October 9, 2014

Mr. Matthew Rodriquez  
Secretary for Environmental Protection  
California Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources  
California Natural Resources Agency

WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL (SB) 1070 (KEHOE, 2006): REPLACEMENT MEMBER RECOMMENDATION

Dear Secretaries Rodriquez and Laird:

On November 26, 2007, the Secretaries for Environmental Protection and Natural Resources signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Council) as required by SB 1070 (Kehoe, 2006). Following the signing of the MOU, we were directed to develop a potential list of Council members, which were presented to the Agency Secretaries in April 2008. The list of members was approved in May and the Council had its first meeting in June. Pursuant to the legislation, the Monitoring Council developed and on December 1, 2008 submitted to the Agency Secretaries recommendations for maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of existing water quality data collection and dissemination, and for ensuring that collected data are maintained and available for use by decision makers and the public. Also pursuant to the legislation, the Monitoring Council developed and on December 28, 2010 submitted to the Agency secretaries a recommended Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California to guide the Monitoring Council’s activities into the future.

One of the ten positions on the Monitoring Council represents California’s drinking water program. That position is currently held by Bruce Burton, Chief of the Northern California Drinking Water Field Operations Branch. On July 1 of this year, the drinking water program moved from the Department of Public Health to become the new Division of Drinking Water at the State Water Resources Control Board. Cindy Forbes, Deputy Director for the State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water, has requested that Karen Larsen be
appointed to the drinking water position on the Monitoring Council. Ms. Larsen is the Assistant Deputy Director for the Program Management Branch within the Division of Drinking Water. Of the Division’s three branches, the Program Management Branch is the only branch with a statewide focus. As such, Ms. Larsen’s appointment to the Monitoring Council will provide broad-based representation from California’s drinking water program.

Karen Larsen’s career with the California Water Boards began in 1999. Over the years, she has worked on a variety of programs including water quality monitoring and assessment, local watershed stewardship grant programs, total maximum daily loads, and water quality control planning. From 2010 to 2014, Ms. Larsen served as the Director of the State Water Board’s Office of Information Management and Analysis where she managed the development and maintenance of the Water Boards’ information management systems (including the California Environmental Data Exchange Center or CEDEN) and worked closely with the Water Boards’ Chief Information Officer to deliver useful products to meet program needs. She also managed California’s statewide Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP), advanced the state’s monitoring coordination through the California Water Quality Monitoring Council, and developed policies for protecting healthy streams. In her current position, she manages the states drinking water regulation development, oversight of local drinking water regulatory programs, recycled water permitting, emergency response, and the state’s environmental laboratory accreditation program.

To ensure that the Monitoring Council continues to move forward to implement the requirements of SB 1070, we would appreciate your decision regarding the proposed Council Member replacement as outlined above by November 10, 2014. We will assume that you concur with this change if we have not received a response by this date. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Jon Bishop at (916) 341-5820 or Jonathan.Bishop@waterboards.ca.gov or Paul Helliker at (916) 653-8045 or Paul.Helliker@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director
State Water Resources Control Board
Monitoring Council Co-Chair
Representing Cal/EPA

Paul Helliker, Deputy Director
Delta & Statewide Water Management
Department of Water Resources
Monitoring Council Co-Chair
Representing the Natural Resources Agency

cc: Members of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council
Karen Larsen, Division of Drinking Water, State Water Resources Control Board
Bruce Burton, Division of Drinking Water, State Water Resources Control Board
Tom Howard, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board