

Water Quality in the Sacramento River



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SRWP Monitoring Program

- One of the major areas of focus of the SRWP is its monitoring program
- SRWP has been monitoring the river and its tributaries since 1998
- Our monitoring is a collaborative effort with other organizations doing monitoring in the watershed



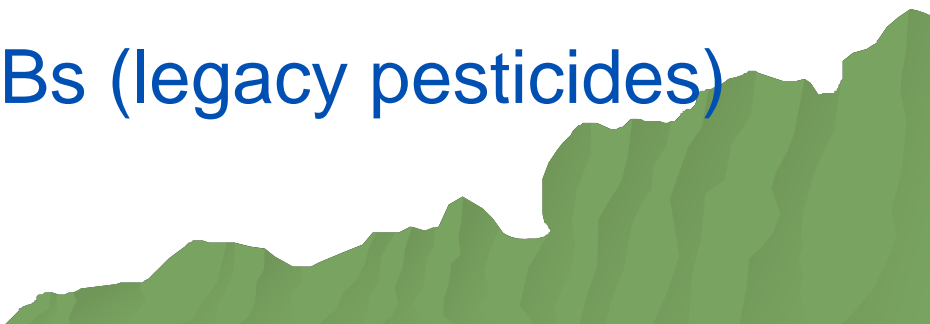
Water Quality Monitoring Picture in Mid-1990s

- No on-going monitoring program in the watershed
 - Monitoring being done associated with major cities and industries with wastewater discharge permits
 - Hundreds of miles of the Sacramento River and most tributaries were not monitored
 - SRWP Monitoring Program was first designed based on hunches about the water quality issues and to address gaps in monitoring
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Stakeholder-Identified Initial Areas of Concern

1. Organophosphate (OP) pesticides*
 2. Mercury*


 3. Toxicity of unknown cause
 4. Drinking water quality

 5. Sediment
 6. Water temperature
 7. Heavy metals
 8. Excess nutrients
 9. Organochlorines & PCBs (legacy pesticides)
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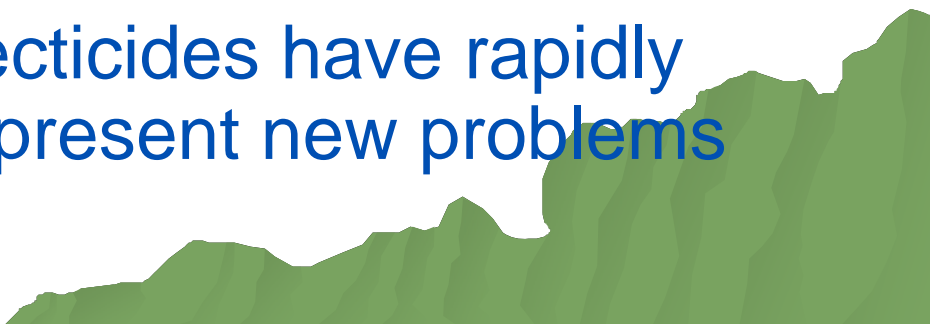
SRWP Approach to Prioritized Water Quality Concerns

Water Quality Concern	SRWP Actions
1 Organophosphate (OP) pesticides*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form stakeholder group• Monitoring• Develop management strategy
2 Mercury*	
3 Toxicity of unknown cause	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form workgroup• Collect more monitoring data
4 Drinking water quality	

Organophosphate Pesticides

- Formed OP Focus Group
 - Support staff from Regional Board and Department of Pesticide Regulation
 - Participants: ag commissioners, state agencies, pesticide manufacturers, pesticide applicators, commodity groups, Farm Bureau, UC IPM & Extension
 - Provided input into pesticide monitoring and studies in the watershed
 - Developed diazinon management plan
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Status of Diazinon

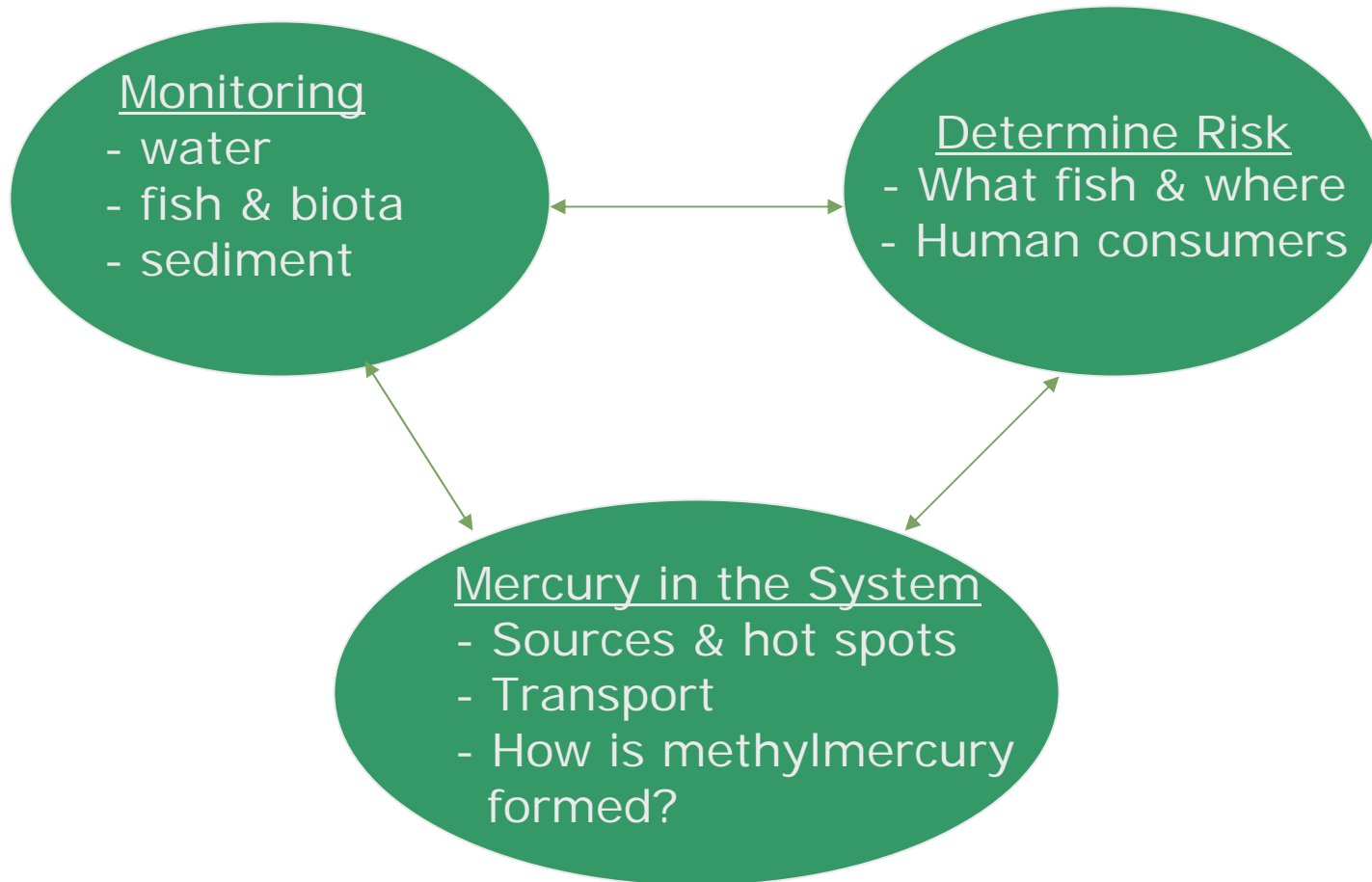
- OP Focus Group helped get the ball rolling on grower education and research into management measures
 - Efforts of the OP Focus Group have been taken up by the agricultural community through the Ag Discharge Waiver Program
 - Diazinon levels in the river and tributaries have dropped significantly in last 5 years due to elimination of urban use and reductions in ag use
 - Pyrethroid/pyrethrin insecticides have rapidly replaced diazinon, may present new problems
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Mercury


- Formed Delta Tributaries Mercury Council (DTMC)
- Provided input into mercury monitoring and studies in the watershed
- Developed DTMC mercury strategic plan



Multi-Pronged Approach to Mercury



Status of Mercury Research

- Much better understanding of sources
 - Beginning to unravel the mercury methylation process
 - Developing the data that OEHHA needs to issue public advisories
 - Improving how we communicate the mercury message to the public
 - Have identified at-risk populations and are crafting special outreach for them
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Toxicity of Unknown Cause & Drinking Water

- Workgroups have continued to work outside of the SRWP
- Have developed strategic plans
- Are conducting monitoring and studies



Where We Are Today Regarding Water Quality in the Watershed

- Many more organizations and interests engaged in water quality issues
- We have a much better understanding of the water quality issues and can more effectively tackle the real problems
- Though we have made great progress, we continue to be challenged with regulation of the problems being ahead of our understanding of the problems

