Wadeable Streams Nutrient Objectives

Draft Science Panel Charge and Meeting Agenda

March 13, 2015 Draft

Context: The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is developing nutrient water quality objectives (WQO) for the state's surface waters. SWRCB staff has developed a Work Plan that describes an overarching strategy, process and technical work elements that will govern the development of WQOs for freshwater and estuarine habitats (SWRCB 2014). During the first phase, SWRCB staff intends to establish a narrative WQO applicable to all water body types and numeric guidance specifically for wadeable streams. The Work Plan outlines six tasks to accomplish that goal. Three of these tasks have technical elements. A Science Plan has been developed that articulates the conceptual approach and technical activities that will support the SWRCB's work plan.

The first Science Panel meeting will focus on reviewing the overarching Science Plan to support the SWRCB's approach to nutrient objectives. The second meeting (fall 2015) will review interim products and discuss the science implications of SWRCB staff preliminary strategies for implementation. The third meeting will focus on the final technical products of the Science Plan and continue the discussion of science needs and implications of strategies for implementation of nutrient objectives. Additional meetings may be planned, as needed.

Panel Charge for Meeting #1: What refinements or additional elements to the Science Plan does the Panel suggest to improve scientific support for the State Water Board staff's work plan (SWRCB 2014)?

PANEL MEETING PREP MATERIALS LIST:

State Water Board Approach to Nutrient Objectives:

- State Water Resources Control Board 2014. Proposed Workplan for Development of a Nutrient Control Program. www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/nutrients.shtml
- State Water Resources Control Board 2011. CEQA Scoping Meeting for Proposed Nutrient Policy. www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/nutrients.shtml

Science Plan to Support Nutrient Objectives in Wadeable Streams:

- Wadeable Streams Science Plan March 2015
- Compiled stakeholder comments on Science Plan
- Biological Condition Gradient work plan (to be made available early May 2015)

Completed Technical Products Supporting 2015 Science Plan

- Fetscher, A.E., M.A. Sutula, A. Sengupta and N. Detenbeck. 2014. Improving Tools to Link Nutrients to Adverse Effects on Stream Ecosystem Services in California. U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development Regional Ecosystem Services Research Program (REServe). http://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?dirEntryID=274010
- Fetscher, A.E., R. Stancheva, J.P. Kociolek, R.G. Sheath, E.D. Stein, R.D. Mazor, P.R. Ode, and L.B. Busse. 2014. Development and comparison of stream indices of biotic integrity using diatoms vs. non-diatom algae vs. a combination. Journal of Applied Phycology 26:433-450.

History of Nutrient Objective Development in California

- Tetra Tech 2006. Technical Approach to Develop Nutrient Numeric Endpoints for California. Prepared for: U.S. EPA Region IX (Contract No. 68-C-02-108-To-111). www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nutrient_objectives/development/docs/techapproach_freshwater2006.pdf

Draft Meeting Agenda

Day 1 (June 2, 2015)

8:30 – 8:50	Introductions, meeting goals, logistics for 2-day meeting	Rik Rasmussen (SWRCB) and Martha Sutula (SCCWRP)
8:50 – 10:00	Overview of State Water Board Work Plan to Develop Nutrient Objectives	Rik Rasmussen (SWRCB), Martha Sutula (SCCWRP), Brock Bernstein
10:00-10:10	Break	
10:10 – 12:00	Overview of Wadeable Streams Science Plan	Elizabeth Fetscher & Martha Sutula (SCCWRP) Michael Paul (Tetra Tech)
12:00 –1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:50 pm	Stakeholder Perceptions and Concerns	Brock Bernstein and Sector Leads
2:50- 3:00 pm	Break	
3:00 – 5:00 pm	Science Panel Closed Session	
6:30 pm	Science Panel Dinner (Closed)	

Day 2 (June 3, 2015)

8:30 am – 3 pm	Science Panel Closed Session	
3:00- 5:00 pm	Science Panel Report Out on Findings	Science Panel Chair (To Be Determined)