

California Water Quality Monitoring Council: Workgroups and Representatives

The table below contains a list of CASA members who participate in the CWQMC workgroups. Additional representatives are needed. See gaps in representation, below. Please contact **Shelly Walther** (swalther@lacsdc.org) or **Jared Voskuhl** (jvoskuhl@casaweb.org) if you can help represent CASA on these workgroups.

California Water Quality Monitoring Council		
Workgroup	Representatives	Agency
Bioaccumulation Oversight Group		
California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Josh Westfall	LACSD
California Environmental Flows Workgroup	Josh Westfall	LACSD
California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup	Rebecca Franklin	RegionalSan
California Molecular Methods Workgroup	Leslie Nanninga	City of San Diego
	Dr. Yiping Cao	Source Molecular
California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup		
California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network	Amber Baylor	SOCWA
Data Utilization Workgroup	Josh Westfall	LACSD
Healthy Watersheds Partnership	Elizabeth Sala	West Basin MWD
Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health	Amber Baylor	SOCWA
Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (Marine)		
Safe Drinking Water Workgroup	Eric Hansen	SVCW
Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program		
Safe-to-Swim Workgroup	Rebecca Franklin	RegionalSan
Trash Monitoring Workgroup	Shelly Walther	LACSD

Background on the CA WQ Monitoring Council

The [California Water Quality Monitoring Council](#) was established in 2008 to comply with California [Senate Bill 1070 \(Kehoe, 2006\)](#). Under SB 1070, the Monitoring Council develops recommendations to the Secretaries of Cal/EPA and the Natural Resources Agency to improve the coordination and cost-effectiveness of water quality and ecosystem monitoring and assessment, enhance the integration of monitoring data across departments and agencies, and increase public access to monitoring data. The scope of monitoring considered by the Monitoring Council is water quality and associated ecosystem health, which includes surface waters (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and the coastal zone), their related ecosystems, wildlife populations and habitats, drinking water, and groundwater. Actions of the Monitoring Council include making recommendations to the Cal/EPA Agency Secretary for action by individual boards, departments, commissions and conservancies, and proposing legislative solutions.

The Monitoring Council and staff recently realigned their strategy to consider Assembly Bill 1755 (Dodd, 2016). In 2018, the Council approved their [top 5 areas of value and expertise to the State](#), which emphasized their ability to recommend data thresholds, and emerging methods. Specifically, the Council:

1. Can determine if water quality monitoring programs adequately address management questions in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
2. Establishes guidance on data quality and method consistency for established monitoring programs across the state.
3. Can identify where data interpretation thresholds are needed and help provide recommendations on what those thresholds could be.
4. Can identify emerging methods and technologies and offer guidance on how those should be developed to answer current and future management questions.
5. Can link the disparate monitoring programs from local and regional entities that conduct the majority of monitoring across the state.

In further realigning the Council's strategy, in March 2019, the Council finalized a [charter](#) which defines responsibilities of the Secretary for Cal/EPA in overseeing the implementation efforts of the Monitoring Council, Council governance, strategy implementation, staffing, etc.