

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup Meeting Notes

Wednesday, March 11th – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

DWR room 119
3500 Industrial Blvd, West Sacramento



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Due to scheduling conflicts, **this meeting will be at DWR’s West Sac office**, NOT the usual Delta Conservancy office.

REMOTE ACCESS: There will web conferencing available via WebEx during this meeting. Call-in number **888-861-1254** Participant access code: **737615#** and join the WebEx meeting from here: <https://meetings.webex.com/collabs/meetings/join?uuid=M3VYY45OECC8GNE6RNFXX0V9BA-GQBN>

Item	1	Approx. Time
Title of Topic:	Introduction and Announcements	
	1) Introductions and announcements 2) Review notes from last CEMW meeting 3) Review agenda for today	
Desired Outcome:	Approve meeting notes	
Attachment:	011415 CEMW notes.pdf	
Notes:	Stephen McCord, CDFW: Hildie Spautz, CVRWQCB: Selena Cole, DSC/DSP: Megan Brooks, Juliet Lamont, Katrina Schneider, DWR: April Hennessy, Shaun Philippart, Betsy Wells, Monitoring Council: Kris Jones, SFCWA: Kelsey Cowin, Stephanie Fong, SFEI: Tony Hale, SRCSD: Sam Safi, Tim Mussen, USFWS: Matt Dekar, USGS: Bryan Downing	

Item	2	Approx. Time
Title of Topic:	Liaison Reports	
Background:	The Monitoring Council and the Council’s workgroups are actively working on several items (SB 1070). This agenda item is for the routine update on key activities or decisions made by other workgroups or the Council, followed by a brief discussion of how the activities would impact the CEMW.	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CA WQMC: Kris Jones 2. CA Wetland Monitoring Workgroup: Kristal Davis Fadtkke and Kris Jones 3. Healthy Streams Partnership: Lori Webber 4. Data Management Workgroup: Tony Hale 5. BOG workgroup for "Is it safe to eat fish?": Kris Jones 6. Safe to Swim Workgroup: Kris Jones 7. Ocean/Rocky Intertidal Workgroup: Kris Jones
Desired Outcome:	Information Exchange and ideas for enhancing the Estuaries Portal
Contact Person:	Kris Jones Kristopher.Jones@water.ca.gov
Notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Water Quality Monitoring Council met on February 23rd. The Council was updated on discussions with EPA Secretary Matt Rodriquez and Under Secretary Gordon Burns regarding the outcome of the Triennial Audit. Recommendations were made to tie workgroup efforts to existing administrative initiatives, such as the CA Water Action Plan. The council also had an update on the Delta Science Program's Data Summit Vision Document, comments will be submitted by March 18th. Cristina Grosso (SFEI), presented updates on EcoAtlas, which has incorporated new data from DWR's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP). Hildie Spautz (DFW) provided an update on indicator development for the State of the Estuary Report, the presentation can be found on ASANA. The next meeting will be on May 29th in Costa Mesa. 2. The Wetlands Monitoring group met on February 3rd and continue their strategic planning and budgeting efforts. 3. The Healthy Stream Partnership met on February 20th. The group has decided to take a broader watershed approach, and thus will develop a rebranding effort. With the broader scope, it will be important to coordinate the overlap between the Estuary Workgroup and the Healthy Stream Partnership. 4. The Data Management workgroup met on February 4th. The group reviewed their draft data standards report. They continue to request input on their process. The group also discussed the Delta Science Program's Data Summit Vision Document. Recommendations from the report will be integrated into the Business Planning efforts the workgroup will be going through. 5. The BOG met on February 4th to discuss an upcoming study on Bass Lake monitoring. The group will meet next on April 15th. 6. Safe To Swim- No New Update 7. The Ocean/ Rocky intertidal Workgroup has not met recently, but will be presenting at the next Water Quality Monitoring Council meeting on their next steps and key initiatives they wish to pursue.

Item	3	Approx. Time
Title of Topic:	State of the Estuary Report Coordination	

Background:	Since we've modeled the Estuaries Portal after the 2011 SOTB Report and are trying to collaborate on making the next report an estuary report for 2015. Updates will be given on indicator development (benthics, zoops, birds, and water quality) and peer review. We will also discuss the option of planning a specific meeting with Leticia, Tony, and others to hear their vision and learn about what resources they may be able to provide.
Desired Outcome:	Update on process and timelines. Identify and prioritize specific linkages between SotER and the Portal (specific content links, etc).
Contact Person:	Hildie Spautz Hildegard.Spautz@wildlife.ca.gov
Attachment:	SotER Indicators Status Summary 141215_forCWQMC.pdf
Notes:	<p>The SotER Advisory group will be meeting by the end of March to discuss indicator updates and the Collaborative Science (peer review) process. All indicators are still in progress and review.</p> <p>Hildie Spautz provided an update on the Bird Indicator. She has completed two side bars on the CA Black Rail and Sandhill Crane and is working on a full data indicator for water fowl. The indicator will focus on Dabbling duck abundance in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. The data set goes back to 1992 and the benchmark will be based on the first 10 years of data. The current status will be evaluating using the abundance average from the most recent 5 years.</p> <p>Betsy Wells is continuing work on the benthic indicator and hopes to have it out for the Collaborative Science process shortly. The technical report is being developed.</p> <p>April Hennessy has received feedback on the Zooplankton indicator and has made some adjustments. She is finalizing the data graphs and writing up the technical report.</p>

Item	4	Approx. Time
Title of Topic:	Worker Bee Update and Workplans	
Background:	<p>Worker Bees have been implementing 2014 work plans for Phase II Portal development. Those work plans were finalized in March, but there have been many changes in direction with all the SOTER coordination. At the January meeting, we talked about the need to revise our workplans to better track progress, and identify interim deliverables or milestones. LR has already met and will share their draft 2015 Workplan.</p> <p>We will get updates from the Attribute Section Leads:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water: Erin Foresman/Stephanie Fong 2. Living Resources: Shaun Philippart (25 min) 3. Habitat: Kristal Davis Fadtke/Hildie Spautz (10 min) 4. Ecological Processes: Hildie Spautz 5. Stewardship: Sam Safi and Kristal Davis Fadtke <p>We will also begin to review the "Guidelines for Workgroups and the Development of <i>My Water Quality</i> Theme-Based Internet Portals" document. This was a product of the Council's from 2010, and it seems like it may be time for the Work Groups to suggest changes. Please review the document, available from the link below, so we can have a</p>	

	discussion about the CEMW's suggestions for revisions.
Desired Outcome:	Information share and general direction from larger CEMW as needed.
Contact Person:	Stephanie Fong sfong@sfcwa.org
Attachment:	http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/docs/workgroup_and_portal_guidelines.pdf
Notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water Quality- The newly developed pages are in the queue at the State Water Board to be incorporated into the Estuary Portal. 2. Living Resources- The group developed 2015 workplans, which are not a large departure from those developed in 2014. Highlights include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incorporation of indicators from the State of the Estuary, including Benthic, zooplankton, and bird updates. b. The Fish group continues to work with 34 North in developing pages from the DJFM Data. 3. Habitat- There is a possibility to update some of the Habitat pages with CRAM Data, but specifics have not been worked out yet. 4. Ecological Processes- Will be working from the same workplan as last year. 5. Stewardship- The group is still developing their workplan.

Item	5	Approx. Time
Title of Topic:	CEMW Business Review	
Background:	<p>The recently released Triennial Audit Report calls on California government agencies and the legislature to provide dedicated funding and staff to sustain and grow the Monitoring Council's workgroup efforts in order to fully implement the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California. The audit report 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, within one year. According to the Audit Report, these business plans will outline specific needs (staff positions, budgets, etc.) and will 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 goal of these business plans it to get a precise handle on resource needs to meet current goals and to ensure sustainability into the future.</p> <p>Here are three examples of existing mandates that are being or are proposed to be addressed by Monitoring Council workgroups, tools, and portals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1993, the Governor announced the California Wetlands Conservation Policy, establishing a framework and strategy to "ensure no overall net loss and achieve a long-term net gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetland acreage and values in California..." But in 2010 when the Natural Resources Agency 	

	<p>attempted to determine whether there was any net loss of wetlands, differences in wetland definition, mapping protocols, and assessment methods between agencies made it impossible to deliver an answer. The Wetland Monitoring Workgroup has developed standardized definitions, mapping methods, and assessment protocols (and a concerted outreach effort to gain broad use of these tools) and is launching a status and trends monitoring program that together will allow California government to answer this question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Water Board Water Rights Decision 1641 requires the Department of Water Resources to periodically report on the quality of water resources within the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and Suisun and San Pablo Bays as a condition of diverting water. These reports have been static documents to date. As part of its California Estuaries Portal, the Estuary Monitoring Workgroup is developing an on-line Interactive Water Quality Conditions Report for the Delta that will allow agency staff to gain access to the same data in a much more useful manner. • As part of its responsibility to manage the State Water Project, that provides drinking water to approximately two-thirds of California’s population, the Department of Water Resources and State Water Project Contractors Authority are required to periodically report to the state’s drinking water program (now the Division of Drinking Water within the State Water Board). These Watershed Sanitary Surveys contain information on contaminant sources and water quality issues. Members of the Safe Drinking Water Workgroup have suggested that an interactive report through the soon-to-be-built Safe-to-Drink Portal would provide the same information in a much more usable format.
Desired Outcome:	Communication of timelines and expectations.
Contact Person:	Kris Jones Kristopher.Jones@water.ca.gov
Notes:	<p>Kris Jones gave an update on the current status of the Monitoring Council’s Triennial Audit Report. The workgroups have been tasked with creating their own Business plans. The general purpose is to identify key initiatives and departmental mandates that the workgroups can help fulfill. By tying work to bigger initiatives, such as the California Water Action Plan, funding sources could be easier to tap into.</p> <p>The Estuary Workgroup will form a subcommittee to develop the business plan.</p>

Item	6	Approx. Time
Title of Topic:	Facilitation	
Background:	<p>Stephanie has been facilitating the CEMW for over two years, and due to workload increases, cannot continue on in the same capacity. The CEMW will be asking for Chair or Co-Chair nominations. A formal call will be made to the CEMW lyrics list with deadlines and expectations. The DMWG put forth a similar call in September, and the CEMW could follow their model. Process and timeline options will be discussed.</p>	

Desired Outcome:	Recommendations/nominations, process, and timelines set
Contact Person:	Stephanie Fong sfong@sfcwa.org Kris Jones Kristopher.Jones@water.ca.gov
Notes:	Nominations for a new facilitator are open at this time.

Parking Lot: Items not addressed during this meeting, but should be brought back for discussion at a later date. This list is not prioritized.	
Title of Topic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance measures • Climate change • Jellyfish in the zooplankton story • Other living resources (e.g., mammals, plants, etc) 	
Important Dates:	Likely Contact Person:
Update to the State of Science Report	Darcy Austin
SAIL (Salmon MAST) Report?	Matt/Rachel Johnson
Future IEP Newsletter?	Bill/Randy/?