

California Statewide Watershed Program

PROGRESS SUMMARY

The Program has worked with the Public Advisory Committee appointed by Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman, to complete an extensive outreach across the state. The results of the outreach helped define the overall direction of Program development. Three major themes emerged from the outreach:

- Greater coordination of policies, programs and actions across all scales of activity. Increased reliable opportunities for communication and collaboration among and between local, regional, state and tribal levels.
- Increased availability of information, including watershed data; maps and G.I.S. information; templates and examples of assessments, plans and monitoring methods; best management practices, and; active interests in each region, along with the primary purpose of each.
- Ongoing availability of technical assistance and training. Assistance desired is broad in scope, and variable by region, but a central theme is a desire to provide assistance that will enable and increase retention of local knowledge and expertise.

The complete outreach summary is available online at this address:

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wp/Pages/Index.aspx>

The Program operating principles have been affirmed, and will guide further development of implementation details. Those principles include:

- **Public involvement** - broad participation from varying interests involved with natural resource management, including underserved communities and tribal interests.
- **Inclusiveness** - Integrate social equity and environmental justice to be inclusive of underserved communities.
- **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, and uncertainties in data and interpretations are made explicit.
- **Goal oriented** - actions and functions of the Program are improve overall management of the State's watershed systems, relative to clearly described desired conditions.

- **Scientific validity** - The Program will seek to increase the use of scientifically valid concepts and information to integrate scientific and local knowledge into Program activities.
- **Performance-based** - The Program will track, publish and use outcome-based information and data to adaptively manage the Program.
- **Integrate relevant state, regional and local goals** – Provide support to better correlate local actions and goals and the State's actions and goals

The Committee met with Secretary Chrisman to present their recommendations, based on the public outreach results. He emphasized that establishing a statewide watershed approach was a high priority for him, and encouraged the Committee, the Department of Conservation and the Resources Agency to continue developing Program details.

The new Program is a Resources Agency action, and is administered through DOC. It will include strong interaction and cooperation with other state, tribal, federal and local agencies.

NEXT STEPS

The Committee will work with DOC and the Resources Agency to fully define the Program in advance of formal consultation with other state agencies throughout the fall and early winter.

Agency interests and concerns will be combined with the public outreach feedback, and incorporated into a draft Program description by late winter. The Committee will then conduct another outreach dialogue through the spring, to discuss and receive comments on the draft Program description. A complete final description will be finished by summer, 2009.

The Program presently is functioning to maintain management of the remaining CALFED Watershed Program obligations, as well as managing the Watershed Coordinator Program at DOC. These duties will continue as the new description of a statewide approach is fully developed and implemented.

Opportunities for public involvement will be frequent and well publicized over the next twelve months. The Program will provide timely updates on its website, as well as through watershed list-serve notifications. To enroll on the list-serve address list, please visit (website) and register your email address.