California Dreaming: Laboratory Expectations for Meaningful State ELAP Reform

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Overview

• CA ELAP Background
• Laboratory Expectations
• Recommendations
CA ELAP Background

Drinking Water Program Reorganization

“The Administration has evaluated the current governance structure…and concluded that...an integrated organizational structure...effectively protect water quality and the public health...”

Before: Dept. of Public Health

After: State Water Resources Control Board
CA ELAP Background

CA Laboratory Accreditation Program

- Cal EPA
  - State Water Resources Control Board
    - Division of Drinking Water
      - Program Management Branch
      - Technical Operations
  - ELAP
CA ELAP Background

- ELAP Programs Covered
  - Drinking Water Program—Safe DWA & California Code of Regulations (CCR)
  - Wastewater—NPDES—Clean WA & Porter-Cologne WQCA
  - Recycled Water--CCR
  - Hazardous Materials—RCRA & CCR
  - Shellfish & Food
CA ELAP Background

- ELAP Program Problems
  - Neglect & Loss of NELAP AB status
    - Lack of conformance standards
    - Poor Management and lack of Accountability
    - Lack of training and technical expertise
    - Expensive and ineffective

It was really me!

It was really me!
Lab Expectations

- A certified Accreditation Body.

- Equal application of lab accreditation standards regardless of lab size or program served.

- Consistency regardless of lab type, public or private, large or small.

- Efficiency and accountability.

- Value of services received for accreditation fees charged.
ELAP Recommendations

Definitions

• Quality Systems & Standards
  
  • A quality management system (QMS) is a set of policies, processes and procedures required for planning and execution (production/development/service) in the core business area of an organization.\textsuperscript{2}
  
  • Core business of a testing lab, public or private, is to produce valid data of known quality for the consumer/data user.
  
  • A quality standard is a widely accepted standard for establishing the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.\textsuperscript{3}
ELAP Recommendations

Adoption of TNI/ISO17025 Standards

- Same standard for all labs, public or private
- Data equivalency
- Audit Consistency
- Recognition beyond state line
ELAP Recommendations

Adoption of ISO17011 Standards for Accreditation Bodies

- Quality Systems
- Adequate training and experience for staff
- Transparent Program Management Review Process
- Credibility for enforcement
Recognition of 3rd party accreditation

- Existing Accreditation Bodies
  - 13 States & 14 ABs
  - TNI’s Non-Governmental Accreditation Bodies (NGAB)
- Use of NGAB assessors for lab audits
ELAP Recommendations

Separate Licensing & Accreditation

• Value and accountability
• Fees commensurate with effort
• Future pricing containment
Recap

- CA ELAP needs a quality standard and technical expertise it currently lacks.

- The most straightforward and cost effective solution:
  - Adoption of the TNI (ISO based) Standard.
  - Recognition of 3rd party NELAP Assessors and Accreditation.
References

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