

From: [Marshall Chaffee](#)
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: "Comment Letter – ELAP Year 2 ERP Report."
Date: Sunday, April 30, 2017 9:00:30 PM



Dear Members of the Water Board,

I am writing to you from the perspective of a hazardous waste testing laboratory. I sincerely hope you take at least one key finding away from the Expert Review Panel Report: As the current administrative agency responsible for managing the ELAP program, you need understand that by law, ELAP is required to do much more than service the needs of drinking water laboratories.

As an attendee of the expert review panel meeting in Costa Mesa, I had a brief conversation with Board Member Doduc, and I was extremely concerned by the lack of understanding of who ELAP is supposed to service. From the perspective of this board member, I was given the distinct impression the ELAP is only being thought of as a dedicated drinking water program. I would just like to go on record and make it clear that not all environmental testing laboratories are drinking water laboratories and vice versa. The laboratory I work for has plenty of work to do in the hazardous waste field of testing, and we have no plans of ever becoming a drinking water laboratory.

That being said, I think all of the board members really need to think hard about the current organizational structure of the ELAP program. Does it make sense for ELAP to be managed under the Division of Drinking Water when the program is required to do more than just drinking water? Do you have any concerns about possible conflicts of interest regarding the agency's operational mandate (ie: when resources are scarce does more go to servicing drinking water labs at the expense of non-drinking water labs)? The current staff of ELAP have been doing a great job with the resources they have, but lack of technical expertise is still a large problem (as indicated in the report). To make matters worse, the technical demands on ELAP are only going to get larger. California has no formal standards in place for indoor air or soil-gas testing, but these are going to be needed in the very immediate future. This would most likely fall on the shoulders of an already over-burdened ELAP being managed under the Division of Drinking Water.

I think it is possible for ELAP to succeed under the current administrative structure, but the Water Board is going to need some help from other CAL EPA agencies to do so (hopefully in the form of dollars and technical expertise). As members of the Water Board, you need to start actively reaching out to these agencies for help, or reconsider if the Division of Drinking Water is really the best long-term home for ELAP. Thank you for your interest in making this program work better.

Sincerely,
Marshall Chaffee

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Marshall Chaffee
MS Chemistry

(714) 726-0470