

Technical Support for Freshwater Biological Objectives in California

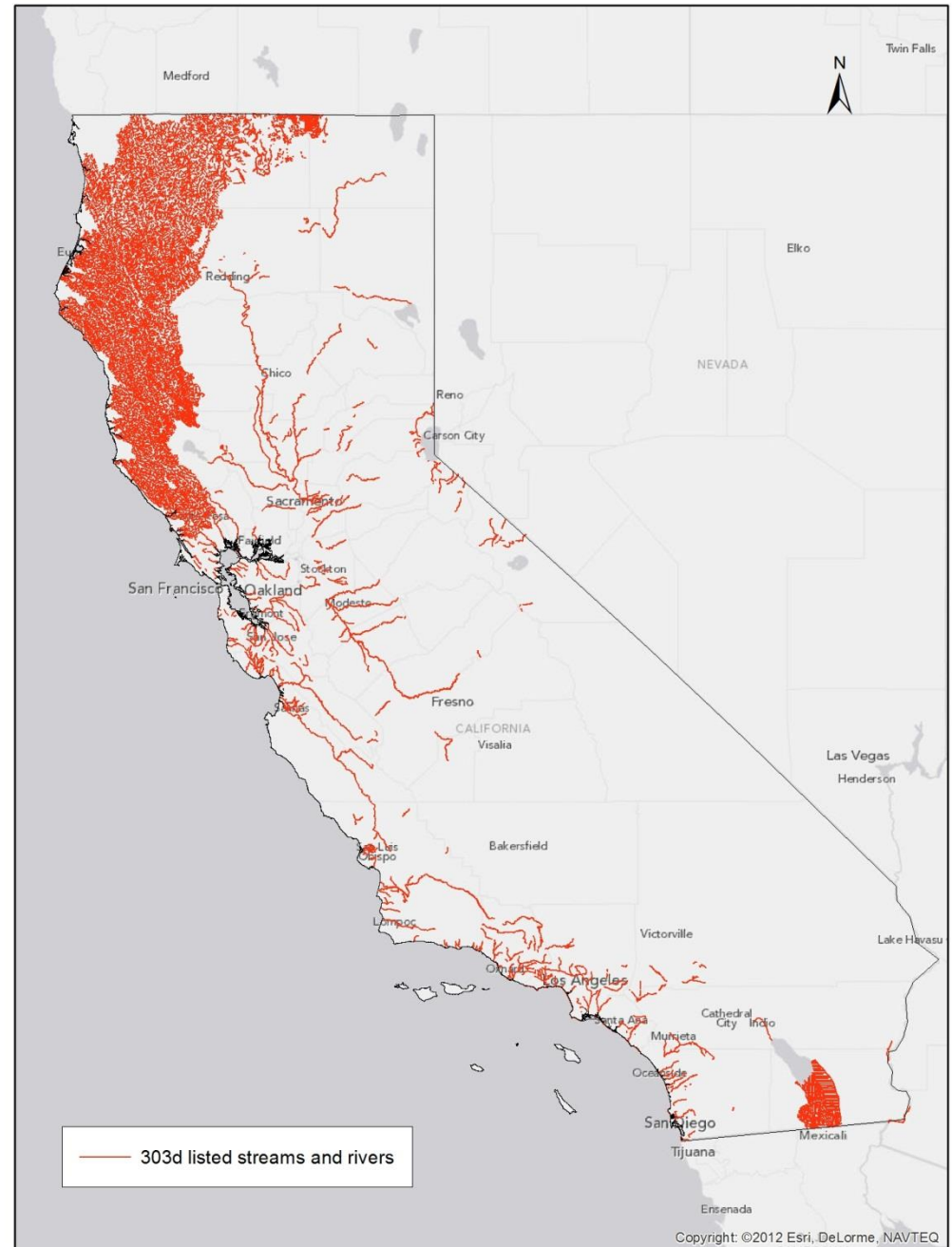
**SCCWRP
California Dept Fish and Wildlife
US Geological Survey**

The SWRCB Directive

- **Over 26,000 California stream miles are impaired**
 - Uneven among Regions
- **Almost all impairments are for chemistry**
 - Why not measure the biology directly?
- **“The SWRCB will have biological objectives in three years”**
 - Asked SCCWRP to help support the technical foundation for policy development

The SWRC

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 - Why not measure the biological
- “The SWRCB will have biological monitoring program”
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The Goal For Today

- **This SCCWRP project is near completion**
 - Make you aware of our progress
- **Will effect all of our member agencies**
 - If it hasn't already
- **Discussion will help focus our next investment**
 - What are the largest hurdles for transition to management?

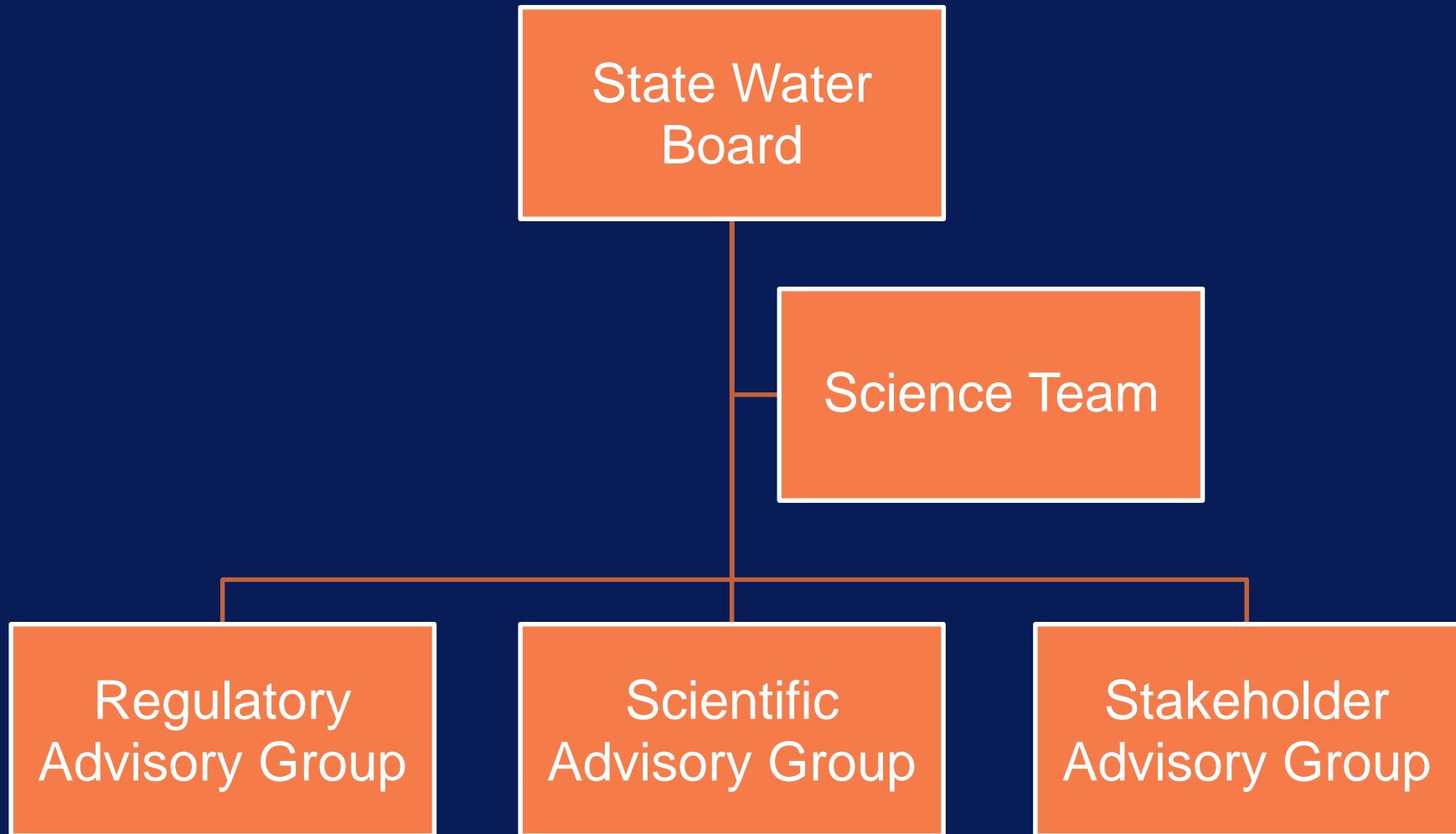
SWRCB's Bio-Objective Development Philosophy

- **All waterbodies should have biological objectives**
 - Start with perennial wadeable streams
- **Desire multiple indicators**
 - Start with benthic macroinvertebrates
- **Biological objectives need numeric endpoints**
 - Perhaps several
- **Requires statewide consistency with regional flexibility**

8-Step Development Process

- Reference condition
 - Scoring tools development
 - Stressor identification
 - Information management
 - Implementation Plan Development
 - Rulemaking
 - Outreach
 - Training and standardization
- Technical Elements
-

Advisory Committee Structure



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CTAG Had a Great Discussion on Biological Objectives

- **SWRCB described their regulatory options**
- **LACSD identified key impediments to adoption**
- **I'd like to summarize their key points**

Policy Goals

- **Establish consistency**
 - Biological assessment methods
 - Methods for interpreting assessment data
 - Endpoints for reasonable protection of beneficial uses
- **Identify streams in good biological condition**
 - protect them from degradation
- **Identify streams not in good condition**
 - restore them to good or “best attainable” condition

Current Regulatory Options

- **Add narrative objectives and numeric translators to an existing statewide plan**
 - **Inland Surface Waters Plan**
- **Amend existing 303(d) listing policy**
 - **New listings based solely on biological impairments**
- **Create a new Policy for Water Quality Control**

Key Impediments

- **How to treat modified streams**
 - Definition? “Best attainable”?
- **Improved stressor identification**
 - More tools for diagnosing stressors
 - Improved certainty, link to positive outcomes
- **Implementation specificity**
 - Access and training to the CSCI scoring tool
 - Applicability screening
 - # samples/time