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## State Water Resources Control Board

# ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ELTAC) MEETING DESIGNATED ELAP OFFICER (DELAPO) REPORT

Tuesday May 19, 2026

## ELAP ACTIVITIES

### Voluntary TNI Initiative

ELAP is pursuing rejoining the TNI program to offer full TNI accreditation to laboratories. This initiative will be a **voluntary** addition on top of ELAP's existing requirements that incorporate the 2016 TNI standard by reference. ELAP hosted a listening session on February 25, 2026, and a [recording is available](#) on ELAP's YouTube page. ELAP sincerely appreciates the initial questions and plans on providing answers and further guidance as we approach implementation.

ELAP also sent out a [brief 3-minute survey](#) on April 20, 2026 to gauge interest in this voluntary addition. More information and additional guidance will be provided in the future, and announcements will be broadcast through ELAP's announcement service.

### FOA Additions from State Regulatory Agency Requests

#### *Editorial Updates to FOA Tables*

All ELAP FOA tables have undergone editorial revisions to adjust formatting and correct minor errors noted in the table footnotes. These editorial revisions have no impact on the analytical methods ELAP offers but may alter the formatting laboratories are used to seeing. Major changes are denoted below.

- All FOA tables now allow for filtering using the built-in Excel filtering tool, making it easier to ensure your laboratory marked "y" on all requested FOAs or selected all methods or analytes.
- The Signature/info block has been removed from all table footers. ELAP no longer requires this information on each FOA table page.
- Formatting of all tables has been adjusted (i.e. margins and font).
- Footnotes or method notes on tables 101, 104, 105, 115, 131, and 126 have been updated to more accurately reflect requirements and unique conditions on the specific methods. No changes impact any current laboratory process or method requirements.

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E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Analytes in Air and Soil Vapor*

In a joint request from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the State Water Board's Division of Water Quality, ELAP now offers three analytical methods in an entirely new matrix. The methods and specific analytes were chosen at these programs' direction. For more information on Vapor Intrusion and monitoring requirements, visit the [State Water Board's Vapor Intrusion website](#) and the [Department of Toxic Substances Control's Vapor Intrusion website](#).

Table	Parameter	Analytical Method	Technology
135	Organics	EPA TO-14A	GC or GC/MS
135	Organics	EPA TO-15	GC/MS
135	Organics	EPA TO-17	GC/MS

*Analytes in Drinking Water*

The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Center for Analytical Chemistry have developed and validated three analytical methods for emerging contaminants. DDW and CDFA conducted a multi-laboratory validation study with samples taken from water systems and the analysis conducted by the ELAP-accredited laboratory community and ELTAC member laboratories. The methods and their validation studies can be viewed on [DDW's Analytical Methods Webpage](#).

Table	Parameter	Analytical Method	Technology
105	Saxitoxin	CAC-STX-1.1	Bioanalytical Assay
105	Trifluoroacetic acid	CAC-TFA-1.1	LC-MS/MS
105	Benzotriazole	CAC-Benzotriazole-1.1	LC-MS/MS

*Analytes in Non-Potable Waters*

Two analytical methodologies are requested for an emerging contaminant and for use in analysis of high salinity waters. [EPA 1634 \(DRAFT\)](#) is a laboratory validated method to analyze 6PPD-Quinone, an analyte linked to the deaths of coho salmon. [EPA 1640](#) is a method validated for use on seawater and high salinity water samples to quantify trace metals and developed in support of the Clean Water Act. The State Water Board's Office of Information Management and Analysis has requested ELAP offer both methods to aid in the State Water Board's understanding of the environmental occurrence of these analytes.

The Central Valley Regional Water Board requested ELAP to offer newly validated [methods developed at SCCWRP](#) that have been validated within the ELAP laboratory community. These methods are designed as screening methods to aid in monitoring for

compliance with the Regional Board's General Order R5-2017-0061. [More information and the laboratory methods are hosted on the Regional Board's webpage.](#)

<b>Table</b>	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Analytical Method</b>	<b>Technology</b>
<b>111</b>	6PPD-Quinone	EPA 1634 (DRAFT)	LC-MS/MS
<b>111</b>	Pesticides	RB5-SCCWRP-GC-rev1 [Screen]	GC-MS
<b>111</b>	Pesticides	RB5-SCCWRP-LC-rev1 [Screen]	LC-MS/MS
<b>109</b>	Metals	EPA 1640	ICP-MS

### Future FOA Changes

#### *Methods Update Rule*

Behind the scenes, Christopher Hand, a Senior Environmental Scientist with ELAP, has been communicating with California Regulatory Agencies and other states to offer methods added or updated to part 136 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under the Methods Update Rules (MUR). Information related to this large FOA update will be found on [a dedicated webpage](#). The prior MUR information is still available on the linked website and includes extensive guidance and a full list of all changes. Laboratories were required to submit an amendment application to update their scope of accreditation but could utilize a partial waiver if specific conditions were met. Applications submitted under the prior MUR using the waiver and guidance were successful and expedient. ELAP welcomes any feedback, both positive and negative, to iterate on the process for the future. ELAP has some potential changes for internal improvement, like closer coordination with the Third-Party Assessment Agencies and potentially some post-amendment documentation.

#### *Drinking Water FOA Update*

DDW and ELAP are actively pursuing updates to ELAP's FOAs offered under the Drinking Water matrixes. The update plans to align ELAP's FOA tables with the newest approved methods in part 141 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and synergize with DDW's reporting database, CLIP. Methods will move to the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of Standard Methods, and newer revisions of ASTM methods, with exceptions for those not approved by US EPA. DDW will notify the laboratory community of proposed changes upon completion of internal review and as the proposals near finalization.

#### Applications and Application Speed

Complete and correct applications are typically processed in less than one month, with some being processed in less than one week. When ELAP receives applications with items missing, incomplete, incorrect, or containing irrelevant additions, each of these deficiencies increase processing time. Approximately 40% of renewal applications are rejected prior to technical review for missing documentation or due to laboratories attempting to add methods during the renewal application rather than through an amendment application.

Applications Processed in 2025

Application Type	Number
New	21
Renewal	218
Reciprocity	54
Amendments	190
<b>Total</b>	<b>483</b>

Annual ELAP Laboratory Conference

After reviewing feedback and looking closely at how we can deliver the most valuable and relevant content for our laboratory community, we will be transitioning the ELAP Conference to a biennial schedule. This change allows us to focus our time and resources on developing deeper, more impactful sessions, ensuring that every conference provides the highest-quality information, training, and updates. By moving to a biennial format, ELAP can curate a program that is more comprehensive, more useful, and more aligned with the needs of California’s accredited laboratories.

We remain committed to supporting you year-round through guidance, outreach, and communication, and we look forward to delivering an even stronger conference experience in this new cycle.

The fifth annual ELAPCON was held virtually on May 27–28, 2025, with the theme "ELAP Boot Camp: Reporting for Duty." Last year’s focus was on fostering continuous improvement and leveraging shared knowledge to exceed quality standards across the regulated laboratory community; and featured a motivational keynote by Senior Master Sergeant David Tibbetts, highlighting the concept of quality as a culture. Recordings of past ELAPCON’s are posted on [ELAP’s YouTube page](#).

Enforcement Unit

ELAP’s Enforcement Unit remains engaged in addressing complaints from State Regulatory Agencies, other laboratories, and whistleblowers. Serious violations and trend-based advisories are posted on the [Enforcement website](#); however, the unit also issues lesser notices and orders based on follow-up data audits or on-site inspections.

**ELAP STAFFING UPDATES**

ELAP experienced notable staffing changes, including promoting Jennifer McClaren to supervisor of the Progress and Performance Unit. This unit will be combining Proficiency Testing reviews with metrics and data tracking within ELAP.

ELAP filled two vacant Environmental Scientist positions with new staff in both the Progress and Performance Unit as well as the Assessment Unit and additionally filled another administrative staff position within its Administrative Unit. You may see emails from new faces as these staff step into their new roles.

ELAP's longstanding administrative lead, Kate McCarthy, left the program to move onto promotional opportunities with the Department of Health Care Services. She has been with ELAP since its transition from the Department of Public Health to the State Water Board, and her valuable work will be missed.

Christopher Hand is being reassigned to focus on other ELAP priorities, and congratulations to Jennifer McClaren who will be assuming the role of ELTAC's DELAPO.

## REGULATIONS UPDATES

The TNI portion of ELAP's regulations went into effect on January 1, 2024, with ELAP receiving assessments to the TNI standard since 2021. ELAP is looking to continually improve our processes as both ELAP and laboratories observe impacts from the regulatory changes. ELAP currently provides [an assessment checklist](#) that includes both references to the TNI standard and requirements that remain in effect after January 1, 2024. This may help laboratories verify they are compliant with the new regulations.

### TNI Training Videos

Video recordings of each module from the TNI Documentation Workshop series provided by A2LA Workplace Training are posted to [ELAP's YouTube page](#). The videos are free to all and are separated into modules for easy viewing. Anyone who needs copies of the accompanying learner materials may email [elapca@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:elapca@waterboards.ca.gov) to request them. Due to the requirements of Assembly Bill 434, ELAP cannot post these to its website for self-service, however, will provide them to anyone who requests a copy.

### Future Regulatory Activities

ELAP plans on providing ELTAC and the laboratory community with updates prior to any regulatory updates. Currently, ELAP's regulations contain invalid sections of regulations pointing to regulatory requirements superseded by the TNI standard requirements incorporated by reference. For example, in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64802.02, subdivision (c), it states, "*Subdivision (b), above, will become invalid three (3) years from the effective date of these regulations, at which time laboratories will be required to comply with subdivision (a), above.*" This no longer valid language can make the regulations more challenging to read. While ELAP plans to remove these sections, it does not yet have a timeline of when these sections will be removed.

### Updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Third Party Assessment Agencies

ELAP issued an updated MOU for Third Party Assessment Agencies (TPA) who conduct assessments for ELAP. Changes were simple clarifications to existing requirements, and references the [list of guidance and requirements](#) ELAP published in late 2023. These requirements help standardize the format and expectation of complete reports based on the prior 3 years of On-Site Assessment Reports. ELAP does not anticipate laboratories noticing any changes or impacts when using a TPA.

Future updates of this MOU are anticipated to clarify updated Conflict of Interest forms and timetables when applications are scheduled with the laboratory. Laboratories should expect to see a form when an assessor is assigned to your laboratory prior to the assessment, where the assigned assessor and the laboratory confirm that the assigned assessor has not been a consultant to the laboratory.