

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 – 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Second Floor, Klamath Training 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, notes, and related Monitoring Council meeting 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 Global Meet Century Link. To join the on-line meeting, click on this link <https://stateofcaswrcbweb.centurylinkccc.com/CenturylinkWeb/JonMarshack>. Enter as a guest by typing your first and last name and email address into the boxes provided. Please log in a few minutes before the meeting starts to allow Global Meet to set up the meeting connection software on your computer by clicking on the "Launch Application" button if prompted to do so. Audio connection is via teleconference. Enter your phone number and click "Connect Me" to have GlobalMeet call your phone and add you to the meeting. Alternatively click "Dial-In" and then call (877) 820-7831 with guest passcode 586740. Existing audio equipment in our meeting room may limit the quality of the connection.

For a map to the Cal/EPA Headquarters 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 13, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting	
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve December 13, 2016 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 December 13, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	2	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	PUBLIC FORUM	10 minutes
Purpose:	Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Monitoring Council relating to any matter within the Council's jurisdiction under California	

	Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006) provided the matter is not on the agenda.	
Desired Outcome:	Information and potential agenda topics for a future meeting. No decisions can be made regarding items that have not received prior public notice.	
Attachment Link:	California Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006)	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	3	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	10 minutes
Purpose:	These are expected to be brief informational items that could be expanded into more detailed discussions at future meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief announcements and updates related to the Monitoring Council's mission pursuant to Senate Bill 1070, Statutes of 2006 	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Contact Persons:	Jon Marshack Kris Jones	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514 kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	SELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	20 minutes
Purpose:	Jon Marshack will lead a discussion regarding the selection of his replacement as Council Executive Director, in anticipation of his retirement in May 2017.	
Desired Outcome:	Identify the required characteristics and qualifications for this position.	
Background:	<p>Jon Marshack has served as the Council Executive Director since May 2014, before which he served as Coordinator for the Monitoring Council (2008-2014). Jon has scheduled his retirement shortly after the May 2017 Council meeting.</p> <p>CA SB 1070 calls for the Monitoring Council to be administered by the State Water Resources Control Board. The Monitoring Council's Executive Director resides within the State Water Board's Office of Information Management and Analysis and represents the Monitoring Council to executive management of other governmental agencies, departments, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders and to develop policy recommendations to the Monitoring Council.</p> <p>The Executive Director works with the Council's Assistant Director (who resides within the Natural Resources Agency, Department of Water Resources) to identify and organize issues, elicit and develop points of view and alternative solutions, organize theme-specific workgroups, assign tasks to workgroups and contractors, elevate potential disputes to the Council or its Co-Chairs, facilitate Monitoring Council meetings, manage the production of any Council products, and coordinate the development of website(s) and other materials for the Monitoring Council.</p> <p>In addition to the above-listed tasks, the Monitoring Council has authorized the</p>	

	<p>Executive Director, with the support of the Assistant Director, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Represent the Monitoring Council in meetings with managers and staff of state agencies identified in California Water Code Section 13181(a)(5)(B), as well as other state, federal and local governmental agencies, institutions of higher education, the regulated community, citizen monitoring groups, and other non-governmental organizations involved in the monitoring and/or assessment of the health of the state's waters; and b) Comment on proposed projects and programs related to implementation of the Monitoring Council's <i>A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California</i>. <p>Given the aforementioned responsibilities and duties and given that the position will need to go through the normal State hiring process, what are the desired characteristics and qualifications for a replacement Executive Director? What screening criteria should be used?</p>	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1755, THE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT WATER DATA ACT	
Purpose:	<p>Speakers from several of organizations and perspectives will present on efforts relevant to the implementation of Assembly Bill 1755, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) AB 1755 implementation and opportunities for coordination (Chris McCready) b) California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) Workshop (Chris McCready and Kris Jones) c) Data Management Workgroup Steering Committee update and recommendations (Tony Hale and Rainer Hoenicke) d) WRAMP toolsets and AB 1755 implementation (Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon) 	
Desired Outcome:	<p>Discussion between the speakers and Monitoring Council members to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Monitoring Council and its workgroups can help support the implementation of AB 1755 • DWR's process for developing the strategy and protocols required for AB 1755 (due January 1, 2018) • Opportunities for outreach with stakeholders • How best to stay engaged in AB 1755 implementation • The role of the Data Management Steering Committee in supporting AB 1755 Implementation and the associated stakeholder engagement <p>Instructions to staff from the Monitoring Council.</p>	
Background:	<p>a) <i>AB 1755 implementation and opportunities for coordination</i> – In September 2016, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755) was signed into law, requiring DWR, in consultation with the Monitoring Council,</p>	

the State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to create, operate, and maintain a statewide integrated water data platform; develop protocols for data sharing, documentation, quality control, public access; facilitate use of decision support tools related to water data; and submit a report to the Legislature on these activities. DWR seeks to work with the Monitoring Council, its other partners, and interested stakeholders to meet statutory requirements of AB 1755.

- b) **California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) Workshop** – On February 9, 2017, the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST), Department of Water Resources (DWR), and UC Water held an all-day meeting with the goal of assessing 1) who needs; 2) what data; 3) in what form; 4) to make what decisions for California water and related environmental management. The meeting also attempted to define key attributes of a comprehensive water data and information system that is capable of supporting a range of water-management decisions, as well as develop a process that identifies broader water-data needs of all potential users. At the December 13 Monitoring Council meeting, Chris McCreedy (DWR) indicated that the Department plans to use the CCST meeting as an opportunity for outreach and to begin developing a strategy for their efforts relating to the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755) (see [notes](#); Item 3d).
- c) **Data Management Workgroup Steering Committee update and recommendations** – The Council's Data Management Workgroup (DMWG) meets regularly to coordinate information technology-related efforts, offer guidance and information to other Council workgroups, and advance information sharing regarding water quality data and technology opportunities. During its February 2016 meeting, the Monitoring Council decided to provide a letter of support for developing a Steering Committee to provide direction and potential staff resources to the Data Management Workgroup. In addition, the Steering Committee's goals have been to identify ways in which the Council and the Data Management Workgroup could support initiatives, such as DWR's efforts relating to AB 1755 and implementing the recommendations of the Data Summit [White Paper](#).
- d) **WRAMP toolsets and AB 1755 implementation** – The Council's California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup's (CWMW) mission is to improve the monitoring and assessment of wetland and riparian resources by developing a comprehensive stream, wetland, and riparian area monitoring plan for California and through increasing coordination and cooperation among local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations. The CWMW developed the Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan (WRAMP) as a comprehensive framework with tools to be able to monitor and assess aquatic resources in a watershed or landscape. The WRAMP framework can be used to support ecosystem and habitat planning, assessment, monitoring, reporting, and data storage. WRAMP features multiple data and mapping tools that have been developed over the last two decades to address the needs of multiple state and federal agencies for rigorous water quality and aquatic ecology data. The tools can be used individually or together, and they can be adjusted or tuned to meet the specific needs of the user (e.g., environmental planners, regulators, managers, scientists, and educators). The maps and tools can be used to create a complete picture of aquatic resources in the landscape or watershed context by integrating stream and wetland maps, restoration

	<p>information, and monitoring results with land use, transportation, and other information important to the state’s wetlands.</p> <p>One of the most remarkable aspects of WRAMP is its emphasis on data access and sharing. The EcoAtlas data viewer is especially commonly used for aggregating and displaying data from many sources to support regulatory and management decisions. It can be used to generate, compile, store, visualize, share, and report many kinds of environmental data and information without requiring data sources to relinquish any ownership or oversight.</p> <p>The Monitoring Council has endorsed WRAMP. The framework and tools are beginning to be implemented through a variety of regional, state, and federal programs, with advice and review provided by the Council’s Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup and Data Management Workgroup. The Wetland Workgroup finds that the WRAMP is consistent with the intent of AB 1755, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act, and that WRAMP can help implement the Act. The Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup is, therefore, requesting that the Council facilitate a discussion of WRAMP, especially EcoAtlas, between the Wetlands Workgroup, the Data Management Workgroup, and the leaders of the AB 1755 implementation. The discussion will include how EcoAtlas and other WRAMP tools can help integrate existing and future water quality and ecological data and information from multiple databases. Because EcoAtlas is already making substantial progress in those regards, the Wetland Workgroup is recommending that WRAMP be incorporated into the AB 1755 implementation, especially with regard to wetlands and riparian areas.</p>
<p>Attachment Link:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assembly Bill No. 1755, chaptered September 23, 2016 b) CCST Workshop goals and agenda Draft notes from December 13, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting c) Draft Notes from the December 16, 2016 DMWG Steering Committee Meeting Environmental Data Summit White Paper -- Enhancing the Vision for Managing California’s Environmental Information d) WRAMP webpage WRAMP Tool Kit Monitoring Council Endorsement of Statewide Wetland Monitoring Strategy
<p>Contact Person:</p>	<p>Jon Marshack jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5514</p>

LUNCH	Approx. Time:
On your own. Cafe on first floor. Other restaurants in close proximity to building.	60 minutes

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	THE FUTURE OF CALIFORNIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL DATA	45 minutes
Purpose:	Greg Gearheart and Tony Hale will: 1) provide an assessment of the current state of California's environmental data; 2) recommend a path forward for improved management of and access to these data; and 3) suggest ways the Monitoring Council could support these efforts as they move forward.	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Background:	<p>Greg Gearheart (State Water Resources Control Board) will cover the open data initiative efforts taken by the State Water Board over the last year-plus. This includes a series of events aimed at highlighting the potential for open data and related agile frameworks to quickly solve many "data flow" problems encountered at a large state entity with lots of data and database "issues." The State Water Board uses data fairs, data challenges and a water quality / data science symposium to create more potential for data-driven decision making. The most recent water data challenge is at http://waterchallenge.data.ca.gov/. Additionally, Greg will cover the State of California's participation and role in the emerging national framework aimed at using open water data to support sustainable outcomes. This "federated" network of open data nodes will build off and reflect the model being built within California for similar purposes.</p> <p>Tony Hale (San Francisco Estuary Institute), in collaboration with many others, has spent the past several months leading an effort to help realize the principles outlined in the white paper published by the Delta Science Program Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information. Tony will reflect on Greg's accomplishments while characterizing the current risks still faced by the state. Tony will also make some recommendations for the goals that scientists, researchers, and the Council itself might support in the intermediate term to help achieve a more "open" future.</p>	
Attachment Link:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water data challenge website • Environmental Data Summit White Paper -- Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information 	
Contact Person:	Greg Gearheart Tony Hale	greg.gearheart@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5892 tonyh@sfei.org , (510) 746-7381

ITEM:	7	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	CONNECTION WITH DATA INITIATIVES OUTSIDE THE MONITORING COUNCIL OR ITS WORKGROUPS	50 minutes
Purpose:	Kris Jones will lead a discussion regarding the Monitoring Council's role supporting data access and visualization initiatives outside the efforts of the Monitoring Council's workgroups.	
Desired Outcome:	Guidance for staff regarding the Council's role in supporting outside data management and visualization initiatives and regional monitoring efforts.	

Background:	<p>When the Monitoring Council was formed, its Strategy established a number of theme-specific workgroups, comprised of subject matter experts from a variety of governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations. Each workgroup was tasked with developing an internet portal to bring relevant monitoring data and assessment information for their theme to decision makers and the public. Portal development was envisioned as a mechanism to (1) highlight where gaps or redundancies existed in current monitoring programs, (2) where differences in methods or assessment strategies prevented combining data from multiple studies to enable broader or more in-depth assessments, or (3) where data management systems prevented sharing data across organizations and delivering it to the portals.</p> <p>Following the Monitoring Council’s first Triennial Audit—a self-evaluation of the effectiveness of the workgroup’s progress implementing the Monitoring Council’s Strategy—the Monitoring Council reflected on its successes and failures. At the August 27, 2015 quarterly meeting, the Council formed a Planning Subcommittee to develop ideas for full Council consideration. The Planning Subcommittee recommended that the Council be more flexible in the efforts it supports. This recommendation was mirrored in meetings with the Undersecretary for Environmental Protection, Gordon Burns, who encouraged the Council to support high priority initiatives for the administration. Given this feedback, the Council has increasingly served as a resource for groups that do not fall within the theme-specific workgroup structure. Specifically, the Council and its workgroups have become a resource for data management initiatives, such as those that require data sharing across organizational boundaries. The Council’s staff and Data Management Workgroup have recently worked to educate and inform efforts such as the Interagency Ecological Program’s Data Utilization Workgroup (IEP DUWG) and the EcoRestore Interagency Adaptive Management Implementation Team (IAMIT). Serving as subject matter experts—and supporting external data-driven initiatives—could serve as a means to elevate awareness of the Council’s efforts, while filling a much needed niche within the State of California.</p>	
Attachment Link:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California (December 2010) • Increasing Efficiency and Effectiveness Through Collaboration, First Triennial Audit report (December 2014) 	
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 376-9756

ITEM:	8	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	SUMMARY OF 2016 COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2017 INITIATIVES	30 minutes
Purpose:	Discussion of progress made in 2016 by the Monitoring Council and its eight workgroups to improve California’s program to monitor and assess the quality of our waters and the health of associated ecosystem and to provide the resulting data and information to decision makers and the public via the Internet.	
Desired Outcome:	Direction on the focus and content of the annual report to the Secretaries of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural	

	Resources Agency.	
Background:	<p>As required by SB 1070 (Kehoe, 2016), the Monitoring Council developed a comprehensive monitoring program strategy for California to guide the improvements mandated by the legislation. As an advisory body, the Monitoring Council submitted this strategy for review, comment, and subsequent implementation in two reports to the two Agency Secretaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring Council Recommendations to Agencies, December 2008 • A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California, December 2010 <p>As a part of the <i>Strategy</i>, the Monitoring Council committed to provide the Agency Secretaries with annual progress reports on strategy implementation. Progress reports have been submitted for 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. In December 2014, the Monitoring Council published its first Triennial Audit of implementing its Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy, as required by SB 1070 [Water Code §13181(h)] and the Memorandum of Understanding between Cal/EPA and the Natural Resources Agency. Since the workgroups are the main instruments to implement the strategy, each workgroup has been asked to prepare a summary of 2016 accomplishments and proposed initiatives for 2017.</p>	
Attachment Link:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 Monitoring Council Workgroup Annual Reports <i>Note: These linked reports may not be available initially.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inland Beaches Workgroup (Safe to Swim) ○ Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish) ○ Safe Drinking Water Workgroup – not currently active ○ Wetland Monitoring Workgroup ○ Healthy Watersheds Partnership ○ Estuary Monitoring Workgroup ○ Ocean Health Workgroup – not yet convened ○ California Cyanobacterial and Harmful Algal Bloom Network ○ Data Management Workgroup and Steering Committee ○ Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network 	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ITEM:	9	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MONITORING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP—IS THERE A NEED TO REVISIT MEMBERSHIP, GIVEN RECENT DATA INITIATIVES?	45 minutes
Purpose:	Jon Marshack will provide an update on recent membership changes and lead a discussion regarding the Council’s potential next steps for filling these vacancies	
Desired Outcome:	Discussion and comment	
Background:	The Monitoring Council currently seeks to fill vacancies for the following representatives:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resources Agency (Council Co-Chair)—The Co-Chair seat became vacant in November 2014 with the resignation of DWR’s Deputy Director for Delta and Statewide Water Management, Paul Helliker. The Co-Chair Alternate, Stephani Spaar, has solely represented Natural Resources for the past two years. • Agriculture—Parry Klassen indicated via email that he would be resigning from the Monitoring Council and endorsed his Alternate, Bruce Houdesheldt of the Northern California Water Association, to take his place. Parry offered to stay on as an Alternate in this position. No formal endorsement of Bruce’s position has been received from the agricultural community. • Public—Sara Aminzadeh resigned from the Monitoring Council in late January 2016. Her alternate, Travis Pritchard, has continued to act as Sara’s Alternate. Travis Pritchard has recently left the San Diego Coastkeeper organization. The Public vacancy position was noticed and a number of applications have been received. • Water Supply—At the December 13 Council Meeting, Sarge Green indicated that he will be stepping down from his Council seat representing Water Supply and that the Association for California Water Agencies will recommend Rebecca Franklin as his replacement. • Regulated Community (Publicly Owned Treatment Works)—Phil Markle also announced at the December 13 Council Meeting that he would be stepping down from his Council seat representing Publicly Owned Treatment Works. A recommendation for his replacement is expected from the California Association of Sanitation Agencies in the near future. <p>At the August 27, 2015 quarterly meeting, the Council formed a Planning Subcommittee to develop ideas for full Council consideration—the current and future Monitoring Council membership and structure were among those topics discussed. During the February 1, 2016 Planning Subcommittee meeting, attendees recommended that to more-fully engage additional state governmental organizations in the Monitoring Council’s activities and to bring additional staff and resources to bear, members should be added to the Council structure to represent high-level managers of key departments including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Fish and Wildlife • Delta Stewardship Council, especially its Delta Science Program • Department of Pesticide Regulation • Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) <p>Subcommittee members suggested that letters of recommendation from the Agency Secretaries could be used to help recruit new members. Two options for adding members were discussed – creating a separate Steering Committee or merely adding members to the existing Monitoring Council. Membership by federal partner organizations was also suggested (see meetings notes from February 23, 2016; Item 6)</p>
<p>Attachment Links:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes from February 23, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 6)
<p>Contact Person:</p>	<p>Jon Marshack jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5514</p>

ITEM:	10	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	NEXT MEETING AGENDA	10 minutes
Purpose:	<p>Plan agenda for May 23, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting in Costa Mesa. Potential items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Estuary portal enhancements – living resources and D-1641 water quality report (Estuary Monitoring Workgroup) b) STORMs Monitoring Coordination Framework (Noelle Patterson, SWRCB) c) Data quality and data management standardization efforts of SWAMP (Melissa Morris, SWRCB) d) Human Right to Water “safe and clean” web content and connection to My Water Quality (Wendy Killou of the Division of Drinking Water) e) Interagency Ecological Program governance model – fostering ad hoc teams for specific tasks (Greg Erickson and Sakura Evans of CDFW) f) Ecohydrology, flow ecology, and biologically-relevant instream flow thresholds (Robert Holmes of CDFW, Eric Stein and Raphael Mazor of SCCWRP, Julie Zimmerman of The Nature Conservancy) g) State stewardship for the National Hydrography Dataset by the Department of Water Resources (Greg Smith, DWR) h) Possibility of holding a Monitoring Council annual conference i) Monitoring Council strategic planning 	
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda ideas for the May 23, 2017 meeting in Costa Mesa	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ADJOURN