

Biological Objectives for California Streams – Regulatory Update

April 2011



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Overview

- What we are doing...
- ...what we have done...
- ...where we are now...
- ...and where we're going.



What we are doing...

Water Quality Standards

Beneficial Uses
Aquatic Life

Water Quality Objectives
Biological Objectives

Antidegradation

Implementation
305(b), 303(d), Permitting



What we are doing...

- The state should have biological objectives for all waterbody types.
- The state should use multiple indicators for biological objectives.
- The state should develop biological objectives with numeric endpoints.
- There should be statewide consistency with regional flexibility.



Technical Infrastructure

Indicators
Assemblages
Physical Habitat

Methods
Field & Lab

Reference
Condition

Quality Assurance

Data Management

Regulatory Framework

Narrative
Objectives

Numeric
Endpoints

Interpretation

Implementation

Regulatory Programs

Permitting

303(d)/TMDL

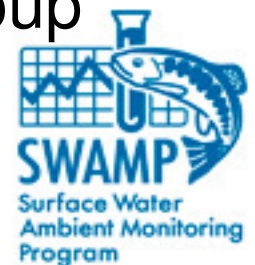
305(b) Assmt

401 Cert

BMP Efficacy

...what we have done...

- March 2010 - Project Kick-off Meetings
 - Educated stakeholders
 - Solicited nominations for Stakeholder Advisory Group
- May 2010 – 1st Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting
 - Presented draft workplan
 - Presented nominees for Scientific Advisory Group
- August 2010 – Finalized Scientific Advisory Group membership



...what we have done...

- September 2010 – Tribal Outreach Meeting
- October 2010 – 1st Scientific Advisory Group Meeting
 - Presented draft workplan
 - Received input and recommendations
 - Presented input from Stakeholder Advisory Group
- November 2010 – 2nd Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting
 - Presented Scientific Advisory Group recommendations
 - Discussed definitions of terms
 - Reviewed other related Water Board policies



...where we are now...

- April 2011
 - 3rd Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting
 - Present technical work
 - Continue discussion of definition of terms
 - 2nd Scientific Advisory Group Meeting
 - Present technical work
 - Present input from Stakeholder Advisory Group
 - Receive input and recommendations
 - Internal Water Board Policy Coordination Meeting



...where we're going.

- Spring 2011
 - Regulatory Advisory Group Meetings
 - 4th Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting – 18 May
- Summer 2011
 - CEQA Scoping Meeting
- Fall 2011
 - Round of Stakeholder and Scientific Advisory Group Meetings



...where we're going.

- 2012
 - Technical documents reviewed and approved by Scientific Advisory Group
 - Advisory Group meetings as needed
- 2013
 - Finalize policy recommendations
 - Peer review
 - Public workshop(s)
 - Policy adoption hearing
- Beyond 2013?
 - OAL and EPA approval



CEQA Scoping

- Required for projects of statewide, regional, or area-wide significance
- Official start of Administrative Record
- Held when you know enough...BUT not too much
- CEQA Scoping Information Document
- CEQA Scoping Meeting
 - Present policy alternatives
 - Receive stakeholder input



Questions?



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