

One Year Later: California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program

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Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD



Thank You

- 4th year speaking at this conference
- It has been a busy year
 - Today I'll give you an update how the program is progressing



Progress on Program Reforms

- **Completed**
- Challenges
- Where we need your help



Recap on CA Program Reforms

- Establish an internal program management system
- Enhance communications with our Stakeholders
- Ensure relevant analytical test methods
- Expand resources
- Adopt a laboratory accreditation standard



Completed

- Adopted TNI's internal management system
 - Supports our mindset of continuous improvement
 - Beginning our 1st internal audit/management review
- Enhance Communication
 - Ongoing
 - ELTAC is revitalized
 - California State Regulatory Agency Partners are engaged
 - Improving understanding of the data users



Completed

- Ensure CA is offering relevant analytical methods for accreditation
 - Ongoing
 - CA offers method for regulatory needs/intended purpose
- Expand Resources – Train Existing Staff
 - Assessor Training Contract and Drinking Water Laboratory Assessments by NV5/Dade Moeller
 - Still having difficulty attracting/retaining qualified assessment staff
 - NGABs a no-go for now, but CA law allows contract work

Progress on Program Reforms

- Completed
- **Challenges**
- Where we need your help



Challenges

- Change is difficult
 - Laboratories
 - Internal staff
 - California State Regulatory Agency Partner Clients



Challenges

- Not yet adopted an Accreditation Standard for Laboratories
 - We selected the 2016 TNI Standard
- We see its value and especially our State Regulatory Agency Partners
- Documented quality is important for legal defensibility
- However, many CA laboratories still do not agree



Anti-TNI Sentiment

- Is still very strong in California
 - Among at least half our laboratories
- Many believe TNI is only additional documentation requirements and provides no benefit to the laboratory or to end data user
 - Don't recognize importance of Quality Management System
 - They aren't convinced that TNI is scalable to small laboratories
- We need your help addressing this attitude

Host Ambassador Workshops

- Bring speakers from TNI laboratories to talk with their peers in California
 - From TNI-accredited municipal and small laboratories
 - Not TNI administrators
- Share experiences and benefits/challenges
 - Answer questions and provide real life experience
 - Tips for implementation
- Create a presence in California
 - Speak at California conferences



Bring NEMC Back to California

- Make technical expertise at NEMC more accessible to CA laboratories
 - Show them that TNI is more than just the standard
- Offer conference scholarships
 - To reach those whose agencies cannot afford to send them
- Offer member pricing to CA laboratories
- Sponsor sessions that focus on scalability



Scalability and Communications Campaign

- Many do not believe that the standard is scalable for small laboratories
 - We need TNI's expertise to show how
- Work with our laboratory technical advisory committee to address specific concerns
 - Please be our guests at the next meeting on November 13th
- Let's work together to communicate with CA laboratories



The Spirit of TNI

- TNI strives to raise the bar and continuously improve
 - You are industry leaders
- California needs your support
 - And there is much to be gained on both sides from CA's participation in the consensus process



Thank you

