

# CTAG Report to the Commission

December 6, 2013

CTAG Vice-Chair: Joe Gully

# CTAG Recommendations to Commission Contracts

- CTAG reviewed all contracts listed in your contract memo
- CTAG Recommendation: Commission approval

# CTAG Recommendations to Commission

## *Fact Sheets*

- CTAG recommends the Commission consider and approve the revised Stream Bioassessment fact sheet
  - A memo and a highlighted version is provided for reference
  - CTAG requested Commission feedback on whether this memo is helpful or should be discontinued
- SCCWRP and CTAG discussed potential topics for future Fact Sheets
  - Sediment quality assessment for indirect effects (bioaccumulation)
  - Nutrient objectives
  - Marine Protected Areas
  - Bight '13 (separate Fact Sheet for each element)
  - Non-targeted contaminant analysis
  - Gene microarrays

# Other Items Discussed at Nov. 18 CTAG Mtg

- 2014 CTAG Meeting Dates
  - Feb. 13; May 15; August 14; November 13
- Research Planning
  - SMC Expert Panel Research Agenda - SCCWRP Connection
  - Geographic-based CTAG Research Priorities presentations
- BIGHT '13 Update
  - All is well
- Revision of CTAG Charter
- Focused Presentations and Discussion on Biological Objectives
- Historical Monitoring Data Committee update
  - Will meet in next quarter to assess data availability, quality, and level of effort required to capture the data

# Research Planning

## *SMC Research Area Priorities*

- Ecosystem Characterization and Assessment
  - Standardized monitoring and assessments, improved reporting, characterization of effects, CECs, impacts to MPAs
- Method Development and Tool Evaluation
  - Non-perennial stream bioassessment, causal assessment, standardized hydrologic methods, hydromodification guidance, remote sensing technology
- Optimizing Management Effectiveness
  - Optimizing BMPs, on-site retention of stormwater, trash controls and assessments, stormwater control offset/trading program, UAA case study for an engineered channel, assessment of stormwater NPDES permit implementation
- Foundational Scientific Understanding
  - Linking nutrient concentrations and beneficial uses, effects on ocean acidification and hypoxia, effect of climate change on stormwater quality, interaction between stormwater and cyanotoxins and HABs

# Research Planning

## *Geographic CTAG Research Priorities*

- A statewide group and each county prioritized research
- Statewide Group: SB; USEPA; OPC
  - Acidification, nutrients, MPA monitoring
- San Diego County Group: SDRB; City of SD; County of SD
  - Bio-objectives, nutrients/eutrophication, rocky reef ecosystems
- Orange County Group: SARB; OCSD; County of Orange PW
  - SCCWRP member agency support, BIGHT monitoring, Newport model monitoring, offshore nutrients monitoring
- Ventura and Los Angeles Counties Group: LARB; LACSD; City of LA; Ventura County WPD
  - bio-objectives, data mgt/communication tools, monitoring program development/optimization, bioanalytical screening tool validation, bacti/nutrients/HAB/eutrophication research



# CTAG Charter

- Executive Director provided CTAG with a draft Charter
- CTAG thought the draft Charter needed considerable revision before going to the Commission
- Formed subcommittee to work with ED on new draft CTAG Charter
  - ED and Subcommittee Chair (Bram Sercu, Ventura County WPD) to develop revised draft for subcommittee review and comment
  - Will provide new draft Charter to CTAG by January 30, 2014 (two weeks before next CTAG meeting)

# Biological Objectives

- Began with status report on the Policy from Karen Larsen at the SWRCB
- Continued with technical presentations on SCCWRP research
  - Eric Stein presented SCCWRP's approach to defining reference conditions
  - Raphael Mazor described the development of the California Stream Condition Index (CSCI) to support bio-objectives
  - David Gillett gave a presentation describing application of the EPA's causal assessment (CADDIS) framework in California streams
- Concluded with a presentation from non-SCCWRP staff
  - Ann Heil (LACSD) described the technical and policy/regulatory impediments to implementation of Biological Objectives
  - Led to a healthy discussion of possible research priorities for SCCWRP and options to overcome the policy/regulatory hurdles
- CTAG and SCCWRP agreed to continue with this format at future meetings



Questions?