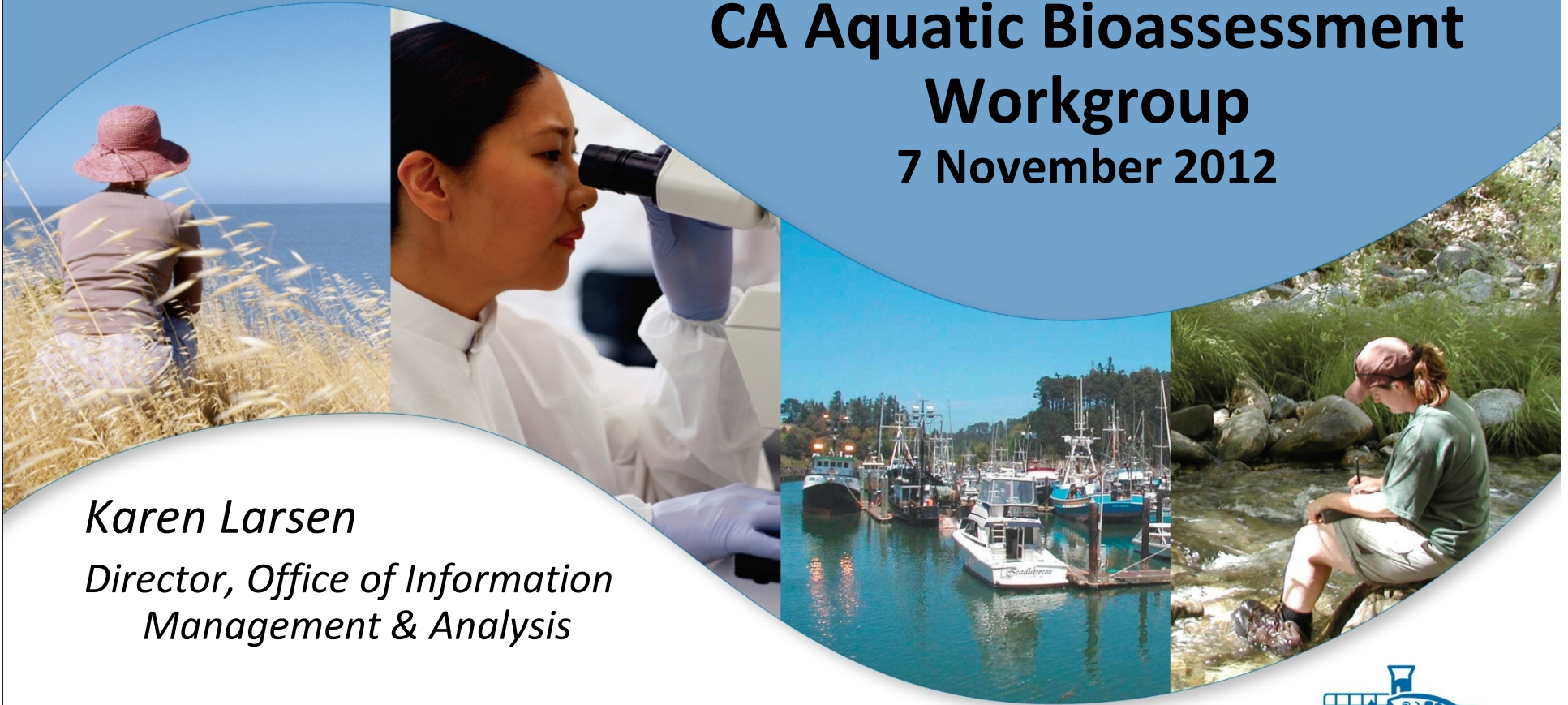


Biological Objectives for California Streams CA Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup 7 November 2012



Karen Larsen

*Director, Office of Information
Management & Analysis*



Overview

- Define Biological Objectives
- Outline need for policy
- Process for developing policy
- Policy alternatives
- Implementation Issues
- Project Schedule



Proposed Biological Objectives Policy

Water Quality Standards

Beneficial Uses
Aquatic Life

Water Quality Objectives
Biological Objectives

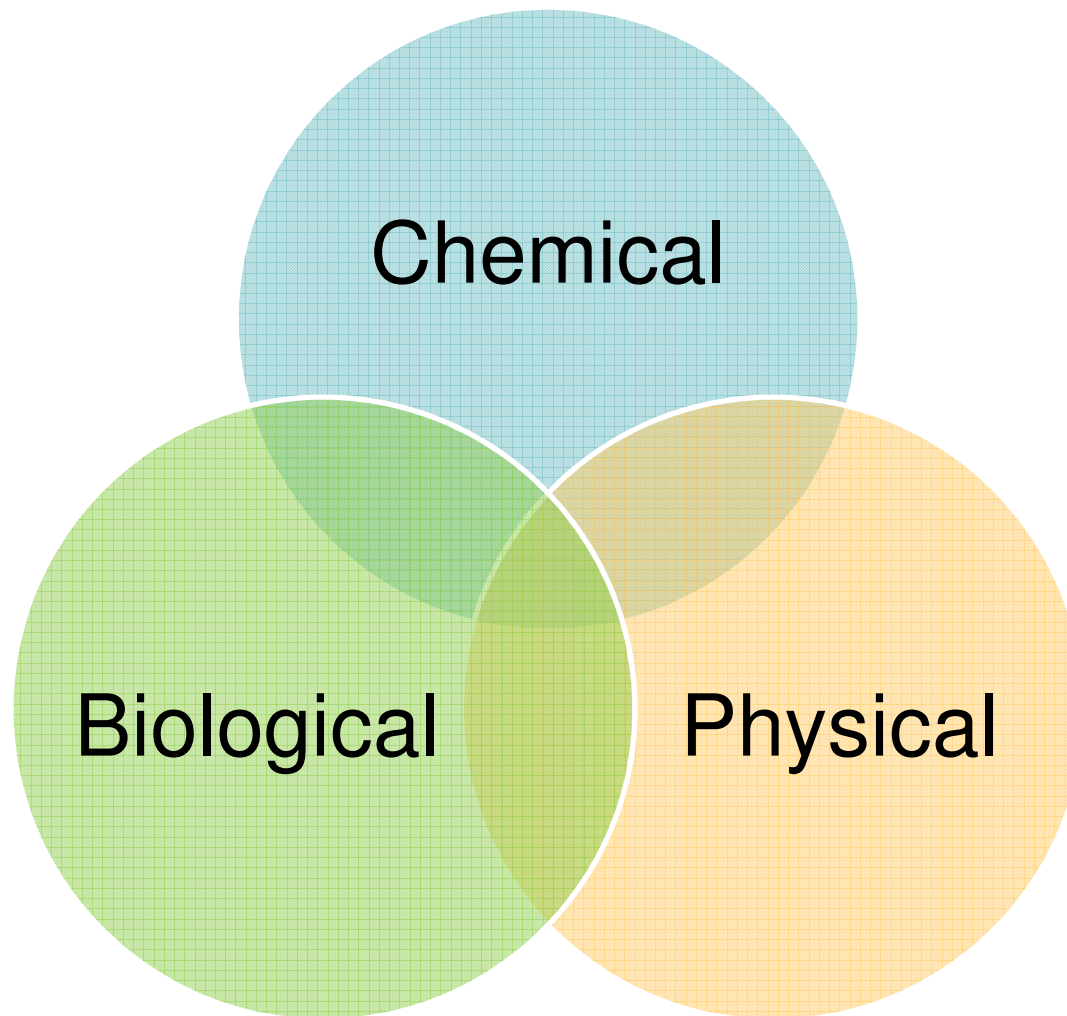
Anti-degradation

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

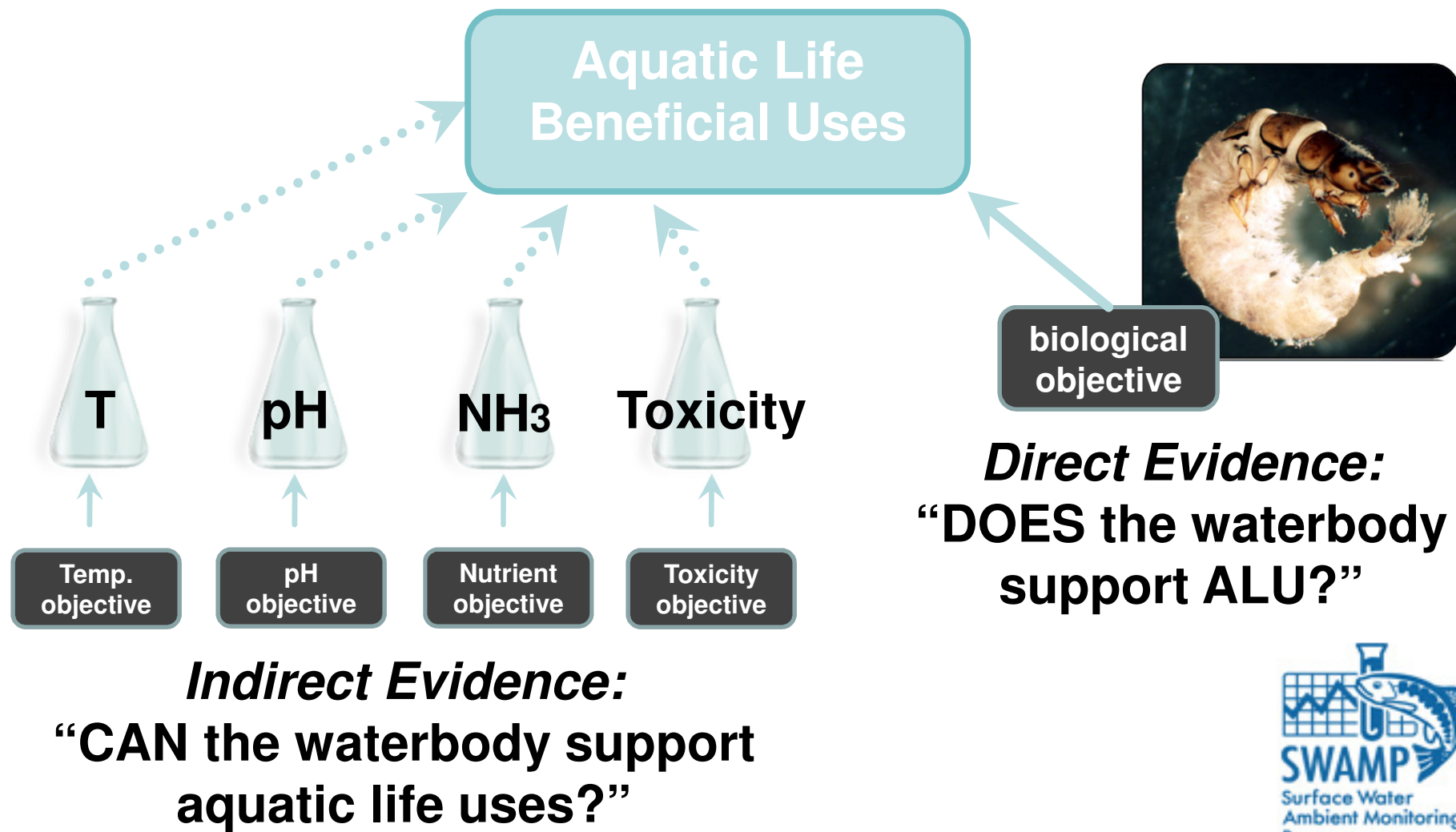
- State Water Board staff proposes to develop a statewide biological objective for protecting aquatic life uses in perennial, wadeable streams.



Why biological objectives?

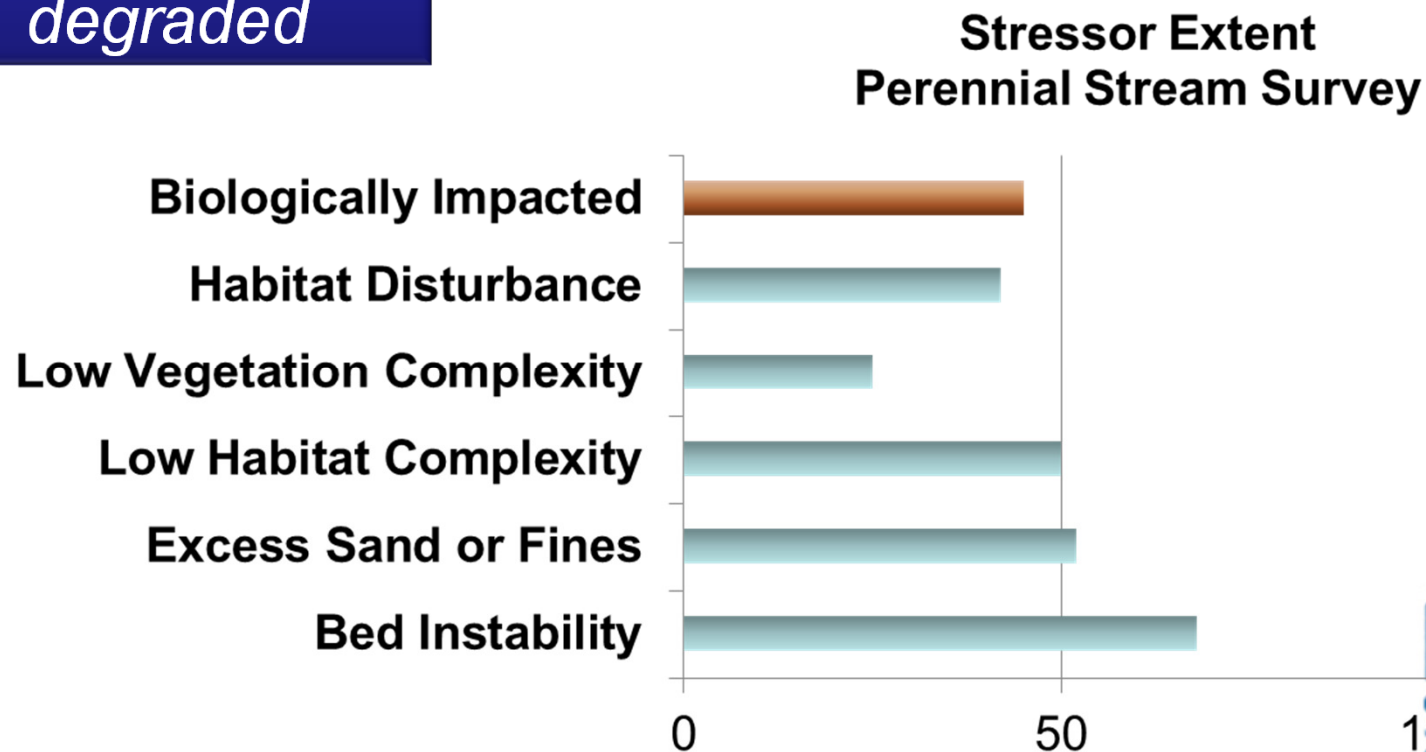


Why biological objectives?



Why propose a biological objectives policy?

Streams are degraded



Why propose a biological objectives policy?

Mechanisms for protecting streams are limited



SWAMP
Surface Water
Ambient Monitoring
Program

Why propose a biological objectives policy?



Mechanisms for restoring streams are limited



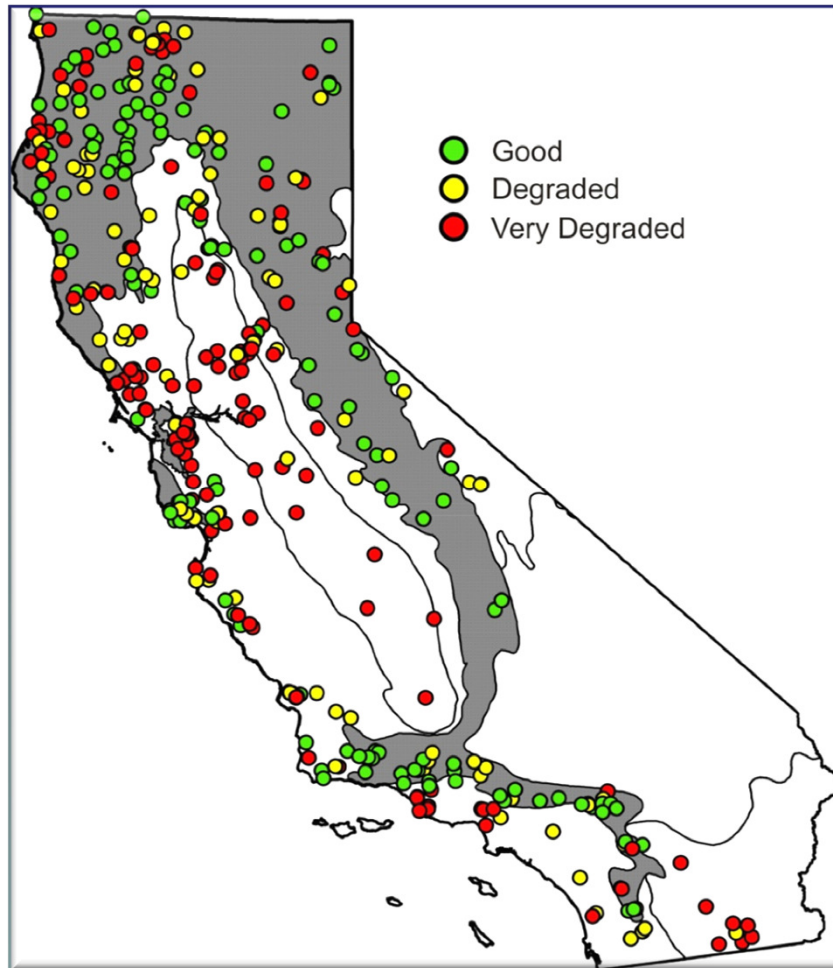
Why propose a biological objectives policy?



Biological monitoring data are not assessed consistently statewide



Why propose a biological objectives policy?



*Regional Water Boards
need measurable,
enforceable biological
thresholds*

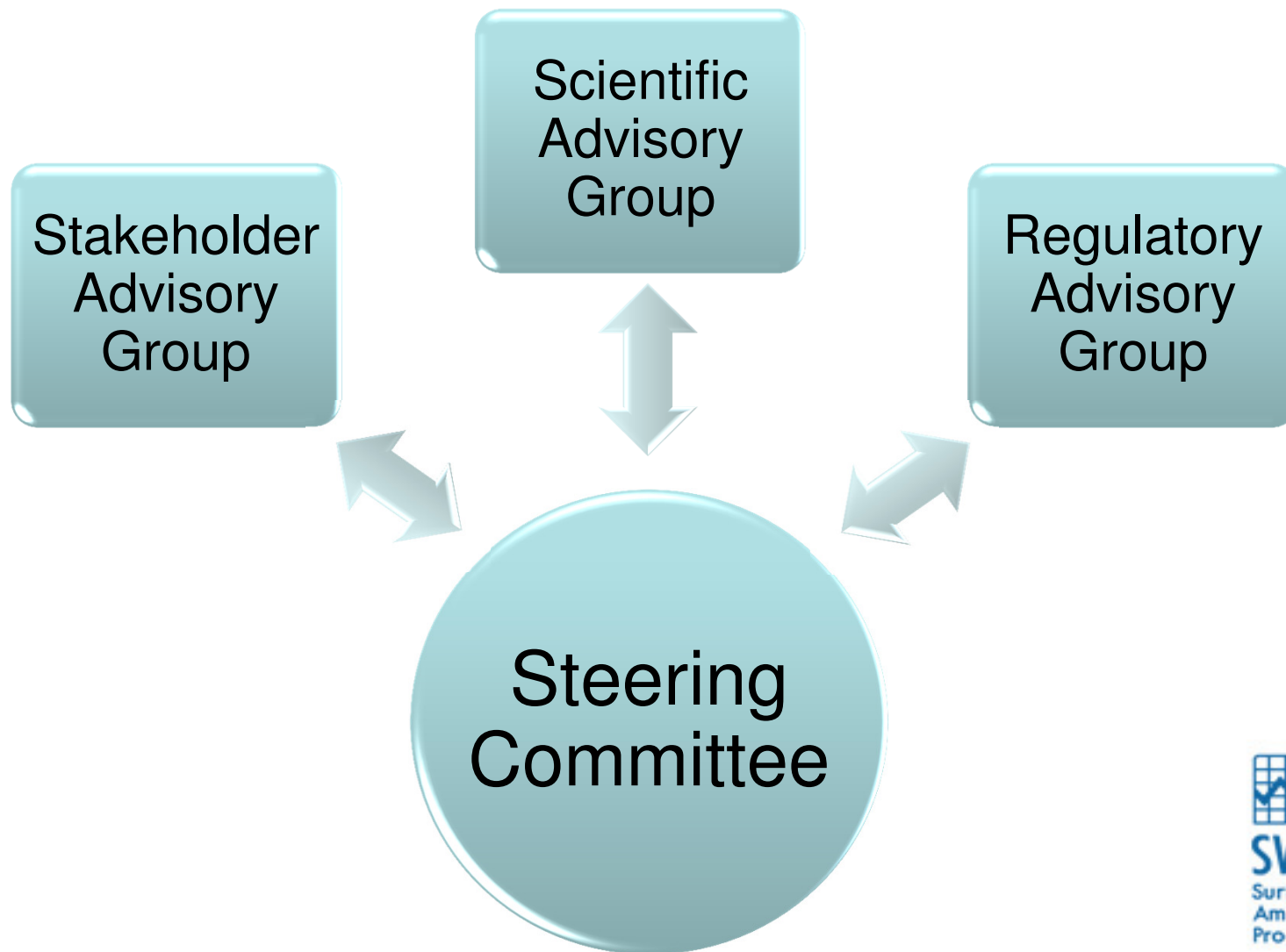


Biological Objectives Policy Must Be:

- Scientifically rigorous
- Apply Statewide
- Enforceable



Collaboration and Participation

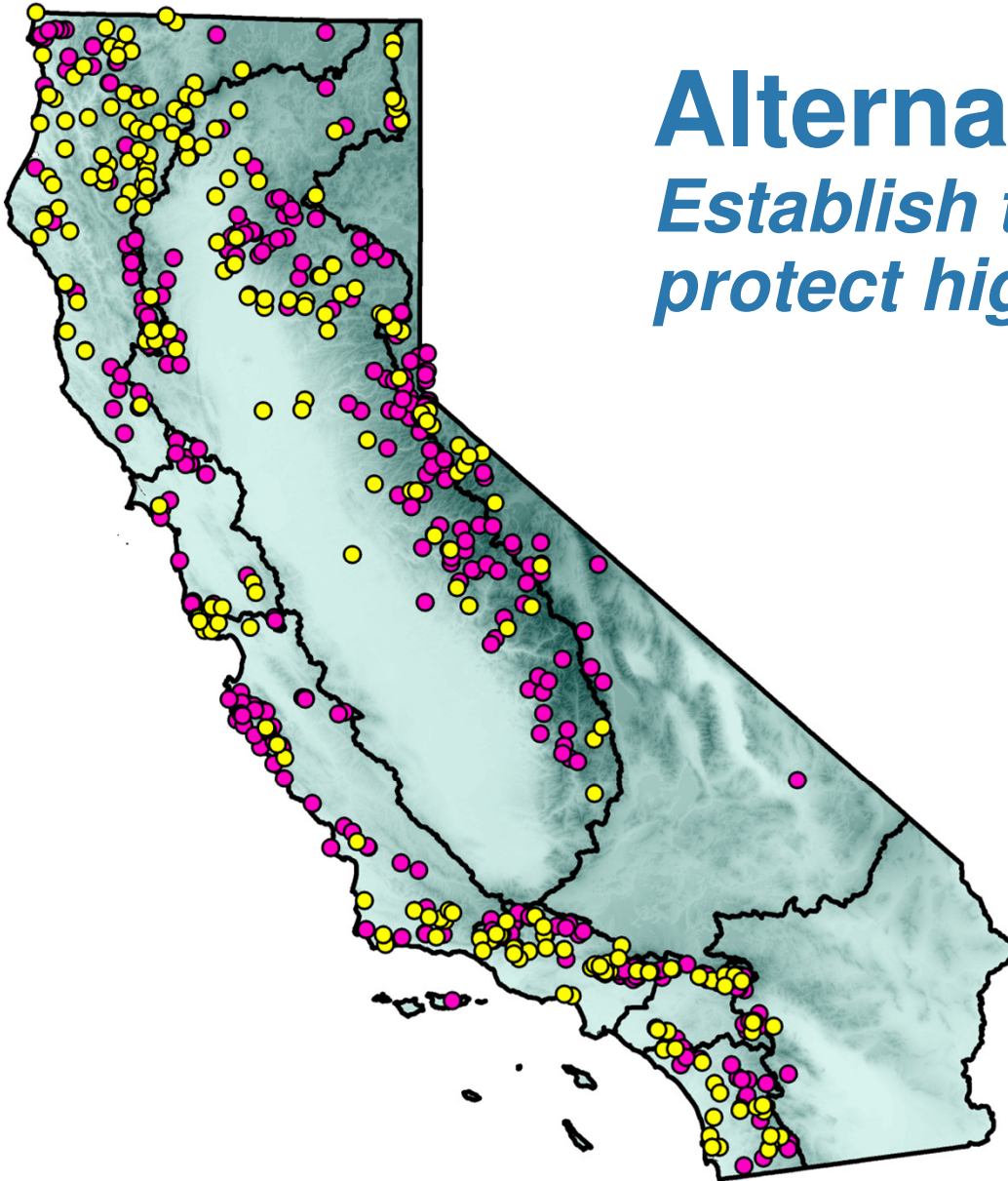


Alternative 1

No Action

- No new policy would be established.
- Existing Regional Water Board Basin Plan objectives for protecting aquatic life uses would remain in place.





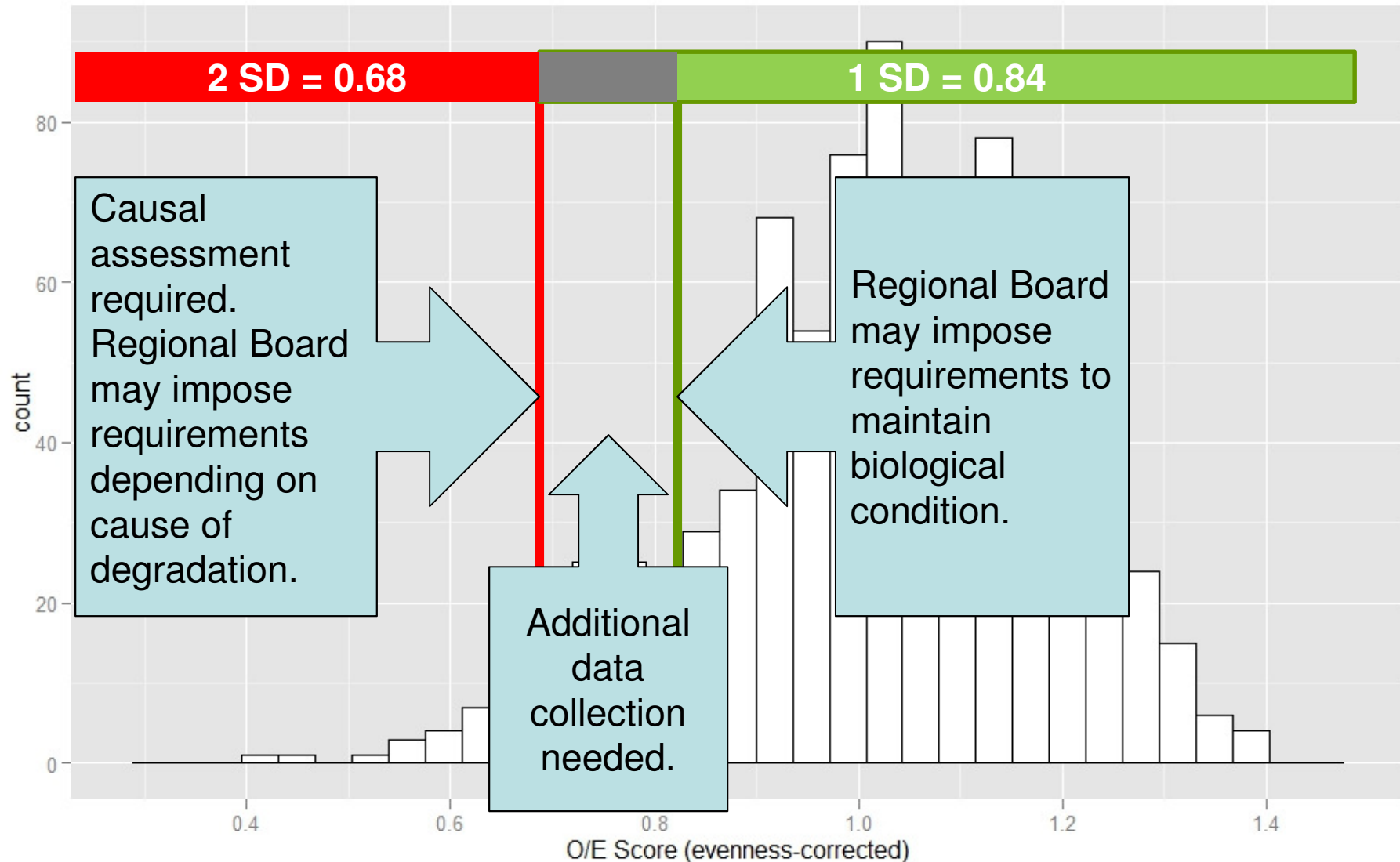
Alternative 2

Establish thresholds to protect high-quality streams



Biological Objectives for California

Alternative 3 - *Establish thresholds to protect and restore streams*



Implementation Issues

Monitoring
Requirements

Thresholds

Independent
Applicability

Exceptions
for Modified
Streams

Causal
Assessments

Impairment
Listing

Habitat
Restoration

Flow



Implementation Issues

Monitoring
Requirements

Thresholds

Independent
Applicability

Exceptions
for Modified
Streams

Causal
Assessments

Impairment
Listing

Habitat
Restoration

Flow



Implementation Issues

Monitoring
Requirements

Thresholds

Independent
Applicability

Exceptions
for Modified
Streams

Causal
Assessments

Impairment
Listing

Habitat
Restoration

Flow



Implementation Issues

Monitoring
Requirements

Thresholds

Independent
Applicability

Exceptions
for Modified
Streams

Causal
Assessments

Impairment
Listing

Habitat
Restoration

Flow



Implementation Issues

Monitoring
Requirements

Thresholds

Independent
Applicability

Exceptions
for Modified
Streams

Causal
Assessments

Impairment
Listing

Habitat
Restoration

Flow



Implementation Issues

Monitoring
Requirements

Thresholds

Independent
Applicability

Exceptions
for Modified
Streams

Causal
Assessments

Impairment
Listing

Habitat
Restoration

Flow



Implementation Issues

Monitoring
Requirements

Thresholds

Independent
Applicability

Exceptions
for Modified
Streams

Causal
Assessments

Impairment
Listing

Habitat
Restoration

Flow



Implementation Issues

Monitoring
Requirements

Thresholds

Independent
Applicability

Exceptions
for Modified
Streams

Causal
Assessments

Impairment
Listing

Habitat
Restoration

Flow



Implementation Issues

Monitoring
Requirements

Thresholds

Independent
Applicability

Exceptions
for Modified
Streams

Causal
Assessments

Impairment
Listing

Habitat
Restoration

Flow



Project Schedule

Major Milestones	Estimated Date
✓CEQA scoping meetings	Sep 2012
Scoring tool complete	Fall 2012
Causal assessment guidance complete	Dec 2012
Board meeting information item on technical work	Jan 2013
Complete draft policy	Feb 2013
Scientific peer review	Jun-Jul 2013
Release public review draft policy	Sep 2013
Public workshops	Oct 2013
60-day comment period closes	Jan 2014
Board Meeting/Adoption	2 nd half 2014

Surface Water
Ambient Monitoring
Program

Questions?



Contacts

Karen Larsen, SWRCB

klarsen@waterboards.ca.gov

(916) 319-9769

Ken Schiff, SCCWRP

kens@sccwrp.org

(714) 755-3202

Brock Bernstein

brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net

