

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Monday, February 23, 2015 – 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Second Floor, Sierra Hearing Room
 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=m645fb44af14fd28bf86ed6cf3b83d650>, 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 (877) 931-5081 and entering the attendee access code 222 652 6. 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 December 10, 2014 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting	
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve December 10, 2014 Monitoring Council meeting notes b) Preview what will be covered today and overall meeting expectations c) Adjust today's agenda, as needed	
Attachment Link:	Draft notes from December 10, 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	30 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) Triennial Audit – Briefing with Secretary Rodriquez (Kris Jones) b) Environmental Data Summit White Paper (Jon Marshack) c) California CyanoHAB Workgroup – Monitoring Council connection (Jon Marshack) d) National Water Quality Monitoring Council meeting in Boise (1/9-12/15) (Jon Marshack)
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment
Background:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Triennial Audit – The Monitoring Council’s enabling legislation, SB 1070 (Statutes of 2006), requires that the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency conduct a triennial audit of the effectiveness of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy, adopted by the Council in December 2010. Cal/EPA Secretary Matthew Rodriquez requested that the Monitoring Council conduct a self-evaluation. The resulting audit report was approved by the Council at the December 2014 meeting. A briefing on the audit for Secretary Rodriquez has been scheduled for February 19. b) Environmental Data Summit White Paper – The Delta Science Program of the Delta Stewardship Council held the Environmental Data Summit in June 2014. The Delta Science Program is developing a “vision document” or “white paper” outlining findings and recommendations that arose from that two-day meeting. Monitoring Council Members commented on a preliminary draft of the white paper at the December 2014 meeting and voted to formally endorse the document as a restatement and refinement of data management and data access recommendations found in the Monitoring Council’s earlier recommendations. A public review draft of the white paper is scheduled to be released in February. c) California CyanoHAB Network – In the December 2014 meeting, the Monitoring Council approved Jon Marshack to approach the California CyanoHAB Network and asking whether they would become a workgroup of the Monitoring Council to address their theme of harmful algal blooms and cyanotoxins within in the area of stressors and processes that affect water quality. Jon addressed CCHAB at their December meeting and the CCHAB Steering Committee discussed the concept at their January meeting. Follow-up conversations will be occurring with Water Board middle managers and at future CCHAB meetings. d) National Water Quality Monitoring Council meeting – As its state representative for the Pacific Southwest Region (Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada), Jon Marshack will be attending the next face-to-face meeting of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council in Boise, Idaho during the second week of February.
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Efficiency and Effectiveness Through Collaboration: First Triennial Audit Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Audit Report Cover Letter to Cal/EPA Secretary Rodriquez • 2014 Environmental Data Summit website • Draft notes from December 10, 2014 Council meeting

Contact Persons:	Jon Marshack Kris Jones	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov ; (916) 341-5514 kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov ; (916) 376-9756
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ITEM:	3	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	USING ECOATLAS TO TRACK HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS IN THE DELTA	30 minutes
Purpose:	Cristina Grosso of the San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center will present a project update on using EcoAtlas to track habitat restoration projects in the Delta. There is an opportunity to allow users to better visualize the environmental context for these projects by including an additional data layer of habitat types translated from the Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP) data produced by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.	
Desired Outcome:	Monitoring Council guidance on including an additional habitat data layer in EcoAtlas	
Background:	The California Aquatic Resource Inventory (CARI) is the statewide common base map of surface waters, including wetlands and streams, used in EcoAtlas. At the release of EcoAtlas in June 2013, the Monitoring Council decided to not include CARI data for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta because it was unable to differentiate existing wetlands from currently farmed areas. The existing EcoAtlas base map for the Delta shows minimum information for tidal channels and tidal marsh, and almost no data for non-tidal habitats.	
Attachment Link:	EcoAtlas online	
Contact Person:	Cristina Grosso	cristina@sfei.org ; 510-746-7371

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	STATE OF THE ESTUARY REPORT 2015	50 minutes
Purpose:	Hildie Spautz of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and a member of the California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup will provide an update on: (1) proposed ecosystem indicators for the State of the Estuary Report 2015 covering the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and; (2) potential opportunities for linkages between the report and the Estuaries Portal.	
Desired Outcome:	Information and discussion	
Background:	At the September 2014 Monitoring Council meeting, Stephanie Fong of the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency and Judy Kelly of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership presented the concept integrating the State of the Estuary Report (SOTER 2015) with the work of Estuary Workgroup. The Estuary Workgroup has been working with the Partnership and others to develop Delta indicators for the SOTER. While previous reports have mainly focused on the San Francisco Bay, several new Delta indicators are being developed by CEMW members. The content being developed for the SOTER also presents an opportunity for linkages between the SOTER (for the status of ecosystem health	

	summary) and the Estuary Portal (for technical background information and data).	
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes from the September 2014 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 7) • State of the San Francisco Bay 2011 Report 	
Contact Person:	Hildie Spautz	Hildegarde.Spautz@wildlife.ca.gov ; (916) 445-0076

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:	BUSINESS PLANS FROM WORKGROUPS – CONTENT AND FORMAT – WETLAND MONITORING WORKGROUP EXAMPLE	60 minutes
Purpose:	Tony Hale of the San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center will present the strategic planning efforts of the Wetland Monitoring Workgroup that will lead to the development of a business plan outlining specific needs to maintain and grow the workgroup’s collaborative monitoring, assessment, and reporting efforts. Lead persons of all of the Monitoring Council workgroups have been encouraged to attend.	
Desired Outcome:	Monitoring Council input on the nature and scope of the Wetland Monitoring Workgroup’s business plan development effort and whether it could serve as a model for the other workgroups.	
Background:	<p>The Monitoring Council’s 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 A 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>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 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 	

	<p>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 interactive 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 Survey reports 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. 		
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Efficiency and Effectiveness Through Collaboration: First Triennial Audit Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Audit Report Cover Letter to Cal/EPA Secretary Rodriguez 		
Contact Person:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Tony Hale</td> <td style="width: 50%;">tonyh@sfei.org; (510) 746-7381</td> </tr> </table>	Tony Hale	tonyh@sfei.org ; (510) 746-7381
Tony Hale	tonyh@sfei.org ; (510) 746-7381		

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ARE WE ACHIEVING NO NET LOSS? TRACKING WETLAND STATUS AND TRENDS IN CALIFORNIA	
Purpose:	Eric Stein of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) will present an overview of the newly developed wetland status and trends program and discuss initial implementation to evaluate progress toward achieving California’s no net loss goals.	
Desired Outcome:	Monitoring Council support for pending implementation of the wetland status and trends program and potential applicability of the methodology to other water resource types	
Background:	California currently lacks the ability and data standards to track changes in wetland extent. Because of this, it cannot report on the status and trends of its wetland and riparian areas or account for the effects of the millions of dollars it invests annually to protect these resources through its longstanding public policies and programs. The State also lacks data standards and a standardized assessment approach that would allow for the compilation and sharing of data across all wetland programs. Addressing these deficiencies is critical to the ability to undertake a comprehensive net change analysis. The need for development of a coordinated wetland and riparian monitoring program is a key	

	<p>recommendation in the California Natural Resource Agency’s 2010 State of the State’s Wetlands Report and is consistent with the central mandate of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Senate Bill 1070; Kehoe 2006).</p> <p>This project will help the State of California develop the tools and capacity to assess net change in wetland extent and distribution. The ability to track changes in wetland area is a foundational element of California’s wetland monitoring and assessment programs. It not only provides the basic information to report on wetland status and trends over time, but is also crucial for accurately assessing the Federal and State “no net loss” policies in terms of wetland quantity (Clean Water Act §404) and evaluating the effectiveness of current regulatory and management programs (e.g., Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Clean Water Act §401, Fish and Game Code §1600). Furthermore, monitoring trends and tracking net change provide a foundation for monitoring the long-term effects of climate change and other natural disturbances (e.g., fires and floods) on wetland resources. Such evaluations are only possible with a consistent approach to long-term assessment.</p>
<p>Attachment Links:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Aquatic Resources Status and Trends Program: Mapping and Methodology • Wetland Status and Trends Assessment Plan (Wetlands S&T) • Implementation of a Status and Trends Program to Evaluate Extent and Distribution of Aquatic Resources in California
<p>Contact Person:</p>	<p>Eric Stein erics@sccwrp.org; (714) 755-3233</p>

<p>ITEM:</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Approx. Time:</p>
<p>Title of Topic:</p>	<p>STREAM POLLUTION TRENDS PROGRAM (SPoT): RESULTS OF THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF MONITORING (2008-2012)</p>	<p>50 minutes</p>
<p>Purpose:</p>	<p>Bryn Phillips of the UC Davis Department of Environmental Toxicology will present a summary of the third project report from the Stream Pollution Trends Program: Trends in Chemical Contamination, Toxicity and Land Use in California Watersheds: Five-Year Trends 2008-2012.</p>	
<p>Desired Outcome:</p>	<p>Information and discussion</p>	
<p>Background:</p>	<p>The State Water Resources Control Board’s Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) has released the third report on results from a continuing statewide program that measures trends in pollution levels and toxicity in major California watersheds. The program is the Stream Pollution Trends monitoring program (SPoT), and is one of three <u>four</u> statewide projects funded by SWAMP. The report, Trends in Chemical Contamination, Toxicity and Land Use in California Watersheds, summarizes results from the first five years of annual SPoT surveys which assess large watersheds across California to determine how stream pollutant concentrations are affected by land use, with an emphasis on urban and agricultural development. SPoT is improving our understanding of the long term trends of watershed contamination and associated toxicity. This program investigates the impacts of land development on water quality, helps prioritize water bodies in need of water quality management, and evaluates the effectiveness of management programs designed to improve stream health. SPoT data provide a statewide perspective on the impact of pollution on stream</p>	

	<p>health and allows local and regional water quality managers to evaluate how conditions in their streams compare to those in other California watersheds.</p> <p>The SPoT Program satisfies all three of the goals of the Monitoring Council. SPoT collaborates with other agencies and research groups to leverage monitoring efforts. SPoT data are submitted to CEDEN through the SWAMP database, and appear on the Ecosystem Health portal of the My Water Quality web site. Lastly, because SPoT is a trends program, it is positioned to monitor project effectiveness. For example, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation has implemented use restrictions to limit urban use of pyrethroid pesticides. SPoT is collaborating with DPR to evaluate the effectiveness of these regulations to reduce pyrethroids in selected watersheds.</p>
Attachment Link:	SPoT reports, fact sheets, and informational maps and tables
Contact Person:	Bryn Phillips bmphillips@ucdavis.edu ; (831) 624-0947

ITEM:	8	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM REVIEW	40 minutes
Purpose:	Lori Webber will present the results of a recent internal programmatic review of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP).	
Desired Outcome:	Information and discussion	
Background:	<p>The Water Boards' Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) is a critical player in implementing the Monitoring Council's <i>Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California</i>. The Council's enabling legislation, SB 1070 (Statutes of 2006), required that SWAMP update its needs assessment in light of the expanded coordination provided by the Monitoring Council's <i>Strategy</i>. As such, the resulting SWAMP Strategy was appended to the Monitoring Council's <i>Strategy</i>. SWAMP leads two of the Council's theme-specific workgroups – Bioaccumulation Oversight Group and Healthy Streams Partnership – and provides critical tools for others to use in the areas of monitoring, assessment, and reporting standard operating procedures, including quality assurance and data management.</p> <p>In 2014 SWAMP conducted an internal programmatic review to evaluate program functions and effectiveness, and to recommend actions to ensure the program's continued success. A review panel – consisting staff from the State and Regional Water Boards and the USEPA – evaluated current and past SWAMP activities in the context of its overall programmatic mission and goals. The Report lists the major findings of the review and identifies recommended actions to improve effectiveness of program management and to enhance SWAMP's role as a monitoring resource for agencies, stakeholders and the general public. The Report also highlights SWAMP's accomplishments over the past 14 years, including its robust statewide and regional ambient monitoring programs, its quality assurance and data management infrastructure and tools, and the many coordination and collaboration projects that have made effective use of limited resources.</p>	
Attachment Link:	Review of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)	

Contact Person:	Lori Webber	Lori.Webber@waterboards.ca.gov ; (916) 341-5556
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ITEM:	9	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	NEXT MEETING AGENDA	10 minutes
Purpose:	Plan agenda for May 29, 2014 Monitoring Council meeting in Costa Mesa. Potential items include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Data visualization – San Diego River report cards (Brock Bernstein) 2) Convening of the Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Workgroup and development of a My Water Quality portal on the theme of ocean and coastal ecosystem health (Liz Whiteman) 3) Presentations from organizations within the Natural Resources agency (e.g., those identified in SB 1070) and next steps for outreach 4) Possibility of holding an annual conference 	
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda ideas for the May 29 meeting	
Contact Persons:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov ; (916) 376-9756
	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov ; (916) 341-5514

ADJOURN

February 6, 2015
 amended February 17, 2015