

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

# Safe to Swim Workgroup Meeting

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## *Item 2: Introduction*



# Background

## Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006)

- Tasked the 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; AND
- To ensure that the resulting data and information are made available to decision makers and the public via the internet.

# Background

- MOU Signed in 2007 between CalEPA and CNRA
- Council's Strategy published in December 2010
  - Statewide Scope –The Monitoring Council has defined its scope to include surface waters (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and the coastal zone) along with their related ecosystems, wildlife populations, and habitats, as well as groundwater.
  - Monitoring Council's Strategy – Focus is on streamlined data access through theme-based internet portals ([www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov](http://www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov)), providing a single, global point of entry. With Monitoring Council guidance, theme-specific workgroups (6+) staffed by issue experts from state government and stakeholders address high-level management questions.



# Background

- The Council **formed a sub-committee** to explore how best to update its strategy.
- The sub-committee committed to developing a list of **areas where the Council adds value**—areas that could serve as focus areas moving forward.
- These focus areas were intended to identify where the Council has **unique expertise**, while also serving to **highlight nexus points with AB 1755** and minimize redundancies, where possible.
- At the May 30, 2018 Council meeting, the Council members **voted to approve the following five focus areas.**



# Council Focus Areas

1. The Council is a venue for evaluating whether water quality monitoring programs are designed and implemented to answer management questions in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
  - *Refocus efforts back to measuring the performance of monitoring programs.*
2. The Council establishes guidance on data quality and method consistency across monitoring programs statewide.
  - *Emphasize the Council's expertise in establishing data comparability across monitoring programs.*
3. The Council provides guidance on a variety of data interpretation thresholds that are needed to turn data into information.



# Council Focus Areas

4. The Council supports use of emerging methods and technologies and offers guidance on their development and implementation to answer current and future management questions.
  - *Proactively look for new opportunities and high profile topics to establish consistency across monitoring programs before agencies invest in separate protocols.*
  
5. The Council supports the coordination of disparate monitoring programs from local and regional entities that conduct the majority of monitoring across the state.
  - *Will be one piece of a larger comprehensive communication plan.*



# *Safe-to-Swim History*





## *Item 3: Workgroup Charter*



# Purpose of Developing Charter

- Clearly articulate purpose and goals
- Identify role of the Safe-to-Swim workgroup relative to its partner groups, such as:
  - A venue for statewide coordination
  - Development of statewide portal
  - Identify gaps in coverage
  - Develop consistent methods and streamline processes
- *Next Steps*—form charter subcommittee