

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL AND MEMBER EXPECTATIONS



A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCIES | MyWaterQuality.ca.gov

The Mission and Authority of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council

The mission of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Monitoring Council) is to develop specific recommendations to improve the coordination and cost-effectiveness of water quality and ecosystem monitoring and assessment; enhance the integration of monitoring data across departments and agencies; and increase public accessibility to monitoring data and assessment information.

The recommendations developed by the Monitoring Council are made to the California Environmental Protection Agency and California Natural Resources Agency Secretaries (Agency Secretaries). The Agency Secretaries can implement those recommendations through their departments, boards, commissions, and conservancies. The Monitoring Council's authority consists of its ability to set examples, establish guidance, and encourage member agencies and organizations to participate. The Monitoring Council does not have authority to set regulatory standards.

Expectations of the Monitoring Council as a Whole

Monitoring Council Members are nominated by Monitoring Council Members with input from representative entities. The selection and approval process are outlined in the Monitoring Council's Governance Document.

As the leadership body, the Monitoring Council is responsible for:

- strategic planning to achieve the Monitoring Council's mission,
- resource identification, pursuit, and development,
- holding a minimum of 4 public meetings per year,
- adhering to the requirements outlined in the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act,
- approving and monitoring the workgroups and the products and services they produce,
- providing guidance to the workgroups and Monitoring Council staff,
- identifying emerging opportunities for the Monitoring Council to add value to California,
- conducting outreach and sharing the products and services developed by the workgroups,
- enhancing the Monitoring Council's public image,
- establishing subcommittees and action items,
- assessing its own performance as a governing body, and
- providing annual updates and recommendations to the Agency Secretaries.

Expectations of the Monitoring Council Chair

The Monitoring Council Chair represents the California Environmental Protection Agency as delegated by the Agency Secretary. As the Agency Representative the Monitoring Council Chair leads the actions of the Monitoring Council and its staff. The Monitoring Council Chair has the authority to select and recommend Monitoring Council Members to the Agency Secretary for confirmation and is charged with establishing consistent communication with the Agency Secretaries. In addition, the Monitoring Council Chair has the same expectations outlined for individual Monitoring Council members.

Expectations of Individual Monitoring Council Members

Each individual Monitoring Council member is expected to:

- learn and know the Monitoring Council's background, mission, workgroups, and needs,
- serve at a level that can represent your agency or sector and can engage with Agency Secretaries and the California Legislature (state agency representatives cannot advocate to the Legislature),
- serve as active advocates for implementing the Monitoring Council's strategy and fully engage in identifying and securing the resources and partnerships necessary for the Monitoring Council to advance its mission,
- leverage connections, networks, and resources to develop collective action to fully achieve the Monitoring Council's mission,
- prepare for, attend, and conscientiously participate in Monitoring Council meetings,
- communicate with the sector or agency the member represents and report back to the Monitoring Council,
- if a member cannot attend a Monitoring Council meeting ensure an alternate has been designated and can participate in their place,
- participate fully in one or more subcommittee,
- participate as appropriate in annual briefings with the Agency Secretaries, and
- act as an ambassador for the Monitoring Council when in public or while attending applicable meetings, conferences, and other events.

If a member or their alternate misses two consecutive Monitoring Council meetings and/or they continually fail to meet the expectations outlined above, their continued membership will be discussed by the Monitoring Council Chair at a public Monitoring Council meeting.

Resources

[Monitoring Council Founding Legislation](#) (Senate Bill 1070, Kehoe, 2006)
[Memorandum of Understanding](#) between CalEPA and the California Natural Resources Agency
[Monitoring Council Background Information](#)
[Monitoring Council Governance Document](#)
[Current Monitoring Council Membership](#)
[Current Monitoring Council Workgroups](#)
[Monitoring Council Portals](#)