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Science Supporting Decisions on Numeric Guidance for the Wadeable Streams Biostimulatory and Biointegrity Policy

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Abstract

The State Water Resources Control Board staff is proposing to adopt a statewide water quality objective for nutrients and other biostimulatory substances and a biointegrity assessment implementation plan for wadeable streams. SCCWRP is leading the development of three major technical components to support decisions on numeric guidance for nutrients and biostimulatory conditions and biointegrity assessment: 1) development of new algal stream condition index (ASCI) to complement the existing bioassessment index, based on benthic macroinvertebrates (California stream condition index; CSCI); 2) synthesizing science supporting decisions on “assessment endpoints” for the CSCI and ASCI, which represent the numeric range of these indices that correspond to the support of aquatic life use and related beneficial uses; and 3) range of numeric targets for nutrients and eutrophication responses that can constitute Biostimulatory objectives for wadeable streams. These three technical components are slated to be completed by March 2018. The purpose of this talk to provide stormwater managers with update on preliminary findings on the biointegrity-biostimulatory science as this work nears completion, and discuss next steps with respect to development of additional technical elements key for implementation.