

Stream and Wetland Systems Protection Policy

Presented by Bruce Ho

North Coast and San Francisco Bay
Regional Water Quality Control Boards

State-wide Hydromodification Workgroup

July 27, 2007

Presentation Outline

- Policy Background and Need
- Amendment Concepts
- Amendment Framework
- Coordination with State Board
- Amendment Schedule

Policy Background

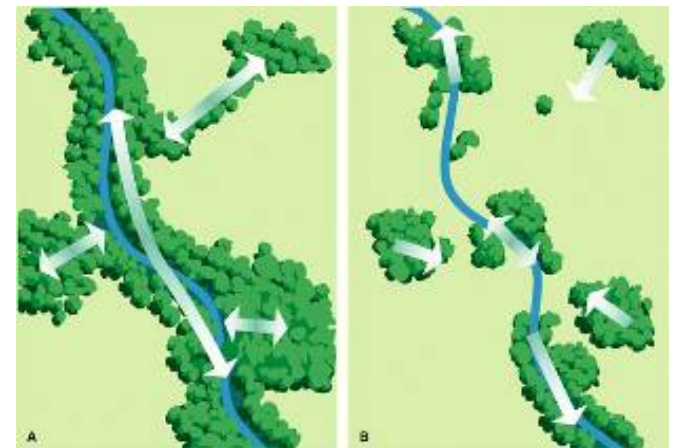
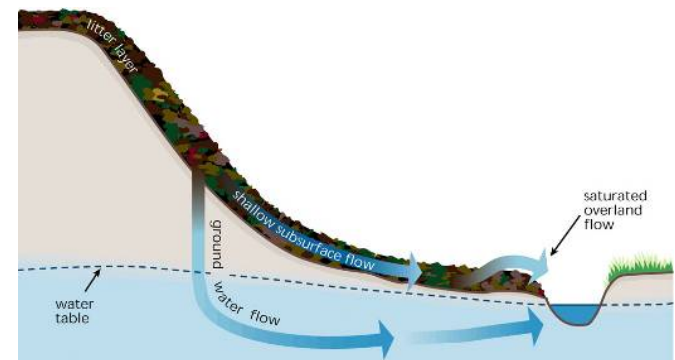
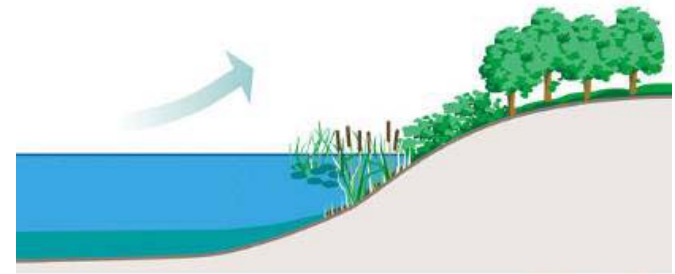
- 2004 Triennial Reviews
- Scott and Shasta TMDLs (Region 1)
- State Board Wetland and Riparian Policy
- U.S. EPA Grant

Policy Need

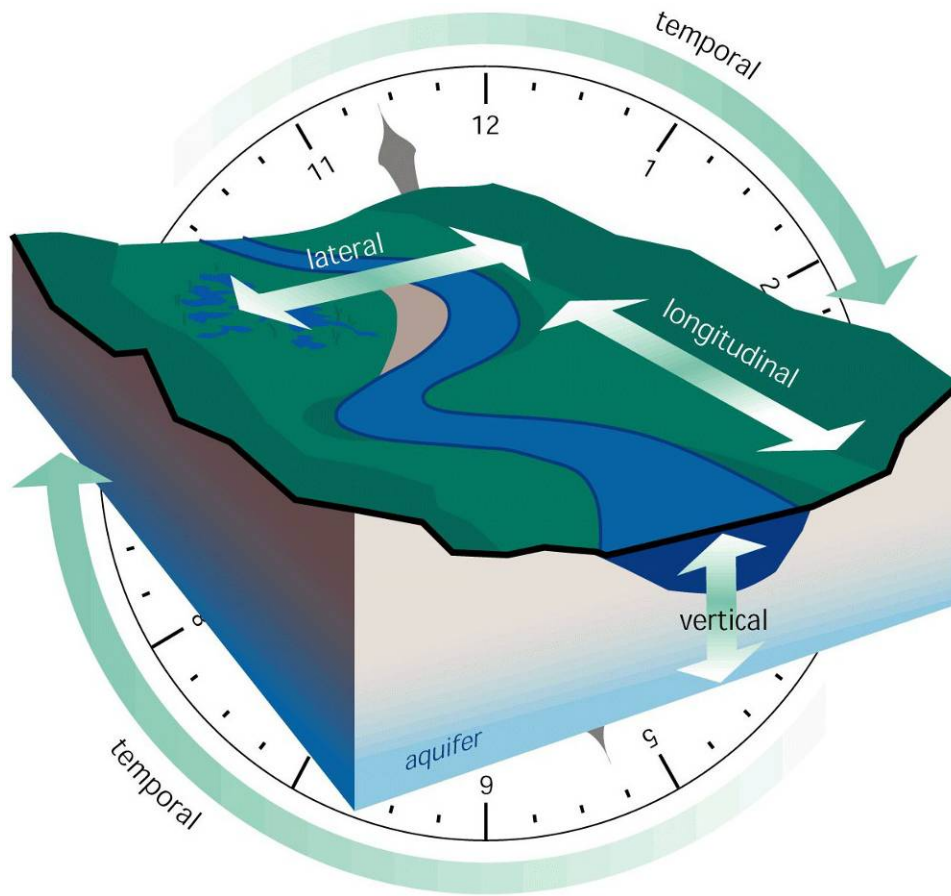
- Degradation of streams and wetlands linked to sediment and temperature impairments
- Region 1 and 2 Basin Plans do not provide comprehensive frameworks for addressing cumulative impacts of stream and wetland degradation
- Inconsistent permit requirements across programs, between projects, and between Regions

Stream and Wetland Functions

- Flood attenuation
- Groundwater recharge and discharge
- Surface water supply and replenishment
- Sediment transport and storage
- Nutrient and organic matter cycling
- Pollutant filtration
- Temperature and microclimate control
- Maintenance of plant and animal communities

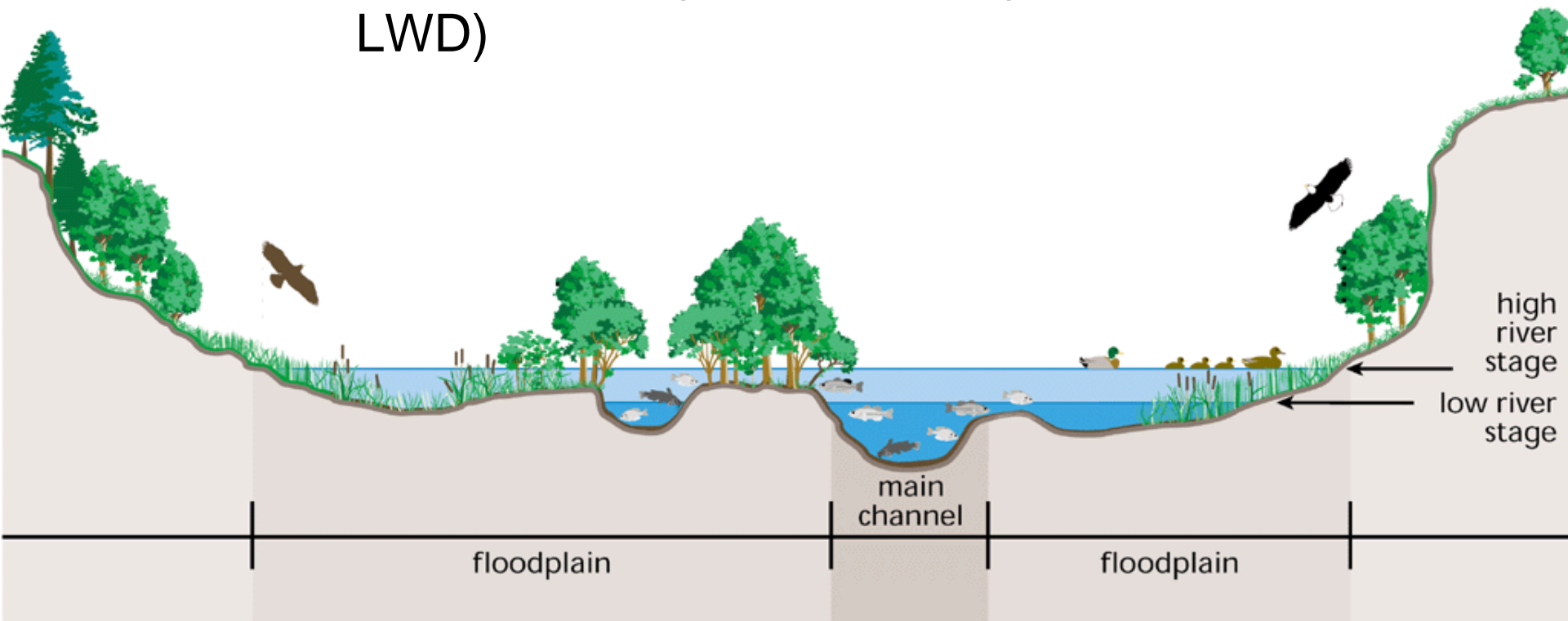


Recognizing Interconnected Systems



Protecting Riparian Areas

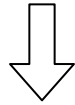
- Areas influenced by aquatic ecosystem processes (e.g., flooding, water tables)
- Areas that influence aquatic ecosystem processes (e.g., by providing shade, LWD)



Amendment Framework

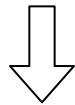
Beneficial Uses

Protect Existing BUs,
Adopt New BUs (Region 2 only)



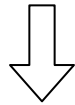
Water Quality Objectives
(narrative)

Adopt New WQOs



Performance Criteria
(narrative and numeric)

Adopt a New Implementation Plan



Management Measures

Provide Non-Regulatory Guidance

Amendment Framework

Beneficial Uses

In Region 1 (and 6), propose in Region 2:

- Flood Peak Attenuation / Flood Water Storage (FLD)
- Water Quality Enhancement (WQE)

In Region 1 (and 4), do not propose in Region 2**:

- Wetland Habitat

**Wildlife Habitat (WILD) in Region 2 recognizes wetland habitats.

Amendment Framework

Water Quality Objectives (narrative)

- Watershed Hydrology
- Wetland Hydrology
- Stream Channel Equilibrium
- Floodplain Connectivity
- Riparian Vegetation
- Wetland Structure

Amendment Framework

Performance Criteria (narrative and numeric)

- Link to new WQOs
- Provide flexibility for different watershed conditions
- Link to existing permits and programs to assess attainment of water quality standards

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • WDRs | • WDR Waivers |
| • 401 Certifications | • NPDES Permits |
| • THP Reviews | • TMDL Implementation |
| • CEQA Reviews | • Grants |

Coordination with State Board

- State Board Scoping Meetings
- MCC Discussion
- State and Regional Board Charter
- Coordinated Policy Development and Adoption

Amendment Schedule

Project Milestones	Target Completion
Public Scoping Meetings	May 2006 ✓ November 2006 ✓
Complete Draft Amendment and Send to Scientific Peer Reviewers	October 2007
Release Draft Amendment Language and Staff Report to the Public	January 2008
Public Review and Comment Period	January to March 2008
Regional Board Adoption Hearing	May 2008