollution Trends (SPoT)</a> (see slides 18 and 19)</li> </ul> <p>A <a href="#">revised portal mockup</a> was also presented by the Aquatic Science Center. The Monitoring Council approved creation of the portal, based on the mockup and feedback given at the meeting, but asked that a working draft be brought back to the Monitoring Council for review prior to public release.</p> <p>The draft working portal presents (1) attributes that affect stream health, (2) the extent of stream and river resources, (3) stream health as measured by the indicators of bioassessment and water and sediment toxicity, and (4) a summary of programs to improve stream health. The portal includes a unique navigation system tied to a stream health attributes diagram, designed to inform the public and decision makers about this complex topic.</p> <p>Additional indicators – including water chemistry, sediment chemistry, physical habitat, and algae – will be addressed in future portal enhancements. Integration of multiple indicators into an overall score of stream health will be added through the California project of the USEPA’s Healthy Watersheds Initiative, which is the subject of the next agenda item.</p>				
<b>Attachment Links:</b>	<i>Note: Link and login instructions will be sent prior to the meeting</i>				
<b>Contact Persons:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="418 892 738 955">Meredith Williams</td> <td data-bbox="738 892 1494 955"><a href="mailto:meredith@sfei.org">meredith@sfei.org</a>, (510) 746-7396</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="418 955 738 1005">Jon Marshack</td> <td data-bbox="738 955 1494 1005"><a href="mailto:jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a>, (916) 341-5514</td> </tr> </table>	Meredith Williams	<a href="mailto:meredith@sfei.org">meredith@sfei.org</a> , (510) 746-7396	Jon Marshack	<a href="mailto:jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a> , (916) 341-5514
Meredith Williams	<a href="mailto:meredith@sfei.org">meredith@sfei.org</a> , (510) 746-7396				
Jon Marshack	<a href="mailto:jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a> , (916) 341-5514				

<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
On your own – cafeteria on first floor; restaurants on J, K, L, 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Streets	60 minutes

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>USEPA HEALTHY WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE, CALIFORNIA PROJECT</b>	60 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Presentation of a draft summary of proposed indicators for use in the California Healthy Watersheds integrated assessment (Laura Blake and Corey Godfrey of Cadmus Group)	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Monitoring Council direction	
<b>Background:</b>	<p>In the <a href="#">June 2011 meeting of the Monitoring Council</a> (see Item 3), Laura Gabanski of USEPA, Healthy Watershed Initiative, offered to provide USEPA-funded contractor support for Healthy Streams portal development that identifies healthy watersheds in California based on a systematic integration of a number of existing data sets. 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.</p> <p>At the <a href="#">November 2011 Monitoring Council meeting</a> (see Item 6 on page 9), the Council discussed a <a href="#">Draft Technical Approach</a> developed by USEPA’s contractor, Cadmus Group, for identification of healthy watersheds in California based on a systematic integration of a number of existing data sets. The Council</p>	

	could not evaluate whether the results of this project would be a useful addition to the Healthy Streams Portal, based on this document and asked that an update on the project be presented at the next Monitoring Council meeting.	
<b>Attachment Links:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Draft Summary of Proposed Indicators</a> (Cadmus Group)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Revised Project Schedule</a> (Cadmus Group)</li> </ul>	
<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>5</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM (RMP)</b>	60 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	San Francisco Estuary Institute Executive Director Rainer Hoenicke will present an overview of this successful collaborative monitoring program	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Gain insight into successful collaborative monitoring programs	
<b>Background:</b>	<p>At the November 2011 meeting, the Monitoring Council requested presentations at future meetings by successful coordinated monitoring programs to explore a number of questions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What caused the coordination to occur?</li> <li>• Why has it been successful?</li> <li>• Has the coordination resulted in tools that would benefit coordination efforts by others?</li> <li>• Would a tool like the <a href="#">Central Valley Monitoring Directory</a> have been helpful in getting the coordination going?</li> <li>• How are the data being managed and made available?</li> </ul> <p>The goal will be to determine whether lessons learned can be transferred to aid other collaborative monitoring efforts, such as the Delta RMP and the San Joaquin River RMP.</p> <p>This is the first of several such presentations. Future presentations will include the San Gabriel River Regional Monitoring Program, the Los Angeles River Watershed Monitoring Program, and the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition in Southern California.</p>	
<b>Attachment Links:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">SF Bay Regional Monitoring Program website</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2011 Pulse of the Estuary: Pollutant Effects on Aquatic Life</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Contaminant Data Display &amp; Download</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Rainer Hoenicke	<a href="mailto:rainer@sfei.org">rainer@sfei.org</a> , (510) 746-7381

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>MONITORING COUNCIL'S GOALS</b>	60 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Plan actions and initiatives for the year and beyond	

<p><b>Desired Outcome:</b></p>	<p>Develop and prioritize list of actions for workgroup formation, portal development, outreach, and collaboration</p>
<p><b>Background:</b></p>	<p>In the August 2011 meeting, the Monitoring Council requested an agenda item early in the new year to discuss the Council's goals. Are we meeting the goals set forth in <a href="#">SB 1070</a> and the <a href="#">MOU</a> that established the Monitoring Council? Are we properly focusing our efforts, as outlined in the <a href="#">2008 Initial Recommendations Report</a> to the Agency Secretaries and the <a href="#">2010 Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy</a>?</p> <p><b>Theme-specific Workgroups</b> have been formed to address the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it safe to swim in our waters?</li> <li>• Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?</li> <li>• Are our wetland ecosystems healthy?</li> <li>• Are our stream and river ecosystems healthy?</li> <li>• Are our estuaries healthy?</li> </ul> <p>Additional workgroups are being formed to address the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is our water safe to drink?</li> <li>• Are our ocean ecosystems healthy?</li> </ul> <p>A <b>Data Management Workgroup</b> has been formed to address issues of data sharing, data management, web development, and GIS that are common to all of the theme-specific workgroups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data silos at each agency and organization need to be broken down to increase access to and sharing of water quality and ecosystem health data and assessment information.</li> <li>• A standardized base map of California's water resources is needed to enhance the ability of agencies and organizations to share water quality and ecosystem information.</li> </ul> <p><b>My Water Quality Portals</b> have been published for Safe to Swim, Safe to Eat, and Wetlands. A proposed Healthy Streams portal was presented today. Additional portals are envisioned for Estuaries, Ocean Health, and Safe to Drink.</p> <p>An additional "stressors and processes" theme was envisioned in the Monitoring Council's strategy document. How should this theme be addressed? Do we need separate workgroups and portals to address harmful algal blooms, trash/marine debris, global warming, and other such topics?</p> <p><b>Publicity &amp; Outreach</b> are needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness and usage of <i>My Water Quality</i> portals</li> <li>• Gain new partners for the Monitoring Council's workgroup an portal development efforts</li> </ul> <p>This discussion is likely to require more time than will be available at this meeting. Continuation of this item to future meetings is likely.</p>
<p><b>Attachment Links:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">CA Senate Bill 1070</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2008 Initial Recommendations Report</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California, 2010</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Matrix of Monitoring Council Workgroups and Portals</a></li> </ul>	
<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>7</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>MEETING WRAP-UP</b>	15 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Summarize meeting</li> <li>2) Plan agenda for May 30, 2012 Monitoring Council meeting at SCCWRP – potential items include:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Bioaccumulation Oversight Group Strategy (Jay Davis)</li> <li>b) 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Report on Bioaccumulated Contaminants in Coastal Sport Fish (Jay Davis)</li> <li>c) Successful Collaborative Monitoring Programs                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) San Gabriel River Regional Monitoring Program</li> <li>ii) Los Angeles River Watershed Monitoring Program</li> <li>iii) Stormwater Monitoring Coalition in Southern California</li> </ol> </li> <li>d) Ocean Ecosystem Health                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) monitoring (Ken Schiff)</li> <li>ii) Marine Protected Area (MPA) Monitoring Enterprise (Liz Whiteman)</li> <li>iii) Plans for new Ocean Ecosystem Workgroup and Ocean Health Portal</li> </ol> </li> <li>e) Department of Water Resources grant project effectiveness monitoring (Laura McLean)</li> <li>f) Outreach strategy and publicity to increase portal usage</li> <li>g) Safe to Drink workgroup and portal development proposal</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Develop agenda items for the next meeting	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Jon Marshack	<a href="mailto:jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a> , (916) 341-5514