

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER  
MAY 2, 2023**

**ITEM 6**

**SUBJECT**

PROGRESS UPDATE ON TWO YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (ELAP) NEW REGULATIONS.

**DISCUSSION**

Responsibility for the administration of the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) was transferred from the California Department of Public Health to the State Water Board (the board) on July 1, 2014. Following the transfer, the board contracted for an Expert Review Panel to conduct a comprehensive examination of ELAP, which released a final report of findings on October 22, 2015, and included these major recommendations:

1. Establish a management system
2. Adopt laboratory accreditation standards
3. Ensure relevant analytical methods
4. Expand resources
5. Enhance communication

A regulatory update was needed to accomplish some of these recommendations, specifically the adoption of laboratory accreditation standards. After consulting with the Environmental Laboratory Technical Advisory Committee (ELTAC) and the ELAP State Agency Partner Committee, both of which are advisory bodies to ELAP, ELAP proposed the 2016 TNI Standard as the laboratory accreditation standard to be included by reference in the new regulations.

ELAP staff engaged in a multi-year, collaborative regulation development process, releasing three preliminary administrative drafts to stakeholders and making changes based on feedback. On May 5, 2020, the board adopted the proposed comprehensive regulatory update with direction to staff to help laboratories in transitioning to the new requirements. The regulation became effective on January 1, 2021. The regulation was subsequently challenged by an organization representing a group of laboratory stakeholders who specifically opposed the inclusion of the TNI Standard but was upheld by the Sacramento County Superior Court of California.

ELAP's informational item will include two speakers from the program who will discuss:

- Implementation assistance provided to laboratories to help them transition to the new regulations
- Impacts of the new regulations to the program
- Impacts of the new regulations observed on the regulated laboratory community

**POLICY ISSUE**

None. This is an informational item only.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None. This is an informational item only.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None. This is an informational item only.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None. This is an informational item only.