

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION-OFFICE OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS
JULY 1, 2008**

ITEM 7

SUBJECT

INFORMATIONAL ITEM ON THE STATUS OF THE FORMATION OF THE CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

DISCUSSION

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the Resources Agency have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Council) as required by Senate Bill (SB) 1070. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has the responsibility to administer the Council. The new law directs the Council to review existing water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting efforts and develop recommendations for specific actions and funding needs necessary to coordinate and enhance those efforts. Staff will present a progress report on the status of the Council.

SB 1070 finds that State Water Board funding for ambient surface water monitoring is inadequate to ensure the assessment of all waters, and that monitoring efforts underway could be enhanced significantly with increased coordination of the many separate monitoring activities that are going on at the local, state, and federal levels. It was enacted to better orchestrate the many efforts already in progress within the state, to make that process more visible to that population and to the entities committed to the protection, monitoring, and supply of that fresh water to all its users. It provides for the creation of a structure to allow the public to access any available water quality data, current methods, and research, as well as current regulations and enforcement actions. The bill creates the Council to connect the myriad activities throughout the state in a more cohesive and sensible manner, with the ability to provide direction to reduce redundancies, prioritize actions, and recommend funding necessary to give the critical information necessary to protect California's water.

To meet the schedule for the bill, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on November 26, 2007 by the Secretaries of Cal/EPA and the Resources Agency. Based on a transparent process and list of criteria, members were selected for the Council and have been empanelled. Plans for the first council meeting are underway. A draft statewide inventory of monitoring programs has been undertaken.

POLICY ISSUE

None at this time – information item

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time – information item

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD IMPACT

None at this time – information item

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None at this time – information item