

Legislative Priorities

SPRING | 2016

www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov

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The California Water Quality Monitoring Council

Improving the quality of and access to California's water resource monitoring data and assessment information

The Council's Enabling Legislation—SB 1070 (Statutes of 2006)

- Tasked the Monitoring Council with developing a comprehensive monitoring program strategy for California
- To improve the effectiveness of California's water quality and associated ecosystem monitoring and assessment system
- To ensure that the resulting data and information are made available to decision makers and the public via the internet

Proposed 2015-16 Legislation Seeks to Address Similar Needs

- [AB 501, Resources: Delta research \(Levine\)](#)—would require that state-funded Delta research (broadly defined; includes monitoring) make their primary data, metadata, and other supporting materials accessible to other researchers. This bill would authorize the formation of an interagency group to adopt coordinated guidelines to provide consistent procedural and technical requirements for Delta research.
- [AB 1755, The Open and Transparent Water Data Act \(Dodd\)](#)—would require the integration of existing water data, as well as the development of protocols for data sharing, documentation, quality control, public access, and the promotion of open source platforms and decision support tools for water data.

The Monitoring Council Is Already Well Positioned to Satisfy These Needs

- Both proposed legislation provide an opportunity to sustain the Monitoring Council and enable it to continue its core mission to enhance the availability of water data statewide using a proven collaborative, built upon state agencies (State Water Board and Department of Water Resources) and water stakeholders.
- The Monitoring Council's legislative mandate addresses the needs laid out in the proposed legislation.
- The Monitoring Council's theme-specific interagency workgroups currently focus on delivering data and information to resource managers, regulators, and the public via their portals at www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov.
- The Council's Data Management Workgroup is already developing recommendations for data federation, data management plans, and sharing data using web services to make high-quality water data readily available.

A screenshot of the My Water Quality website. The header features the California.gov logo, the "WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL" logo, and the text "My Water Quality". Below the header, there are four main navigation links: "Portals", "About Us", and "Work Groups". A search bar is located in the top right corner. A central callout box contains the text: "These web portals, supported by a wide variety of public and private organizations, present California water quality and aquatic ecosystem monitoring data and assessment information that may be viewed across space and time." At the bottom of the page, there are two small video player icons.

Lessons Learned from SB 1070—Additional Authority and Resources Needed

- SB 1070 provided no dedicated funding and no authority to compel state governmental organizations to participate.
- Progress made to date is largely through in-kind services, voluntary efforts, and occasional grants.
- Dedicated resources and greater authority needed to allow the Monitoring Council to fulfill its mission.

A screenshot showing several content pages from the My Water Quality website.
 - The first page has sections titled "Is Our Water Safe to Drink?", "Is it Safe to Swim in Our Waters?", and "Is it Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish From our Waters?". Each section includes a small image and a brief description.
 - The second page has sections titled "Are Our Aquatic Ecosystems Healthy?" and "What Stressors and Processes Affect our Water Quality?". Each section includes a small image and a brief description.
 - The third page has a section titled "Welcome Prop 1 Applicants! Guidance on the WRAMP framework for monitoring and assessment." with a link.
 - The footer of the site includes the California Water Quality Monitoring Council logo and a "About Us" section.