Quality Assurance

❧ An integrated system of management activities involving planning, implementation, assessment, reporting and quality improvement to ensure data quality.

California's Surface Water
Ambient Monitoring Program

Introduction:

SWAMP QA Training

(Why are we here?)

Val Connor

Division of Water Quality

Why are we here?

- Prop. 13
- Prop. 40
- Prop. 50
- SWAMP

Propositions 13, 40 and 50

- $3.4 billion plus !!!!!
- 880 projects
- Once in a lifetime opportunity to:
  - Improve water quality
  - Determine which resource protection actions are most effective
  - Implement TMDL, NPS, WMI, etc.

4

Dream Come True--or Nightmare?

- Technical Oversight--Impossible task
- Grossly Inadequate Resources
- Need a Strategy to prioritize & maximize success

Technical Requirements requiring oversight

- Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan (PAEP)

- Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)

- Consistent with SWAMP

  - Field Methods

  - Data Quality (QAPP)

  - Reporting (database)

Specific Technical Requirements

❧ Each Bond or funding source

❧ Chapters within each Bond

❧ Project dependent

- Project to reduce loads--must measure reduction
- Project to restore wetlands--must measure acreage restored

Current Needs

- QA Officers
- Expertise for staff and stakeholders
- Tools for staff and stakeholders

QA Strategy

- Maximize staff efficiency
- Get stakeholders to do more
- Prioritize critical projects
- Identify what won't get done

Maximize Staff Efficiency

- QA commitment
- Training
- Tools

Approved Training (Training Initiative)

- **Quality Assurance (SWAMP)**
  - **-March and April**
- **Field Methods (SWAMP)**
  - **CD ROM**
- **Biological Assessment**
  - **February and April**
- **Data management**
  - **currently ongoing at each region**
- **Advanced Monitoring Design**
  - **March and April**

Proposed Training (Initiative)

- **Beginning Monitoring Design**
  - **"Monitoring 101"**
- **Project Effectiveness Evaluations**
  - **How to monitor for Effectiveness**

"Tools" (Resources)

- Guidance Documents
- Web site
- QA Template and models
- QA check list
- RFP and contract "Boiler plate"
- Database shells

Strategy Elements

❧ Maximize staff efficiency

❧ Get stakeholders to do MORE!

❧ Prioritize critical projects

❧ Identify what won't get done

Better Grant Products

- Modify existing staff training for stakeholders
- Partner with CA Water Institute

- Need your feedback!!

Today:

❧ Overview of SWAMP

❧ Planning Steps in Grant Projects

❧ Designing a Monitoring Program

❧ Overview of QA

❧ Quality Assurance Project Plans

- Content (24 Elements)
- How to develop a QAPP (template)
- How to Evaluate a QAPP (check list)

"Warning":

❧ One size doesn't fit all

❧ Way too much detail for a day--focus on

- Understanding the process
- Resources (where to get help)

Questions?

Val Connor
Assessment and TMDL Support Unit
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
(916) 341-5573
connv@swrcb.ca.gov

swrcb.ca.gov/swamp