CONNECTING THE CTAG RESEARCH PLANNING PROCESS AND THE SCCWRP ANNUAL RESEARCH PLAN

Presentation to the SCCWRP Commission

Stephen B. Weisberg
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BACKGROUND

- The new research planning process with CTAG has been successful
  - Full-day planning meetings around a single theme
  - Allows time for thorough discussion about research directions

- Based on a ten year planning horizon
  - Allows discussion about project prioritization past, present and future
  - Provides context for considering individual year projects

- We are now starting to capture those discussions in a written format
  - You have an example in front of you
THE SCCWRP RESEARCH PLAN

- The JPA requires staff to submit a Research Plan for Commission approval annually

- The present Research Plan format is inconsistent with our collaborative CTAG research planning process
  - They operate on different time horizons

- The present Research Plan also becomes quickly dated
  - 80% of our projects are supported by external funds
  - New projects begin when funds arrive, not on a fiscal year schedule

- CTAG and staff recommend changing the annual Research Plan format to resolve both of these issues
SUGGESTED RESEARCH PLAN FORMAT

• Organize the Research Plan around thematic pieces such as the one you have in front of you

• Provides the Commission with a more holistic view of our research direction
  – Places existing projects into context
  – Also, highlights projects we are prioritizing for the future

• Make the Research Plan a living document
  – Refine an on-line version after every quarterly CTAG meeting
  – Incorporate new projects as contracts arrive mid-year
CHALLENGES

• Challenge #1: At one theme area a quarter, the process will take about three years
  – We need to provide the Commission with an annual Research Plan

• Challenge #2: The resulting Research Plan will be around 200 pages
  – Does the Commission want to read that much material?

• Solution: Provide the Commission with an executive summary version that describes each thematic area
  – A 20 page document that serves as a pointer to the detailed planning documents that are available on-line
  – Also includes the annual financial information, as required by the JPA
DECISION NEEDED

- Staff provide CTAG with a first draft of the Research Plan in February
  - That is the primary document on which they provide feedback
  - They get a revised version in May, but that is only two weeks before we submit a final version to you

- If we are going to employ the new format, we need to start preparing that now
  - Alternatively, we will need to adjust the CTAG planning process to match the old research plan format

- Recommendation: Endorse the new format that staff and CTAG are suggesting