CTAG Report to the Commission

December 6, 2013
CTAG Vice-Chair: Joe Gully
CTAG Recommendations to Commission Contracts

• CTAG reviewed all contracts listed in your contract memo

• CTAG Recommendation: Commission approval
CTAG Recommendations to Commission

Fact Sheets

• CTAG recommends the Commission consider and approve the revised Stream Bioassessment fact sheet
  • A memo and a highlighted version is provided for reference
  • CTAG requested Commission feedback on whether this memo is helpful or should be discontinued

• SCCWRP and CTAG discussed potential topics for future Fact Sheets
  • Sediment quality assessment for indirect effects (bioaccumulation)
  • Nutrient objectives
  • Marine Protected Areas
  • Bight ’13 (separate Fact Sheet for each element)
  • Non-targeted contaminant analysis
  • Gene microarrays
Other Items Discussed at Nov. 18 CTAG Mtg

• 2014 CTAG Meeting Dates
  • Feb. 13; May 15; August 14; November 13

• Research Planning
  • SMC Expert Panel Research Agenda - SCCWRP Connection
  • Geographic-based CTAG Research Priorities presentations

• BIGHT ‘13 Update
  • All is well

• Revision of CTAG Charter

• Focused Presentations and Discussion on Biological Objectives

• Historical Monitoring Data Committee update
  • Will meet in next quarter to assess data availability, quality, and level of effort required to capture the data
Research Planning

SMC Research Area Priorities

• Ecosystem Characterization and Assessment
  • Standardized monitoring and assessments, improved reporting, characterization of effects, CECs, impacts to MPAs

• Method Development and Tool Evaluation
  • Non-perennial stream bioassessment, causal assessment, standardized hydrologic methods, hydromodification guidance, remote sensing technology

• Optimizing Management Effectiveness
  • Optimizing BMPs, on-site retention of stormwater, trash controls and assessments, stormwater control offset/trading program, UAA case study for an engineered channel, assessment of stormwater NPDES permit implementation

• Foundational Scientific Understanding
  • Linking nutrient concentrations and beneficial uses, effects on ocean acidification and hypoxia, effect of climate change on stormwater quality, interaction between stormwater and cyanotoxins and HABs
Research Planning

Geographic CTAG Research Priorities

• A statewide group and each county prioritized research

• Statewide Group: SB; USEPA; OPC
  • Acidification, nutrients, MPA monitoring

• San Diego County Group: SDRB; City of SD; County of SD
  • Bio-objectives, nutrients/eutrophication, rocky reef ecosystems

• Orange County Group: SARB; OCSD; County of Orange PW
  • SCCWRP member agency support, BIGHT monitoring, Newport model monitoring, offshore nutrients monitoring

• Ventura and Los Angeles Counties Group: LARB; LACSD; City of LA; Ventura County WPD
  • bio-objectives, data mgt/communication tools, monitoring program development/optimization, bioanalytical screening tool validation, bacti/nutrients/HAB/eutrophication research
CTAG Charter

• Executive Director provided CTAG with a draft Charter
• CTAG thought the draft Charter needed considerable revision before going to the Commission
• Formed subcommittee to work with ED on new draft CTAG Charter
  • ED and Subcommittee Chair (Bram Sercu, Ventura County WPD) to develop revised draft for subcommittee review and comment
  • Will provide new draft Charter to CTAG by January 30, 2014 (two weeks before next CTAG meeting)
Biological Objectives

• Began with status report on the Policy from Karen Larsen at the SWRCB

• Continued with technical presentations on SCCWRP research
  • Eric Stein presented SCCWRP’s approach to defining reference conditions
  • Raphael Mazor described the development of the California Stream Condition Index (CSCI) to support bio-objectives
  • David Gillett gave a presentation describing application of the EPA’s causal assessment (CADDIS) framework in California streams

• Concluded with a presentation from non-SCCWRP staff
  • Ann Heil (LACSD described the technical and policy/regulatory impediments to implementation of Biological Objectives
  • Led to a healthy discussion of possible research priorities for SCCWRP and options to overcome the policy/regulatory hurdles

• CTAG and SCCWRP agreed to continue with this format at future meetings
Questions?