

# A REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED:

Objectives, Benefits and Challenges

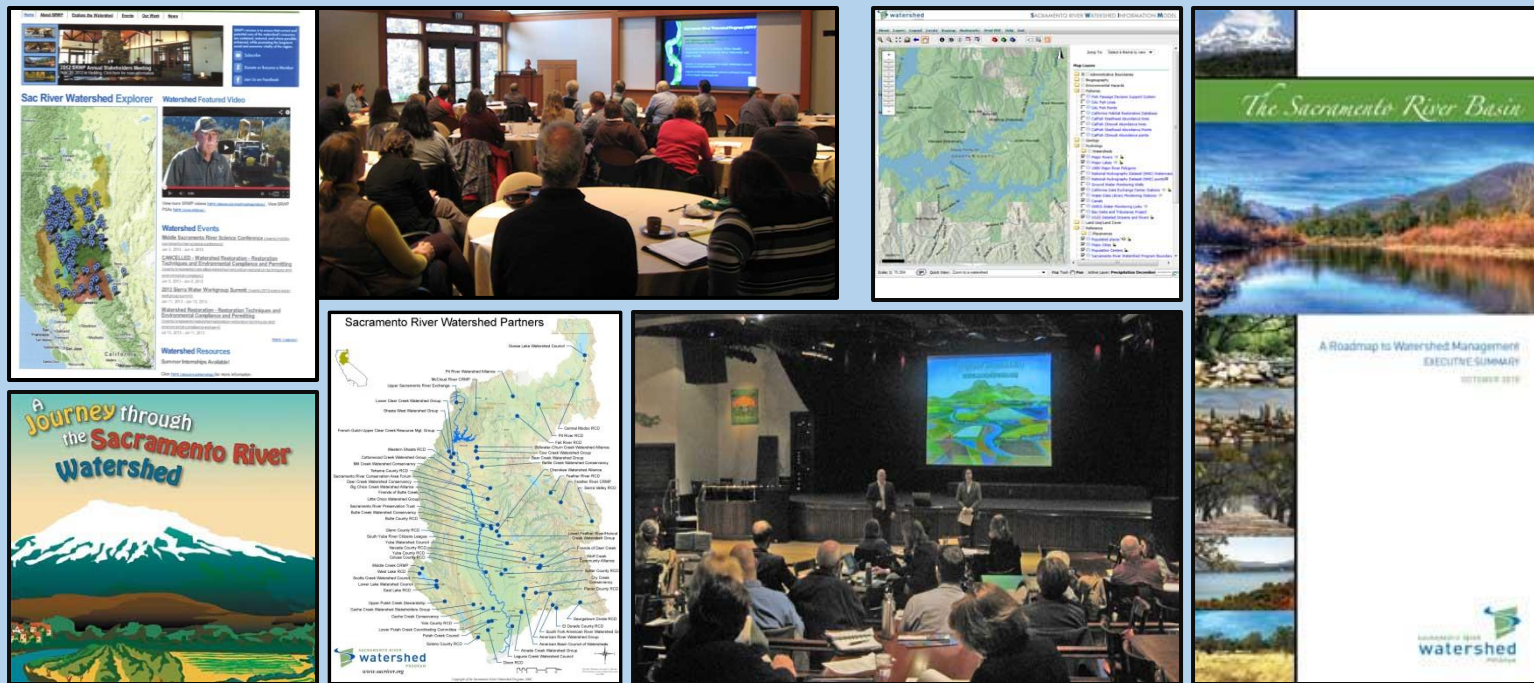
Holly Jorgensen



Stephen McCord



# Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP)

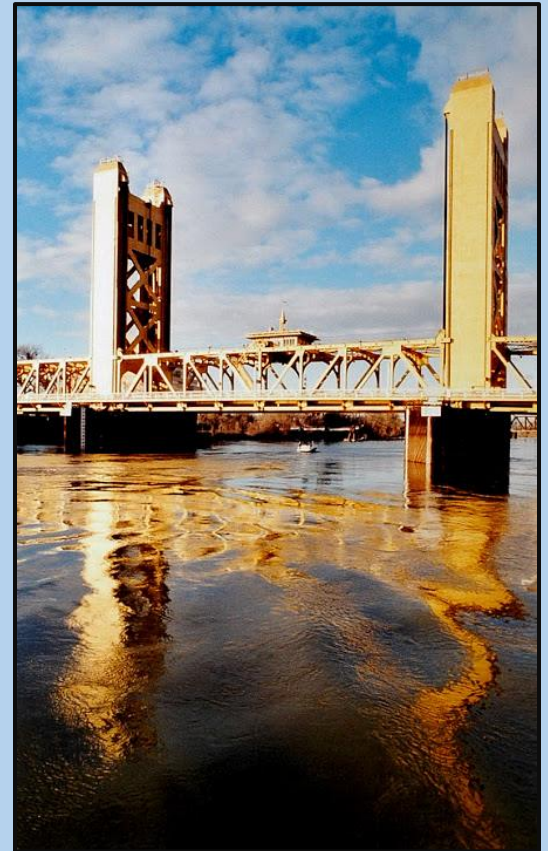


## **Mission:**

*To ensure that current and potential uses of the watershed's resources are sustained, restored, and where possible, enhanced, while promoting the long-term social and economic vitality of the region.*

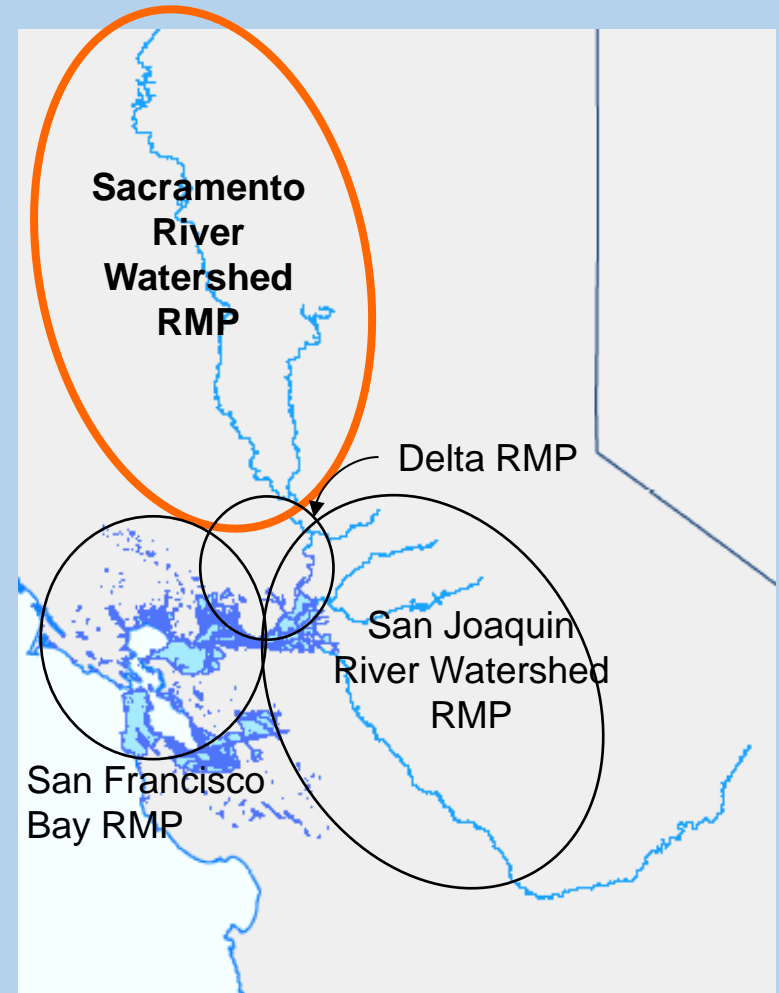
# Core Functions of the SRWP

- Public Outreach and Education
- Local Watershed Support
- Watershed Monitoring



# Regional Monitoring Programs (RMPs)

- Why have an RMP?
- What are the benefits?
- What are the challenges?



# Sacramento River Watershed Regional Monitoring Program

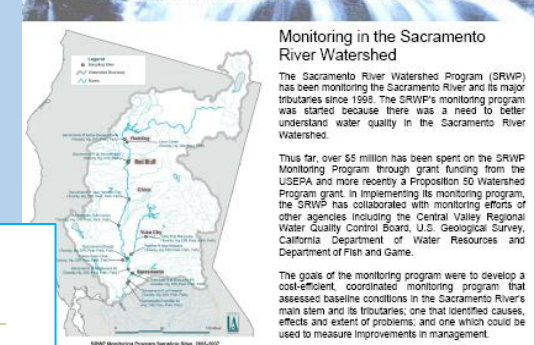
2008-2009

- Feasibility Study

2009

- Stakeholder Meeting
- Investigation Report
- RMP Fact Sheet

## A Regional Monitoring Program for the Sacramento River Watershed





March 2009

**FINAL DRAFT**

**Sacramento River Watershed  
Regional Monitoring Program  
Investigation**

*Prepared for:*  
Sacramento River Watershed Program

*Prepared by:*  
Larry Walker Associates

**Monitoring an Effort**

Based on its monitoring success, SRWP is launching an effort to develop a long-term, sustainable regional monitoring program for the Sacramento River Watershed. A major portion of the funding for the program must come from the program's stakeholders. The major drivers for monitoring and potential stakeholders are listed below.

**Drivers**

- Pelagic Organism Decline (POD) in the Delta
- Central Valley Drinking Water Quality Policy
- Sediment quality objectives 303(d) list and TMDLs and 305(b) NPDES permits
- Irrigated lands permit waiver program
- State Board Strategic Plan, POD Resolution, Delta Actions Resolution
- Delta Island Drainage

**Potential Stakeholders**

- State Water Resources Control Board
- Regional Water Quality Control Boards
- California Urban Water Agencies
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Department of Public Health
- Irrigated Lands Agricultural Water Quality Coalitions
- Wastewater Dischargers
- Stormwater Dischargers
- Reclamation Districts
- State Water Contractors
- Non-Government Organizations

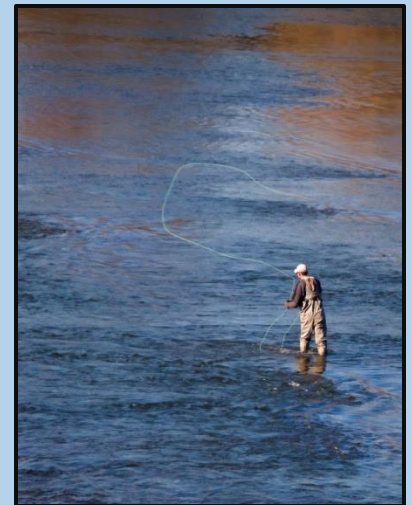
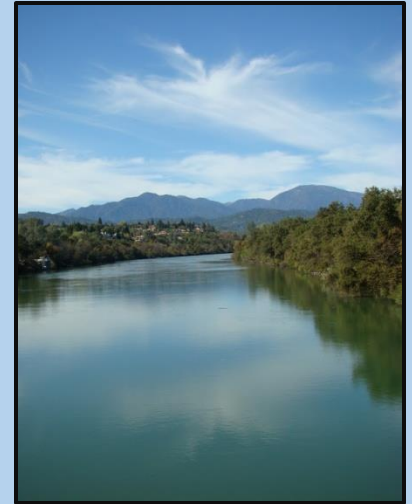
# RMP Stakeholders

- Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
  - Sacramento Area Coordinated Monitoring Program
  - Sacramento County
  - Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition
  - Central Valley Clean Water Association
- } Dischargers
- State & Regional Boards
  - US EPA
- } Regulators
- Department of Water Resources
  - SFCWA
- } Water Managers
- The Nature Conservancy
- } Habitat Managers
- USGS
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
- } Scientists/Researchers



# Key Questions:

- What are your current monitoring activities?
- Where are your data stored and how are those data made available to others?
- What types of assistance do you (or would you like to) receive to enhance your monitoring?
- What are the major water quality issues of concern to you?
- Are there critical information gaps that prevent us from better addressing these issues?
- How do you think monitoring in the Sacramento River watershed could be improved?
- What types of regional monitoring functions (e.g. communication, coordination, assessment and reporting) might benefit your monitoring activities?
- What would be possible incentives for you and others to participate in an RMP?
- How would you suggest an RMP could be supported and organized?



# MEMO: RMP Interview Summary

- Interview Responses
- Discussion and Synthesis:
  - Coordination Leaders
  - Indicators of Interest
  - Funding Needs and Options
- Recommendations





# Recommendations

- What would an effective RMP in the watershed be tasked to do?
- What role should the SRWP play in developing and implementing that RMP?
- What are the next steps to implementing an RMP?



# Level 1 RMP Tasks:

- Communicate with regional monitoring stakeholders through timely updates to the SRWP Monitoring Committee web page and periodic messages via the web-based listserv.
- Host approximately quarterly Monitoring Committee meetings in relatively central locations, open to anyone and accessible online.
- Present updates at SRWP's annual stakeholder meeting and annual watershed forum.
- Serve as a clearinghouse for linking monitoring funding needs with funding opportunities; support funding proposals by soliciting technical reviews and letters of support.
- Encourage and support monitoring entities to contribute relevant information to the Central Valley Monitoring Directory and to the CEDEN regional data center.
- Coordinate with other regional initiatives: CV-SALTS, Central Valley Drinking Water Policy Workgroup.
- Share updates on monitoring stations (e.g., status, monitored conditions and constituents) in committee meetings (and in the Central Valley Monitoring Directory).
- Provide or support tours on watershed themes to interested guests.

# Level 2 RMP Tasks:

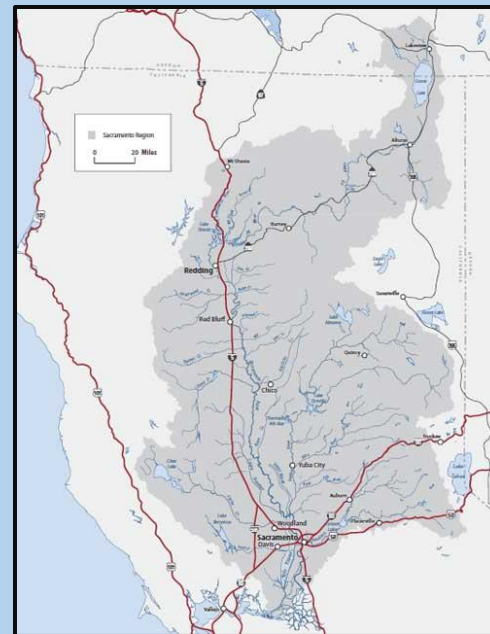
- Facilitate technical training for BMP selection, design, and implementation
- Identify monitoring priorities and conduct a monitoring gap analysis.
- Develop a coordinated monitoring plan that integrates all ongoing monitoring programs.
- Facilitate technical training for monitoring program designers, field crews, analytical labs, and program managers.
- Support in producing and uploading SWAMP-comparable data into CEDEN.
- Compile, report, assess and synthesize monitoring data in a “Pulse of the Watershed”-type report or “report card”-type assessment.
- Provide input for and review the bi-annual 305(b) report for water bodies in the watershed.
- Support special studies conducted by others by providing access to regional experts and implementers, reviewing or participating in the development of study designs and implementation.

# Level 3 RMP Tasks:

- Synoptic toxicity testing of water and sediments
- Synoptic biological indicator monitoring for regional benchmarking and comparison
- Climate change effects
- Simulation modeling of the sources, transport, and transformations of a condition or constituent of concern (e.g., SPARROW, WARME, WEAP)
- Integrated watershed assessment
- Contaminant source tracking
- Project-level effectiveness monitoring (pre- and post-implementation)

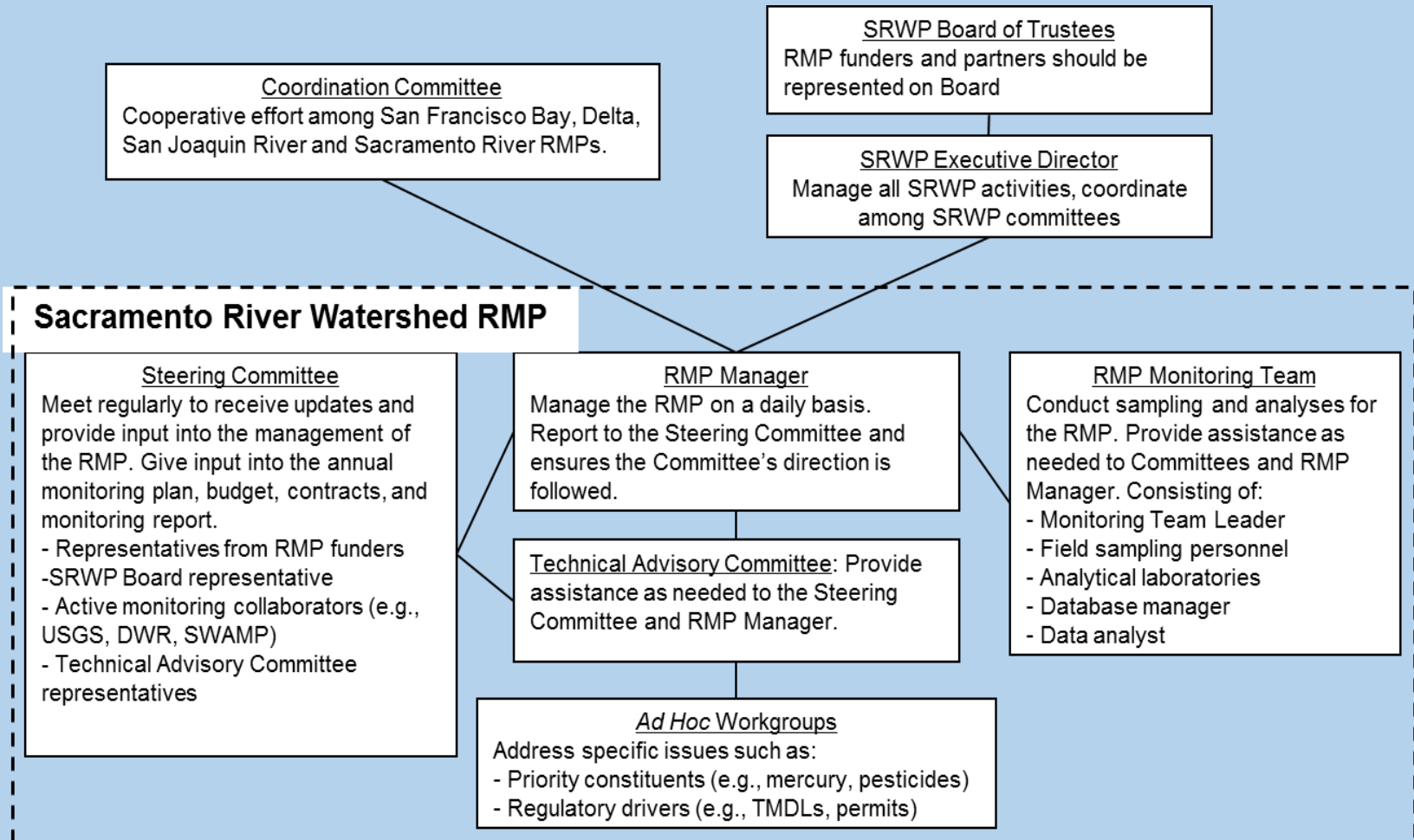
# Sacramento River Watershed Regional Monitoring Program

- Encompasses the entire Sacramento River watershed
- Communicate and coordinate with other RMPs
- SRWP lead RMP effort
  - Board of Trustees
  - Nonprofit status
  - Shared mission
  - Monitoring
  - Stakeholder coordination
  - Monitoring Committee





# Recommended RMP Organizational Structure for the SRWP:



# Level 1 RMP Tasks:

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# Funding \$\$\$:

- SWAMP
- IRWM
- USEPA
- Stakeholders



# For more information:

**Holly Jorgensen**

Sacramento River Watershed Program

holly@sacriver.org

(530) 781-2220

www.sacriver.org

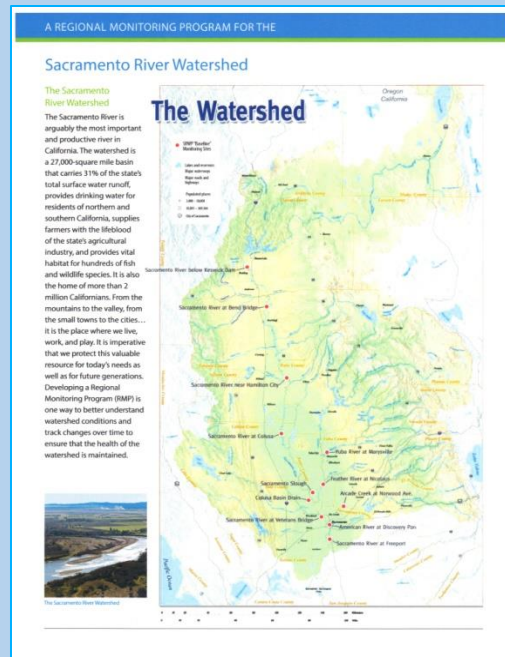
**Stephen McCord**

McCord Environmental, Inc.

sam@mccenv.com

530-220-3165

www.mccenv.com



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**FINAL DRAFT**

## **Sacramento River Watershed Regional Monitoring Program Investigation**

*Prepared for:*  
Sacramento River Watershed Program

*Prepared by:*  
Larry Walker Associates

