

Meeting Announcement - March 26, 2008, 12 Noon - 2:00pm

The Southern California Water Dialogue will meet on Wednesday, March 26 from noon - 2:00 pm at Metropolitan Water District of Southern California headquarters, 700 N. Alameda, Los Angeles, (213) 217-6000. Lunch will be provided.

TOPIC: Building a State Watershed Program

Speakers:

John Lowrie, California Resources Agency, Department of Conservation
Martha Davis, Co-Chair, State Watershed Advisory Committee, Inland Empire
Utilities Agency
Belinda Faustinos, State Watershed Advisory Committee Member, San Gabriel
and Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

Come hear about this new state watershed program, learn how you can participate, and give your input to the program leadership.

The California Resources Agency is administering a new program within the Department of Conservation to develop and support a statewide watershed program (Program). The Program is sponsoring regional meetings, including this Water Dialogue meeting in southern California, throughout the state to solicit public comment and recommendations on program development and implementation for each region. These meetings will provide an avenue to local experts in setting and tracking Program priorities and implementation actions.

The State is developing this program because no single agency or entity alone can effectively manage watersheds. The Program will promote and conduct effective stewardship of natural resources within the watershed context.

Southern California Water Dialogue Mission Statement: Participants in the Southern California Water Dialogue meet voluntarily to explore water-related issues of vital interest to our region. The Dialogue serves as a clearinghouse and advocate for projects, activities, and processes that will improve the quality and reliability of Southern California's water supply and benefit the California Bay-Delta Authority (Authority). The Dialogue also is an avenue to represent Southern California's interests to the Authority and provide information about the Authority to our region.

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Transition plan for the CALFED Watershed Program development into a Statewide California Watershed Program

PROCESS SUMMARY

Watersheds have proven to be an effective organizing unit for managing natural resources. Because no single agency or other entity alone can effectively manage watersheds, it is in the state's interest to develop and support a statewide watershed program (Program) that will promote and conduct effective stewardship of natural resources in a watershed context. The Program will promote watershed management that includes local communities and state and federal agencies in collaboration with other stakeholders. The Program will retain many of the important elements that made the CALFED Watershed Program successful, as outlined and recommended during meetings of earlier Watershed Public Advisory Committees.

The Program has established a Public Advisory Committee to reflect the statewide focus by providing liaison between the Program and the Regions. The past level of public involvement and Program transparency will thus remain intact through an interactive public advisory function using basic principles of operation that will be developed with extensive public input. They will provide a basis for Program development and implementation that will maintain an emphasis on multi-stakeholder, multi-objective management.

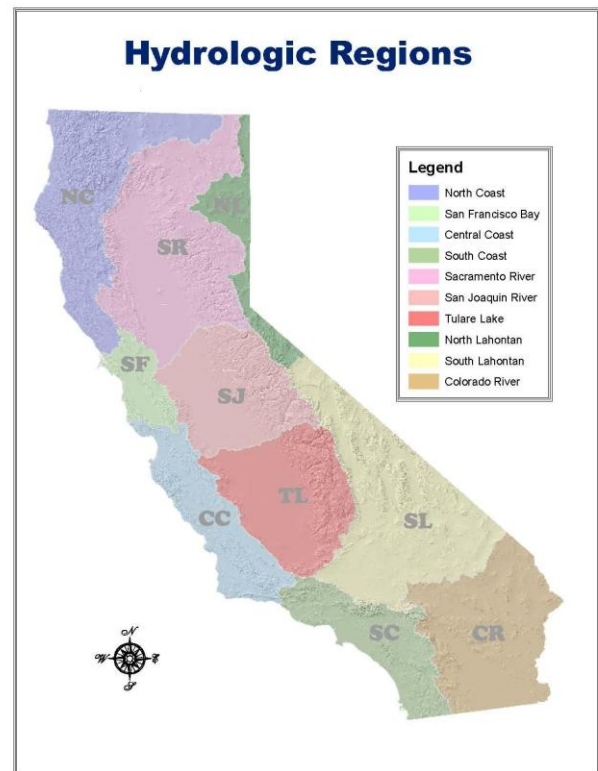
The new program is a Resources Agency action, and is administered through the Department of Conservation (DOC). It will include strong interaction and cooperation with other state and federal and local agencies. The structure and roles developed to guide public and agency involvement in describing the new strategy include:

Secretary of Resources: Provides overall policy guidance and feedback on Program development and implementation, after considering the public advice and comment gathered at the regional forums.

DOC Director: Provides administrative leadership for the Program, and works closely with the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee to define and include the interests of other state and federal agencies.

Steering Committee: A Committee of up to 24 non-agency stakeholders, chaired by two Co-Chairs (Robert Meacher and Martha Davis) meet regularly to provide liaison between the Watershed Program and the Regions; to help

generate diverse participation in the regional forums; to assist with meeting site selection, agendas, and meeting management; and to help synthesize and organize the ideas and advice received through the regional forums.



Regional Forums: Open meetings to take place in each of the ten identified hydrologic regions to solicit public comment and recommendations on Program development and implementation appropriate for the Region of focus, and to provide an avenue to include local experts in setting and tracking Program priorities and implementation actions.

Science Panel: A group of selected scientists and experts to advise on key questions posed by the Program. The major early task will be to develop a model to describe baseline conditions and to track change over time in each of the ten major hydrologic regions of the state.

Immediate term Program Functions: Continuing implementation and management of the remaining contracts and projects of the CALFED Watershed Program; maintaining strong public involvement and inclusion in Statewide Watershed Policy development; and maintaining effective contact with other state and federal agencies and programs.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE

I. Establish Statement of Program Purpose:

Draft Statement: *"To advance sustainable watershed-based management of California's natural resources through community-based strategies"*

II. Statement of Program Guiding Principles:

To be successful and relevant at all levels, the Program is committed to the following Principles:

- **Public involvement** - broad participation from varying interests involved with natural resource management. The involvement will be substantive and extensive, and include underserved communities and tribal interests.
- **Multi-objective approach** - that recognizes the inter-relationships among biological, physical, sociological and economic elements of watershed systems.
- **Transparency** - where decisions and actions are openly made and taken; where information, methods and data used are accessible to all; and all judgments, assumptions, and uncertainties in data and interpretations are made explicit.
- **Goal oriented** - actions and functions of the Program are intended to improve the management and the conditions in the State's watershed systems relative to desired conditions.
- **Scientific validity** - The Program will seek to increase the use of scientifically valid concepts and information. The decisions and policies developed by the Program will integrate scientific and local knowledge into Program activities.
- **Performance-based** - Management of the Program will track, publish and use information and data to adaptively manage the Program to best achieve Program goals and purpose.
- **Integrate relevant state, regional and local goals** – Provide support to better correlate local actions and goals and the State's actions and goals

III. Program Functions, Methods, and Major Components -

Some functions and components may include:

- *Promote and assist with coordination and integration of existing programs related to watershed management*
- *Provide technical assistance and guidance to better inform resource management at multiple levels*
- *Identify and demonstrate the economic benefits of coordination across all levels of management*
- *Develop and make available tools and training to assist with watershed planning and management*
- *Assess the condition watershed services, goods and values of importance to the state*
- *Provide technical and financial assistance*
- *Collaborate with partners to integrate watershed scale information into natural resource management*
- *Demonstrate and encourage leadership for a comprehensive approach to watershed management.*

IV. Goals and Objectives for those components, and for the Program as a whole (reflective of, and clearly derived from the Program Principles)

Once the Program functions are determined and detailed, specific Goals, or desired outcomes, for each should be established. For each Goal developed, a set of measurable benchmarks, or Objectives will be developed. Those Objectives can then be tracked to inform the Program and its partners of ongoing progress toward each Goal.

V. Programmatic Actions will be designed to fulfill the purpose, and to attain the goals established.

Programs and projects will be defined to put the major elements of the Program into action. These will include specific delivery mechanisms for such things as technical assistance, training, granting, etc.

VI. Performance Measurement and Adaptive Management

The Program will monitor quantifiable measures that will track progress toward meeting each of the identified Objectives and Goals.

The accumulated measurements will be combined and analyzed to guide Program adjustments to ensure continued progress toward Goals and toward realizing the Program Purpose.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

To advance sustainable watershed-based management of California's natural resources through community-based strategies



Program Principles (or Guiding Principles)

- Public involvement
- Multi-objective approach
- Transparency
- Goal oriented
- Scientific validity
- Performance based
- Integrative of state, regional and local goals

Principles will be reflected directly and clearly in all Program Functions, Goals, Actions and Adaptations



Program Functions, Methods, and Major Components

Designed to serve the purpose, and clearly reflecting the Program principles



Goals and Objectives

- ***Goals, or Desired Outcomes*** that reflect the Program Purpose and clearly express Program Principles
 - o ***Benchmarks*** that enable tracking of goal attainment



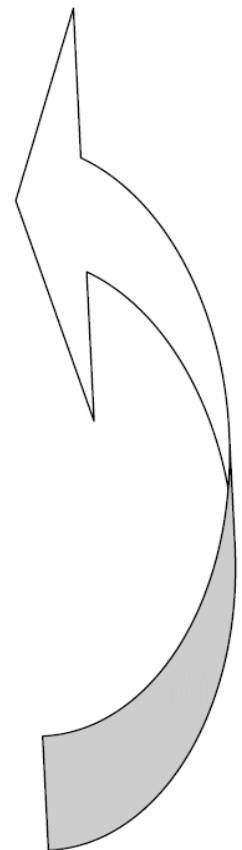
Programmatic Actions

- Activities to undertake and/or support to achieve Program Goals



Performance Based Adaptive Management

- Comparison of results to desired outcomes, and adaptation of Program components and implementation methods to improve outcomes



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ELEMENTS

Questions to Consider Regionally:

- 1) How and to what extent will the Program add value to the existing array of State programs?*

- 2) What should the major functions of a Statewide Program look like, in order to best integrate local and regional needs and interests with the needs and interests of the State as a whole?*

- 3) What accomplishments would those functions likely produce?*

- 4) What methods would be most effective to implement each function?*

- 5) What is the best method to illustrate how local accomplishments contribute to the State's interest regarding watershed conditions?*

- 6) What steps should be taken to ensure longevity of the Program?*