

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 28, 2014 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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



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=ma6f98b1286ac03d8278d4fda45058a6c>, 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 SCCWRP, driving directions, and accommodations information, visit www.sccwrp.org/view.php?id=39. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project at (714) 755-3200.

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 February 19, 2014 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting		
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve February 19, 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 February 19, 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 more detailed discussions for future meetings: a) California participation in the National Water Quality Monitoring Council's		

	<p>2014 Conference, April 28 – May 2, Cincinnati, Ohio (Jon Marshack)</p> <p>b) Successful Collaborations Presentation to the March meeting of the Delta Stewardship Council (Sarge Green)</p> <p>c) Delta Stewardship Council’s Delta Science Plan Data Summit (Karen Larsen)</p> <p>d) New Quality Assurance/Quality Control website of the State Water Board (Renee Spears)</p>
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment
Background:	<p>a) National Monitoring Conference – The National Water Quality Monitoring Council, co-chaired by USEPA and USGS, hold a national monitoring conference every two years. California has participated in past conferences and made oral and poster presentations on the Monitoring Council, its workgroups, and the My Water Quality portals. The 9th National Monitoring Conference will be held April 28 to May 2, 2014 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The agenda included a number of California Water Quality Monitoring Council-related presentations, including an oral presentation on the Triennial Audit and posters on three of the My Water Quality portals.</p> <p>b) Delta Stewardship Council Presentation – At the Delta Stewardship Council’s March 28, Sarge Green participated in the panel discussion “Lessons from Coordination Efforts in the Delta” in which he reviewed the progress of the Monitoring Council to build collaborative relationships between agencies and stakeholders.</p> <p>c) Delta Science Plan Data Summit – The Delta Science Program plans to hold 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.” The Delta Science Program convened a planning committee of representatives from the Water Board, Department of Water Resources, and the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency. The summit will be held at UC Davis on June 5th and continued at the Cal/EPA Headquarters Building in Sacramento on June 6th.</p> <p>d) Water Board QA/QC Website – Provide guidance information for Water Board staff, the public, and all other interested parties about Quality Assurance and Quality Control as it relates to obtaining water quality data. This site describes the Quality System developed by US EPA. Subsequently, the Water Boards have created planning documents based on this system. The site was created as a repository for guidance information for Water Board staff and the public who are preparing Quality Assurance Project Plans, Program Plans, and other types of QA/QC documents; and to serve as a catalogue of online QA/QC training developed over the years.</p>
Attachment Links	<p>a) Working Together for Clean Water, the 9th National Monitoring Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference Program • Abstracts <p>b) “Success in the Delta through collaboration and coordination: The California Water Quality Monitoring Council, the Yolo Bypass Foundation, and the Cosumnes River Preserve” – Maven’s Notebook article on presentations</p>

	made to the Delta Stewardship Council's March 28, 2014 meeting.	
	c) Water Board QA/QC website	
Contact Persons:	Jon Marshack Kris Jones	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514 kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756

ITEM:	3	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MONITORING COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	30 minutes
Purpose:	Karen Larsen will present a proposal to the Monitoring Council to elevate the full-time Council Coordinator position to Council Executive Director and to revise the Coordinator title to Assistant Director.	
Desired Outcome:	Discuss and vote on a proposal to change the title of the Council's full-time Coordinator to Executive Director, to change the title of the Council's half-time Coordinator to Assistant Director, and to amend the Monitoring Council's governance document to reflect these changes (if approved).	
Background:	Recently the State Water Board management upgraded Jon Marshack's position from Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) to Environmental Program Manager I (Non-Supervisory). The justification for upgrading the position was the level of interaction this position has with Executive Managers at State agencies and external organizations as well as the increased work load related to the number of work groups formed to achieve the Council's charge. In addition, the EPM I classification will improve the Council's ability to attract high caliber incumbents to the position in the future. Jon Marshack has also recently been appointed to represent the Pacific Southwestern States on the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. Commensurate with the upgrade to the Water Board position and the appointment to the National Council, the Monitoring Council's Cal/EPA representatives propose to elevate the title of the full-time position in the Council's governance document. Concurrent with this change, Kris Jones' Coordinator position would be retitled Assistant Director.	
Attachment Links:	Proposed amendments to the Monitoring Council's governance document	
Contact Person:	Karen Larsen	karen.larsen@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 319-9769

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	OCEAN ECOSYSTEM HEALTH WORKGROUP AND PORTAL	50 minutes
Purpose:	Liz Whiteman of the Ocean Science Trust and their consultant Brock Bernstein will describe a recent collaborative project to develop a roadmap that will guide the work of an ocean workgroup towards an ocean-themed portal on the My Water Quality website.	
Desired Outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receipt by the Monitoring Council of the roadmap as guidance for advancing an ocean and coastal workgroup • Discussion of opportunities to maintain the momentum created by the 	

	scoping group participating in the roadmap development	
Background:	<p>The Monitoring Council has identified ocean and coastal waters as a key theme area for workgroup formation and portal development within the context of the My Water Quality website. However, the potential scope of an ocean theme area is enormous and it has been unclear how to prioritize questions or areas of focus. The California Ocean Science Trust, working in partnership with Monitoring Council partners, collaborators and content experts, created a scoping group to develop a roadmap that charts a clear path forward for an ocean workgroup to work towards achievable, cost-effective content and a technical development strategy for the ocean-themed component of the My Water Quality website. Liz Whiteman and Brock Bernstein will share key components of the roadmap which identifies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Focal areas or questions within the ocean realm that bridge the water quality and marine resource monitoring communities, provide useful information for a broad audience, and build upon existing projects and programs; and 2) Cost-effective development options that effectively leverage existing investments in web-based platforms and data sharing tools. <p>The process to develop the roadmap has set the stage for an enduring collaboration among data providers and users in the ocean realm, across multiple regulatory and management dialogues.</p>	
Attachment Links:	My Water Quality Ocean Portal Roadmap	
Contact Person:	Liz Whiteman Brock Bernstein	liz.whiteman@calost.org , (510) 251-8317 brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net , (805) 646-8369

ITEM:	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) MONITORING ENTERPRISE AND COORDINATION WITH ASBS MONITORING	50 minutes
Purpose:	Liz Whiteman of the Ocean Science Trust will provide an update to the Monitoring Council on marine protected area (MPA) monitoring in California, including steps underway to advance towards a partnerships-based monitoring portfolio that supports the state in working towards healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems.	
Desired Outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational item • Discussion about opportunities to strengthen linkages and coordination among resource management and water quality monitoring programs 	
Background:	California's statewide network of MPAs has provided a needed opportunity to reframe the way that we think about MPA monitoring. The network regulates the extraction of living marine resources but performance will be measured against broad ecosystem protection policy goals and a backdrop of many other system impacts, drivers and pressures. The California Ocean Science Trust, working in partnership with resource managers, scientists, tribes, and the ocean community has developed and begun testing an approach for building a partnerships-based monitoring program that is efficient and cost-effective. Liz Whiteman will share an update on the regional MPA monitoring programs including new	

	collaborations to explore alignment between MPA and ASBS monitoring programs and new approaches to design and launch long-term monitoring in the Central Coast region.	
Contact Person:	Liz Whiteman	liz.whiteman@calost.org , (510) 251-8317

LUNCH	Approx. Time:
Lunch will be provided at SCCWRP. A donation of \$10 is requested to cover costs.	60 minutes

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ROCKY REEF ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT INDEX	45 minutes
Purpose:	Julia Coates, shared Fellow between California Ocean Science Trust and the California Coastal Water Research Project, will describe development of a rocky reef index of ecosystem status, based on collaboration between the natural resource and water quality management communities.	
Desired Outcome:	Informational item. Discussion about utilizing the index for other council needs including the Ocean Health portal.	
Background:	The Southern California Coastal Water Research Project and the Ocean Science Trust hired a joint post-doctoral researcher, Dr. Julia Coates, to help bridge the perceived gap between the water quality and natural resources communities. One opportunity to accomplish this connection was the development of a rocky reef index of ecosystem status to address the question: "Which has more effect on rocky reef communities, fishing or water quality pressure?" The index follows analytical frameworks for quantifying biological health and stressor response utilized in the Council's Healthy Streams portal. Working in collaboration with the Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program, Dr. Coates has interacted with the Marine Protected Area Monitoring Enterprise (a program within the Ocean Science Trust), SCCWRP, numerous regulated water quality agencies, and several universities to help generate indices of water quality and fishing pressure for application of her rocky reef ecosystem status index to address the study question.	
Contact Person:	Ken Schiff	kens@sccwrp.org , (714) 755-3202

ITEM:	7	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM – PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW	30 minutes
Purpose:	Lori Webber will provide information on the programmatic review currently under way within the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program	
Desired Outcome:	Monitoring Council Member input on what SWAMP does well for the Monitoring Council and what the Monitoring Council would like to see improved	
Background:	Water Board executive management has asked SWAMP to conduct a	

	programmatic review and report back with recommendations for changes to the program. Rather than a technical review, this programmatic review involves a critical evaluation of the program and its priorities, with an opportunity to change the focus of program activities and to renew commitment to coordination with other Water Board programs. The review is to be completed in June of this year.	
Contact Person:	Lori Webber	Lori.webber@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5556

ITEM:	8	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	TRIENNIAL AUDIT OF THE MONITORING COUNCIL'S STRATEGY	90 minutes
Purpose:	Jon Marshack and Kris Jones will present a draft of the First Triennial Audit Report, followed by discussion among the Monitoring Council Members, Alternates, and EPA Liaison.	
Desired Outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the first Triennial Self-Audit of implementation of the Monitoring Council's comprehensive monitoring program strategy • Discussion on to whom the report should be addressed, publicity, and next steps 	
Background:	<p>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 A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California (2010). Cal/EPA Secretary Matthew Rodriguez requested that the Monitoring Council perform a self-audit.</p> <p>This is a continuation of Item 6 from the December 12, 2013 Monitoring Council meeting and Item 5 from the February 19, 2014 Council meeting. During those meetings, the Monitoring Council heard presentations and reviewed progress reports from the seven theme-specific workgroups, the Data Management Workgroup and the Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network, followed by a discussion of common themes, concerns and recommendations.</p> <p>Monitoring Council Coordinators Jon Marshack and Kris Jones outlined the workgroup progress reports in a summary table that ranks each of six performance measures against rating benchmarks from the Monitoring Council's <i>Strategy</i> and 2008 Initial Recommendations Report. Also in the summary table, explicit needs and additional necessary collaborators were identified by each workgroup. The summary table and individual workgroup progress reports comprise an appendix to the draft Triennial Audit Report.</p> <p>In February, Jon Marshack presented a draft outline of the Triennial Audit Report, identifying goals, accomplishments, challenges, unaddressed mandates, sustainability, next steps, and recommendations. The Monitoring Council provided feedback and instruction on turning the outline into a draft of the report.</p> <p>The proposed recipients of the report include the Secretaries of Cal/EPA and the Natural Resources Agency and key legislators.</p>	
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft of the First Triennial Audit Report • Notes from the February 19, 2014 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 5) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	Jon Marshack Kris Jones	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514 kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MEETING WRAP-UP	20 minutes
Purpose:	<p>Plan agenda for August 27, 2014 Monitoring Council meeting in Sacramento. Potential items include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development of Monitoring Council recommendations to improve grant project monitoring, data management, assessment, and reporting 2) 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 collaboration 3) Data quality standardization efforts of SWAMP – “Data Comparability” 4) 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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm August 27, 2014 Monitoring Council meeting date • Develop agenda for the August 27 meeting 	
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