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National Environmental Monitoring Conference 2015

California Dreaming: Laboratory Expectations for Meaningful State ELAP Reform

Allison Mackenzie
Chief Executive Officer



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Overview

- CA ELAP Background
- Laboratory Expectations
- Recommendations



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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...”₁

Before: Dept. of Public Health

After: State Water Resources
Control Board





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CA ELAP Background

CA Laboratory Accreditation Program

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



CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL
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AGENCY



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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





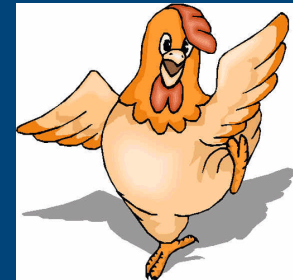
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CA ELAP Background

- 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!





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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.



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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.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.³



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ELAP Recommendations

Adoption of TNI/ISO17025 Standards

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





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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



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ELAP Recommendations

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





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ELAP Recommendations

Separate Licensing & Accreditation

- Value and accountability
- Fees commensurate with effort
- Future pricing containment





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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.



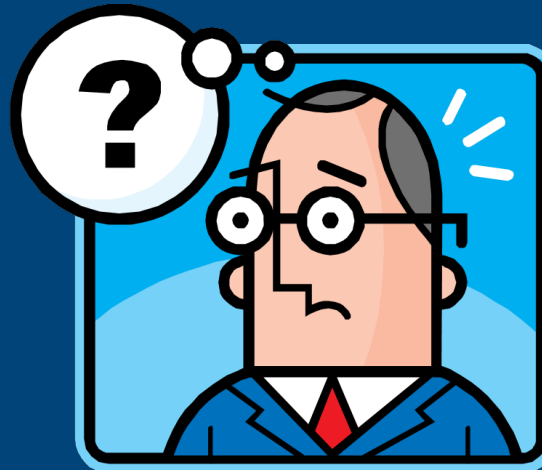
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References

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2. International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
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3. <http://www.iso.org/iso/home/about/conformity-assessment.htm>



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Questions?

Name:	Allison Mackenzie
Title:	CEO
Email:	amackenzie@babcocklabs.com
Phone:	951-653-3351 ext: 230
Website:	www.babcocklabs.com
Address:	6100 Quail Valley Ct. Riverside, CA, 92507



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Thank You!