Commission’s Technical Advisory Group (CTAG)

Nov 2024 Meeting Summary

CTAG Summary

Admin | Contracts | Meeting Items | Future Items

CTAG Management Team

Vice Chair	Chair	Past Chair
Lauren Briggs	Ryan Kempster	David Laak

https://www.sccwrp.org/about/governance/ctag/

Procedure For Late Contract Review

- Commissioners asked for a process to account for late contracts and ensure review by CTAG
- SCCWRP agreed to send new contracts to CTAG at least1-week before Commission meeting
- CTAG agreed to review and meet the day before Commission meeting to discuss any concerns
- CTAG met yesterday (12/5) to discuss 3 new contracts (all <$250K) and amendments to contract #1. No concerns were raised by CTAG members that attended.

Two (2) Contracts Requiring Commission Approval

1. **Contract Title: <u>SWAMP Special Studies</u>**

   Funding Agency & Amount: SWRCB - $2,562,870 *[Funding reduced $270,600]*

   Relationship to CTAG-approved research plan: Touches multiple thematic research plans including Eutrophication, Microbial Water Quality, and Bioassessment.

   Project Description: Includes 14 (previously 18) separate semi-independent tasks: Four valued above $250,000.

2. **Contract Title: <u>Growing a Resilient and Equitable Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System</u>**

   Funding Agency & Amount: NOAA/UC San Diego - $312,219

   Relationship to CTAG-approved research plan: Eutrophication thematic research plan.

   Project Description: This contract provides funding to enhance the California Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Alert Program pier monitoring efforts by increasing the turnaround time and sensitivity of domoic acid.

Fact Sheet Review

Eight (8) Fact Sheets published

- Water Quality
- Modeling
- SCCWRP's Management Values
- eDNA
- Regional Monitoring
- HABs
- PFAs
- Microplastics

Two (2) Fact Sheets under review

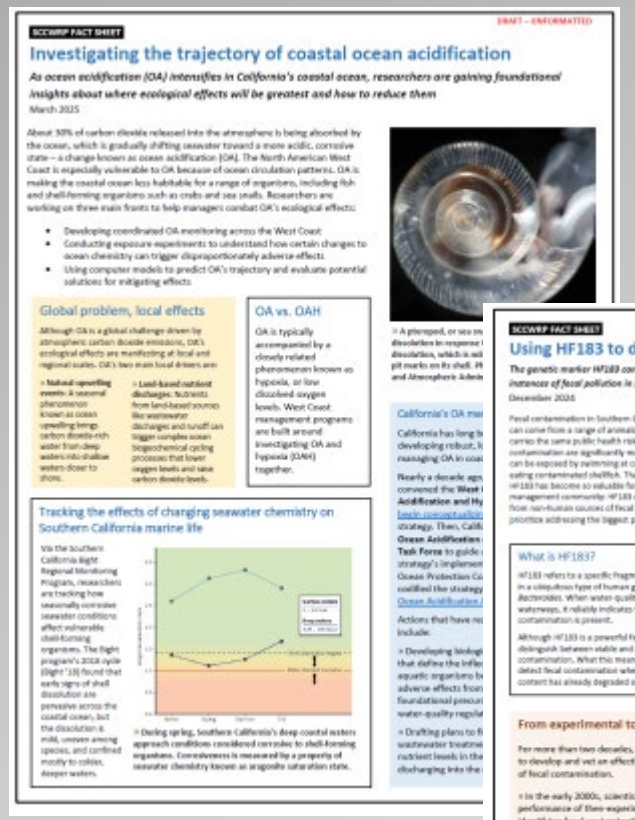
- HF183
- OAH

https://www.sccwrp.org/publications/fact-sheets/

Fact Sheet Review

(1) HF183; (2) Ocean Acidification

- *Both Fact Sheets are still under CTAG review and will be returned to CTAG for final approval at the February meeting.*
- ***Nothing for Commission Approval today.***


SCCWRP FACT SHEET

Investigating the trajectory of coastal ocean acidification

As ocean acidification (OA) intensifies in California's coastal ocean, researchers are gaining foundational insights about where ecological effects will be greatest and how to reduce them

March 2025

Global problem, local effects

OA vs. OAH

Tracking the effects of changing seawater chemistry on Southern California marine life


SCCWRP FACT SHEET

SECOND DRAFT

Using HF183 to detect human fecal contamination

The genetic marker HF183 can distinguish human vs. non-human fecal sources, making it a key management tool for investigating instances of fecal pollution in Southern California's highly urbanized aquatic environments

December 2024

What is HF183?

From experimental to an approved method

Key management use cases for HF183

Why are human fecal sources so pathogenic?

Fact Sheet Topics

- Original List complete
- SCCWRP has proposed new options
- CTAG and Commissioners encouraged to propose new topics of interest

Original list (completed)	New list (proposed)
1. Coastal ocean modeling	1. Wastewater-based disease surveillance
2. Rapid beach testing methods	2. Cell bioassays
3. SCCWRP's value	3. Coastal resiliency
4. eDNA	4. Environmental flows
5. Regional monitoring	5. Bioassessment tools
6. HABs	6. Sediment quality assessment tools
7. PFAS	7. BMP performance optimization
8. Microplastics	
9. HF183 (in progress)	
10. OA (in progress)	

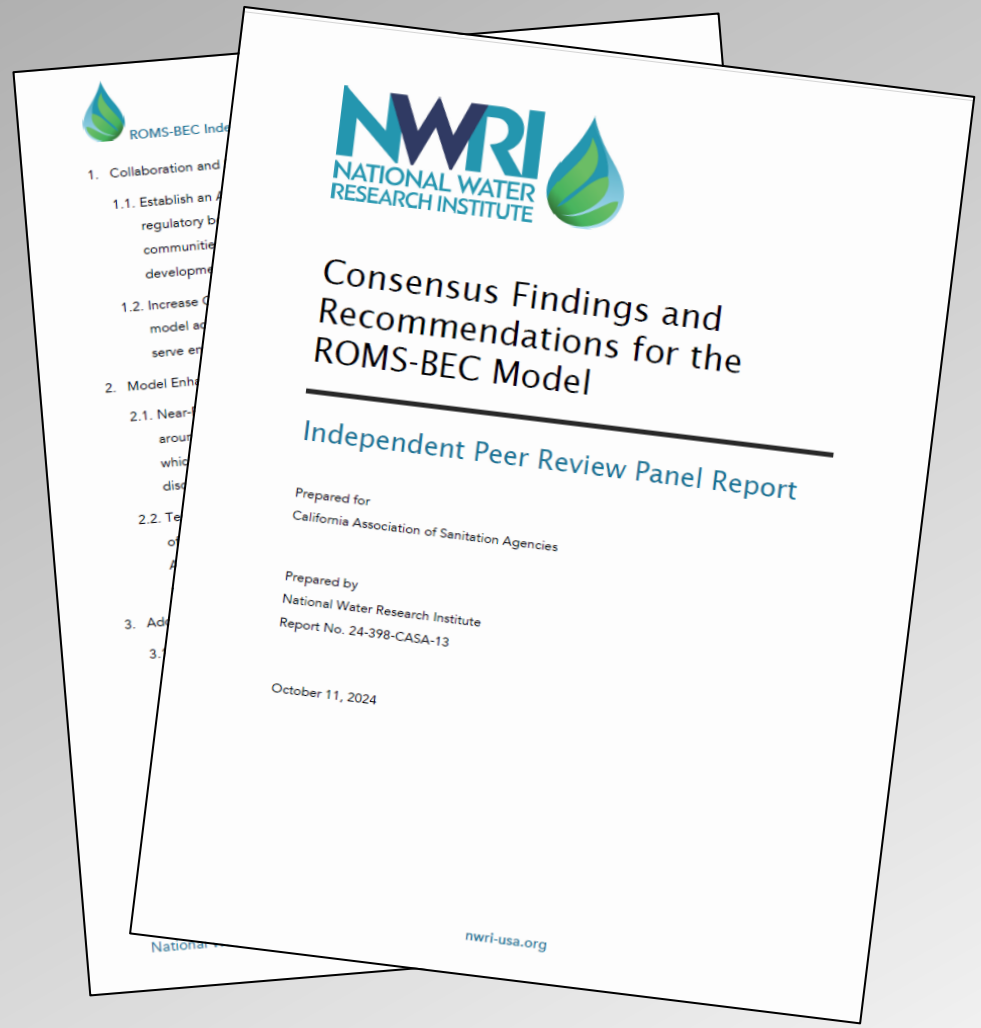
NWRI Final Report

The ROMS-BEC model *"…captures the fundamental physical and biogeochemical processes in the Southern California Bight that are associated with ocean acidification and hypoxia".*

However, the model *"…has limitations and does not capture all details of the physical and biogeochemical processes related to treated wastewater discharges".*

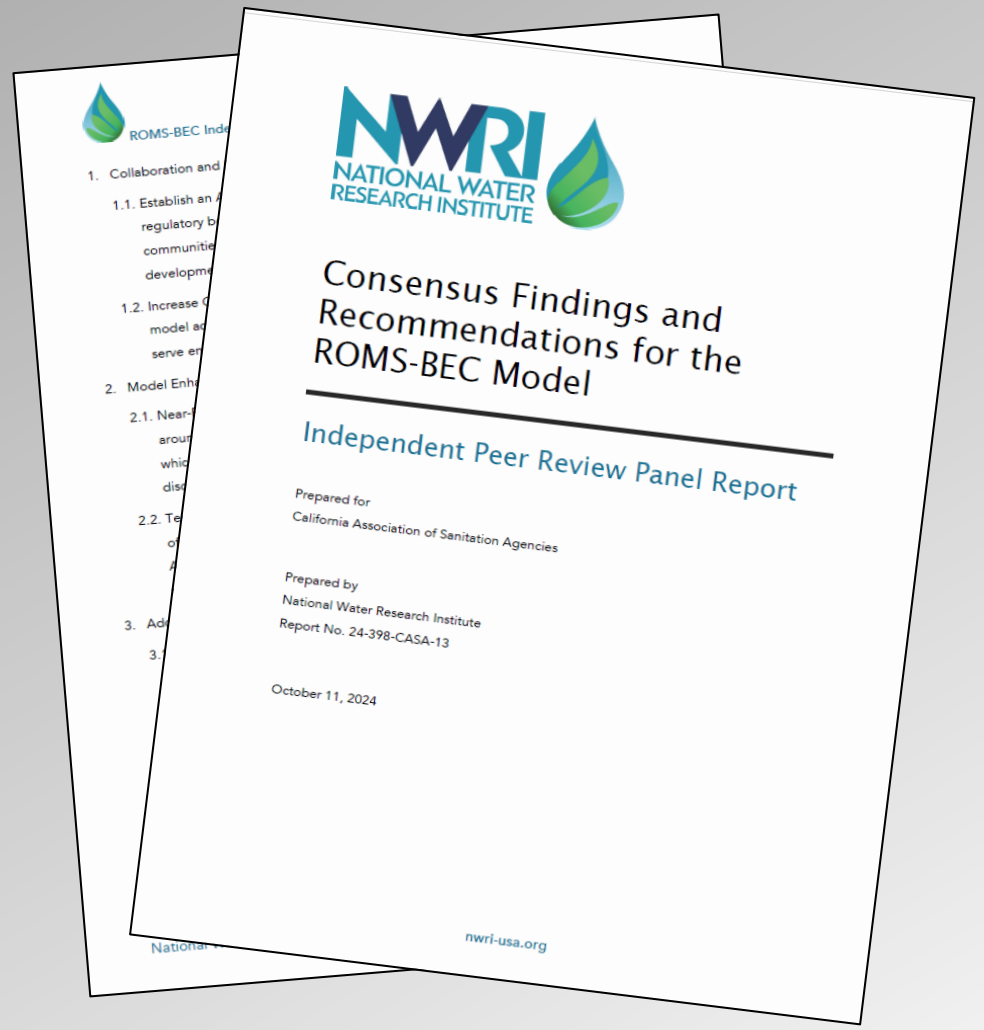
We should pursue *"…approaches to understanding and improving processes that may hinder the ROMS-BEC Model from accurately predicting the effects of treated wastewater outfalls on the marine ecosystem".*

To that end, the panel made 40 recommendations for improvements to the model, but they did not provide direction on how these recommendations should be prioritized.



ROMS-BEC Subcommittee

- CTAG agreed to form a subcommittee to prioritize panel recommendations.
- The subcommittee would be made up of 21 individuals, 7 from the regulatory, wastewater, and stormwater agencies.
- However, since the CTAG meeting – concerns have been raised regarding the roles and responsibilities of the subcommittee, the Steering Committee and the IRP expert panel. Clarity is needed to define objectives and expectations.



CTAG/SCCWRP Collaborative Project(s)

Two (2) projects were selected.

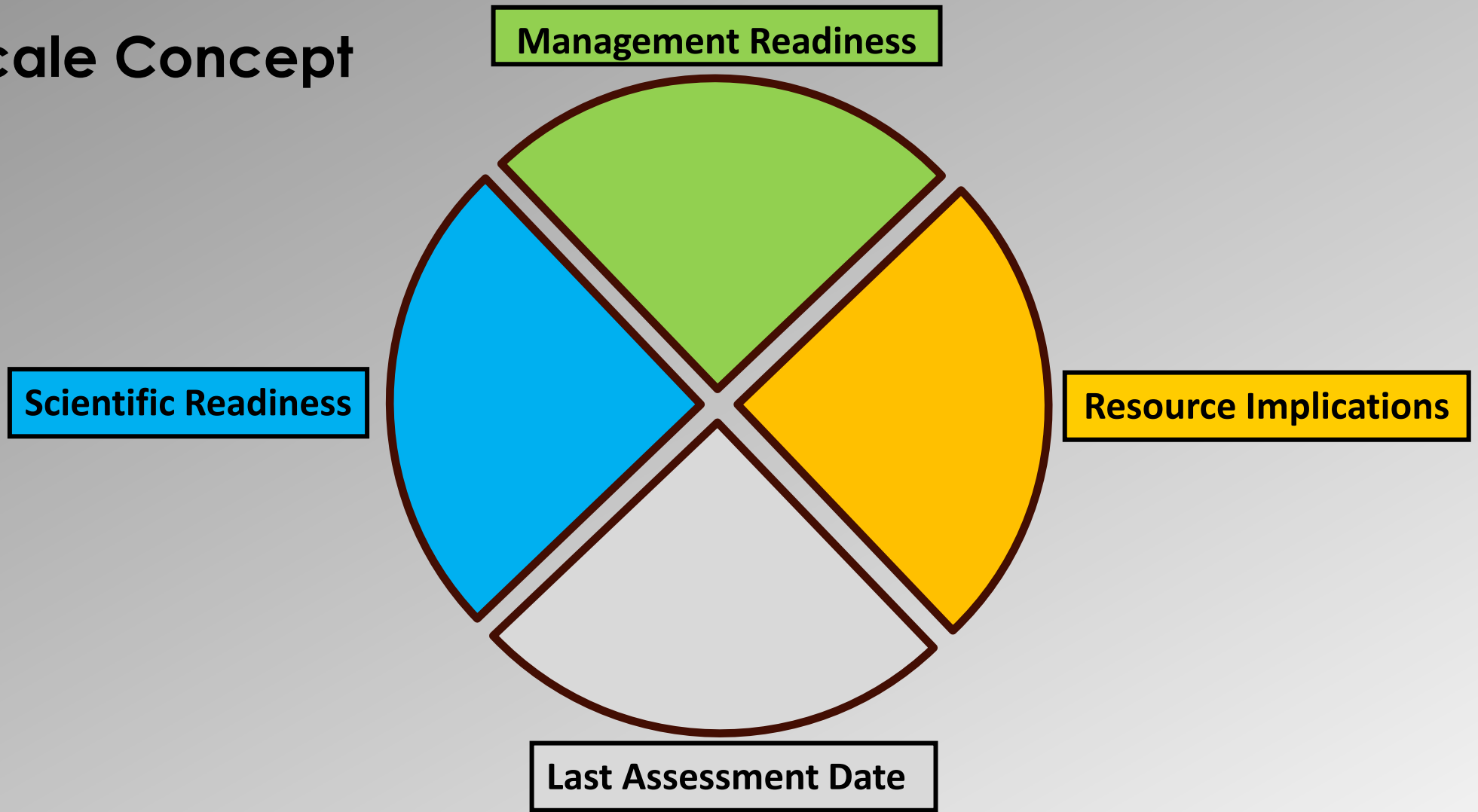
1. **Cost of Monitoring Study**
2. **Mass Emissions Study**

- The Project committee met on Oct 28th to kick off the cost of monitoring study.
- To ensure successful completion by the end of the next fiscal year, the mass emissions project will proceed after completion of cost of monitoring study.
- Key objectives have been identified and a monthly meeting series established.

Subcommittee on Scientific Readiness (progress report)

- Commissioners requested that CTAG produce a 'Scientific Readiness scale' to help Commissioners understand project progress and better highlight any CTAG concerns.
- A CTAG subcommittee was formed to evaluate and report back.
- It was quickly determined that 'Scientific Readiness' was just one part of a bigger picture, which also needed to encompass 'Management Readiness' and 'Resource Implications' for member agencies.

Readiness Scale Concept



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Readiness Scale Concept

Scientific Readiness	Management Readiness	Resource Implications
1-Initial presentation 2-In progress 3-Final presentation 4-Manuscript review 5-Published	1-Not ready (no concerns) 2-Not ready (major concerns) 3-Not ready (minor concerns) 4-Ready (minor concerns) 5-Ready (no concerns)	1- None anticipated 2- Yes, but 5yrs+ away 3- Within 3-5 yrs 4- Within 2 yrs 5- Immediate

Example

Scientific Readiness	*Project in progress*
Management Readiness	*Not yet ready for management action (minor concerns)*
Resource Implications	*No anticipated resource implications*

Concept Only - Not reviewed by CTAG yet

Future Agenda Items for Consideration

1. Bight '23 update
2. Microbiology Intersessional report out
3. West Coast Ocean Alliance Report Card
4. Presentation on NOAA Contract #4 – ROMS-BEC Data Visualization
5. Final report on outcome of subcommittee findings on Scientific Readiness
6. Updates on historic DDT dumping in SoCal.