

# Structural BMP Performance Index



Elizabeth Fassman-Beck, Ph.D.
Engineering Department Head
<a href="mailto:elizabethfb@sccwrp.org">elizabethfb@sccwrp.org</a>



- Structural BMPs are the go-to solution for runoff water quality problems
- California is investing \$MM
  - BMPs key tool for achieving >1200 TMDLs in California
  - Los Angeles County: ≥ \$280 M annually for stormwater quality design, construction, & maintenance projects



### Problem

- We're not sure if they work
- Variable BMP & pollutant characteristics.
- Subjective judgement of "performance" or "effectiveness"
- Obligation to the public to ensure that BMPs will "solve" the stormwater quality problem

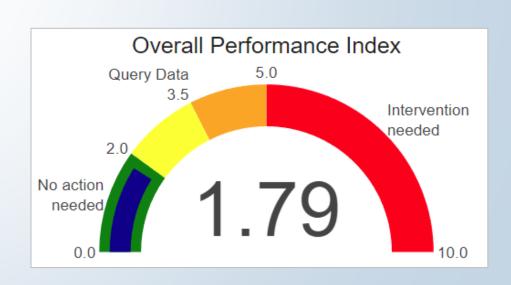


Arlington Channel, Costa Mesa



## Solution: A Multi-Metric BMP Performance Index

- Transferable, quantitative evaluation
  - All BMPs, under all conditions
- Customizable to watershed-specific concerns
  - Water quality & quantity
- One-off storms or a time history





### Interpreting the Index Score

Score	Suggested Actions & Data Queries		
0-2.0	No acti	No action needed.	
	0-0.5	BMP is successfully achieving treatment goals.	
	0.5-1.0	Untreated runoff is not an important source for the pollutant of interest, for the storms monitored.	
	1.0-2.0	Majority data are "clean" effluent. Watch data for declining trend.	
2.0-5.0	Query data: Are all/most of data of concern from a single BMP?		
	2.0-3.5	Does "insufficient" exceed 50% of data? YES: Additional treatment needed. NO: Score is due to mostly marginal and/or a few fails. If failures are present, are there site- or storm-specific reasons?	
	3.5-5.0	Additional treatment needed. Inspect for maintenance condition. Investigate design/construction. > 50% of data are insufficient or significant % of failures.	
5.0-10.0	Intervention needed. $\geq$ 50% of data are failures.		



Performance Index

Water Quality

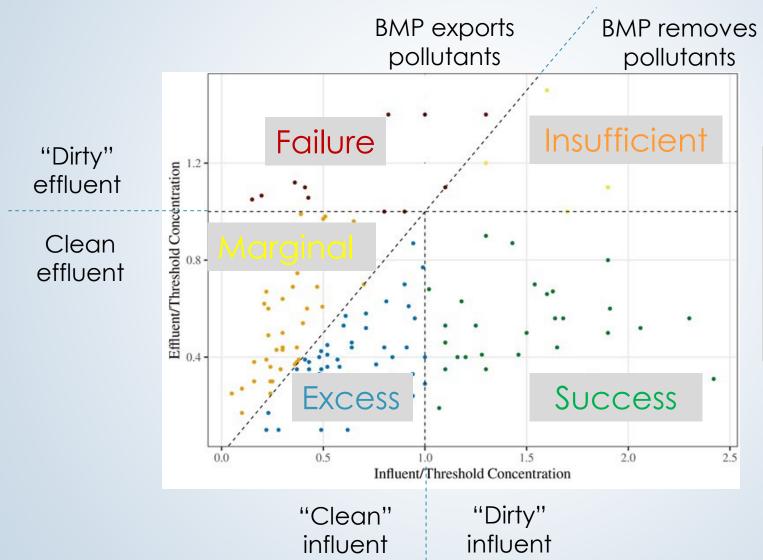
Does the BMP contribute towards achieving receiving water quality goals?

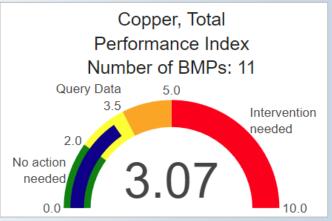
Hydrology

Does the BMP retain as much runoff as it should?



#### Water Quality Performance Categories



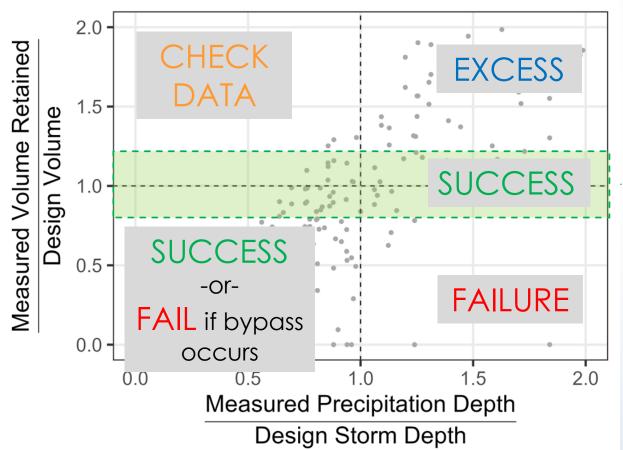




#### **Hydrology Performance Categories**

Small storm
Expect BMP to
capture all runoff

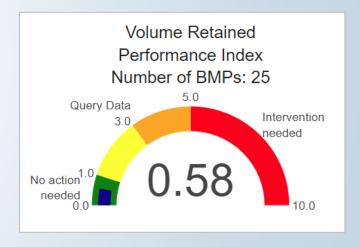
Big storm
Expect bypass to occur



BMP manages more runoff than it was designed to capture

Measurement
Uncertainty <u>+</u> 20%

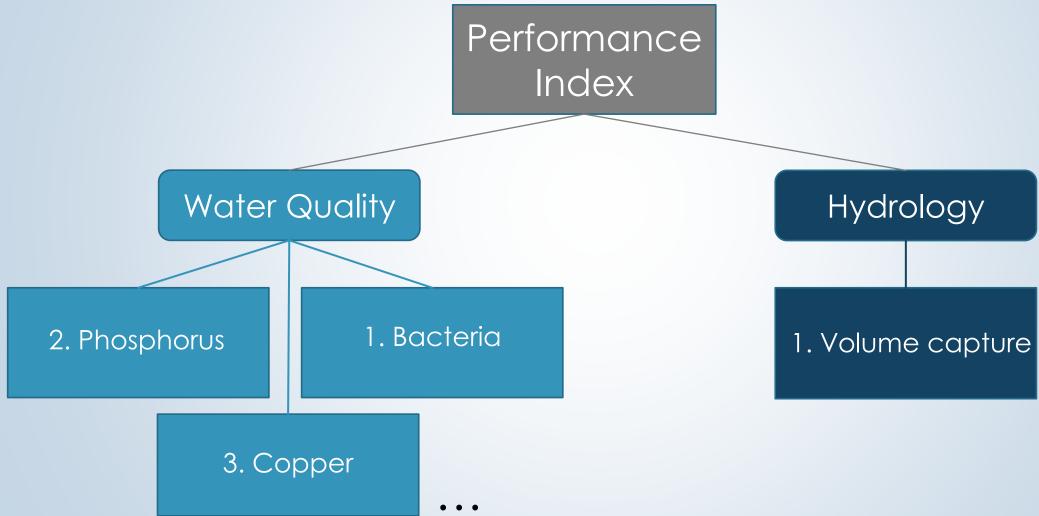
BMP does not fill up entirely



Data for selected bioretention BMPs in the Int'l Stormwater BMP Database.



#### **Multi-Parameter Index Integration**





#### Implementation – Web App/Calculator

- Customize your enquiry
- Explore implications for watershed planning
- Determine an overall score based on watershed-specific priorities
- Provide quantitative evidence for decision-making



#### **Advisory Committee**

- Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood
   Protection & Water Conservation District
- Bhaskar Joshi, Caltrans
- LB Nye, Region 4 Waterboard
- Chris Beegan, State Water Board
- Jane Clary, Wright Water Engineers, Inc.
- Bridget Wadzuk, Ph.D., Villanova University
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay

Project Manager: Frank Cheng





#### Questions?

Do you want to see some applications?

Elizabeth Fassman-Beck, Ph.D.
Engineering Department Head
elizabethfb@sccwrp.org

