

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Friday, August 18, 2017 – 10:00 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 California Natural Resources Agency.

Handouts, presentations, notes, and related Monitoring Council meeting 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 GoToMeeting. To join the on-line meeting, click on this link <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/982374421>. Please log in a few minutes before the meeting starts to allow GoToMeeting to set up the meeting connection software on your computer (as needed). Audio connection is via teleconference, by calling 1-669-224-3412 with Access Code 982-374-421. Existing audio equipment in our meeting room may limit the quality of the connection.

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

ITEM:	1		Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING		10 minutes
Purpose:	1) Introductions (in the room and on the phone) 2) Review draft notes from May 23, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting		
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve May 23, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting notes b) Preview what will be covered today and overall meeting expectations c) Adjust today's agenda, as needed		
Attachment Links:	Draft notes from May 23, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting		
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756	

ITEM:	2		Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	PUBLIC FORUM		10 minutes
Purpose:	Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Monitoring Council relating to any matter within the Council's jurisdiction under California Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006) provided the matter is not on the agenda.		
Desired Outcome:	Information and potential agenda topics for a future meeting. No decisions can be made regarding items that have not received prior public notice.		

Attachment Link:	California Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006)	
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756

ITEM:	3	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	30 minutes
Purpose:	<p>These are expected to be brief informational items that could be expanded into more detailed discussions at future meetings:</p> <p>a) Monitoring Council Position Changes (Kris Jones)</p> <p>b) AB 1755, Open and Transparent Water Data Act (Chris McCready)</p> <p>c) Data Management Workgroup and its Steering Committee (Tony Hale)</p>	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Background:	<p>a) Monitoring Council Position Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public – Sara Aminzadeh resigned from the Monitoring Council in late January 2016. Sara’s alternate, Travis Pritchard, continued to serve until he left the San Diego Coastkeeper organization. An announcement for this Council Member vacancy was widely circulated in November and fifteen candidates applied. Based on criteria outlined in the Council’s Governance document, candidates were vetted with a number of environmental organizations and the field of candidates was narrowed to three. Interviews were conducted in early March, and Ray Hiemstra of the Orange County Coastkeeper was recommended by Monitoring Council Co-Chair Karen Larsen for approval by the Secretaries of CalEPA and the Natural Resources Agency. • Citizen Monitoring Groups – On June 1, 2017, Beth Christman named Helen Fitanides (The Watershed Project) as her alternate on the Monitoring Council representing Citizen Monitoring Groups. <p>b) AB 1755, Open and Transparent Water Data Act – In September 2016, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755) was signed into law, requiring the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in consultation with the Monitoring Council, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to create, operate, and maintain a statewide integrated water data platform; to develop protocols for data sharing, documentation, quality control, public access; to facilitate the use of decision support tools related to water data; and to submit a report to the Legislature on these activities. DWR seeks to work with the Monitoring Council, its other partners, and interested stakeholders to meet statutory requirements of AB 1755. DWR is gathering information in the form of data-driven-decision “use cases” through a series of workshops to inform the technical and functional requirements of the data platform and protocols required by the legislation. The Monitoring Council’s Data Management Steering Committee has instructed the Data Management Workgroup to begin developing relevant information to assist DWR in its efforts relating to AB 1755 implementation.</p> <p>c) Data Management Workgroup and its Steering Committee – The DMWG's Steering Committee was authorized by the Water Quality Monitoring Council in February 2016 with the mission of optimizing the</p>	

	<p>coordinating work of the DMWG and ensuring that its activities were well resourced. Soon after the first meeting of the Steering Committee, which enjoyed broad representation from all of the named consultative organizations that would be named in the legislation, AB 1755 was signed into law by the governor, thereby focusing the immediate goals of the Steering Committee around the coordination of required discussions and challenging issues. Since then, the Steering Committee has sought to contribute to the successful implementation of the legislation as much as possible, and to look beyond the deliverables to related matters that must be tackled just beyond the horizon.</p>	
Attachment Links:	<p>a) Letter to Agency Secretaries recommending Ray Hiemstra to fill the vacant Public Member position on the Monitoring Council</p> <p>b) AB 1755, The Open and Transparent Water Data Act, chaptered September 23, 2016</p>	
Contact Persons:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ECOATLAS BUSINESS PLAN	70 minutes
Purpose:	Tony Hale of the San Francisco Estuary Institute will present on the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup's (CWMW) draft EcoAtlas Business Plan.	
Desired Outcome:	Provide input on the direction of the Business Plan, identify funding avenues not yet considered, and endorse the concept of a multi-agency steering committee for EcoAtlas.	
Background:	<p>EcoAtlas is the toolset of the Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan (WRAMP) developed by CWMW for monitoring wetlands, streams, and other surface waters. The toolset includes the CA Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM), Project Tracker, and the CA Aquatic Resources Inventory (CARI), among others. The toolset is currently being used by a broad set of regulatory and non-regulatory agencies in CA, including the State and Regional Waterboards, the Coastal Conservancy, the Delta Conservancy, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, USEPA, and USACE.</p> <p>To date, funding for the development and maintenance of these tools has been achieved through grants and project-specific funding. Recognizing the instability of this funding stream, the Monitoring Council asked CWMW to develop a business plan for the EcoAtlas toolset. CWMW has spent the last couple of years researching funding options and developing a draft plan, which we now bring to the Council for input.</p>	
Attachment Link:	EcoAtlas Toolset Business Plan (Executive Summary)	
Contact Person:	Tony Hale	tonyh@sfei.org , (510) 746-7381

LUNCH		Approx. Time:
Lunch will be provided by SCCWRP. A donation of \$10 is requested to cover costs.		60 minutes

ITEM:	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MONITORING COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW WORKGROUP	60 minutes
Purpose:	Eric Stein of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project will lead a follow up discussion from the last Council meeting on efforts to develop a framework for establishing statewide environmental instream flow recommendations and an open data portal to be coordinated through a new proposed Environmental Flows Workgroup.	
Desired Outcome:	<p>Discussion between the speaker and Monitoring Council members to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify whether environmental flows fall within the scope of the Monitoring Council • Seek approval to establish a new Monitoring Council workgroup focused on improved coordination and collaboration among efforts relating to environmental instream flows, as well as sharing of relevant data through use of the State Open Data Portal and the Council's My Water Quality website. 	
Background:	<p>Managing environmental instream flows in a state as diverse as California requires interdisciplinary and multifaceted technical approaches that are both scientifically rigorous and flexible enough to address the broad range of needs across the state. Currently, numerous state agencies and programs are engaged in developing environmental flow recommendations with little coordination or data sharing. A team of technical experts representing academia, agencies, and non-governmental organizations has begun working on a tiered framework for establishing statewide environmental instream flows. The framework recognizes that a single approach to managing environmental instream flows is not practical considering this complexity and variability of water management needs in California. The tiered framework is organized around a statewide stream classification based on dominant hydrologic processes. Screening level flow targets are developed for each stream class based on similarity of functional flow elements to unaltered conditions for that stream class. More detailed watershed-specific flow recommendations can be derived based on methods and flow metrics that account for location specific physical and biological considerations, local management needs and constraints. The framework is intended to provide a way to facilitate coordination and information sharing on development and implementation of environmental instream flows across agencies and programs in California. The proposed environmental flows workgroup would facilitate coordination among agencies in developing details of the implementation framework. An environmental flow portal would provide a way to improve data and information sharing among the participating agencies.</p> <p>At the Monitoring Council meeting on May 23, Eric Stein of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project gave a presentation regarding the development of a tiered framework for establishing environmental flows in California streams (see notes; Item 4), and the possibility of creating a new workgroup under the Monitoring Council. During the meeting, the Council members requested that Eric return with additional details regarding the proposed workgroup, including: 1) who would be involved in an Environmental Flows Workgroup; 2) the workgroup's objectives (e.g., what would they work</p>	

	towards and produce); and 3) the needs of the agencies the workgroup would address and support. As a part of this discussion, the Monitoring Council members wanted to also discuss more broadly whether environmental flows fall within the scope of the Monitoring Council.	
Attachment Links:	Draft notes from May 23, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 4)	
Contact Person:	Eric Stein	eric@sccwrp.org , (714) 755-3233

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	LESSONS LEARNED FROM USE OF THE MONITORING COUNCIL'S PORTALS AND MYWATERQUALITY.CA.GOV	40 minutes
Purpose:	Greg Gearheart will present an update regarding the public use of the My Water Quality website and portals, and will lead a discussion regarding lessons learned and potential next steps.	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Background:	<p>Between July 2009 and August 2017, the Monitoring Council and its theme-specific workgroups have released seven internet portals to present water quality and associated ecosystem data and assessment information to decision makers and the public. All seven portals are available through a single point of entry, the My Water Quality website (www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov). Statistics on public use of the My Water Quality website and each of the portals were presented in the Council's first Triennial Audit report (Appendix III).</p> <p>Since the Triennial Audit, the Council's website and portals have undergone updates, which were intended to increase their use and functionality. These updates were presented at the June 2016 Monitoring Council meeting (see notes; Item 3). Because My Water Quality has its own web domain and because all portions of My Water Quality are interconnected and share navigation, the State Water Board's Web Unit decided that the most efficient way to implement the template change was to migrate the entire My Water Quality website and all of the portals to the new template. During Spring 2016, the State Water Board's web developers migrated every page to the new template, adjusted page content, and implemented a new navigation system. The updated My Water Quality has a number of beneficial features, as compared with the earlier version:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced clutter and improved readability; • Enlarged content area on each page; • Automatic adjustment of page content when viewed on tablets and smartphones; • Improved drop-down menu navigation for easy access to each of the portals and to pages within each portal, workgroup web pages, and Monitoring Council information; • Portal-specific formatting, including customized banners and menus; and • Image carousel for the My Water Quality home page and, potentially for the home page of each portal, to highlight new content and announcements. <p>Since these updates were made in Spring 2016, no efforts have been made to review the public use of the My Water Quality website and portals—or to</p>	

	evaluate whether these updates were effective in increasing portal usage.	
Attachment Links:	Notes from June 1, 2016 Monitoring Council Meeting (see item 3) Increasing Efficiency and Effectiveness Through Collaboration: First Triennial Audit Report (see Appendix III)	
Contact Person:	Greg Gearheart	greg.gearheart@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5892

ITEM:	7	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	PLANNING THE MONITORING COUNCIL'S FUTURE	70 minutes
Purpose:	Kris Jones will lead a discussion regarding the Monitoring Council's future direction, drawing from feedback received during May 23 rd Council meeting and recommendations received during the Council Subcommittee meeting on July 14.	
Desired Outcome:	Provide direction to Council staff and fellow Council Members as to potential adjustments in approach and initiatives to enhance the Council's success.	
Background:	<p>During the May 23, 2017, the Monitoring Council heard a presentation by Jon Marshack regarding the Council's accomplishments thus far and potential options for the Council's moving forward. Following Jon's presentation, Council members and guests had an open discussion regarding the Council's future direction (see notes; Item 5). During the meeting, a subcommittee was formed to evaluate the comments received and to develop recommendations for the full Council's consideration.</p> <p>The subcommittee suggested that the Monitoring Council should review and update its strategy and hire a facilitator to help with this effort (see Subcommittee notes; Items 2 and 3). As it revisits its strategy, the subcommittee recommended that the Council should consider who it serves (e.g., the public or agency decision makers), and felt that the strategy should emphasize the Council's role in supporting emerging issues (e.g., harmful algal blooms). The subcommittee also recommended that the Council should discuss and address how to modify its membership, to better engage key organizations within the Natural Resources Agency and CalEPA as well as their respective Agency Secretaries.</p>	
Attachment Link:	Notes from July 14, 2017 Council Subcommittee meeting Notes from May 23, 2017 Monitoring Council Meeting (see Item 5) Planning the Monitoring Council's Future – presentation by Jon Marshack	
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756

ITEM:	8	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	NEXT MEETING AGENDA	10 minutes
Purpose:	Plan agenda for November 28, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting in Sacramento. Potential items include:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continued Monitoring Council strategic planning b) Estuary portal enhancements – living resources and D-1641 water quality report (Estuary Monitoring Workgroup) c) STORMs Monitoring Coordination Framework (Matthew Freese) d) Interagency Ecological Program governance model – fostering ad hoc teams for specific tasks (Greg Erickson and Sakura Evans of CDFW) e) Data management, quality, sharing, and visualization – related to AB 1755, initiatives of the Council’s Data Management Steering Committed and Workgroup, the State Water Board and other departments and organizations, SWAMP (Greg Gearheart, Tony Hale, Melissa Morris, others) f) State stewardship for the National Hydrography Dataset by the Department of Water Resources (Greg Smith, DWR) g) Possibility of holding a Monitoring Council annual conference 	
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda ideas for the November 28, 2017 meeting.	
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756

ADJOURN

August 8, 2016