

## **TNI Efforts to Support California ELAP**

On July 1, 2014 the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) transitioned from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to the California State Water Resources Control Board's. Shortly after, the State Water Board contracted with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority (SCCWRP) to convene an Expert Review Panel (ERP) charged with developing recommendations for improving ELAP. The Expert Review Panel was convened to perform an independent, comprehensive review of ELAP after the program transitioned to the State Water Resources Control Board in July 2014.

Beginning in November 2014, TNI began reaching out to ELAP by providing information about TNI and our accreditation standards. As this effort has matured, TNI has provided several written responses to ELAP and the Expert Panel. These are summarized below

### **1. About TNI and NELAP (11/12/14)**

A powerpoint presentation was provided that contained a briefing package about TNI and NELAP. That presentation was then converted to a document.

### **2. Resources and Support for Laboratory Accreditation from TNI (10/12/15)**

This document was prepared to summarize some of the resources available from TNI, including tools for laboratories such as our Quality Manual template and training courses and tools for Accreditation Bodies.

### **3. TNI Support for Laboratories (8/28/16)**

This is a letter describing the activities TNI is involved in to help laboratories get accredited.

### **4. Comment Letter – ELAP Regulations Development/Laboratory Standard (10/20/16)**

These comments address the comments made by the public on October 6, 2016 on ELAP's proposal to use the TNI Standard, Volume 1, Management and Technical Requirements for Laboratories Performing Environmental Analysis (2016). These comments address specifically the following areas:

- The benefits of using the TNI standard in a laboratory accreditation program.
- Closure of municipal laboratories in Florida and New York.
- Misunderstanding on the TNI standard, including
  - Educational requirements for laboratory managers
  - Release of laboratory data to the public, and
  - Verification checks on laboratory equipment.
- The costs to implement the program.

### **5. Small Laboratory Quality Systems Challenges (1/26/17)**

This document summarizes a session held in Houston, Texas on January 23, 2017, The NELAC Institute (TNI) held a panel discussion at the annual Forum on Environmental Accreditation to discuss challenges that small laboratories may have in implementing the TNI standard.

### **6. TNI Comments on ELAP Recommendations (02/13/17)**

California ELAP listed 58 specific sections in the TNI standard where they proposed to delay implementation or modify the standard. This document is a response to all 58 recommendations.