

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

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

First Floor, Training Room 1 East/West
Joe Serna Jr. Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
1001 I Street, Sacramento



Monitoring Council Members and (Alternates) in attendance:

Bob Brownwood Ray Hiemstra Taryn Ravazzini
Beth Christman Karen Larsen (Shelly Walther)

Stephen Weisberg

Others in attendance or (on the phone):

(Gina Benigno, Department of Fish and Wildlife)
Rich Breuer, State Water Resources Control Board
Terry Fleming, US Environmental Protection Agency—Region 9
Helen Fitanides, The Watershed Project
Karen Gehrts, Department of Water Resources
Jack Gouge
Tony Hale, San Francisco Estuary Institute
(Cliff Harvey, State Water Resources Control Board)
Kris Jones, Water Quality Monitoring Council, Department of Water Resources
Dave Lawson, Western Plant Health Association
Rafael Maestu, State Water Resources Control Board
Stephen Maurano, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Sonia Miller, Department of Water Resources
(Christina McCready, Department of Water Resources)
Amye Osti, 34 North
(Brendan Reed, State Water Resources Control Board)
(Tad Slawewski, LimnoTech)
(Eric Stein, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project)
Lori Webber, State Water Resources Control Board
Holly Wyer, Ocean Protection Council

ITEM:	1
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING
Purpose:	a) Introductions (in the room and on the phone) b) Review draft notes from August 18, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting c) Review agenda for meeting
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve August 18, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting notes b) Preview what will be covered and overall meeting expectations c) Adjust agenda, as needed
Attachment Links:	Draft notes from August 18, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting

Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Notes:	Given time limitations of several Council members, Kris Jones proposed moving Item 6 (Environmental Flows Workgroup) before Item 3 (Monitoring Council Strategy). The Council members were supportive of this option.	
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting notes from the August 18, 2017 were approved with no revisions. Agenda item 6 was heard before Item 3. 	

ITEM:	2	
Title of Topic:	PUBLIC FORUM	
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:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Notes:	No persons requested to address the Council.	

ITEM:	3	
Title of Topic:	STRATEGIZING THE MONITORING COUNCIL'S FUTURE DIRECTION	
Purpose:	Kris Jones led a discussion regarding the Monitoring Council's future direction, drawing from feedback received during prior Council meetings and recommendations received during the Subcommittee meeting on July 14.	
Desired Outcome:	Provide direction to Council staff and fellow Council Members as to potential adjustments in approach and initiatives to enhance the Council's success.	
Attachment Link:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategizing the Monitoring Council's Future Direction - Presentation by Kris Jones Notes from July 14, 2017 Council Subcommittee meeting Notes from May 23, 2017 Monitoring Council Meeting (see Item 5) Notes from August 18, 2017 Monitoring Council Meeting (see Item 7) 	
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Notes:	Kris Jones presented on two topics for discussion regarding the Monitoring Council's future direction—he proposed having subcommittees that focus on the Monitoring Council's Strategy and Membership, as well as the Council's Portals. Kris indicated that the Strategy and Membership Subcommittee would try to meet in January, allowing time to brief the Undersecretaries for Natural	

	<p>Resources and Environmental Protection in advance of the February 23 Council meeting; Kris suggested soliciting feedback and guidance from the agency heads, in order to ensure that the Council's updated Strategy was in line with the priorities of the two agencies. Steve Weisberg, Karen Larsen, and Taryn Ravazzini agreed to take part in the subcommittee focused on the Council's Strategy and Membership.</p> <p>Kris indicated that the subcommittee focused on the Council's portals would likely meet several times to identify a path forward, reflecting on the 'lesson's learned' from the implementation of the My Water Quality portal's. He proposed including the leads from the Council's various workgroups, in addition to interested Council members. Karen Larsen suggested revisiting the initial charge of the portals, as the group reflects on how best to move forward—other's agreed. Beth Christman, Terry Fleming, Helen Fitanides, Shelly Walther, and Ray Hiemstra volunteered to take part in those discussions.</p>
Action Items:	Kris Jones will contact volunteers for the two subcommittees to identify meeting dates in the new year. Kris will work with the subcommittees to develop recommendations to bring to the Monitoring Council at the February 23 meeting.

ITEM:	4	
Title of Topic:	ESTUARY PORTAL ENHANCEMENTS	
Purpose:	Amye Osti of 34 North presented on updates to the new California Estuaries Portal (estimated release Spring 2018)	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Attachment Link:	Notes from the August 27, 2015 Monitoring Council meeting (Item 5) Notes from the February 23, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting (Item 5d) CA Estuaries Portal – presentation by Val Connor on February 23, 2016	
Contact Person:	Amye Osti	amy@34north.com , (310) 305 -8289
Notes:	<p>Amye Osti demonstrated the new Estuaries Portal, which has not yet launched. The new look and feel was a dramatic departure from the look of the Council's other theme specific portals. This raised slight concerns for Steve Weisberg, who indicated that the Estuaries Portal represents a dramatic leap forward for the Council's portals; however, he indicated that the Portal Subcommittee should consider how to address the differences of the portal's (e.g., is it an issue that they look different)? Steve also encouraged the Estuaries Workgroup to develop content that focused on assessments of ecosystem health. Kris Jones indicated that several of the workgroups struggle to develop this type of content on their portals—adding that this was a common challenge for the Council's workgroups. Kris added that with regard to the Estuary Workgroup, there had been an effort to take part in the State of the San Francisco Estuary Report 2015; however, he indicated that the workgroup experienced pushback from management during this collaborative effort (e.g., coming up with assessments of estuary health). He added that though this had previously been a challenge, the workgroup could certainly try and revisit these types of assessments as they move forward. Kris Jones and Amye Osti indicated that there would be an opportunity to have the</p>	

	Council members take part in a review of the portal, allowing them the opportunity to provide additional feedback.
Action Items:	Kris Jones will distribute the survey for review of the Estuary Portal to the Council members when it is ready for distribution.

ITEM:	5	
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	
Purpose:	<p>These are expected to be brief informational items that could be expanded into more detailed discussions at future meetings:</p> <p>a) Meeting Agenda Format Changes (Kris Jones)</p> <p>b) Monitoring Council Position Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair representing the Natural Resources Agency (Kris Jones and Taryn Ravazzini) • Public Member (Kris Jones and Ray Hiemstra) • Council Staff Position Changes (Kris Jones) <p>c) AB 1755, Open and Transparent Water Data Act (Chris McCready)</p>	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Attachment Links:	a) AB 1755, The Open and Transparent Water Data Act , chaptered September 23, 2016	
Contact Persons:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Notes:	<p>a) The Council members were supportive of the updated format for the agenda's and meeting notes—all agreed that they should be more streamlined.</p> <p>b) Taryn Ravazzini introduced herself as the new Monitoring Council Co-Chair representing the Natural Resources Agency. Taryn's appointment letter, sent from the Secretary Jonathan Laird (Natural Resources) on November 27, was shared with the Council members. Karen Larsen also provided an update on the Monitoring Council Director vacancy, indicating that candidates have been interviewed and that a second round of interviews will take place in December. Karen expected that the Director position should be filled by January 1st. Kris Jones then indicated that he had recently received a promotion as an Executive Advisor (Program Manager II) working under Taryn Ravazzini, DWR Deputy Director over Special Initiatives. Kris added that in his new position he would be able to maintain his part-time duties as Monitoring Council Assistant Director.</p> <p>c) Chris McCready updated the Council on the upcoming workshop hosted by the California Council for Science and Technology (UC Berkeley; November 29), which will mainly focus on updates and soliciting feedback from key stakeholders. Chris indicated that an interagency team is currently working towards developing a draft strategy document and draft protocols. She indicated that she would work with Kris Jones to solicit input and feedback from the Council members when they are ready for review (January 2018).</p>	

ITEM:	6 – Note: This item was heard after Item 3	
Title of Topic:	SUPPORT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS WORKGROUP UNDER THE MONITORING COUNCIL	
Purpose:	Eric Stein of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project will provide a brief overview of efforts to develop a framework for establishing statewide environmental instream flow recommendations, followed by a discussion regarding potential Monitoring Council support for a new collaboration effort involving environmental/ecosystem flows and open data.	
Desired Outcome:	Monitoring Council endorsement of the use of the State Open Data Portal and the Council's My Water Quality website and the establishment of a new workgroup effort to facilitate knowledge transfer and data sharing on statewide environmental instream flows across agencies and programs.	
Attachment Link:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring Council Support for an Environmental Flows Workgroup - presentation by Eric Stein • Fact Sheet: Proposed Environmental Flows Workgroup • Fact Sheet: Technical Overview of Environmental Flows Workgroup 	
Contact Person:	Eric Stein	eric@sccwrp.org , (714) 755-3233
Notes:	<p>Eric Stein presented a brief recap of the prior presentations and discussions on this topic. Following his update, Shelly Walther asked about the placement of an Environmental Flows portal, given that the focus seems to relate (and may even overlap) with some of the Council's other portals. Kris Jones agreed, adding that as the workgroups have developed, potential collaborative opportunities (e.g., among portal efforts) have been identified; Kris indicated that the newly proposed Portal Subcommittee would try and address these concerns when they convene in January. When going over prior discussions regarding the proposed Environmental Flows Workgroup, Karen Larsen indicated that the Water Supply and Agricultural Council members had previously expressed concerns regarding including such a workgroup under the Council. Karen indicated that the concerns seemed to be regarding the workgroup's potential to influence policy. Kris Jones emphasized that the workgroup's proposed focus is on improved coordination and data sharing—not influencing policy. He added that this was detailed in Eric's prior presentations. This sentiment was mirrored by Eric Stein. After a brief discussion regarding clarifying the workgroup's objectives (e.g., making it clear the workgroup would not be working to influence policy), Steve Weisberg raised the motion to form an Environmental Flows workgroup under the Monitoring Council. Beth Christman seconded the motion. All were in favor (no objections).</p>	

ITEM:	7	
Title of Topic:	ECOATLAS BUSINESS PLAN	
Purpose:	Tony Hale of the San Francisco Estuary Institute presented on the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup's (CWMW) EcoAtlas Business Plan.	

Desired Outcome:	In the last CWQMC meeting, Tony Hale presented a draft of the Business Plan. Now that it is finalized, the CWMW would like to solicit input from the Council members on its implementation, identify funding avenues not yet considered, with potential endorsement behind the concept of a multi-agency, multi-organizational steering committee for EcoAtlas.	
Attachment Link:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EcoAtlas Business Plan - Presentation by Tony Hale • Proposed final version of the Executive Summary • Proposed final version of the Business Plan, including the Executive Summary 	
Contact Person:	Tony Hale	tonyh@sfei.org , (510) 746-7381
Notes:	Tony Hale presented an update on the Wetland Monitoring Workgroup's EcoAtlas Business Plan. The Council members were supportive of the proposed updates. Karen Larsen raised questions regarding costs and messaging. She suggested that the CWMW should make sure to market their business plan to representatives from government agencies. Karen indicated that she would work with Tony to provide additional feedback regarding how to tailor their messaging/marketing to agency stakeholders.	
Action Items:	Tony Hale will draft an endorsement letter from the Monitoring Council for the Business Plan, and will work with Kris Jones to prepare the letter for approval at the February 23 Monitoring Council meeting. Tony will also reach out to Karen Larsen regarding how best to tailor their messaging/marketing to agency stakeholders.	

ITEM:	8
Title of Topic:	NEXT MEETING AGENDA
Purpose:	<p>Plan agenda for the February 23, 2018 Monitoring Council meeting in Sacramento. Potential items include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continued Monitoring Council strategic planning My Water Quality Portals—how can the Council modify its approach for sharing data and information in a way that improves portal usefulness (Kris Jones) Interagency Ecological Program governance model – fostering ad hoc teams for specific tasks (Greg Erickson and Sakura Evans of CDFW) State stewardship for the National Hydrography Dataset by the Department of Water Resources (Jane Schafer-Kramer, DWR) STORMs Monitoring Coordination Framework (Matthew Freese) Data management, quality, sharing, and visualization – related to AB 1755, initiatives of the Council's Data Management Steering Committed and Workgroup, the State Water Board and other departments and organizations, SWAMP (Greg Gearheart, Tony Hale, Melissa Morris, others)
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda ideas for the February 23, 2018 meeting

Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Notes:	Karen Larsen indicated that the newly formed subcommittees (focused on Strategy and Membership, as well as the Portals) will likely have an update at the February 23 meeting. Karen also added that she would like to expand upon Item F (with greater emphasis on AB 1755). She also expressed interest in a presentation on DWR's new role as steward for the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD; Item D).	

January 2, 2018