Subcommittee on Spatial Water Data

Meeting Details:

**Date/Time:** July 27, 2018, 1:00 - 2:00 PM Eastern Time

**Location:** Teleconference only (administered from USGS Headquarters, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192)

**Conference line:** 703-648-4848 Conference code 1712-0464#

If you have trouble with the phone conference line, try 855-547-8255 (toll free), code 1712-0464#

**WebEx conference info:**
Meeting number: 905 418 465
Meeting password: yrAxkeKT

[Join the meeting]

NOTE: THIS WEBEX WEB MEETING WILL BE RECORDED TO AID IN NOTE TAKING. THE NOTES ARE THE OFFICIAL MEETING RECORD.

**Agenda**

All Times Eastern Time Zone

1:00 - 1:05  Introductions for new attendees

1:05 - 1:25  California's Open and Transparent Water Data Act

1:25 - 1:35  “Marketplace” Work Group
Attendees

New Attendees
Matt Correa (matthew.correa@water.ca.gov)
Peter Colohan peter.colohan@noaa.gov
Chris McCready (Christina.McCready@water.ca.gov)
Gary Darling (Gary.Darling@water.ca.gov)
Angelica Gutierrez (angelica.gutierrez@noaa.gov)

Returning Attendees
Al Rea, USGS (ahrea@usgs.gov)
Steve Nechero, NRCS NGCE (steven.nechero@ftw.usda.gov)
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California’s Open and Transparent Water Data Act

In September 2016, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755, Dodd). AB 1755 directs the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to work with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (CWQMC) to create, operate, and maintain a statewide integrated water data platform. The agencies must also develop a strategic plan to guide program implementation and protocols for data sharing, documentation, quality control, public access, and promotion of open-source platforms and decision support tools related to water data.

The four State agencies named in the legislation have been joined in implementation by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR), the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), the California Government Operations Agency (GovOps), and the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC). In addition, we have benefitted from the enthusiasm and experience of several other voluntary partners, including the California Council on Science and Technology (and their affiliates), UC Water, Berkeley Law, UC San Diego/San Diego Supercomputer Center, and many other interested and energetic stakeholders.
The State’s implementation has included development of the strategic plan and protocols (light blue puzzle pieces), as required, but thanks to a number of fruitful partnerships such as those noted above, the implementation has been informed by a number of parallel efforts (green puzzle pieces).

Berkeley Law, UC Water, CCST, and DWR produced a paper, “Data for Water Decision Making,” which proposes a use case approach to guide development of the “statewide integrated water data platform” called for in AB 1755. The same group compiled 20 draft use cases developed by stakeholders through hosted workshops and independent efforts. As described in the report, these use cases are “short examinations of how water management decision processes employ data.” The 20 draft use cases are by no means a complete picture of the water management landscape--rather, they serve to characterize stakeholder data needs and help to communicate those needs to technical developers.

UC San Diego/San Diego Supercomputer Center, working with the implementing agencies and a small technical working group, produced an Open Water Information Architecture (OWIA) System Requirements Document, which contains functional and technical requirements for the OWIA and highlights federation of existing data-related resources as a strategy for making data discoverable. Federation is analogous to an interlibrary loan system, in which a user is able to discover the existence of--and access--relevant resources within the system. The State will begin with testing the federation of two existing State data portals--data.ca.gov, hosted by GovOps, and data.cnra.ca.gov, hosted by the California Natural Resources Agency.

Funded by S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and overseen by Water Foundation, the Redstone Strategy Group produced a report, “Governance and Funding for Open and Transparent Water Data,” which explores the governance needs associated with AB 1755, organizational structures available to meet those needs, and how governance can promote a sustainable funding model for AB 1755. The implementing agencies are working on a set recommendations in response to the Redstone report, and we may see new legislation to advance this issue. Ultimately, we aim to make the AB 1755 platform durable through funding and administration cycles.

In keeping with a user-centered philosophy, we’ll look to data challenges and testbeds to gather valuable feedback and prompt continuous improvement. A Safe Drinking Water Data Challenge (#CAWaterDataChallenge) is currently underway, hosted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the West Big Data Innovation Hub, in partnership with Water Foundation,
Imagine H2O, and the Bay Area Council. *(The challenge to participants is to use at least one open data source, from the list provided on the website, to develop meaningful information that has the potential to advance California’s capacity to ensure that every Californian has access to sufficient, safe, and affordable water for basic human needs.)*

We’re also planning for interoperability testbeds that will allow innovative users to test the ability of proposed protocols and data standards to address specific use cases. We expect to announce the testbeds launch in fall 2018.

These advances in California are taking place as similar conversations are taking place in other states (e.g., Texas, Utah) and on a national scale. The Aspen Institute Dialogue Series on Water Data in May 2017 released a report, *"Internet of Water: Sharing and Integrating Water Data for Sustainability,"* which has also helped to shape the AB 1755 implementation.

**“Marketplace” work group**

Making data/tools/information more findable through search engines.  
A concept - for a given HUC or other spatial feature, be able to link to/easily find all of the related data. Exploit NHD as a basis for organizing/finding data? Tie to Internet of Water? What’s an example Google (?) search we want to have work? What should the result of the search be?

[Draft charter for group](#)

**Announcements**

GIS Pro 2018 CalGIS Conference - URISA  
NHD workshop  

GIS for Surface Water - Jeff Simley’s book on NHD  
https://esripress.esri.com/display/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&websiteID=357&moduleId=0
Next Meeting

August 24, 1-2 PM Eastern