

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 3, 2014 – 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Fifth Floor, Conference Room 550
Joe Serna Jr. Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
1001 I Street, Sacramento



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, and related meeting and Monitoring Council 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 WebEx. To join the WebEx on-line meeting, click on this link <https://waterboards.webex.com/waterboards/j.php?MTID=m8aa45be340441e5cedd0ccc661b927ae>, enter your name and email address, enter the meeting password "cwqmc", click "Join" and follow the instructions that appear on your screen. Please log in a few minutes before the meeting starts to allow WebEx to set up the meeting connection. WebEx will automatically set up Meeting Manager the first time you join a WebEx meeting. Audio connection is by teleconference by dialing (888) 764-9721 and entering the attendee access code 363 618 0. Existing audio equipment may limit the available quality of the connection.

For a map to the Cal/EPA Building, visit: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>. For security purposes, all visitors are required to sign in and receive a badge at the Visitor Center to the left of the lobby upon entering the building. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the State Water Board's Equal Employment Opportunity Office at (916) 341-5881.

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 28, 2014 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting	
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve May 28, 2014 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 28, 2014 Council meeting	
Contact Persons:	Kris Jones Jon Marshack	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756 jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	2	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	40 minutes
Purpose:	These are expected to be brief informational items that could be expanded into	

	<p>more detailed discussions for future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) National Water Quality Monitoring Council, July meeting highlights (Jon Marshack & Kris Jones) b) Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Science Plan Environmental Data Summit (Jon Marshack) c) California Drinking Water Program move from the Department of Public Health to the State Water Board – implications for the Monitoring Council and development of the Safe-to-Drink Portal (Karen Larsen & Bruce Burton) d) California Department of Fish and Wildlife's role with the Monitoring Council and its workgroups (Jon Marshack & Kris Jones)
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment
Background:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) National Water Quality Monitoring Council – The National Council provides a national forum for coordination of comparable and scientifically defensible methods and strategies to improve water quality monitoring, assessment and reporting, and promotes partnerships to foster collaboration, advance the science, and improve management within all elements of the water quality monitoring community. The National Council held its latest meeting on July 29-31, 2014. Jon Marshack, the Executive Director of California's Monitoring Council, represents the Pacific Southwest States (Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada) on the National Council. b) Delta Science Plan Environmental Data Summit – The Delta Science Program held a Data Summit on June 5-6, 2014. The Delta Science Plan included an action to hold a Data Summit. The plan committed the Science Program to "Host a data summit to explore and identify needed improvements to cyber-infrastructure, data management capacity, and mechanisms to facilitate active data sharing, data mining, and analysis. Information generated in the Summit will inform the Science Action Agenda, support innovations in data integration and management, and develop paths for enhancing and sustaining current initiatives." c) California Drinking Water Program – Pursuant to Governor Brown's direction and recent legislation, California's Drinking Water Program moved from the Department of Public Health on July 1, 2014 to form the new Division of Drinking Water within the State Water Resources Control Board. Karen Larsen, Monitoring Council Co-Chair representing Cal/EPA has accepted an Assistant Deputy Director position within the new Division. d) Department of Fish and Wildlife – CDFW staff are currently involved to some extent in the Monitoring Council's Estuary Monitoring Workgroup and Wetland Monitoring Workgroup. Other workgroups have requested increased participation from CDFW staff and data generated from their monitoring programs. The Monitoring Council has requested a presentation on this topic from CDFW. On July 28, 2014, Monitoring Council staff met with CDFW staff to plan for this presentation and to explore areas of potential increased participation by CDFW staff.
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) National Water Quality Monitoring Council website b) Environmental Data Summit website c) California Drinking Water Program transfer information

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ITEM:	3	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MONITORING COUNCIL ESTABLISHING SPECIFIC AUTHORITY FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	30 minutes
Purpose:	Jon Marshack will present proposed changes to the Monitoring Council's governance document that would establish specific authority for the Executive Director and Assistant Director.	
Desired Outcome:	Discuss and vote on proposed amendments to the Monitoring Council's governance document to establish specific authority for the Executive Director and Assistant Director.	
Background:	At its May 28, 2014 meeting, the Monitoring Council amended its governance document to change the title of its full-time Coordinator to Executive Director and to change the title of its half-time Coordinator to Assistant Director. While general duties and responsibilities of these positions were included, no specific actions of the Council were authorized for these two staff positions. In late June, the Executive Director was asked by a former Monitoring Council Member to provide a letter of support for a project that, if funded, could enhance a future ocean and coastal ecosystem health workgroup of the Monitoring Council. While the letter was written in such a way that project support from Monitoring Council Members was not specified, the situation raised the issue of the Monitoring Council establishing specific authority for its two staff positions.	
Attachment Links:	Proposed amendments to the Monitoring Council's governance document	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	TRIENNIAL AUDIT OF THE MONITORING COUNCIL'S STRATEGY	40 minutes
Purpose:	Jon Marshack and Kris Jones will present the final draft of the first triennial audit report, followed by discussion among the Monitoring Council Members, Alternates, and EPA Liaison.	
Desired Outcome:	Approval of the first triennial self-audit of implementation of the Monitoring Council's <i>A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California</i> and a cover letter transmitting the report to the California Secretary for Environmental Protection.	
Background:	SB 1070 , specifically California Water Code Section 31383(h), and the MOU that created the Monitoring Council require that the Secretary of Cal/EPA, in consultation with the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, conduct a triennial audit of implementing the Monitoring Council's <i>A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California</i> (2010). Cal/EPA Secretary Matthew Rodriguez requested that the Monitoring Council perform a	

	<p>self-audit.</p> <p>The content of this report was discussed at Monitoring Council meetings on December 12, 2013, February 19, 2014, and May 28, 2014 and specific direction was given to staff. At the May 28 meeting, final content and organization of the report and specific recommendations were determined; the Monitoring Council also decided to address the report to the Secretaries of Cal/EPA and the Natural Resources Agency and to key legislators.</p>			
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Draft of the First Triennial Audit Report • Draft Cover Letter to Cal/EPA Secretary Rodriguez • Draft notes from May 28, 2014 Council meeting (see Item 6) • Notes from the February 19, 2014 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 5) • Notes from the December 12, 2013 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 6) • CA Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006, specifically Water Code §13181(h)) • Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the Monitoring Council (see section IV, 4 on page 4) • Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy (see page 22) • Monitoring Council's 2008 Initial Recommendations report (see page 11 and Appendix 3) 			
Contact Persons:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Jon Marshack</td> <td style="width: 33%;">jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5514</td> <td style="width: 33%;">kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov, (916) 376-9756</td> </tr> </table>	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756
Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756		

LUNCH	Approx. Time:
On your own. Cafe on first floor. Other restaurants in close proximity to building.	60 minutes

ITEM:	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	DATA VISUALIZATION TOOLS DEVELOPED BY THE CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD	60 minutes
Purpose:	Karen Worcester (Senior Environmental Scientist) and Dave Paradies (software designer) will demonstrate web-based data visualization tools (still in development) developed by the Regional Water Board for the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program and describe the system requirements and basic approach used.	
Desired Outcome:	Information and feedback as to the degree to which these tools would enhance both the Healthy Streams Portal and CEDEN.	
Background:	At the Central Coast Water Board, staff has been working for several years towards implementation of a regional Vision of "Healthy Watersheds". As part of this effort the Region established three measureable goals, related to healthy aquatic habitat, clean groundwater, and proper land management. To support the assessment of these goals, Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) staff has been developing a new web-based tool for synthesizing data	

	from multiple sources into measures of health. This project is garnering attention at the state and national level because it provides a unique new way to view complex data in a user friendly environment that allows the user to quickly understand where our streams are healthy, and if not healthy, why not. The project requires selection of thresholds of concern, a scoring approach to translate measurement values into grades, translation of site level data to larger geographic scales, and integration of those data with assessments that have already been conducted at a state-wide level. The website is linked to multiple databases and can be automatically updated on a routine basis. The Council's Healthy Streams Partnership workgroup is considering whether this web tool may be adaptable for statewide use in the Healthy Streams Portal. Aspects of this product are also being considered for future enhancements to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN).	
Contact Person:	Karen Worcester	karen.worcester@waterboards.ca.gov , (805) 549-3333

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	WATER BOARD REGULATORY INITIATIVES	60 minutes
Purpose:	<p>Three regulatory initiatives of the State Water Board will be presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological integrity policy (Karen Larsen) • Toxicity policy (Rik Rasmussen) • Trash policy (Johanna Weston) <p>Potential impacts of these initiatives on monitoring programs will be discussed.</p>	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Background:	<p>At the May 28, 2014 Monitoring Council meeting, Council Member Armand Ruby asked that this item be included in the next meeting agenda.</p> <p>Biological integrity – The goals of the Biological Integrity Assessment Implementation plan are to: establish consistent, statewide methods for conducting biological assessments and interpreting biological data as indicators of biological integrity in California's surface waters; identify streams or stream reaches in which biological condition is similar to appropriate reference sites and to prevent degradation of those streams; and identify streams or stream reaches in which biological condition is significantly different from appropriate reference condition and use this information to determine whether additional information is needed and to prioritize actions necessary to improve biological condition.</p> <p>Toxicity amendment – State Water Board staff are developing an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California that would establish statewide water quality objectives for chronic and acute toxicity and extend the authority of the Plan to inland surface waters. Originally proposed as the Policy for Toxicity Assessment and Control, the draft toxicity amendment would provide a standardized approach for toxicity regulation through uniform reasonable potential analyses, monitoring schedules, and effluent limitations for wastewater dischargers.</p> <p>Trash amendment – The State Water Board proposes a Statewide Water Quality Control Plan to Control Trash. The provisions in the proposed Trash Amendment includes the following six elements: (1) water quality objective, (2) prohibition of discharge, (3) implementation provisions, (4) time schedule, (5)</p>	

	time extension option for State Water Board consideration, and (6) monitoring and reporting requirements. The project objective for the proposed Trash Amendments is to provide statewide consistency for the Water Boards' regulatory approach to protect aquatic life and public health beneficial uses, and reduce environmental issues associated with trash in state waters, while focusing limited resources on high trash generating areas.	
Contact Persons:	Karen Larsen Rik Rasmussen Johanna Weston	karen.larsen@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 319-9769 rik.rasmussen@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5549 johanna.weston@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 327-8117

ITEM:	7	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ESTUARY MONITORING WORKGROUP – INDICATORS PROPOSAL	
Purpose:	Stephanie Fong of the State & Federal Contractors Water Agency and Judy Kelly of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership will present proposed plans for coordination between the California Estuaries Portal and the State of the Estuary Report and discuss the possible effects that may have on California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup (CEMW) work plans and resources. This may also result in differences in how information is presented on the Estuaries Portal.	
Desired Outcome:	Recommendations from the Monitoring Council on priorities – collaboration versus continuity with other portals – and when the CEMW would need to come back to the Council for approval on the types of changes we would make to the Estuaries Portal, especially in look and feel.	
Background:	The CEMW has been working with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) to add Delta indicators to the 2015 State of the Estuary Report, linking the Bay and Delta. There are a handful of indicators that seem to have potential for joint or coordinated assessment. CEMW members have been exploring the possibility of having other workgroups and portals participate, in particular Safe-to-Swim and Safe-to-Eat. Salinity and habitat indicators have also been discussed. Both the Monitoring Council's Portals and SFEP's report have little funding available, so we are trying to capitalize on collaborative efforts, but with the resources available it may be difficult to develop separate presentations of information.	
Attachment:	2015 State of the Estuary Report fact sheet	
Contact Persons:	Stephanie Fong Judy Kelly	sfong@sfcwa.org , (916) 400-4840 jakelly@waterboards.ca.gov , (510) 622-8137

ITEM:	8	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MEETING WRAP-UP	
Purpose:	Plan agenda for December 10, 2014 Monitoring Council meeting in Sacramento. Potential items include: 1) Delta Stewardship Council, Environmental Data Summit – white paper on	

	<p>managing California's environmental information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">2) Development of Monitoring Council recommendations to improve grant project monitoring, data management, assessment, and reporting3) Department of Fish & Wildlife's role with the Monitoring Council and its workgroups – coordination, financial support, data management and data access, what they need from the Monitoring Council to improve collaboration4) Data quality standardization efforts of SWAMP – "Data Comparability"5) Possibility of holding an annual conference. A representative from the Maryland Monitoring Council would be invited to participate by phone (see May 2012 notes, Item 2d)
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda for the December 10 meeting
Contact Persons:	Kris Jones kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756 Jon Marshack jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ADJOURN

August 22, 2014