

BACKGROUND

- **The potential for SCCWRP involvement in drinking water issues was raised at the Commission's Strategic Planning Meeting**
- **Several reasons for this interest**
 - Drinking water responsibilities have moved from Department of Public Health to the State Water Board
 - Several of our wastewater treatment agencies have begun a transition from ambient discharge to water reuse
 - Senate Bill 985 requires stormwater agencies to identify opportunities for capturing and reusing stormwater runoff
- **Some topic areas we presently work on are relevant to water capture and reuse management**

POTENTIAL HURDLES

- **We don't have an historic relationship with the drinking water community**
 - SCCWRP is effective because we are a trusted partner by our member agencies
 - We would need to build that trust with a new community
- **There are other research entities in that space and we need to find our niche**
 - SCCWRP is effective because we are collaborative consensus builders
 - We need to identify a niche where we are accepted as collaborators rather than seen as competitors

STATE WATER BOARD WORKSHOP

- **The State Water Board wants to create a community**
 - Held a workshop bringing together an array of management agencies
- **Focused the workshop around research needs**
 - An important, but largely noncontroversial, topic
- **SCCWRP worked collaboratively with NWRI and WRRF to support the workshop**
 - Created background information documents
 - Made plenary presentations
 - Led the breakout sessions
- **Workshop was an opportunity to start creating relationships**
 - Outcomes provided insights about SCCWRP's potential niche in this area

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

- **Organized around four research themes**
 - Water quality and human health
 - Performance reliability (treatment, operations, and training)
 - Ambient water effects
 - Financial, environmental, and social factors of water reuse
- **Plenary presentations in the morning about each theme**
 - State of knowledge
 - Potential research directions
- **Afternoon breakout sessions to capture participants priorities**
 - Rotating structure so each participant could opine on each topic
 - Rotating structure also created opportunity for increased interaction

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT SCCWRP'S NICHE

- **We have no place in two of the research focus areas**
 - Performance reliability (treatment, operations, and training)
 - Financial, environmental, and social factors
- **Workshop participants were looking to us to address ambient effects issues**
 - They had long thought about brine disposal issues
 - Workshop highlighted need for more in-stream flow requirements research
- **Our role in water quality and human health is less clear**
 - We are leaders in CEC and microbiology research
 - However, the urgency for these research areas is still being debated
 - The reuse research entities also work in this area
 - We will retain our research focus in these areas around ambient discharge and determine later if/how to transition our products to the reuse community