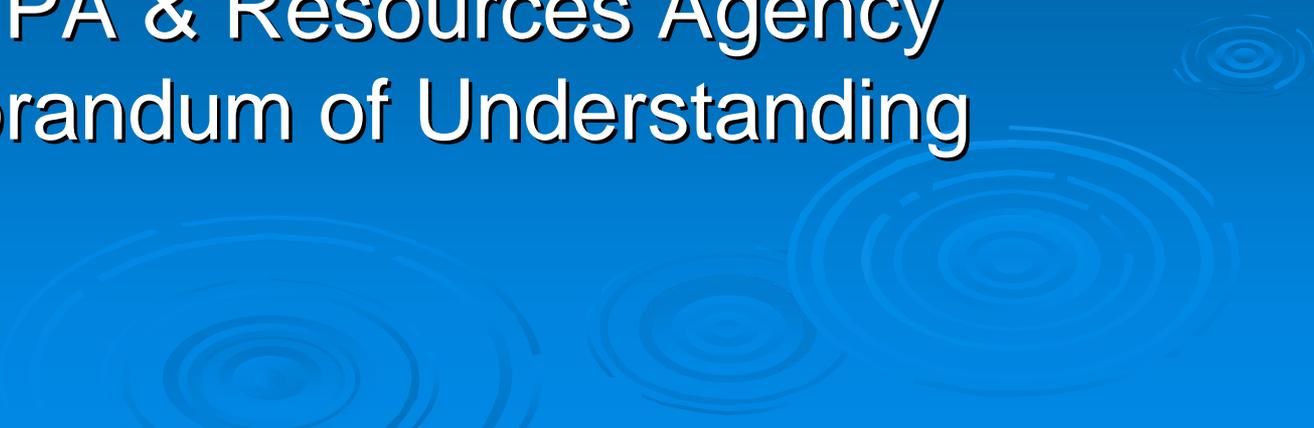


# California Water Quality Monitoring Council

Senate Bill 1070

Cal/EPA & Resources Agency  
Memorandum of Understanding



# Needs that generated SB1070

## Everyone needs Water Quality data

- 💧 Status of waters
- 💧 Public safety and comfort
- 💧 Effectiveness of programs

## Resources for monitoring are limited

- 💧 Budgets small and unstable
- 💧 Need to coordinate (consistency issues)

## Information not reasonably accessible

- 💧 Multiple agencies collecting data
- 💧 100's of Water Bond grant recipients
- 💧 No single place to access data

# SB 1070 structure to meet needs

## California Water Quality Monitoring Council

- ☑ MOU Cal/EPA and Resources  
(Signed Nov 2007)
- ☑ Monitoring Inventory (April 2008)
- 💧 Initial Recommendations (Dec 2008)
- 💧 Recommendations for  
Statewide Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy

## Public Information Program (Water Boards)

- 💧 Water Quality Data & Assessment Information
- 💧 Programmatic Information

# Memorandum of Understanding

- ◆ Establishes the California Water Quality Monitoring Council
  - ◆ Advisory to Cal/EPA and Resources Agency
  - ◆ Administered by the State Water Board
- ◆ Requires Cal/EPA and Resources Agency boards, departments and offices
  - ◆ Integrate and coordinate their water quality and related ecosystem
    - ◆ Monitoring
    - ◆ Assessment
    - ◆ Reporting

# Monitoring Council Members

- ◆ Jonathan Bishop, *Cal/EPA, State Water Board*
- ◆ Joe Grindstaff, *Resources Agency*
  - ◆ Alternates: Terry Macauley & Darcy Jones
- ◆ Rufus Howell, *California Department of Public Health*
- ◆ Armand Ruby, *California Stormwater Quality Assn.*
- ◆ Sam Mobray, *Orange County Sanitation District*
- ◆ Parry Klassen, *East San Joaquin WQ Coalition*
- ◆ Steven Steinberg, *Klamath Watershed Institute*
- ◆ Linda Sheehan, *California CoastKeeper Alliance*
- ◆ Steve Weisberg, *So. CA Coastal Water Res. Project*
- ◆ Sarge Green, *Assn. of California Water Agencies*

# Monitoring Council Tasks

## Review existing

- 💧 Water quality monitoring
- 💧 Assessment
- 💧 Reporting efforts

## Recommend

- 💧 Specific actions and funding needs
- 💧 Necessary to coordinate and enhance

# Monitoring Council Tasks

## Develop specific recommendations

- 💧 To improve coordination and cost-effectiveness of water quality and ecosystem monitoring and assessment
- 💧 To enhance integration of monitoring data across departments and agencies
- 💧 To increase public accessibility to monitoring data and assessment information
- 💧 Build on existing efforts to greatest extent possible
- 💧 Consult with U.S. EPA

# Ultimate Goal

A cost effective, coordinated, integrated, and comprehensive statewide network for collecting and disseminating water quality information and assessments on

- Health of the state's waters
- Effectiveness of water quality protection and improvement programs
- State Water Board to develop strategy in coordination with the Monitoring Council
- Maximum 10-year implementation

# Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy

- ◆ Statewide water quality protection indicators
- ◆ Quality management and assurance plans
  - ◆ Ensure validity and utility of data
- ◆ Methodology to compile, analyze and integrate information
- ◆ Accessible user-friendly electronic data system
  - ◆ Include geographic location information
- ◆ Timely and complete water quality reports
- ◆ Update SWAMP needs assessment
  - ◆ Benefits of increased coordination and integration

# Initial Council Actions

## First Priority

- ◆ Data and assessment information availability

## Goal

- ◆ Develop theme-based statewide water quality web portal
- ◆ Organize water quality data and assessment information into portal element themes:
  - ◆ Is our water safe to drink?
  - ◆ Is it safe to swim in our waters?
  - ◆ Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?
  - ◆ Are our aquatic ecosystems healthy?
  - ◆ What stressors and processes affect our water quality?
- ◆ Initial focus = safe to swim

# Initial Council Actions

## December 1 Report (preliminary draft) to Cal/EPA & Resources Agency

- ◆ Theme-based web portal concept
  - ◆ Broader data access and integration
- ◆ Evaluate existing portals (themes & sub-themes)
  - ◆ Underlying monitoring, assessment and reporting efforts
  - ◆ Six evaluation factors
- ◆ Implementation Plan
  - ◆ Integration via global point of entry
  - ◆ Improve individual portals by theme
  - ◆ Comprehensive monitoring strategy
  - ◆ Long-term sustainability
- ◆ Recommendations

# Initial Outreach

## Fish & Shellfish Consumption

- SWAMP & OEHHA coordination

## Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup

- Subcommittee of Monitoring Council
- Wetlands Tracker Website

## Beach Watch and Clean Beaches Initiative

- Improving and integrating websites

## Heal the Bay

- Beach Report Card website

# Additional Information

## Upcoming Monitoring Council meetings

- October 15th – SCCWRP in Costa Mesa
- November 17th – Cal/EPA in Sacramento

## Monitoring Council website

- [www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/monitoring\\_council/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/monitoring_council/)
  - Meeting notices and agendas
  - preliminary draft Recommendations Report
  - Web Portal Mock-up



Jon B. Marshack, D.Env.  
SB 1070 Coordinator  
State Water Resources Control Board  
(916) 341-5876  
[jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov)

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