Overview

- Origin of ELAP
- ELAP Responsibilities
- ELAP Goals
- Organizational Structure
- Size and Scope
- Closer Look at ELAP Responsibilities
- ELAP Future/Direction
  - What we’ve changed
  - What we’re in the process of changing
  - What we plan to change
Origin of ELAP

- Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Act – AB 3739, Statutes of 1988
  - Effective January 1, 1989
  - Also formed the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Fund – fully fee funded
  - Consolidated multiple accreditation programs
  - Lab accreditation program is necessary for primacy
Ensure quality of analytical data used by CA regulatory programs

Program Elements
- Certify
- Inspect
- Monitor
- Enforce
- Complaint Response
CA ELAP Goals

- Meet primary responsibility to CA regulatory agencies
- Integrate more fully with agency quality systems
- Close the regulatory triangle or data quality loop
Regulatory Permit

CA Regulatory Agencies

Quality Assurance/Quality Control

Method (ELAP)

Data Assessment (OIMA/Regulatory Agency)
### Size and Scope

CA ELAP Certifications ~750

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Certification</th>
<th>~ # of Labs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic Bioassay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asbestos</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Drinking Water</td>
<td>388</td>
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<td>Food Pesticide Residue</td>
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<td>Hazardous Waste</td>
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<td>Radiochemistry</td>
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<td>Shellfish Sanitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste Water</td>
<td>282</td>
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Size and Scope of CA ELAP
Size and Scope of CA ELAP

[Map showing locations of California ELAP Certified Laboratories]
ELAP Responsibilities

- Program Elements
  - Certify
  - Inspect
  - Monitor
  - Enforce
  - Complaint Response
Monitor
- Review Proficiency Testing Results annually
- Comprehensive review of all renewal applications

Enforce
- Exercise enforcement tools in regulations
- Unannounced inspections
- Utilize Office of Enforcement expertise
Complaint Response

FILE COMPLAINT
- CHIEF REVIEW
- CONSULT UPPER MANAGEMENT
- CONSULT OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT

INVESTIGATION
- FACT FINDING
  - Data audit, records review, unannounced inspection, interviews with involved parties

ENFORCEMENT ACTION
- DECERTIFICATION
- ADMINISTRATIVE FINES
- CRIMINAL CHARGES
What we have improved/changed:

- New leadership structure
- Moved administrative operations to Sacramento – streamline, efficient, e-docs
- Addressed personnel deficits
  - Hired and trained new expert staff
- Expediting certifications – expanding the criteria allowed in regulation to evaluate/certify laboratories
What we have improved/changed:

- Adhering to strict timelines
- Routinely evaluating ELAP progress using measurable metrics
- Address critical personnel management issues
- Developed a complaints system
- Actively using enforcement tools
- Succession planning/transition of knowledge
What we’re in the process of changing

- Draft Regulations
- Setting Appropriate Fees
- ELAP Communications Strategy
- Re-energizing Environmental Laboratory Technical Advisory Committee (ELTAC)
What we have yet to address

  - Lead by Southern California Coastal Water Research Project – Dr. Stephen Weisberg
  - Recognize the program has problems
  - Seeking external, independent advice
  - Committing to holding ourselves accountable
  - Consistent Quality Systems
  - [www.sccwrp.org/elap](http://www.sccwrp.org/elap)
Questions?