

CONNECTING THE CTAG RESEARCH PLANNING PROCESS AND THE SCCWRP ANNUAL RESEARCH PLAN



Presentation to the SCCWRP Commission

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BACKGROUND

- **The new research planning process with CTAG has been successful**
 - Full-day planning meetings around a single theme
 - Allows time for thorough discussion about research directions
- **Based on a ten year planning horizon**
 - Allows discussion about project prioritization past, present and future
 - Provides context for considering individual year projects
- **We are now starting to capture those discussions in a written format**
 - You have an example in front of you

THE SCCWRP RESEARCH PLAN

- **The JPA requires staff to submit a Research Plan for Commission approval annually**
- **The present Research Plan format is inconsistent with our collaborative CTAG research planning process**
 - They operate on different time horizons
- **The present Research Plan also becomes quickly dated**
 - 80% of our projects are supported by external funds
 - New projects begin when funds arrive, not on a fiscal year schedule
- **CTAG and staff recommend changing the annual Research Plan format to resolve both of these issues**

SUGGESTED RESEARCH PLAN FORMAT

- **Organize the Research Plan around thematic pieces such as the one you have in front of you**
- **Provides the Commission with a more holistic view of our research direction**
 - Places existing projects into context
 - Also, highlights projects we are prioritizing for the future
- **Make the Research Plan a living document**
 - Refine an on-line version after every quarterly CTAG meeting
 - Incorporate new projects as contracts arrive mid-year

CHALLENGES

- **Challenge #1: At one theme area a quarter, the process will take about three years**
 - We need to provide the Commission with an annual Research Plan
- **Challenge #2: The resulting Research Plan will be around 200 pages**
 - Does the Commission want to read that much material?
- **Solution: Provide the Commission with an executive summary version that describes each thematic area**
 - A 20 page document that serves as a pointer to the detailed planning documents that are available on-line
 - Also includes the annual financial information, as required by the JPA

DECISION NEEDED

- **Staff provide CTAG with a first draft of the Research Plan in February**
 - That is the primary document on which they provide feedback
 - They get a revised version in May, but that is only two weeks before we submit a final version to you
- **If we are going to employ the new format, we need to start preparing that now**
 - Alternatively, we will need to adjust the CTAG planning process to match the old research plan format
- **Recommendation: Endorse the new format that staff and CTAG are suggesting**