

DRAFT CA AGENCY WATERSHED MGMT STRATEGIC PLAN: 18 MONTH ACTION PLAN

Purpose and Task

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Purpose and Task	Participants	Lead	Dates
1) Oversee implementation of watershed MOU and Strategic Plan and review progress.	Deputy Forum/ Steering Committee	CalEPA/ Brausch, RA/ Bleier	2 to 3 times /yr
2) Review and update information about agency and program goals, objectives and activities by region, subregion or watershed, building on California NPS Implementation Plan, agency strategic plans (eg Coastal Conservancy), CalFed reports, DPR's Representative Watersheds, Great Places database and other existing plans, maps and documents. Identify strategic opportunities for additional cooperation that will result in more efficient and effective watershed protection.	Deputies and Program Staff	CalEPA/ Brausch, RA/Bleier	May 2005
3) Use information about activities and opportunities from above to support the Ocean Protection Council in identifying state agency priorities for coastal watersheds and recommend ways to improve agency protection and facilitate stakeholder stewardship.	DFG, SWRCB, CC, SCC, DBW, CDF, DPR	RA/Baird, SCC/Schucat	June 2005
4) Establish performance measures and indicators related to coordination, collective investment and local involvement, building on and incorporating appropriate measures from existing programs such as CalFed, SCWRP, Fishery Grants and others.	CalFed, CDF, DOC, SWRCB, DWR, CDF, DFG, SCC, DPR, et al.	RA/ Bleier, CalEPA/ Brausch	June 2005
5) Demonstrate watershed health.			
a) Summarize current use of watershed-related indicators and performance measures for purpose of creating framework to evaluate our capacity to demonstrate improvements to watershed health. Report back to Steering Committee.	OEHHA, SWRCB, DPR, CalFed programs, CDF, DFG, DHS, SCC, DOC, federal and local agencies	OEHHA/ Siebal	June 2005
b) Evaluate utility of existing watershed related indicators for assessing watershed conditions and watershed trends, and performance measures for assessing watershed program progress. Make recommendations for improvement and identify opportunities for coordinated monitoring. Report back to Steering Committee.	OEHHA, SWRCB, DPR, CalFed, CDF, DFG, DHS, SCC, DOC, USEPA	OEHHA/ Siebal	Fall 2005

INFORMATION TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND TO DEMONSTRATE WATERSHED HEALTH

1) Develop and implement more coordinated monitoring strategies and integrated analyses among state, federal and local organizations to demonstrate watershed health in California based.	OEHHA, SWRCB, CalFed, CDF, DFG, DHS, SCC, USEPA	SWRCB/Norton and RA	Winter 2005 to Spring-2006
2) Ensure that state data and information is available to agencies and the public.			
a) Review existing state watershed databases and websites, determine their effectiveness for providing access and facilitating use of state data, and recommend ways to improve and maintain them.	CalEPA and RA agencies	RA/Ellison, SWRCB/ Miller	Summer-Fall 2005
b) Determine if outsourced databases continue to deliver value and, if so, develop strategy for sustaining them.	RA, SWRCB and the public	RA/Ellison and Bleier, SWRCB/ Miller	Fall 2005
c) Ensure implementation of Resources Agency policy requiring that products funded through Props 40 and 50 be catalogued on-line through the CA Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES) and the Watershed Portal website.	Resources Agency	RA/ Ellison	May 2005
d) Develop CalEPA policy as needed for ensuring that its organizations catalog environmental information and data resources via CERES, the Watershed Portal website, or other sites.	CalEPA, SWRCB et al	CalEPA/Brausch SWRCB/Miller	Spring-summer 2005
e) Add section to California Watershed Portal on protocols for field data collection and analysis, and require agency programs to make this information known via the Watershed Portal.	Resources Agency, DWR, SWRCB, CalFed, DFG, federal agencies, et al	RA/ Ellison	May 2005
3) Ensure use of common GIS framework data by completing standardization for water bodies and watersheds and requiring use of standards by all agency programs.	SWRCB, DWR, DFG, CDF, DPR, federal agencies	SWRCB/ Miller	July 2005
4) Develop strategy to implement survey of local watershed data needs and sources (CWC product) .	Resources and SWRCB	RA/Ellison	June 2005

REGULATORY COORDINATION

1)Coordinate non-regulatory and regulatory programs where possible to improve resource protection.	SWRCB, Regional Boards and DFG	SWRCB/Harris, DFG/Newton	soon
a) Coordinate Regional Board work plans for TMDLs with coho recovery activities			

- | | | | |
|---|---|----------------|------------|
| b) Seek projects that integrate habitat and ecosystem restoration with water quality attainment standards through the Southern CA Wetland Recovery Program, habitat joint ventures and other forums. | Participating state, federal and local agencies | SCC/ Fishman | Fall 2005 |
| 2) Develop programmatic approaches to restoration programs as appropriate. | | | |
| a) Complete programmatic 401 Certification for small restoration projects (CWC recommendation) | SWRCB | SWRCB/ Maughan | Fall 2005 |
| b) Develop 401 certification of DFG Fishery Grants Program. | DFG, USGS, SWRCB | SWRCB/ Maughan | March 2005 |
| 3) Coordinate regulatory programs where possible by using watershed-based approaches | | | |
| a) Identify opportunities in North Coast watersheds and develop pilot to test use of TMDLs to provide CEQA documents for analyzing cumulative watershed effects, developing harvest mitigations and issuing timber harvest permits. | NCWQCB, CDF, DFG, DOC | CDF/ Snyder | Fall 2006 |

FUNDING, COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT AND ECONOMICS

- | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Coordinate grant programs and funding programs across agencies to improve agency efficiencies and to make it easier for public to access necessary information and guidance | | | |
| a) Continue state level discussions to 1) identify programs with compatible objectives, timelines and geographic scopes in order to schedule development of program criteria, RFPs, directed activities and technical reviews of proposals, and to 2) consider regional venues for similar process and recommend next steps. | SWRCB, DFG, SCC, CDF, WCB, CalFed, DWR | SWRCB/ Evoy, RA/ Bleier | May 2005 |
| b) Continue to support informal collaborative efforts such as the Central Coast funding group. | SCC, DFG and WCB, WQ boards, federal agencies, et al | SCC/Fishman | April 2005 |
| c) Share results of SWRCB evaluation of benefits and disadvantages of consolidated RFP process and make recommendations about similar processes. | SWRCB, CalFed, DWR, SCC, public | SWRCB/ Evoy | Summer 2005 |
| 2) Establish Prop 40 IWMP (Integrated Watershed Management Program) grants program with multiple agencies and with the public. (CWC recommendation) | SWRCB, CalFed, DWR, SCC, RA, various | SWRC/ Evoy, RA/ Bleier | Spring/ Summer 2005 |
| 3) Continue to support the So. CA Wetlands Recovery Project in its wetland watersheds work, including interagency inventory, monitoring, and project work. | SCC, RA, CalEPA, DFG, Regional WQ Boards, SLC, DPR, fed & local agencies | SCC/ Fishman | Ongoing |

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| 4) Identify key federal watershed grant programs that we would like to work on early with federal agencies for next year, including NRCS, USEPA, NOAA, USFS. | RA, SWRCB, DOC, CalFed, DFG et al | SWRCB/Evoy, CalFed/Lowrie | |
| a) Cooperate on evaluation of watershed proposals for EPA's Targeted Watershed Grants Program | CalFed, DWR, SWRCB, DOC, DPR | RA/Bleier and SWRCB/Evoy | April 2005 |

PROJECT LEVEL COORDINATION, LOCAL INVOLVEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------------|
| 1) Identify opportunities to work together to solve the Arundo problem in Southern California | SCC, DFG, SWRCB DPR | SCC/ Fishman | June 2005 |
| 2) Provide guidance to public for watershed assessment and planning (CWC). | | | |
| a) Complete and implement Volume I of CA Watershed Assessment Manual. | CDF, OEHHA, UC, DFG, SCC, DWR, SWRCB, BDA, | CDF/Henly, UCD/Shilling; | Summer 2005 |
| b) Complete Volume II of the CA Watershed Assessment Manual for technical protocols. | RWQCBs, USFS, NRCS, local agencies, colleges | OEHHA/ Washburn | December 2005 |
| c) Develop framework for CWAM urban edition to address more urbanized and So CA watersheds, arrange funding, and develop manual. | | | January2006 -June 2007 |
| 3) Recognize local capacity building needs and provide technical assistance (CWC recommendation): | | | |
| a) Implement CALFED program to promote community based watershed management efforts that meld local watershed management objectives with the regional goals and objectives of CALFED. | BDA, DOC, CDF, DWR, DFG, SWRCB, local stakeholder groups | CalFed and Watershed Subcommittee / Lowrie | Ongoing |
| b) Consider new interagency options for providing watershed technical assistance and make recommendations, considering options such as pooling resources. | BDA, DOC, CDF, DWR, SWRCB, DPR, USEPA | CalFed IWAT/ Lorenzato, Lowrie | Fall 2005 |
| c) Continue to support watershed activities through DFG's Fishery Grants Program | DFG | DFG/Newton | Spring 2005 |
| d) Evaluate preliminary effects of integrated water supply and water quality on watershed groups and watershed activities through the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (Prop 50, Chapter 8) and recommend ways to continue to promote and improve integration among local agencies and watershed management. | SWRCB, DWR, CalFed, SCC, local agencies | SWRCB/Evoy, DWR, and RA/Bleier | Spring 2006 |