

# BACKGROUND

- **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

# STATE WATER BOARD WORKSHOP

- **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