

Recommendations and Benefits: TALU, BCG and California Aquatic Life Uses

Characterizing and Identifying Beneficial Aquatic Life Uses

- **Develop indicators and measures that represent the use and can be analyzed to determine attainability.**
- **Need consensus-based thresholds or minimum criteria with which to judge attainability of a given use, particularly for highly modified systems.**
- **BCG needs to be defined for regions with highly modified systems (hydrologic modifications) and perhaps Effluent Dominated Waters (EDWs).**

Identifying and Prioritizing Restoration Options

- **BCG and TALU would define the degree to which current conditions are removed from the beneficial use and stakeholder expectations.**
- **Knowing how far the existing system is from minimum requirements (and why) can inform the process of evaluating feasible technological alternatives and qualitatively, cost and effort required to attain the use.**

Benefits

- **BCG should be used to help provide a consensus-based measurement system with which to evaluate attainable aquatic life uses**
- **TALU could provide the state with a more easily interpretable and defensible approach for evaluating attainability (especially for WARM and COLD) and for defining appropriate water quality objectives.**
- **TALU would help protect high quality systems and prevent incremental degradation of beneficial uses**

Benefits

- **Consideration of TALU, or at least subuses within WARM and COLD uses, would probably lessen the need for aquatic life – related UAAs in California. Fewer UAAs would result.**
- **Use of BCG and TALU would ensure that the UAA process is transparent, credible, and provides information with which the state can make appropriate beneficial use designations, especially for EDWs and other altered systems.**

Overall Recommendations

- **Using the descriptors for ecological attributes, develop a BCG for the various physiographic regions of California; i.e., Central Valley, Sierra Nevadas, North Coast, etc.**
- **Using the descriptors for human disturbance parameters, develop a BCG for the various physiographic regions of California**