

Statewide Environmental Flows Workgroup

A Workgroup of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council

Meeting Agenda

Date: May 14, 2019

Time: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Location: CalEPA Headquarters Building – 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Training Room 1 East/West

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Toll number: +1 (916) 562-0861, 63138802# (Dial-in Number)

Mission of the Workgroup

The mission of the California Environmental Flows Workgroup is to advance the science of ecological flows assessment and its application for supporting management decisions aimed at balancing natural resource needs with consumptive water uses to establish environmental flows. The mission will be accomplished by providing a forum for coordination and technical exchanges among government agencies, academic institutions, tribes, and non-governmental organizations in California focused on understanding environmental flow needs and establishing ecological flow criteria grounded in science. The workgroup will strive to improve agency and public access to ecological and environmental flow data, information and tools related to ecological flow assessments, and to provide a common vision for use of tools and science-based information to support sound decision making.

Agenda Items

1. Introductions | 9:30 – 9:45 (15 minutes) |
 2. Recap and update on action items from last meeting | 9:45 – 10:00 (15 minutes) |
 3. Round robin updates from workgroup participants | 10:00 – 10:30 (30 minutes) |
 4. State Water Board – SGMA overview, with a focus on the State Water Board's role and interconnected surface waters
| 10:30 – 11:00 (30 minutes) |
- Break | 11:00 – 11:15 (15 minutes) |**
5. CDFW – Opportunities to support GSPs that comply with the SGMA regulations *and* consider fish/wildlife and habitat groundwater needs (identification of specific challenges to public trust resources and discrete opportunities to help GSAs implement SGMA)
| 11:15 – 11:45 (30 minutes) |

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6. TNC – Tools/research (Species LookBook, GDE dataset, GDE aerial imagery/indices, etc.)

| 11:45 – 12:15 (30 minutes) |

Lunch | 12:00 – 1:00 (60 minutes) |

7. State Water Board – Streamflow Depletion Risk Assessment Framework and Tools-methods to rapidly prioritize and estimate depletion from groundwater well pumping, with a focus on small watersheds and headwater areas

| 1:15 – 1:45 (30 minutes) |

8. Roundtable Discussion – Additional research and efforts related to interconnected surface waters (e.g., response of fish/benthic communities, interconnected surface water research, non-SGMA basins, climate/surface water availability, etc.)

| 1:45 – 2:15 (30 minutes) |

9. Potential topics for August 13 meeting (at CalEPA Building) – additional items added during meeting | 2:15 – 2:30 (15 minutes) |

10. Wrap up and action items | 2:30 – 2:45 (15 minutes) |
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