

Committee Request for Board Action: none

70 attendees via Zoom. Attendees included about 45 members representing 31 BACWA member agencies, 7 guest speakers, and about 15 guests from CVCWA.

TNI Workshop

The committee held a workshop to discuss resources for members implementing 2016 TNI standards as required by the state's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). Individual speaker updates are shown below. Overall themes from the workshop and discussion included:

- Implementing the TNI standard takes a considerable effort, but in the end it is worth it!
- Labs should take a shot at implementing the TNI standards in-house before hiring a consultant, as the effort involved will help the lab determine what, if any, scope of work needs to be completed by a consultant.
- When tackling TNI implementation, start with the quality manual and fill out as much as possible, but don't start with Section 4.1 – circle back to those later.
- Small labs tend to be challenged by lack of resources, while large labs tend to be challenged by the slow pace of organizational change.
- Labs that perform drinking water methods (such as for recycled water) will likely require an on-site assessment. Other wastewater lab assessments can be virtual, unless the lab has sophisticated technology.

Jerry Parr, TNI & Jacob Oaxaca, ELAP: [Resources for Labs: Training, Templates, and Mentorship](#)

This presentation covered:

- Tools and resources available on the TNI website (<https://nelac-institute.org/>), including guidance documents, checklists, standard interpretation requests, a [quality manual template](#), and a [list of consulting firms for laboratories seeking accreditation](#).
- An explanation of proficiency testing reporting limits.
- Information about the newly launched, nationwide **TNI Mentor Initiative**. Laboratories can sign up to be part of the program by filling out the TNI mentor questionnaire [online](#) and should note on the form that they are a municipal wastewater laboratory.
- Information about upcoming conferences, including:
 - The [ELAP Conference](#) scheduled for June 1-3, 2021
 - The [2021 Environmental Measurement Symposium](#) to be held August 2-12, 2021, which will have a special session on the 2016 TNI standard.

Panel Discussion – California Municipal Labs and the TNI Standard – Finding a Guide

The panel included three presentations:

- Duncan Millar and Tony Francis of International Accreditation Service (IAS) presented "[Five Things You Need to Know about IAS Accreditation](#)." IAS provides assessments, gap analysis, and training around the world, but does not directly provide consulting assistance to labs. IAS can provide a no-cost, no-obligation certification timetable with action items if you provide your current accreditation expiration date.
- Kathryn and John Gumpfer of ChemVal Consulting presented "[Two Keys to Success](#)." ChemVal can provide assistance with quality system and SOP development, internal audits, and assessments. They stressed the importance of reading standards many, many, many times.
- Ken Brown from the City of Escondido presented "[Implementing the TNI Standard](#)," explaining how the City's lab successfully implemented the TNI standard, emphasizing the aspects of organizational change and staff culture. Implementing the TNI standard in a large laboratory require leadership and communication about the goal: improved data quality.

Next meeting: June 8, 2021, 10 AM – 12 PM