

California Wetlands Demonstration Project Steering Committee Charter



WDP Overview

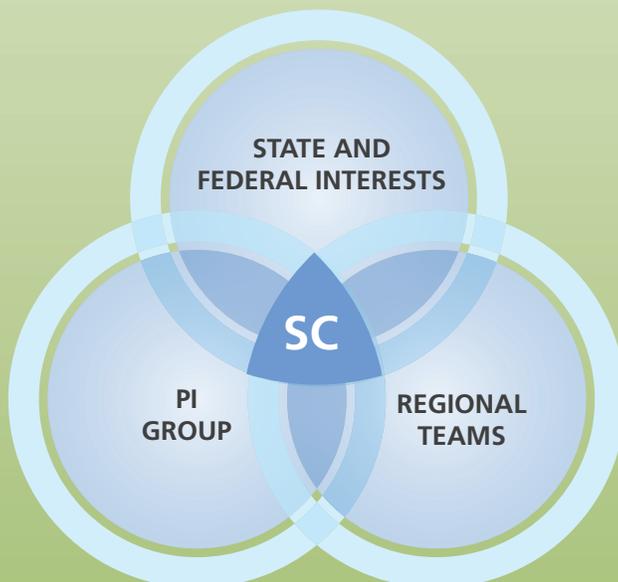
During 2006-07, the State Wetlands Demonstration Project (WDP) will begin to implement a tiered approach to comprehensive wetlands and riparian habitat assessment. The tiered approach consists of three levels of assessment:

- Level 1** Habitat Inventories and Landscape Profiles (Wetland and Riparian Habitat Tracker, State Wetlands Inventory, State Riparian Inventory);
- Level 2** Rapid Assessment (California Rapid Assessment Method for wetland and riparian habitat);
- Level 3** Intensive-Quantitative Assessment (Key Level 3 protocols).

The WDP is funded by USEPA through a Wetland Program Development Grant under Section 104(b)3 of the Clean Water Act to the State Resources Agencies plus non-federal matching funds. The total WDP budget excluding in-kind services is \$900,000.

The WDP will focus on implementing Level 1 and 2 assessment tools in coastal watersheds to profile the extent and condition of estuarine wetlands throughout the California coast, profile the condition of wetlands and riparian habitats in selected coastal watersheds, and transfer Level 1 and Level 2 assessment capacity to the coastal zone management community through the coastal Regional Water Quality Control Boards. The comprehensive assessment approach is thoroughly documented in the WDP prospectus and supporting assessment manuals.

The WDP is organized to foster collaboration, coordination, and consensus for wetland and riparian assessment throughout the concerned community of public and private interests.



The Steering Committee (SC) is essential to WDP Success. It will provide the link to state and federal policies and programs.

THE PI GROUP of the Wetlands Monitoring Consortium involves the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCWRP), Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) and San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI).

THE REGIONAL TEAMS represent the coastal zone community of natural resource managers and scientists.



Purpose, Responsibilities, and Duties of Steering Committee

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to assure that the WDP builds State capacity to assess the quantity and quality of wetlands and riparian habitats.

To meet its purpose, the Steering Committee will assume the following responsibilities:

- Advocate for the WDP and its comprehensive habitat assessment approach within the state community of wetland and riparian habitat science, regulation, and management;
- Strive to incorporate the concepts and tools of the comprehensive assessment approach into the State and Federal policies, programs, and projects relating to habitat protection.

To meet its responsibilities, the Steering Committee will assume the following duties:

- Review and revise this charter as needed;
- Review and revise the composition and organization of the Steering Committee;
- Review and advise the WDP work plan;
- Participate in at least two meetings of the Steering Committee each year;
- Advise and review the technical products of the PI Group and Regional Teams;
- Represent the WDP and its habitat assessment approach to their agencies, sister agencies, and state planning groups such as the Ocean Protection Council, Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, and Habitat Joint Ventures.

Composition of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee shall consist of representatives of the PI Group, the Regional Teams, and the State and Federal agencies that have expressed needs for wetland and riparian habitat assessment. Since the PI Group serves on the Regional Teams, it can help represent them to the Steering Committee.

Federal agencies that are likely candidates for membership to the Steering Committee include the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 9, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Sacramento Districts; National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA).

California State agencies that are likely candidates for membership to the Steering Committee include the Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game; Coastal Conservancy, Coastal Commission San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Department of Transportation; Department of Forestry, Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

The Steering Committee is co-chaired by the USEPA Region 9 and the State Resources Agency.