Section D3. Reconciliation with User Requirements

There is not a specific decision which is made as a result of the data collected under this project. These data, and data collected by other organizations, will be subsequently analyzed and used by the SWRCB and RWQCB's for water quality assessments, TMDL development, stream standards modifications, permit decisions, and numerous other purposes. There are several ways SWAMP data may be evaluated and reported, as outlined below.

Establishing and Utilizing Screening Levels/Criteria/Guidelines

Typically, DQO's require the comparison of ambient measurements to established water quality standard criteria or screening levels. This allows regulators to identify waterbodies where pollution controls may be needed as well as to determine the effectiveness of controls already in place. These same data are useful for comparative analyses of data between stations and over time, and to characterize water quality conditions.

Established screening levels, standards, guidelines, and other criteria for water, sediment, and fish tissue are extensive, varied, and established for numerous purposes. John Marshak, of the Central Valley RWQCB (RWQCB 5), has produced a document which contains an extensive compendium of numerical water quality limits from the literature for over eight hundred chemical constituents and water quality parameters. An overview of this excellent reference document was provided by Jon Marshak to all SWAMP participants, and a thorough discussion held in terms of how these screening levels, critieria, and guidelines might be applied in the assessment of SWAMP program data. A summary of pertinent information regarding how to obtain this document, as well as the frequent updates to the document, is provided in **Appendix C**. The website URL address for more information on how to obtain this reference document is:

- http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/available_documents/wq_goals/index.html

There are not established screening levels and standard criteria for all parameters of interest in all media. However, the screening levels that are established serve as a guideline for substances that involve similar methods of measurement. For measurement values to be directly compared to the screening levels or standard criteria, they must be reported with confidence at or below these levels. For some parameters, available technology or costs do not permit the program to achieve this minimum level of reporting. In these cases, the screening levels or standard criteria must be viewed only as a goal and adjustments of methods are made as measurement technology changes and costs allow.

It is the intent of the SWAMP Program to develop guidelines for producing interpretive technical reports for monitoring and analysis activities. At a minimum, these Reports will be produced once every other year, summarizing the prior two years of monitoring and analysis activities.