NPDES Roundtable Meeting Agenda

Via Teleconference
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

January 17, 2018
9:00-11:20

To join the online meeting:
1. Go to https://stateofcaswrcbweb.centurylinkccc.com/CenturylinkWeb/RB6
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ITEM	1	Assigned to:	Time
Title of Topic	**INTRODUCTIONS/REVIEW AGENDA AND ACTION ITEMS**	Russell Norman	9:00- 9:15 (15 mins)
Purpose	Roll call and review agenda.		
Desired Outcome	Region 1: Cathy Goodwin Region 2: Jessica Watkins, Mary Boyd, Robert Schlipf, Claudia Vilacorta Region 3: Sheila Soderberg Region 4: Veronica Cuevas, Ching To, Cassandra Owens Region 5: No attendees Region 6: Russell Norman, Rob Tucker(note taker) Region 7: Kai Dunn, Jose Figueroa-Acevedo, Jeong-Hee Lim Region 8: Milasol Gaslan, Jayne Joy Region 9: Brandy Outwin State Board: Diana Messina, Afrooz Farsimadan, Gill Vasquez, Carl Henriet, Christine Sotelo, Jarma Bennett, Greg Gearheart EPA: Amelia Whitson, Becky Mitschele PG Environmental: Dan Connelly		
Background			
Attachments/ Links:			
Contact Person	Russell Norman (530-542-5435)		
Notes			
Decisions			

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Action Items	

ITEM	**2**	**Assigned to:**	**Time**
Title of Topic	**NPDES DATA EVENT**	Greg Gearheart	9:15- 9:30 (15 mins)
Purpose	Inform participants of event and get feedback on event and specifically on panel perspectives		
Desired Outcome	Interest in even and feedback on panel participants		
Background	As part of a series of data events, OIMA will be sponsoring a Data Fair on March 30. This year the data fair will likely showcase groundwater systems in the morning and discuss NPDES data in the afternoon. The NPDES focus complements the kick-off of the Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPrP) and is intended to provide a venue for stakeholders, both internal and external, to examine the NPDES data lifecycle (collection, storage, access, and information delivery). The session is meant to be interactive and gather ideas about what is working for stakeholders and what can be improved. A large portion of the draft agenda is for a moderated panel discussion. Do Roundtable Participants have suggestions on who should comprise the panel? Some ideas include a laboratory, a permit writer, a compliance staff, and a TMDL writer.		
Attachments/ Links:			
Contact Person	Jarma Bennett		
Notes	Greg provided information that OIMA's goal is get all of the data that we are requiring and generating, into databases. In addition those various databases need to be capable of providing that data in a format that can be used and analyzed to produce useable information for the Boards, stakeholders and the public. An open house to showcase what is available is scheduled and half or a portion of the open house will be a workshop. Scheduled date for the open house is March 30.		
Decisions			
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ITEM	3	Assigned to:	Time
Title of Topic	**EPA DEVELOPING PROGRAM EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR R9 STATES**	Becky Mitschele	9:30- 9:40 (10 mins)
Purpose	EPA R9 would like to develop criteria in collaboration with states (and each RB) for each program that receives funding from EPA. The purpose of the criteria would be to assess relative performance across states and programs as well as making EPA's expectations as transparent as possible. For the NPDES program, EPA will use existing information, like PQRs, self-evaluations done at the state level (*i.e.* performance reports), and other information already reported to EPA (*i.e.* 106 workplan reporting).		
Desired Outcome	Information Sharing; Feedback		
Background	This effort complements already existing program evaluations, as mentioned above. For more background, about EPA's tracking, see the National Water Program websites listed below. The National Program is charged with evaluating the progress it is making in developing and implementing effective programs to monitor, protect, and improve waters of the U.S. As such, the National Program tracks 110 performance measures under 15 sub-objectives. The NPDES Permitting Program is under the water quality sub-objective (i.e. measure codes WQ-11 to 14, and WQ-19). (These are sometimes referred to as ACS measures/commitments).		
Attachments/ Links:	EPA's 2017 report on all measures is available here. (See pages 36 to 44, 46, and 47 for NPDES related measures). See also, figure 9, in the summary/trends report. Draft Criteria to Evaluate State NPDES		
Contact Person	Becky Mitschele, USEPA at 415-972-3492		
Notes	USEPA Region 9 is developing a program evaluation criteria, the purpose is to look at the States in Region 9, their expectations and provide some goals on how well the programs are meeting their expectations. The time frame to provide comments on the attached draft criteria is the end of March to the beginning of April. Region 9 will develop criteria for evaluating all the different states within its region, California is the first.		
Decisions			
Action Items			

ITEM	4	Assigned to:	Time
Title of Topic:	**PRETREATMENT REPORT FORM**	Amelia Whitson	9:40- 9:45 (5 mins)
Purpose:	Updated report form for pretreatment inspections and audits		
Desired Outcome:	Information Sharing		

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Background:	EPA contractors developed a streamlined pretreatment compliance inspection and audit report format. See attached. The EPA contractors will send their initial reports to each Regional Board using this new report format. USEPA encourages feedback to the contractors regarding the report format.
Attachments/ Links:	Documents from Amelia Whitson PCA_PCI lean report template_CD_0115201(PCI Checklist (streamlining question Final EPA PCA Checklist_Complete.dc
Contact Person:	Amelia Whitson, USEPA at 415-972-3216
Notes:	PG Environmental has put together a new inspection and audit report format for their pretreatment reports. Two Regions have received the new formats. No comments have been received on the new format. Two Regions requested the location for the pretreatment inspection and audit check lists. See attached. Gil Vasquez – Pretreatment Training is being planned for May and June in Regions 5 and 8.
Decisions:	
Action Items:	

ITEM	**5**	**Assigned to:**	**Time**
Title of Topic:	**DRAFT NPDES QUALITY ASSURANCE IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT CHARTER**	Carl Henriet	9:45- 10:00 (15 mins)
Purpose:	Provide a status update for the Draft NPDES QA Implementation Project Charter.		
Desired Outcome:	Information sharing.		
Background:	Based on direction from the MCC/DMC, the Water Boards formed an NPDES QA Work Group in 2017 to assist with implementation of an NPDES QA Program. The NPDES QA Work Group assisted with the preparation of a Draft NPDES QA Implementation Project Charter that is currently in circulation for comment among Regional Board representatives and other affected offices. The Implementation Project Charter sets out a granular, stepwise plan to address QA issues for the NPDES Wastewater Program. The project requires approximately six years for full development and the schedule organizes activities on a fiscal year basis. Early efforts will focus on (1) determining how Quality Assurance Project Plan elements will be satisfied through staff and discharger activities; (2) adapting U.S. EPA QA guidance to the NPDES Program, and (3) identifying where data problems are occurring and the alternatives for resolution. In the near future, we will distribute surveys to staff that directly deal with data to determine the variety of data problems. Subsequent efforts will work on resolving data problems, starting with the easier issues.		
Attachments/ Links:	Draft NPDES QA Implementation Proje		
Contact Person:	Carl Henriet (916) 341-5512 or Afrooz Farsimadan (916) 341-5544		

Notes:	Surveys of Water Board staff to determine the variety of data problems will be sent out at some point. See attached QA Implementation Charter.
Decisions:	
Action Items:	

ITEM	**6**	**Assigned to:**	**Time**
Title of Topic	**USEPA METHOD UPDATE**	Christine Sotelo	10:00-10:20 (20 mins)
Purpose	Inform Regional Boards and state program about USEPA's Methods Update Rule and the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program's implementation plan		
Desired Outcome	Understand how the Rule impacts your NPDES permits and ELAP's role and responsibilities for implementation		
Background	The 2017 Methods Update Rule (MUR) was published in the Federal Register on August 27, 2017. This regulation became effective September 27, 2017.		
Attachments/ Links:	https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/methods-update-rule-2017 elap_sotelo_011618.pptx		
Contact Person	Christine Sotelo		
Notes	Christine provided information about ELAP and a short discussion on the Methods update rule. See links/attachments for additional information. The ELAP office is willing to provide Water Board staff some technical assistance on request. The preferred method of assistance is through a general e-mail account. She has staff assigned to review the e-mail account daily so e-mail requests should typically get a response in a day or two. Technical laboratory questions should be directed to: elap_technical@waterboards.ca.gov Proficiency testing questions should be directed to: elap_pt@waterboards.ca.gov Any Regional Board staff that are interested are encouraged to participate in the "State Agency Partners Committee" she would like additional staff participation. The committee is made up of different state agencies (e.g., DTSC, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Etc.). Currently there are several Regional Board Representatives on the committee.		
Decisions			
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ITEM	7	Assigned to:	Time
Title of Topic	**ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH PERMITTING**	Diana Messina	10:20-10:35 (15 mins)
Purpose	Prepare 2017 Update to State Water Board explaining how NPDES permits and the SSS WDRs are addressing climate change impacts		
Desired Outcome	Discussion and follow up emails within one week of discussion		
Background	The State Water Resources Control Board adopted a resolution requiring a proactive approach to climate change in all Board actions, including drinking water regulation, water quality protection, and financial assistance. DWQ is starting roundtable discussion on how we want to prepare the 2017 update, and the scope of the update. ***Excerpts of State Water Board 2017 Resolution*** *Division of Water Quality (DWQ), Division of Water Rights, Division of Financial Assistance, and Office of the Delta Watermaster shall, and Regional Water Boards are encouraged to, update plans, permits, and policies, and coordinate with other agencies to enhance ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change, including but not limited to actions that protect headwaters, facilitate restoration, enhance carbon sequestration, support healthy soils, and reduce vulnerability to and impacts from fires. DWQ, Division of Water Rights, and the Delta Watermaster shall, and Regional Water Boards are encouraged to, document climate resilience benefits of ecosystem protection and restoration actions.* *Division of Water Quality shall work with the Regional Water Boards to evaluate and by July 1, 2018 make recommendations to the State Water Board on the need to modify permits and other regulatory requirements to reduce water and wastewater treatment infrastructure vulnerability to flooding, storm surge, and sea level rise.* *When making recommendations on permits and other decisions to protect coastal infrastructure, wetlands, and other near-shore ecosystems, all State Water Board staff shall, and all Regional Water Boards are encouraged to, refer to projections of sea level rise as directed in the most recent Ocean Protection Council Sea-level Rise Guidance Document, the most current data available through Cal-Adapt, and the California Coastal Commission's Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance, and shall consult with the Ocean Protection Council, the Coastal Commission, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, State Lands Commission, and other relevant agencies.*		
Attachments/ Links:	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/2017/feb/022217_8.pdf 2013_SLR_Guidance_Update_FINAL1.pdf		
Contact Person	Diana Messina		

Notes	The State Board is requiring the NPDES program to provide recommendations or discuss what the NPDES program has implemented, or is implementing, to address climate change issues. Diana would appreciate any information regarding what Regional Board staff is doing to address climate change, such as copy of language in permits, requests or workshops. The program managers of regions with coastal areas inquired about the State Boards stance, guidance or policies on the Coastal Commission Sea Level Rise Policy and how we may implement or treat that policy. Link to Coastal Commission Sea Level Rise policy https://www.coastal.ca.gov/climate/slrguidance.html See also attached 2013 guidance document.
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ITEM	**8**	**Assigned to:**	**Time**
Title of Topic	**UPDATES FROM REGIONAL BOARDS**	All	10:35-11:05 (30 mins)
Purpose	Information sharing		
Desired Outcome	Information shared		
Background	"Round Robin" where State Board, each Regional Board, and EPA will discuss something brief and interesting about the work they are doing and/or permitting issues they are dealing with. Region 6 will start, followed by Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, Region 5, Region 7, Region 8, Region 9, State Board, then EPA.		
Attachments/ Links:			
Contact Person			

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Notes	**Region 1:** Working on Permits, focus on disadvantage communities to upgrade treatment, and considering climate change on costal permits. **Region 2:** Recently adopted a permit that added collection agency as Responsible parties to the Regional treatment system NPDES permit. The purpose was to get the different collection system to conduct improvement on Private lateral to aid in reducing wet weather discharges. **Region 3:** The Region is swamped with work concerning the debris/mud slide at Montecito. **Region 4:** David Hung retired. Big issue is the blending of recycled water and storm water for groundwater recharge. **Region 5:** Did not attend. **Region 6:** Working on pesticide prohibition variance with some of our pesticide applicators. **Region 7:** Working with EPA contractor on pretreatment inspections. **Region 8:** Big issues 1) Desalination plant issue with requirements for brine diffuser, 2) Proposed FERC license for a lake that has a TMDL, 3) Cannabis pretreatment program discussions. **Region 9:** Working on Permit renewals. **State Board**: Adopted Natural Gas Facilities Permit which includes requirements for discharge of hydrostatic test water.
Decisions	
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ITEM	**9**	**Assigned to:**	**Time**
Title of Topic	**WRAP UP**	Russell Norman	11:05- 11:20 (15 mins)
Purpose	Conclude meeting		
Desired Outcome	Summarize action items from this meeting, potential agenda items for future meetings, and confirm future meeting dates.		
Background	**Next meeting will be a Face-To-Face meeting in Region 7, Region 8 to take notes, on April 18, 2018.**		
Attachments/ Links:			
Contact Person	Russell Norman (530-542-5435)		
Notes			
Decisions			
Action Items			

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