Commissioner Technical Advisory Group (CTAG) Report

JUNE 3, 2016

Greg Gearheart, CTAG Chair
CTAG Agenda – May 5, 2016

- Executive Director’s Report
- Contract Review - New Projects (4 of them)
- Research Plan Format(s)
- Coastal and Estuarine Nutrient Research Summary
- Toxicity Intercalibration Study
- Report from OAH Panel
- Next Research Theme – Regulatory Program Effectiveness and Evaluation
- Bacteriophage Criteria
- Harmful Algal Bloom Efforts
- Systems Based Adaptive Framework for Ecohydrology
New Projects

• Spatial Representativeness of Bioassessment Data in Streams (Rafi Mazor, SCCWRP)

• Cost Benefit Analysis for Wet Weather Bacteria in San Diego (Steve Weisberg, SCCWRP)

• Incorporation of Molecular Methods for Algal Assessment (Susanna Theroux, SCCWRP)

• Assessing Pteropod Abundance and Condition in Southern California (Karen McLaughlin, SCCWRP)
Coastal and Estuarine Nutrient Research

• Intersessional workshop held May 4, 2016 led by Steve Weisberg (SCCWRP) and Greg Gearheart (SWRCB)

• Four research priorities:
  1. Condition Assessment Tools
  2. Causal Assessment and Management Tools
  3. Interpretation Assistance
  4. Implementation Support
Toxicity Intercalibration Study

- Pre-bid project for the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC)
- Purpose – compare results across multiple laboratories intending to participate in the next round of SMC toxicity monitoring and develop a laboratory guidance manual
- Two rounds of testing resulted in:
  - Marine methods acceptable after round 1
  - Freshwater methods showed significant improvement for one species (Hyallela Azteca) and for the other species (Ceriodaphnia) more work is needed
New Research Theme – Regulatory Program Effectiveness Evaluation

• Data driven “dashboards” can inform regulatory related decisions better
• Stormwater programs and the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) have developed an approach that could serve to guide this effort
• Subgroup of CTAG formed to further evaluate and discuss how this theme might proceed
  • This could be a the center node that ties together many of the other research themes and provides a view on our regulatory programs that is otherwise not readily available
Systems Based Adaptive Framework for Ecohydrology

- Followup from Ecohydrology Research Theme
- Can be used for informing decisions on multiple, management endpoints
- Looking for a watershed (or more) to pilot the approach
Recommendations

• Recommend approving contracts (new projects)
• Recommend approving 2016/17 Research Plan

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