



Increasing Efficiency and Effectiveness through Collaboration

First Triennial Audit
of Implementing
*A Comprehensive
Monitoring Program
Strategy for California*

Outline of the Audit Report

- 💧 The Water Quality Information Problem
- 💧 Legislative Response
- 💧 The Monitoring Council's Solution
- 💧 Triennial Audit

Intro

Outline of the Audit Report

- What Are Our Goals?
What Have We Achieved
Toward Each Goal?
 - Collaboration
 - Access to Information
 - Projects Track Effectiveness
- What Are Our Challenges?
- Where Do We Go From Here?
- Recommendations



What Are Our Goals?

What Have We Achieved?



💧 Collaboration

- 💧 Formed: Six theme-specific workgroups, Monitoring Collaboration Network, Data Management Workgroup

- 💧 Email subscriptions demonstrate broad interest

- 💧 Developed consistent monitoring, assessment, reporting, and data management tools

- 💧 Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan

- 💧 Rapid wetland assessment method (CRAM)

- 💧 CEDEN, EcoAtlas, Estuary Workgroup tools

- 💧 SWAMP tools – protocols, QA, data documentation

What Are Our Goals? What Have We Achieved?



- 💧 Access to information
 - 💧 Public release of six question-based, easy to use My Water Quality portals (see App. III)
 - 💧 First comprehensive statewide survey of contaminants in sport fish from CA waters
 - 💧 First statewide advisory on eating fish from lakes and reservoirs
 - 💧 Wetland Workgroup assisting State Water Board to develop wetland policy
 - 💧 First statewide integrated multi-metric assessment of watershed health

What Are Our Goals? What Have We Achieved?



- 💧 Projects Track Effectiveness
 - 💧 Monitoring Council has yet to develop specific recommendations
 - 💧 Hope to begin addressing in near future

What Are Our Challenges?



- 💧 Lack of dedicated funding for the program
- 💧 Lack of formal support from Agency Secretaries and departmental managers

Where Do We Go From Here?



- 💧 Increase outreach to agency/program managers to build support
- 💧 Identify existing mandates that could be addressed more effectively through workgroups and portals
- 💧 Develop business plans
- 💧 Develop recommendations for data sharing
- 💧 Increase involvement in the National Water Quality Monitoring Council

Summary

- 💧 Monitoring Council has made amazing progress given
 - 💧 No dedicated funding
 - 💧 Largely voluntary efforts
- 💧 Without management support and dedicated funding, current efforts are not sustainable (see App. II)
- 💧 Success depends on blending workgroup and portal efforts into agency operations



Recommendations



1. Council workgroups develop business plans to ensure sustainability
 - 💧 Identify key actions, needed funding & sources
 - 💧 Identify existing mandates that can be better satisfied through collaborative workgroup process, tools and portals
2. Data Management Workgroup
 - 💧 Develop data formats and transfer protocols to ensure data can be effectively shared

Recommendations



3. Increase outreach to department and program managers using mandate information from Recommendation #1
 - 💧 Allow staff to participate in workgroups
 - 💧 Use workgroup tools in their programs
 - 💧 Use portals to provide access to their data
 - 💧 Add web services to make data accessible

Recommendations



4. Revisit MOU with Agency Secretaries to agree on roles and responsibilities of all parties
5. Develop proposed legislation to advance Monitoring Council's Strategy

Appendices

- I. Monitoring Council's Workgroup Self-Evaluations
 - 💧 Summary table of performance measures and benchmarks
 - 💧 Individual self-audit reports
- II. Is the Strategy Sustainable?
- III. Statistics on Use of the My Water Quality Website and the Theme-Specific Web Portals