Healthy Watersheds Partnership
Update
Presentation to the
Sacramento River Watershed Program
June 11, 2015

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We are a work group of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council.

HSP Website:  http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/healthy_streams/
California Streams, Rivers and Lakes

Click on the map or text links below for more information about key factors related to the health of streams, rivers and lakes.

**Why are they important?**
Healthy streams, rivers, and lakes provide safe drinking water, recreational opportunities, and important habitat for species ranging from the red-shouldered hawk to steelhead to crayfish and dragonflies. Maintaining healthy streams, rivers, and lakes can reduce the need for water treatment and water supply costs and make landscapes more resilient to climate change.

**How do we measure health?**
To determine the health of a waterway, investigators can use a combination of chemical, biological, and physical assessments. Among the characteristics that may be considered are habitat quality, aquatic life diversity, water chemistry, stream hydrology (water flow processes), the physical channel form, and sediment transport processes of the stream.

**Questions Answered**
- What is the extent of our stream and river resources?
- What is the condition of our streams and rivers?
- What is being done to make our waters healthier?

**Environmental Characteristics:** Buffer | Riparian Cover | Algae | Bugs | Fish | Fines & Sands | Gravels | Cobbles & Boulders | Riffles & Rapids | Pools | Groundwater | Water Quality | Sediment Quality | Stream Gradient | Channel Stability | Channel Alteration | Hydrologic Connectivity | Hydrologic Sufficiency | Sediment Balance

**Stressors:** Urban | Agriculture | Other Land Uses | Fish Contaminants | Invasive Species

Related Links:
- Portal Fact Sheet
- Healthy Streams Partnership webpage
- California Watersheds Slideshow - Learn about healthy watersheds on the Water Education Foundation website
The Healthy Watersheds Partnership (HWP) is dedicated to improving the way watershed health is defined, measured and managed in California.

- Create a common framework for generating, assembling, disseminating and analyzing data related to water quality, landscape condition and ecological integrity by leveraging existing efforts across agencies.

- Serve as an increasingly essential resource for scientists, resource managers and the public.

- Effect change through improved coordination and collaboration among local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations and other CWQMC workgroups.
Implications of Revised Mission

• Change name of workgroup to: Healthy Watersheds Partnership
• Collaboration with other ecosystem health work groups
• Attract additional partners
• New project priorities
HWI Watershed Assessments

• Funds from USEPA HQ, technical work by Cadmus with HSP review
• Final report released October 2013
• Framework to develop more robust watershed assessments
California Rapid Assessment Method Score
Physical Habitat MMI
Conductivity
Nitrate
Turbidity
California Stream Condition Index

Figure 36. Relative Stream Health scores.
HWP Projects

Watershed Assessments

Version 1 – display existing maps on Portal, identify candidate priority watersheds for protection and restoration

Version 2, 3 – test predictions, additional indicators, user-selected comparisons ("super toggle"), evaluate data integration methods
Portal Enhancements

- Develop Statewide Integrated Assessment Report Cards by building on Regional Report card efforts
- Add data sets including physical habitat, algae, fish, and chemistry
- Data analysis/visualization tools (e.g. CCAMP data navigator)
- Watershed-based reports (e.g. TMDL report cards, NPS success stories)
HWP Projects (cont.)

Outreach and Partnerships

• Collaborate with other Ecosystem Health Workgroups, including CWMW

• Incorporate elements from other agency planning efforts (e.g. CDFW [SWAP], CalFire [FRAP], etc.)

• Provide a resource for citizen monitors
Questions?

Next HWP meeting – June 23, 10am-3pm at CalEPA - Conf room 240