

California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program

ELAP Update

Expert Review Panel Meeting

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Recommended Reforms

- Establish a management system
- Adopt laboratory accreditation standards
- Ensure relevant analytical methods
- Expand resources
- Enhance communications
- ELTAC's role in ERP report
- Leadership

Establish a Management System

- Purchased 17011/TNI
- Gap Analysis
 - Existing regulations vs. draft regulations vs. 17011 vs. USEPA Manual for the certification of laboratories analyzing
- 17011 requires operational processes (SOPs)
- Internal reviews to assess performance

Adopt laboratory standards

- Purchased TNI/17025
- Thoughtful discussion on ERP report options
- Gap analysis
 - Existing regulations vs. draft regulations vs. 17025 vs. TNI
- Before any standard is chosen
 - Robust Stakeholders process
 - Outreach, education, compliance assistance

Ensure relevant analytical methods

- Rewrite regulations
- Organizing regular meetings with regulatory agency partners / SAC
 - Immediate goals
 - Update ELAP activities
 - Compile and publish a list of all approved methods
 - Advertise list (webpage, email subscription)

Expand Resources

- 27 budgeted positions, 3 vacancies
- Reorganized ELAP, created a Proficiency Testing Unit
- Adjusting fees to fully support a whole program
- Recently completed training (*USEPA CO, FDA pesticide residue, microbiology hands-on, organic/inorganic chemistry, CalEPA Inspector Academy, communication with tact & professionalism*)
- Upcoming training: *radiochemistry, environmental crimes, fraud, TNI/17025 Auditor training*
- Reviewed Pennsylvania Auditor Training Program

Enhance Communication

- Strategic Communications Action Plan (SCAP) – living document
- Staff upcoming training: *Communications with tact and professionalism, technical writing, regular all staff meetings on professionalism*
- Laboratory Community: *SAC regular meetings in lieu of permanent ELTAC, email messages (every week), webpage updates, post cards, workshops*
- State Agency Partners: *Regular meetings, Doodle Poll*
- Met with Department Pesticide Regulation
- USEPA approval in writing to use other AB/State Certifications
 - Posted to webpage, email message

ELTAC role in ERP report

- Critical
- Vetting technical and scientific issues
 - Establish a management system - *provide technical advice*
 - Adopt laboratory accreditation standards – *consult feasibility of options*
 - Ensure relevant analytical methods – *technical consult on methods*
 - Expand resources - *ELTAC laboratory training ground, resources other training opportunities*
 - Enhance communications – *always comment on SCAP, review email messages, official announcements, edit/review survey monkey*
- Interim:
 - SAC regular meetings
 - 2nd Draft By-laws



Continued Leadership

- Committed to fixing programmatic problems
- Implement the ERP report recommendations
- Continue hold ourselves accountable/transparent



Questions?

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