CHARTER

Data and Monitoring Working Group

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program
June 10, 2015

Mission and Background

Mission   The Mission of the Data and Monitoring Working Group is to identify and address data and monitoring sources and needs related to the implementation of two of the three accountability areas established by Assembly Bill (AB) 1492: [1]

- Environmental Data Assembly and Sharing
- Ecological Performance Measures

Each of these areas is explored in the 2014 Assembly Bill 1492 Annual Report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.[2] Figure 1 at the end of this Charter shows how the Data and Motioning Working Group fits in with other elements of the AB 1492 program and with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee.

Environmental data assembly and sharing are essential for the implementation of AB 1492. Forest resources data, particularly when geo-referenced, are helpful for landowners, foresters, and biologists preparing timber harvesting permit documents, for the agencies reviewing these documents, and for members of the public who are concerned about the condition of the state's many important forest resources. In other words, these data are important elements in efficiency and accountability. While much of this data is available online, not all of the data relevant to forest management and forest conditions are readily available, or collected and reported in a consistent manner. Some of the data available online can be challenging to find for the public.

The kinds of data described above also will be important inputs to the kinds of measures and models that will be developed to provide ecological performance measures. Similarly, the data needed to support the ecological performance measures will drive the work of the Data and Monitoring Working Group to pursue the collection of additional data. Thus, it is important for the Data and Monitoring Working Group to coordinate closely with the Ecological Performance Measures Working Group. Similarly, the Data and Monitoring Working Group may be able to help support some of the data needs of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee. The Interagency Information Systems Working Group will be an important partner in developing the information management systems needed to manage these data, serve them to the public, and support data visualization.

The Data and Monitoring Working Group should take every opportunity to make use of or build onto existing data and monitoring sources and programs. These opportunities include, for example, work

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[1] http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120AB1492&search_keywords=
[2] http://resources.ca.gov/docs/forestry/AB-1492_Annual_Report_2014_to_Legislature_FINAL.pdf

conducted under the aegis of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council, CAL FIRE's Forest Practice Watershed Mapper and Cal MAPPER (currently under development), the Department of Fish and Wildlife's BIOS system, the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards' Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, and the USDA Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis program.

Duties of the Data and Monitoring Working Group

1. Environmental Data Assembly and Sharing

> **Tasks:**
> A. Identify:
>   - The important forest resources data that are already readily available;
>   - Important data resources that exist but are not readily available;
>   • Data that have not been collected using appropriate protocols or are in an inappropriate format;
>   - Opportunities to access valuable data sets developed by landowners or nonprofit organizations;
>   • Gaps in existing data series that are important to fill and opportunities to fill them;
>   - Data types that are important but are not currently available and opportunities to collect them;
>   • Limits on appropriate data use (e.g., scale of application);
>   - Ways to make data more available and more useful to all interested parties, including data visualization; and
>   • Ways to connect these data with overarching state programs and efforts to increase the availability of geospatial data.
>
>   This task is to be completed within six months of a public input solicitation and/or an initial data assembly and sharing workshop.
>
> B. Test a pilot approach to the assembly of available data on the planning watershed level to assess cumulative impacts and identify opportunities for restoration of the habitat for listed anadromous salmonids. The intent here is to test an approach similar to past legislative proposals. Subject to the availability of staff, funding, local partners, and timing of public input, up to four pilot projects are to be completed within 24 months of their initiation.
>
> C. Work with the Interagency Information Systems Working Group to identify, develop, and implement the information system elements needed to support environmental data and monitoring systems.
>
> D. Work with the AB 1492 Leadership Team to identify existing resources or seek new resources needed to complete the above tasks.
>
> E. At appropriate points as work progresses, conduct periodic outreach to key stakeholders and experts on an individual or collective basis, including public meetings or workshops.

2. Support the Data Needs of Ecological Performance Measures   The kinds of data described above also will be important inputs to the metrics and models that will be developed to provide ecological performance measures. Similarly, the data needed to support the ecological performance measures will drive the work of the Data and Monitoring Working Group to develop approaches to collecting or acquiring additional data.

> **Tasks:**
>
> A. Determine the availability of data needed to support the ecological performance measures that are being explored by or have been selected by the Ecological Performance Measures Working Group.
>
> B. Develop data, and, where funding and staffing resources are available, implement monitoring plans (see also Task 3, Monitoring) to collect or otherwise acquire the data needed to support the ecological performance measures that have been selected for implementation.
>
> C. Work with the Interagency Information Systems Working Group to identify, develop, and implement the information system elements needed to support ecological performance measurement data and monitoring systems.
>
> D. Coordinate closely with the Ecological Performance Measures Working Group.
>
> E. Work with the AB 1492 Leadership Team to identify existing resources or seek new resources needed to complete the above tasks.
>
> F. At appropriate points as work progresses, conduct periodic outreach to key stakeholders and experts on an individual or collective basis, including public meetings or workshops.

3. Monitoring   Monitoring is the process of systematically collecting and maintaining data or information about specific metrics of concern. These data need to be readily available for access and utilization by agencies or private parties who are interested in them. In general, it is preferred that monitoring data be spatially referenced (i.e., GIS -based).

> **Tasks:**
>
> A. Identify the important monitoring programs and results that are already readily available.
>
> B. Work closely with the Ecological Performance Measures Working Group, the Interagency Information Systems Working Group, and, as appropriate, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee.
>
> C. Develop monitoring plans to collect environmental data that are needed to support harvesting plan preparation and review, ecological performance measures, and, as appropriate, the work of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee.

D. The Working Group is encouraged to find partners to assist the timber harvest review team agencies[3] with monitoring plan implementation (e.g., assistance with data sets, staff, and/or financial resources). Potential partners include other programs within the review team agencies [e.g., the Water Boards' Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)] or with other agencies (e.g., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, US Geological Survey, USDA Forest Service, National Oceanographic Administration Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service, University of California, Resource Conservation Districts), or private parties (e.g., large forestland owners, conservation organizations).

E. Where needed, (i) work with the AB 1492 Leadership Team to secure funds for implementation of monitoring plans (through the normal State budget processes) and (ii) provide guidance to the implementing entity.

F. At appropriate points as work progresses, conduct periodic outreach to key stakeholders and experts on an individual or collective basis, including public meetings or workshops.

Preparation of a Work Plan

Upon establishment, the Data and Monitoring Working Group will develop a Work Plan. The first Work Plan will address the activities necessary to complete the duties described above in a timely fashion. The Working Group will review the Work Plan at the end of each fiscal year, or other times, as needed, and update it as necessary. All Work Plans will be submitted to the AB 1492 Leadership Team for review and approval. Stakeholder input will be solicited on draft Work Plans.

Tentative Major Milestones

A number of the tasks of the Data and Monitoring Working Group will be of an ongoing nature or have timeframes that are indefinite at this stage. More details on the timing of the completion of tasks will be developed in the Group's Work Plan. Some tasks with specific timelines are:

1. Complete Task 1A within 12 months of the formation of the Working Group.
2. Complete the planning watershed pilot projects (Task 1B) within 24 months their initiation, subject to the availability of staff, funding, local partners, and timing of public input.

Working Group Membership and Leadership

The Working Group will be composed of staff from the review team agencies. One member will be from the University of California Cooperative Forestry Extension staff. The review team agencies will select a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson for the Data and Monitoring Working Group. The Vice Chairperson will chair meetings of the Working Group in the absence of the Chairperson. The AB 1492 Leadership Team requests each agency to assign at least one staff person and a back-up person to the Working Group.

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[3] Departments of Conservation (California Geological Survey), Fish and Wildlife, and Forestry and Fire Protection under the California Natural Resources Agency; and the State and Regional Water Boards under the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Subcommittees

The Working Group may establish subcommittees as needed to accomplish its work. The subcommittees will operate with well-defined scopes of responsibility and clearly articulated tasks.

Consultation

When additional expertise is needed to assist the Working Group and/or its subcommittees in completing their work, assistance may be requested from the review team agencies' non-timber program staff, or from other state and federal agencies, such as NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, professional and scientific organizations, and educational or research institutions.

Public Input and Participation

Public input and participation are a very important part of the work that this Charter describes. The Working Group will be guided in this by the document, *Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program Public Process Approaches*.
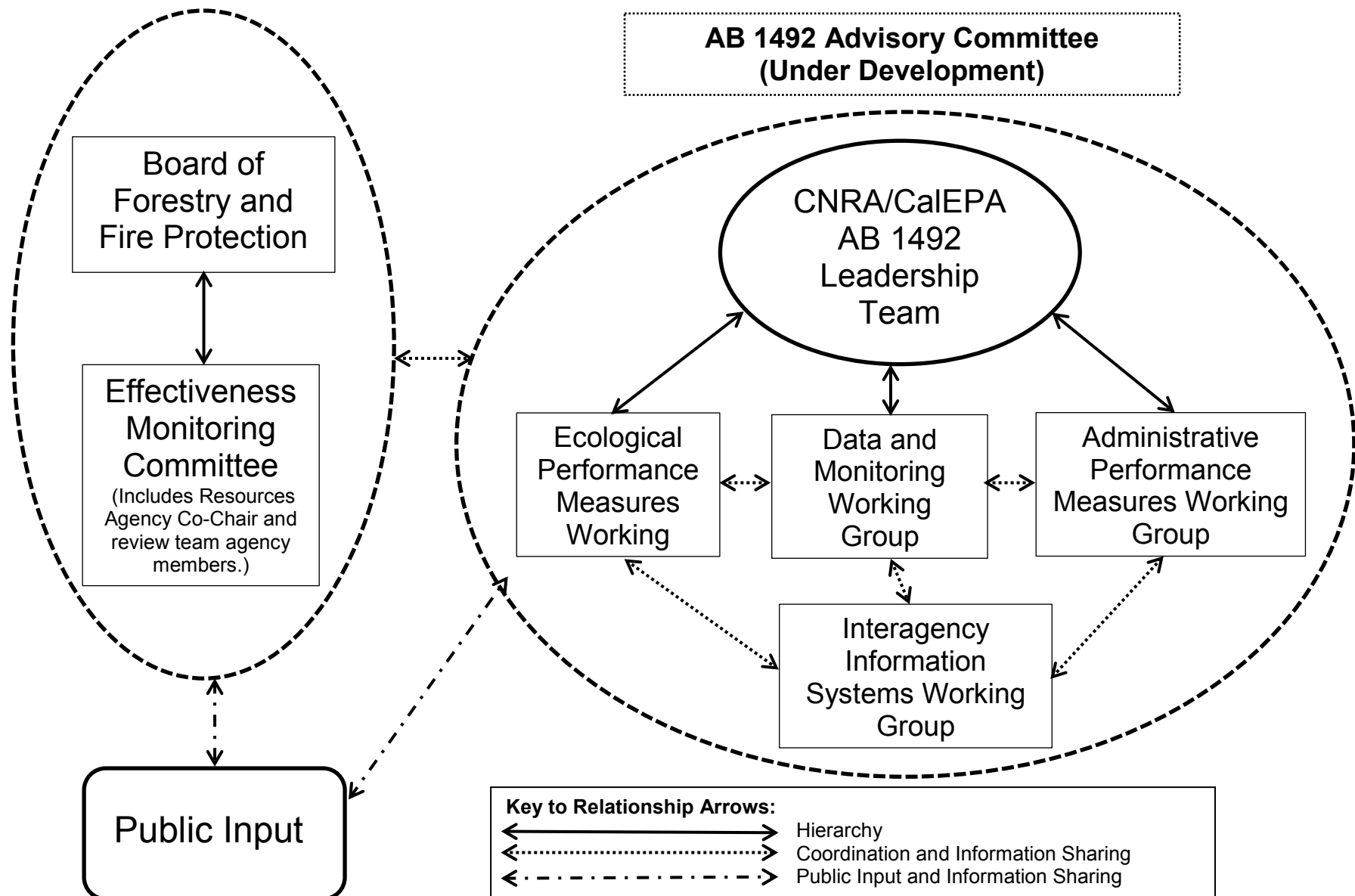
AB 1492 Advisory Committee

The work of the Data and Monitoring Working Group will be subject to periodic review and advising by the AB 1492 Advisory Committee. The responsibilities of the Advisory Group are spelled out in its charter.

Review and Modification of this Charter

The AB 1492 Leadership Team is responsible for the approval of this charter and its maintenance and modification over time. The Leadership Team will provide the public with the opportunity to comment on any significant changes it proposes to make to the charter. The Leadership Team will review the charter at least annually to determine if any modifications are warranted.

EMC at Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

AB 1492 Program at CA Natural Resources Agency and CA Environmental Protection Agency

AB 1492 Advisory Committee
(Under Development)

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee
(Includes Resources Agency Co-Chair and review team agency members.)

CNRA/CalEPA AB 1492 Leadership Team

Ecological Performance Measures Working

Data and Monitoring Working Group

Administrative Performance Measures Working Group

Interagency Information Systems Working Group

Public Input

Key to Relationship Arrows:
⟷ Hierarchy
⟵⋯⋯⟶ Coordination and Information Sharing
⟵ — ⋅ — ⋅ — ⟶ Public Input and Information Sharing

Figure 1. Organizational Framework for AB 1492 Program Structure and its Relationship to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and its Effectiveness Monitoring Committee.