



# California Water Quality Monitoring Council



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Mr. Kamyar Guivetchi, P.E.  
Division Chief, Statewide Integrated Water Management  
California Department of Water Resources  
901 P Street, Room 202  
Sacramento, CA, 95814

**RE: PROGRESS REPORT FOR IMPLEMENTING ASSEMBLY BILL 1755,  
THE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT WATER DATA ACT**

Dear Mr. Guivetchi,

On behalf of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Monitoring Council), please accept the following comments on the Progress Report for Implementing Assembly Bill 1755, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755). The Monitoring Council was established by Senate Bill 1070 (Kehoe, 2006) to integrate and coordinate water quality and related ecosystem monitoring, assessment, and reporting across the state (hereafter SB 1070). Since its inception the Monitoring Council has developed specific recommendations to improve the coordination and cost-effectiveness of water quality and ecosystem monitoring and assessment, enhanced the integration of monitoring data across state departments and agencies through its interagency workgroups, and increased public accessibility to monitoring data and assessment information through its theme-specific portals.

The Monitoring Council sees a significant nexus with the goals of AB 1755 to provide and maintain a statewide integrated data platform to provide data that is sufficient, accessible, useful, and used. AB 1755 names the Monitoring Council as a partner, however, the Monitoring Council is not a data provider. As such, it is unclear how the Monitoring Council, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and other partner agencies should specifically coordinate around any potential areas of legislative overlap during the development of the AB 1755 program. Therefore, the Monitoring Council recommends including a more in-depth discussion regarding opportunities for coordination between SB 1070 and AB 1755 in the AB 1755 strategy and governance documents and plans on providing a similar description in its own Comprehensive Strategy.

The Monitoring Council appreciates the opportunity to participate in the AB 1755 Partner Agency Team and to provide feedback during the development of the AB 1755 documents. Currently, the AB1755 documents being released with this Progress Report lack discussion of the roles of the two legislative efforts. The Monitoring Council believes this stage in the program development offers an

opportunity to eliminate any potential redundancies and allows the Partner Agency Team to clarify how the two efforts can be better aligned to achieve the respective goals of the implementing legislation.

The Monitoring Council and its workgroups have expertise in coordinating the monitoring, collection, and reporting of data across state agencies and then turning that data in to useful information using data visualizations and tools to answer specific regulatory management questions. For example, the Monitoring Council's Data Management Workgroup is tasked with providing data management guidance to the Council's theme-specific workgroups to ensure the data gathered across disparate systems is presented in a standardized and usable format. This specific expertise was identified and has been utilized for developing the data protocols provided in the AB 1755 Strategic Plan. The AB 1755 group offers expertise in providing access to data through the development of a federated platform. The Monitoring Council is hoping to leverage this data accessibility to allow greater focus on other aspects of its charge. The Monitoring Council is also experienced in identifying and coordinating what the AB 1755 documentation refers to as use-cases through its theme-specific workgroups. This expertise should be leveraged, where possible, by the AB 1755 effort to help establish quick wins for their federated data platform and to ensure continued momentum and stakeholder participation. This type of coordination improves overall efficiencies and adds value, and should be memorialized within the AB 1755 Strategic Plan and implementation documentation. These are just a few examples of how the implementation of SB 1070 and AB 1755 overlap and mutually benefit the state.

It is important to the Monitoring Council that a clear description of the overlap in legislative efforts be provided in AB 1755 program materials, along with a detailed description of how the two efforts should coordinate and collaborate to maximize their contribution to the state. Please see Figure 1 for a visualization of how the Monitoring Council and the AB 1755 efforts can be coordinated to complete most of the data life cycle processes as presented in the AB 1755 Strategic Plan. The data life cycle provides a useful framework to describe the complementary roles of SB 1070 and AB 1755. The Monitoring Council and its staff are available to provide assistance in further developing such a discussion within the AB 1755 documentation to ensure consistency.

As an active partner in efforts relating to AB 1755, the Monitoring Council appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback during the development of the AB 1755 documents and we look forward to continued collaboration moving forward. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have or to discuss these comments.

Sincerely,



Karen Larsen, Deputy Director  
Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Monitoring Council Co-Chair  
Representing CalEPA



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

Enclosure

cc: Members of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council

**Figure 1: Typical Data Life Cycle in relation to AB 1755 and SB 1070**

