

CTAG Report to the Commission

March 7, 2014

CTAG Chair: Joe Gully

CTAG Recommendations to Commission *Contracts*

- CTAG reviewed all but one contract listed in commission's contracts memo
 - #15 (\$25K from Environment Canada for molecular stressor ID) not reviewed
- Questions were minimal and resolved
 - #11 – Discussion whether this would create a less robust, competing index to the CSCI
 - #3 – Request to consider future work focused on FW QMRA
- CTAG recommends Commission approval of contracts 1-14

CTAG Recommendations to Commission

Fact Sheets

- Stream bioassessment fact sheet
 - Fact sheet revised by SCCWRP following Commission directive to make it less technical
 - CTAG provided minor comments and rewording on revised fact sheet prior to and at the CTAG Meeting (memo in Commission Mtg Agenda Package)
 - CTAG recommends Commission approval
- Future fact sheets
 - On hold pending Commission direction and the hiring of a new communications specialist.

Other Key Agenda and Action Items

2014 CTAG Elections

- Wanda Cross (2013 Chair, SARWQCB) elected Past Chair
- Joe Gully (2013 Vice Chair, LACSD) elected Chair
- Bram Sercu (2013 Vice Chair, VCWPD) re-elected Vice Chair

Other Key Agenda and Action Items

SCCWRP *Organizational Review Panel Report*

- CTAG Related organization review panel recommendation
 - Consistent and active agency representation by CTAG members
 - CTAG to work collectively and collaboratively with SCCWRP management and senior scientists on Research Plan development
 - CTAG to rank projects in relation to the needs of the member agencies
 - SCCWRP to more effectively engage CTAG in research planning process and expand CTAG ownership of the research agenda.
- Action items
 - Schedule April CTAG Meeting to discuss ways to implement these recommendations and identify appropriate metrics as needed (4/9)
 - Continue using survey for evaluation of 2014-2015 Research Plan
 - Schedule CTAG led research planning workshops for freshwater stream bioassessments (4/29) and sediment quality objectives (4/14)
 - Continue research area focus agenda item at CTAG meetings followed by CTAG led research planning workshops as needed

Other Key Agenda and Action Items

2014-2015 Draft Research Plan Review

- 3 added projects
 - Wet weather epidemiology
 - Integrated regional water management planning for San Diego
 - SF Bay mesohaline benthic index development
- 4 revised projects
 - Toxaphene method development revised to analytical methods for ECs
 - Rapid indicator development refocused on automation and in situ sampling
 - Microbial source ID refocused on degradation in environment
 - Mobile data capture devices focused on SD Bay fish consumption study
- 2 bubble projects
 - DNA barcoding and Cyanobacteria
- 2 potential new initiatives
 - Climate change and Recycled Water

Other Key Agenda and Action Items

2014-2015 Draft Research Plan Review Continued

- Action items
 - Use revised 2013-2014 survey to evaluate Research Plan and emphasized the need for:
 - Full CTAG participation
 - Consultation with agency Commissioner and technical staff
 - Timely submission of results to SCCWRP
 - Schedule CTAG/SCCWRP workshop in the summer of 2014 to scope research needs related to climate change
 - Wait for Commission direction regarding scope of SCCWRP's role in water recycling research before discussing specific research needs

Other Key Agenda and Action Items

CTAG Charter Revision

- SCCWRP and charter revision subcommittee created two documents
 - Revised CTAG Charter is very close to final
 - New CTAG Operational Guidelines still has several issues to resolved
 - Both documents need to be reconsidered in light of SCCWRP Organizational Review Panel recommendations
 - Still plan to present these documents to the Commission for consideration at the May 1 Strategic Planning Meeting
- Action items
 - SCCWRP (Ken Schiff) and subcommittee Chair (Bram Sercu) to revise documents based upon CTAG input and redistribute by mid-March
 - CTAG to meet on April 9th, to discuss implementation of review panel recommendations and revise the CTAG Charter and Operational Guidelines accordingly

Other Key Agenda and Action Items

Research Focus: Sediment Quality Objectives

- SCCWRP staff technical presentations
 - Overview of SQO development research at SCCWRP – Steve Bay
 - Development of benthic indices in data poor regions – Dave Gillett
 - Development of stressor ID procedures – Steve Bay
- End user/stakeholder perspective presentation
 - Dr. Shelly Anghera (Anchor QEA), representing the Ports of LA and LB described their experience using SQOs to assess sediment quality within the ports
 - Identified three primary research or policy needs to fully implement
 - Better stressor ID tools
 - Guidance for site specific linkage studies between sediment and fish
 - A shift in regulatory mindset away from water to sediment based assessments
- Regulatory/policy implementation status update provided by Chris Beegan (SWRCB)
- Action items
 - Schedule a half-day CTAG SQO Research Planning Workshop for mid April (4/14)
 - CTAG representatives consider joining the SQO Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Other Key Agenda and Action Items

Future Research Focus Topics

- CTAG and sccwrp identified specific research areas for the remaining 2014 meetings
 - May – Nutrients
 - August – CECs
 - November – Bioanalytical Screening Tools
- Action item
 - Identify one (or more) presenters to provide the end user/stakeholder perspective on impediments to adoption of SCCWRP nutrient research for environmental management
 - Discussed potential speakers from a Regional Board and/or a Stormwater Management Agency

Questions?

