

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 – 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Large Conference Room
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)
3535 Harbor Blvd., Suite 110, Costa Mesa



Monitoring Council Members and (Alternates) in attendance:

Ray Hiemstra (Helen Fitanides) (Shelly Walther)
(Bruce Houdesheldt) Karen Mogus Steve Weisberg

Others in attendance or (on the phone):

(Gina Benigno, Department of Fish and Wildlife)
(Karen Black, State Water Resources Control Board)
(Josh Collins, SFEI)
Cyndi Dawson, California Natural Resources Agency
(Greg Gearheart, State Water Resources Control Board)
Joelle Flagman, L.A. Sanitation
Jason Freshwater, Santa Anna Region Control Board
Kris Jones, Water Quality Monitoring Council, Department of Water Resources
Betsy Lichti, State Water Resources Control Board
Nick Martorano, Water Quality Monitoring Council, State Water Resources Control Board
Eric Mertz, State Water Resources Control Board
(Rafael Maestu, State Water Resources Control Board)
(Sonia Miller, Department of Water Resources)
(Taryn Ravazzini, Department of Water Resources)
(Karly Rodriguez, 34 North)
Soren Sanderson, California Coastal Commission
(Melissa Scianni, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
(Becky Stanton, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment)

ITEM:	1
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING
Purpose:	1) Introductions (in the room and on the phone) 2) Review draft notes from February 23, 2018 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve February 23, 2018 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 February 23, 2018 Monitoring Council meeting
Contact Person:	Kris Jones kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925

Notes:	Notes from the February 23, 2018 Monitoring Council meeting were approved without amendment. No changes to the agenda were made.
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ITEM:	2
Title of Topic:	PUBLIC FORUM
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) 654-4925
Notes:	No persons requested to address the Council.

ITEM:	3
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES
Purpose:	These were brief informational items that could be expanded into more detailed discussions at future meetings: a) AB 1755 Coordination (Nick Martorano) b) Workgroup Summit Report Out (Nick Martorano) c) Monitoring Council Portal Subcommittee (Kris Jones)
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment
Attachment Links:	AB 1755 Coordination and Workgroup Summit Report Out —presentation by Nick Martorano
Contact Persons:	Nick Martorano nicholas.martorano@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514
Notes:	<p>a) AB 1755 Coordination: Nick Martorano gave a presentation on the AB 1755 update. The main points were: 1) There is overlapping goals between the Monitoring Council and AB 1755—specifically relating to data sharing—and that improved coordination is needed; 2) the AB 1755 is currently developing a governance structure very similar to the Council's; 3) the Council formally commented on the overlapping efforts in April 2018 via a response letter to the AB 1755 Progress Report; and 4) Council staff continue to remain engaged with the AB 1755 effort through its various subcommittees and will continue to identify opportunities for coordination as these efforts move forward.</p> <p>b) Workgroup Summit Report Out. Nick Martorano gave a presentation on the Workgroup Summit. A questionnaire was given to all workgroup leads. There was no disagreement on workgroup charge, but needs were identified. The top 5 needs were: 1) Identify funding and staff resources; 2) Help with outreach and publicity; 3) Increased participation of stakeholders; 4) Increased opportunities</p>

	<p>for cross-workgroup collaboration; 5) Increased opportunities for Council input and direction.</p> <p>c) Monitoring Council Portal Subcommittee: Kris Jones gave an update on the Monitoring Council Portal Subcommittee. These meetings are currently being scheduled in advance of the Council's quarterly meetings, to try and improve communication and coordination across the Monitoring Council's Workgroups. The group is currently seeking to improve the searchability of the Council's portals, as well as their branding.</p> <p>d) Other Updates: Council Member Shelly Walther pointed out at least one instance where the Council's Safe-to-Swim portal depicted information inconsistently. She identified an example when using the SFEI map to view White Croaker and mercury levels; the map indicates that the level of mercury in the sample from 2009 would allow for 2 servings of this fish per week. However, when a user visits the OEHHA fish advisory website for this location, it is clearly labelled as having a do not eat advisory. Nick will follow up with Jay Davis (lead for the Council's Bioaccumulation Oversight Group; BOG) regarding how to address these inconsistencies.</p>
Action Items:	d) Nick Martorano will follow up with Jay Davis (lead for the Council's Bioaccumulation Oversight Group; BOG) regarding how to address these inconsistencies on the Safe-to-Swim portal.

ITEM:	4	
Title of Topic:	MONITORING COUNCIL STRATEGY AND MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE	
Purpose:	Karen Mogus led a discussion regarding the Monitoring Council's future direction, drawing from feedback received during prior Council meetings and recommendations received from the Monitoring Council Strategy and Membership Subcommittee.	
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. This will require a Council vote.	
Attachment Links:	Monitoring Council Strategy and Membership Subcommittee Update—presentation by Karen Mogus Top five areas where the Monitoring Council adds value for the State of California – summary by Nick Martorano	
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Notes:	<p>Karen Mogus gave a presentation updating the Council on the recommendations of the Strategy and Membership Subcommittee, specifically, highlighting five key areas where the Council could provide value for the state of California; for more details, see Karen's presentation and the accompanying summary document. These recommendations were well received. Shelly Walther mentioned that the Council's founding legislation (SB 1070) charged the Council with making monitoring data available via the web; however, the five focus areas does not address this charge. Steve Weisberg acknowledged that the Subcommittee attempted to delineate the Council's duties from those being covered by AB 1755 (see notes; Item 3a). Greg Gearheart suggested that a workshop could be utilized to flesh these ideas out in more detail, and offered support to host/facilitate such a workshop. Steve Weisberg raised a motion to approve</p>	

	these five focus areas. Ray Hiemstra seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
Action Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Mogus, Taryn Ravazzini, Steve Weisberg, Josh Collins, and Greg Gearheart will participate in a Strategy Subcommittee meeting to further discuss the logistics and agenda for a workshop to examine the implication of the Top 5 strategic areas and to establish an action plan (and provide an update at the September 5 Council meeting). • Shelly Walther, Karen Mogus, Ray Hiemstra, Nick Martorano, and Kris Jones will participate in a Council Communication Strategy Subcommittee and meet to begin developing a comprehensive communications strategy for the Council and its workgroups (and provide an update at the September 5 Council meeting).

ITEM:	5	
Title of Topic:	OCEAN WATER QUALITY MONITORING COORDINATION	
Purpose:	<p>Presentations were provided regarding several monitoring efforts in the Southern California Bight, followed by a discussion regarding opportunities for improved coordination. Presentations were heard from the following monitoring efforts:</p> <p>a) Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS; Clarissa Anderson, UC San Diego)</p> <p>b) Marine Protected Areas (MPAs; Cyndi Dawson, Ocean Protection Council)</p> <p>c) Southern California Bight Program (Karen McLaughlin, SCCWRP)</p>	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Attachment Links:	<p>Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System—presentation by Clarissa Anderson</p> <p>Marine Protected Areas—presentation by Cyndi Dawson</p> <p>Southern California Bight Program—presentation by Karen McLaughlin</p>	
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Notes:	<p>a) Clarissa Anderson gave a presentation on SCCOOS. Clarissa indicated that the SCCOOS is a collaborative network of scientists and research teams from universities, government, NGOs, and industry that collect, aggregate, enhance, and share information on the coastal ocean. Clarissa highlighted some of the relevant monitoring and research SCCOOS performs relating to ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms, and areas of special biological significance (ASBSs). Clarissa also provided information regarding the methods and tools used to collect, analyze and access their monitoring data.</p> <p>b) Cyndi Dawson gave a presentation on MPAs. Cyndi shared the MPAs ecological goals: 1) To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems; 2) To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted; and 3) To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value. Cyndi highlighted the core components of the monitoring program. Phase 1 consists of baseline monitoring, which is now linked to CRNA's data platform at https://data.cnra.ca.gov/. Cyndi indicated that with Phase 1 wrapping up, the</p>	

	<p>state of California is shifting focus towards long-term monitoring (Phase 2), for which they are developing a Statewide Monitoring Action Plan.</p> <p>c) Karen McLaughlin gave a presentation on the Southern California Bight Program (Bight). The Bight is an evolving program designed to fill regional data gaps and enhance the use of NPDES monitoring data. The 2018 Bight survey is the sixth since the program’s inception and includes sediment quality, harmful algal blooms, ocean acidification, trash, and microbiology elements. Sediment quality is the longest running element that has been sampled by the Bight and has allowed for trends assessment to measure improvements over time. The Bight also relies on a multiple line of evidence approach for measuring habitat condition and overlays sediment quality with fish tissue and water quality data. The Bight is utilizing aragonite concentration as an indicator of ocean acidification. The Bight is also applying and comparing the use of various microbiological methods for assessing impacts to human health and risk of illness from recreating in coastal waters. Trash is being characterized on the sea floor and streams and being compared to the 2013 Bight data. Cyanotoxins and demoic acid are being measured in shellfish to characterize the impacts of episodic algal harmful bloom events. The take home message is the Bight program provides a lot of opportunities to integrated across programs especially in Southern California, the best candidates for integration are the harmful algal blooms and ocean acidification.</p> <p>Following the three presentations, Karen Mogus asked whether there is a need for improved coordination, data standardization, or to fill data gaps—needs that the Monitoring Council could help support. Cyndi indicated that coordination is needed. She indicated that there is a need to make data from these various programs available via a centralized data platform. She also highlighted opportunities to connect with the Council more on MPA performance. She also added that the state could better articulate their management questions to help provide more guidance on what is needed, and indicated that the Council could help facilitate those conversations and support those goals. Similarly, she added that the Council could help with coordination between the water quality monitoring and MPAs, as she mentioned that there has not been much progress in this area.</p> <p>Steve Weisberg emphasized that there is also a need for improved coordination in monitoring relating to ocean acidification and MPAs (e.g., linking the biology to the water chemistry). Steve mentioned that there was a statewide task force looking into this, but that focusing on the Southern California component (as a case study) would likely not conflict with those efforts.</p>
<p>Action Items:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyndi Dawson will identify opportunities to create a formal linkage between the Ocean Protection Council and the Monitoring Council. • Clarissa Anderson, Cyndi Dawson, and Karen McLaughlin will reconvene to develop a strawman for how coordination should occur within the context of the Monitoring Council (and provide an update at the September 5 Council meeting).
<p>ITEM:</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>Title of Topic:</p>	<p>COORDINATION WITH NON-AGENCY MONITORING GROUPS</p>

Purpose:	Helen Fitanides (The Watershed Project; Alternate Member representing Citizen Monitoring Groups) provided recommendations and next steps regarding how the Monitoring Council can better engage the regional and local monitoring groups throughout the state of California.	
Desired Outcome:	Information and discussion	
Attachment Links:	Coordination with non-agency monitoring groups —presentation by Helen Fitanides	
Contact Person:	Helen Fitanides	helen@thewatershedproject.org ; (805) 709-6294
Notes:	Helen Fitanides provided a presentation on recent discussions regarding how to better engage non-agency monitoring groups. Helen indicated that she and fellow members Beth Christman and Terry Fleming, along with Erick Burress, met to discuss how best to move this conversation forward. They conducted a survey to identify the needs of the various monitoring groups. Helen indicated that there were three issues non-agency groups currently face: 1) access to equipment; 2) common QAPP and data collection methods; and 3) issues getting data into CEDEN. Helen indicated that there were challenges with getting groups to respond to the survey. Steve Weisberg suggested that a workshop might improve the level of engagement and feedback.	
Action Items:	Tony Hale will host a conversation(s) with the CEDEN team, OIMA QA team, the SWAMP Clean Water Team, and the Data Management Workgroup regarding the identified areas for needed support (e.g., getting data into CEDEN, access to training on data collection and QA/QC etc.).	

ITEM:	7	
Title of Topic:	USE OF MOLECULAR METHODS FOR BIOASSESSMENTS	
Purpose:	Susie Theroux (Southern California Coastal Water Research Project) presented on the use of molecular methods for bioassessments. Following Susie's presentation, there was a discussion regarding the potential role for the Monitoring Council in coordinating the further development and use of these methods statewide.	
Desired Outcome:	Information and discussion	
Attachment Links:	Use of molecular methods for bioassessments —presentation by Susie Theroux	
Contact Person:	Susie Theroux	susannat@sccwrp.org ; (714) 755-3244
Notes:	Susie Theroux gave a presentation on molecular methods for bioassessment. Susie highlighted the need for statewide coordination of molecular methods, for example, to improve data comparability. This topic was raised during the morning's strategy discussion (item 4; Five focus areas document , #4) as an area the Council could provide value for the state of California. Specifically, that the Council can identify emerging methods and technologies and offer guidance on how those should be developed to answer current and future management questions. Molecular methods were highlighted as an example of how project managers can get cheaper, faster, and better data from their samples. Susie indicated that relating to molecular methods, it would be beneficial to standardize sampling and lab-based methods, QA/QC protocols, bioinformatic guidelines,	

	reporting requirements, and coordination between researchers and agencies using similar genetic methodologies. During these discussions, the need to develop reference libraries was also highlighted as a need—a need a workgroup could help to address and coordinate.
Action Items:	Susie Theroux, Nicole Hack, Nick Martorano, and Kris Jones will develop a charter for a new Molecular Methods workgroup and provide an update at the September 5 Council meeting.

ITEM:	8	
Title of Topic:	NEXT MEETING AGENDA	
Purpose:	To plan agenda for the September 5, 2018 Monitoring Council meeting in Sacramento, CA. Potential items include: a) Comprehensive Strategy document update. b) The Nature Conservancy's Freshwater Blueprint and potential Council uses. c) Beach Water Quality Workgroups update. d) California Environmental Flows Workgroup update. e) STORMs Monitoring Coordination Framework.	
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda ideas for the September 5, 2018 meeting	
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Notes:	Nick Martorano and Kris Jones will work to develop the agenda for the next meeting on September 5. Follow up discussions to include at the next meeting include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report by the Strategy Subcommittee (Item 4) • Report by the Communication Subcommittee • Report by the Ocean monitoring group (Item 5) • Report by the Molecular methods group (Item 7) 	

June 25, 2018