



California Water Quality Monitoring Council



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February 13, 2018

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Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon
Melissa Scianni
Co-Chairs of the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup

RE: ENDORSEMENT OF THE ECOATLAS BUSINESS PLAN

Dear Ms. Azimi-Gaylon, Ms. Scianni, and Dr. Collins,

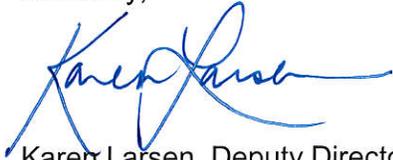
On behalf of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Monitoring Council), please accept our endorsement of the EcoAtlas Business Plan as developed by the California Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup (CWMW). On Aug 18 and Nov 28, 2017, Dr. Tony Hale presented the plan to the Monitoring Council as a representative of the CWMW. In the course of the two presentations, the Monitoring Council determined that the Business Plan's objectives and approach to achieving them, as described in the document, are consistent with the goals of the Monitoring Council. Such a guiding document offers a potentially productive vehicle to sustain funding for EcoAtlas, which has proven utility across multiple state programs.

This Business Plan is a response to the Monitoring Council's [Triennial Audit Report](#), distributed in December 2014, which, among other items, commits the Monitoring Council and its workgroups to provide the legislature and agency Secretaries with the details of what is needed, in the form of workgroup business plans. According to the audit report, these business plans must outline specific needs (staff positions, budgets, etc.) and highlight existing departmental mandates that can be addressed more effectively through the Monitoring Council's collaborative workgroup processes, tools, and the My Water Quality web portals. The overall purpose of these business plans is to identify the resources needed by the workgroups and their member agencies to achieve the goals of the Monitoring Council now and into the future.

The CWMW's plan essentially meets and exceeds the demands of the Triennial Report by providing ample background on the scientific underpinnings of the EcoAtlas Toolset, its current uses, and a durable roadmap towards its continued

vitality. It clearly indicates the way forward for sustained development, and operation and maintenance. The Monitoring Council finds that, among the alternative funding models presented, the hybrid model is preferred because it diversifies the funding portfolio, while adapting EcoAtlas to consumer demands. As the CWMW continues its implementation plan, the Monitoring Council encourages this thoughtful approach to ensure multi-agency collaboration and information sharing consistent with the Monitoring Council's mission.

Sincerely,



Karen Larsen, Deputy Director
State Water Resources Control Board
Monitoring Council Co-Chair
Representing Cal/EPA



Taryn Ravazzini, Deputy Director
Department of Water Resources
Monitoring Council Co-Chair
Representing the Natural Resources Agency

cc: Members of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council