• 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
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