



Laboratory Accreditation Work Group

November 12, 2015

Dear Ms. Sotelo & Ms. Larson,

The Laboratory Accreditation Work Group (LAWG) is an informal collection of Southern California environmental laboratories, both publicly and privately owned. The LAWG usually meets quarterly to discuss various laboratory accreditation issues. The LAWG is committed to supporting and strengthening the environmental laboratory accreditation process.

We appreciate that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) management have been willing to invest time and effort to provide ELAP with the leadership and guidance needed for ELAP. We support SWRCB and ELAP efforts to improve the program and understand that many improvements have already been implemented. We look forward to the direction that the SWRCB will be leading ELAP in the future and congratulate the new management and staff on their hard-earned achievements to date.

We understand that ELAP has been underfunded for the current number of authorized staff for some time and that the situation required prompt action. Since the transfer of ELAP from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to the SWRCB, ELAP has made it a point to emphasize its commitment to communication and transparency. We are disappointed that this was not in evidence during the process of raising the fees. We hope that this was a momentary lapse in this commitment to openness and that it will not set a precedent for future ELAP actions.

We sincerely hope that ELAP will remain steadfast in its commitment to be more transparent and interactive with the laboratory community. We are excited about the future direction of ELAP and are looking forward to fostering a positive and collaborative relationship. We are enthusiastic about working with SWRCB and ELAP to promote our shared goal of public health protection and the protection of the environment.

Thank you for your attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DKimbrough".

David Kimbrough, Ph.D.
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