

Technical Advisory Team's Wetland Definition

Wetland Policy Development Team

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October 6, 2009

Wetland Policy Development Process

Wetland Policy Development Team



Technical Advisory Team
(TAT)

- Josh Collins, Ph.D. (Chair), SFEI
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- Terry Huffman, Ph.D., Huffman-Broadway Group
- Chad Roberts, Ph.D., Humbolt Bay Harbor RCD
- Eric Stein, Ph.D., SCCWRP
- Mark Brinson, Ph.D., ECU
- Ralph Tiner, Ph.D., USFWS
- Ben Livsey, RB 2
- Cliff Harvey, SWRCB
- Meredith Williams, Ph.D. (Project Manager), SFEI

Resolution No. 2008-0026

Section 6: Development Team is to

“...develop and bring forward for State Water Board consideration: (a) a wetland definition that would reliably define the diverse array of California wetlands based on the United States Army Corps of Engineers’ wetland delineation methods to the extent feasible...”

TAT's Approach

To advise Wetland Development Team:

- Worked from the directive in Resolution No. 2008-0026
- Reviewed Army Corps' wetland delineation methods
- Reviewed prominent State, federal and other national definitions for conformance with Army Corps' methods and Resolution 2008-0026.
- Developed a definition intended to meet the Resolution directive

Wetland Development Team Review of TAT's Definition

- Wetland Development Drafting Team worked with TAT and approved final version
- Steering Committee approved release of TAT's wetland definition
- Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC) met in August, 2009 to discuss TAT's definition

Wetland Definition

from Technical Advisory Team (TAT)

- An area is wetland if, under normal circumstances, it
 - 1) is saturated by ground water or inundated by shallow surface water for a duration sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions within the upper substrate;
 - 2) exhibits hydric substrate conditions indicative of such hydrology; and
 - 3) either lacks vegetation or the vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes.

TAT Definition Highlights

- Similar to USACE approach by identifying wetlands based on 3 factors: *water, soils, & plants*.
- Recognizes that some wetlands may lack plants:
 - Dry conditions in the arid regions of the state may prevent plants from developing annually
 - Wetlands may be shallow or seasonal
 - Wetlands may be altered by humans or nature
- Provides that the USACE field methods may be used to identify wetlands using this definition.

Remaining Steps

- Draft Phase 1 Policy
 - Wetland Definition
 - Regulatory Requirements Implementing Wetland Definition
 - Monitoring and Assessment Program
- Review by Steering Committee and Interagency Coordinating Committee
- Scientific Peer Review
- 60-day Public Comment Period /Focused Stakeholder Meetings
- Conduct Board Workshop
- Consideration by State Water Board
- If adopted, review by Office of Administrative Law

Target Dates

Milestone	Target Date
Submit Phase 1 Policy for Scientific Peer Review	December 2009
Complete Scientific Peer Review	March 2010
Public Review Start Date (60-day)	May 2010
Board Workshop	June 2010
Board Consideration	October 2010

Questions?

