

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Friday, February 23, 2018 – 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 Stephen Weisberg
Beth Christman Karen Larsen

Others in attendance or (on the phone):

(Bev Anderson, State Water Resources Control Board)
Helen Fitanides, The Watershed Project (Citizen Science)
Terry Fleming, US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9
Greg Gearheart, State Water Resources Control Board
(Cristina Grosso, San Francisco Estuary Institute)
Kris Jones, Water Quality Monitoring Council, Department of Water Resources
(Phil Markle, LA County Sanitation District)
Nick Martorano, Water Quality Monitoring Council, State Water Resources Control Board
Chris McCready, Department of Water Resources
Sonia Miller, Department of Water Resources
Amye Osti, 34 North
Jane Schafer-Kramer, Department of Water Resources

ITEM:	1
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING
Purpose:	1) Introductions (in the room and on the phone) 2) Review draft notes from November 28, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve November 28, 2017 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 November 28, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting
Contact Person:	Kris Jones kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Decisions:	The meeting notes from November 28, 2017 were approved with no additional revisions.

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:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	
Purpose:	These are expected to be brief informational items that could be expanded into more detailed discussions at future meetings: a) New Monitoring Council Director (Karen Larsen and Nick Martorano) b) Endorsement Letter for EcoAtlas Business Plan (Cristina Grosso)	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Contact Persons:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Notes:	<p>Karen Larson introduced Nick Martorano as the new Water Quality Monitoring Council Director, who filled the vacancy left by Jon Marshack. Nick has worked for the Water Board for eleven years in different programs including Total Maximum Daily Load implementation, water quality standards developments, and most recently as the manager of the water quality assessment unit. Nick is looking forward to working with the Council to further its mission and vision.</p> <p>The endorsement letter from the Council was received by SFEI and they are proceeding with next steps. Cristina Grosso of SFEI (speaking for Tony Hale) provided the update on implementing the Business Plan, which include meeting with various strategic partners and other agency staff. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss how EcoAtlas can be used to meet the very specific planning, reporting, and assessment responsibilities at the different organizations.</p>	

ITEM:	4	
Title of Topic:	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MONITORING COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES	
Purpose:	<p>Kris Jones led a discussion regarding the Monitoring Council’s future direction, drawing from feedback received during prior Council meetings and recommendations received from the following subcommittees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Monitoring Council Strategy and Membership b) Monitoring Council Portals 	
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.	
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Notes:	<p>Strategy and Membership Subcommittee – Taryn Ravazzini gave a presentation on the subcommittee’s findings and next steps. The subcommittee highlighted three areas for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) methods and data standardization; 2) data access and visualization tools; and 3) communication and outreach. <p>In addition, the subcommittee provided three recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) re-evaluate existing workgroups and products utilizing a workgroup summit; 2) develop updated guidance for workgroups; and 3) develop a formal communication strategy to engage additional monitoring groups and to reengage with the Agency Secretaries and the State Legislature. <p>The subcommittee also discussed Council membership, and the need to seek additional members from key organizations such as Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Public Health, Department of Food and Agriculture, and Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). In addition, they highlighted the need for new members to have influence and authority, who can speak for their sector, and who can volunteer their staff time and resources. Lastly, the subcommittee emphasized that new members should have improved orientation materials, to ensure a consistent understanding of the Council’s goals and member expectations.</p> <p>Portal Subcommittee – Kris Jones presented an update on the subcommittee, which had a meeting focused on lessons learned and feedback from those workgroup leads and Council Members in attendance. The subcommittee reviewed the Council’s original approach for the portals (see presentation; slide 3). A suggestion from the subcommittee was to reconsider the question driven navigation, by using questions to highlight content in a way that makes it more accessible to a general audience, and more intuitive to navigate. There was also discussion regarding the Council’s approach to naming portals, as well as ways to improve the searchability of portals via search engines (e.g., Google searches). With regard to having a consistent look and feel for the portals, subcommittee members felt that workgroups should have flexibility in the design of their portals, as long as the portals have consistent branding (e.g., a consistent Monitoring Council banner at the top of portal pages).</p>	

	Subcommittee members also recommended shifting the focus of the portals towards supporting agency decisionmakers, while still developing content that is accessible to a general audience. The subcommittee agreed to meet quarterly (to start) to continue discussions regarding how best to move forward with the Council's portals and coordination of these efforts among the workgroups.
Action Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Martorano and Kris Jones will hold a workgroup summit to discuss the successes, and needs of the workgroups. Nick and Kris will report back to the Council on the summit findings and recommendations for how the Council can help improve the workgroups at the next Council meeting. • Karen Larsen, Taryn Ravazzini, and Steve Weisberg will develop top 5 needs and recommendations from the Council for discussions with the Agency Secretaries and Legislature. • Terry Fleming and Beth Christman will develop specific next steps and recommendations for engaging monitoring groups throughout the state.

ITEM:	5
Title of Topic:	STATE STEWARDSHIP OF THE NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHY DATASET
Purpose:	Jane Schafer-Kramer presented on the Department of Water Resources' new role as State Steward of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), and led a discussion with Kris Jones regarding potential collaborative opportunities moving forward.
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment
Attachment Link:	Notes from December 12, 2013 Monitoring Council meeting (Item 2b) State Stewardship for NHD and NWI – summary by Kris Jones (February 2014)
Contact Person:	Jane Schafer-Kramer Jane.Schafer-Kramer@water.ca.gov , (916) 653-4441
Notes:	Jane Schafer-Kramer gave a presentation on the National Hydrography Dataset, which included a brief history, data standards, current collaborations with local partners, and plans for the dataset. During the discussion, groups were identified for collaboration. Contact Jane Schafer-Kramer if you have questions, suggestions, or would like to contribute datasets. Jane.Schafer-Kramer@water.ca.gov , (916) 653-4441
Action Item:	Nick Martorano and Kris Jones will work with the Clean Water Team and Healthy Watersheds Workgroup and the NHD steward to determine if there are opportunities to provide data to DWR to bolster the NHD efforts.

ITEM:	6
Title of Topic:	AB1755 – UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION
Purpose:	Chris McCready presented on recent updates relating to the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB1755), along with opportunities for feedback and review of products developed through those efforts (see attachments below). Kris Jones also led a discussion regarding opportunities for collaboration between these efforts—as both the Monitoring Council and AB1755 are

	considering how best to move forward with their respective strategies (including governance and membership).	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Attachment Link:	Progress Report for Implementing the Open and Transparent Water Data Act with Initial Draft Strategic Plan and Preliminary Protocols	
Contact Person:	Chris McCready Kris Jones	Christina.McCready@water.ca.gov , (916) 651-9298 kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925
Notes:	<p>Christina McCready gave a presentation on AB1755. The progress report, which includes the draft strategic plan and preliminary protocols, is linked above. The Draft Strategy documents reflect a user-centered approach that is intended to build the relationships and investment necessary across State and federal agencies, and among stakeholders to assure that AB 1755 and the larger data vision will be sustainable over time. The aim is to transform data systems to assure that data are sufficient, accessible, and useful in a way that supports water resource decision-makers in achieving sustainable water management. To accomplish this the strategy emphasizes use cases and federation. Use cases are a tool for assessing stakeholder data needs in specific decision contexts, and communicating those needs to technical developers. Employing use cases provides a direct relation between user needs and system requirements. And, because no one website or database could reasonably contain all of California's water related data, federation offers a viable technical solution. In a federated open data system, each open data platform will be accessible through a federated data catalog, analogous to the inter-library loan system. As a starting point, DWR and its partners aim to federate and populate the California Government Operations Agency and California Natural Resources Agency open data portals to allow users access to available State water and ecological datasets. Other groups will then be encouraged to join, using common data standards and protocols. There is a fund set up for voluntary contributions, a formal BCP was approved, and a one-time funding source have allowed activities to begin. DWR has hired the consulting firm Redstone to work with a partner agency group which includes Council staff, to help develop recommendations for developing a long-term governance and funding strategy for implementing AB1755. A final report will be provided by Redstone at the end of March.</p> <p>Kris Jones gave a presentation on the high-level goals of AB1755 and the Council to help identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration moving forward. There is a desire to differentiate data and methods standardization, with consideration of the data life-cycle.</p>	
Action Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members should provide comments on the Draft Strategy documents to DWR https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/All-Programs/AB-1755. <u>The due date has been extended to March 30, 2018.</u> Please send comments to: ab1755@water.ca.gov, or fax them to (916) 651-9289 Attn: Christina McCready. • Kris Jones will work with Greg Gearhart, Chris McCready, and Steve Weisberg to better flesh out the nexus between AB1755 and SB1070 and opportunities for collaboration and coordination and report back to the Council at the next Council meeting. 	
ITEM:	7	

Title of Topic:	REVIEW OF THE NEW CALIFORNIA ESTUARIES PORTAL	
Purpose:	At the November 28 Monitoring Council meeting, Amye Osti (34 North) presented the new California Estuaries Portal (see item 4). During those discussions Amye and Kris Jones indicated that the Monitoring Council members would have an opportunity to explore the new portal and participate in its review prior to launch. A request for review was distributed to the Monitoring Council members on February 5, in advance of these discussions.	
Desired Outcome:	Receive feedback and guidance on the new portal's design. Also provide approval for the Estuary Portal's launch (estimated March 2018).	
Attachment Link:	Notes from the November 28, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting (Item 4) Notes from the February 23, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting (Item 5d) CA Estuaries Portal – presentation by Val Connor on February 23, 2016 Notes from the August 27, 2015 Monitoring Council meeting (Item 5)	
Contact Person:	Amye Osti	amye@34north.com , (310) 305-8289
Notes:	Amye Osti provided an update on the Estuaries Portal. An internal version of the portal was made available for comment, and between 15 to 18 people provided comments. One comment made is that the portal seems too Delta focused. The estuary workgroup is trying to get more state-wide estuary information to include in the portal. The portal launch was approved by the Council to go live Monday, March 5 th .	
Action Item:	Kris Jones and Amye Osti will work with Greg Gearheart on website implementation to ensure the new portal meets the Water Board format requirements.	

ITEM:	8	
Title of Topic:	NEXT MEETING AGENDA	
Purpose:	Plan agenda for the May 30, 2018 Monitoring Council meeting in Costa Mesa, CA. Potential items include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continued Monitoring Council strategic planning including findings from the workgroup summit and recommendations from Council Members Terry Fleming and Beth Christman. b) Continued discussions regarding collaborative opportunities with the AB 1755 effort. c) Opportunities for Improving Water Quality in California's Marine Protected Areas. d) Interagency Ecological Program governance model – fostering ad hoc teams for specific tasks (Greg Erickson and Sakura Evans of CDFW) e) STORMs Monitoring Coordination Framework (Matthew Freese) 	
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda ideas for the May 30, 2018 meeting	
Contact Person:	Kris Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov , (916) 654-4925

Notes:	The next meeting will be in Costa Mesa. There will be a follow-up from the workgroup summit. It is important to have items that are geared to the southern California members that will be in attendance. Council members Ray Heimstra and Steve Weisberg indicated they have local contacts interested in participating on a discussion about Marine Protected Areas.
Action Item:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nick Martorano and Kris Jones in coordination with Council members Ray Heimstra and Steve Weisberg will develop the Marine Protected Areas item.• Reach out to Kris or Nick for items to include on the agenda.

March 23, 2018

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