

ELAP Expert Review Panel

Southern California Coastal Water Project

August 10-13, 2015

Sacramento, CA

California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program

Actions taken in response to initial
Expert Review Panel Recommendations

Christine Sotelo

Outline

- Temporarily Accept Accreditation/Evaluations from recognized programs
- Re-Energize ELTAC
- Update/Review Methods Checklists
- Develop a Communications Strategy
- Engage ELAP Clients

Temporarily Accept Other Accreditation/Evaluations

- Done!
- We had a few missteps to start
 - Operational issues/Development of an SOP/internal communications
 - S. California laboratory visited - had Oregon NELAP post the ERP recommendation
 - But we are past those now
- Recommendation tremendously advantageous
 - Reduced backlog from 200 to 40

Steps in Redefining ELTAC

- Work in progress
 - Opportunity to get ERP feedback
 - Are we headed in right direction?
 - Several key steps in doing so...

Steps in Redefining ELTAC

- Agreeing on Membership
 - Originally proposed a membership balanced between laboratories and clients
 - The Stakeholder Advisory Committee provided strong feedback towards laboratory focus
 - Listened to the committee and adjusted accordingly

Draft ELTAC Membership

- State Water Resources Control Board
- Department of Toxic Substance Control
- EPA Region 9's Central Regional Laboratory
- American Council of Independent Laboratories
- California Association of Sanitation Agencies
- CDPH Drinking Water and Radiation Laboratory
- Commercial Environmental Laboratory
- Municipal Laboratory
- 3 experts in testing and analysis of environmental samples
- Method Producing Organization
- California Association of Public Health Directors
- Directors of Environmental Health
- CA/NV American Water Works Association
- California Water Environment Association

Steps in Redefining ELTAC

- Draft By-Laws Language
 - Developed collaborative draft with the Stakeholder Advisory Committee
 - Initiated a formal, transparent adoption process
 - Recently completed 2 public hearings to get feedback from the larger community

Steps in Redefining ELTAC

- Accountability
 - Ensure By-Laws require ELAP to respond to ELTAC input
 - By-Laws have explicit provisions to ensure ELTAC relevancy
- Tasks
 - Still developing ELTAC assignments
 - Will hear more about specific tasks throughout the day and welcome your suggestions

Update/ Review Methods Checklists

- Done / 50
- Available for your review if you would like

Communications Strategy

- Hosted 2 Meet & Greet Events
 - 30 attendees in Southern California
 - 50 attendees in Northern California, not including Webcast participants
 - Speech at 2015 Environmental Measurements Symposium
 - Water Board Executive Director's Report
- Created a communications plan that you have for review
 - Awaiting Stakeholder Advisory Committee's feedback
 - Intended as a living document
 - Performance measures / Effectiveness of messages

Engage ELAP Clients

- Met with an array of State Agency Partners
 - Air Resources Board, Fish & Wildlife, Water Boards, Toxic Substances Control, Public Health, U.S. Food & Drug Administration
 - Upcoming: Food and Agriculture / Pesticide Regulation
- Positive outcomes
 - Method updates
 - Cross media referrals
- The proof is in the pudding
 - They will be here tomorrow to meet with you

Next Steps

- Keep the recommendations coming
- Paid dividends
- Finalize By-Laws and reconvene ELTAC – January 2016
- Evaluate personnel assignments for greatest efficiency
- Business analysis for PT database – highest Division Priority
- On-line application submittal

Questions?

916.341.5175

Christine.sotelo@waterboards.ca.gov

www.waterboards.ca.gov/elap