

PLANNING WATERSHED PILOT PROJECTS WORKSHOP

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program

October 14, 2015

California Natural Resources Agency

Departments of Conservation, Fish and Wildlife, Forestry
and Fire Protection

California Environmental Protection Agency

State and Regional Water Boards



Overview of Workshop

- Welcome, Introductions, Logistics (Russ Henly, all)
- Background and Overview (Russ Henly)
- Origin of the Concept (Richard Gienger)
- Review of the Concept Paper (Elliot Chasin)
- Questions, Comments, Discussion (all)
- Wrap-Up Summary, Next Steps (Russ Henly)

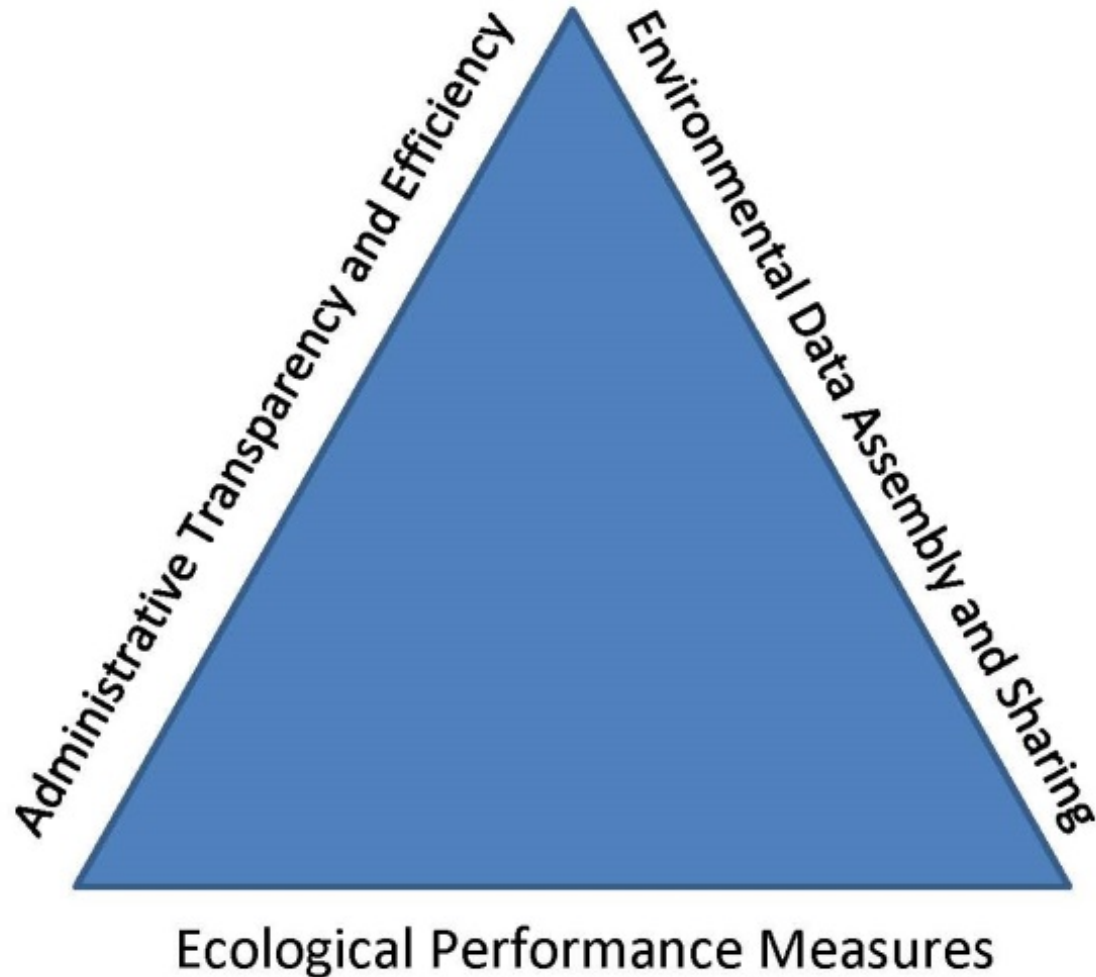
AB 1492 and the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program

- Bill passed in late 2012
- Addressed 3 areas:
 - Wildland fire liability issues;
 - Extended life of THPs;
 - **Created the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program under the Natural Resources Agency and CalEPA**

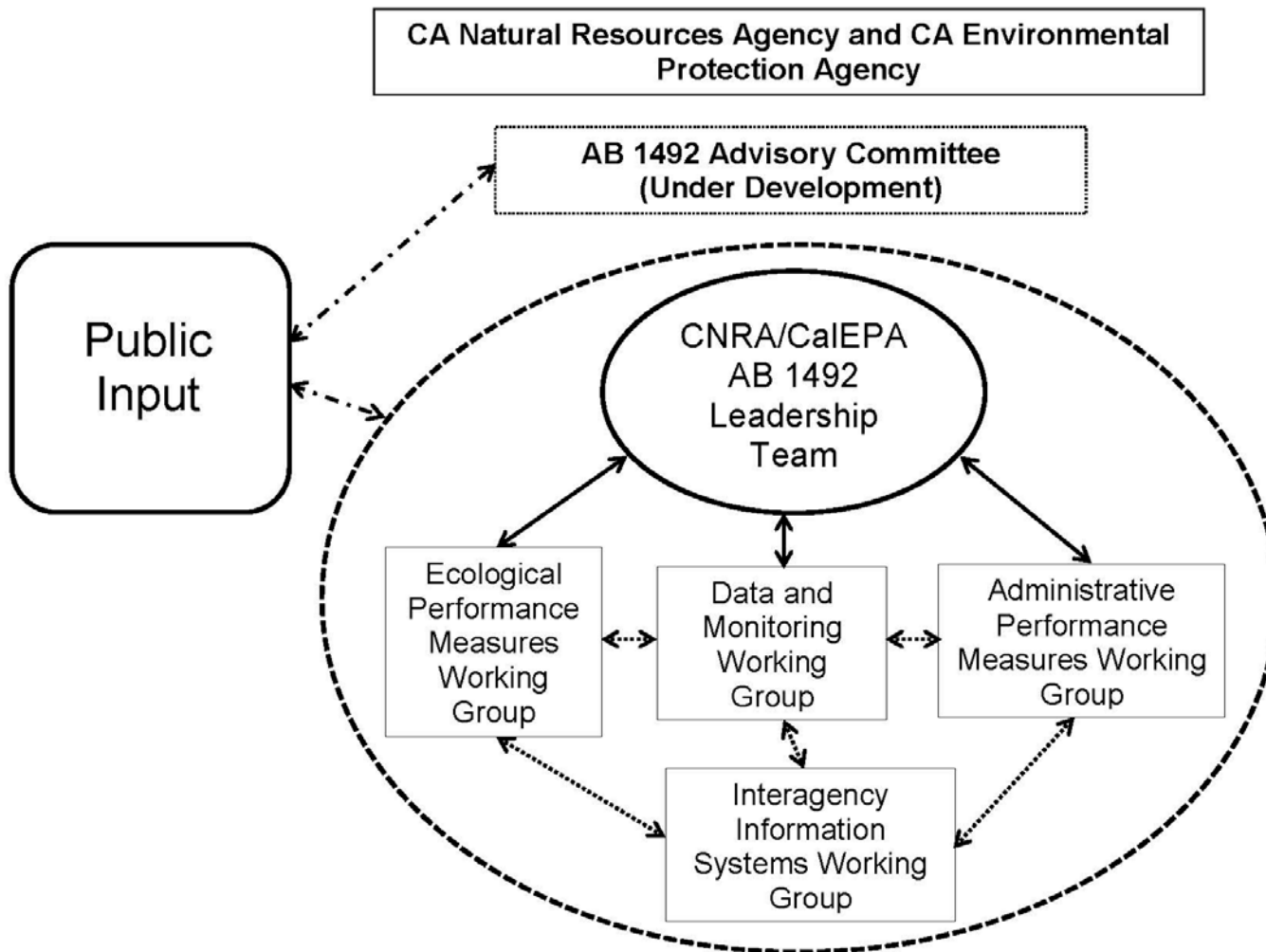
Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program

- Four major elements:
 - Revenue-generating mechanism
 - Direction to:
 - (a) improve the efficiency, transparency, and data collection of the State's timber harvest review team agencies and departments; and
 - (b) develop ecological performance measures.
 - A forest restoration program
 - Requirements for periodic reporting to the Legislature

The AB 1492 Accountability Triangle



Program Organizational Framework



Forest Restoration Grants

- DFW Fisheries Restoration Grant Program: \$3.5 million (includes carry-over from last FY)
- Water Boards Clean Water Act 319(h) Program: \$2 million
- CAL FIRE California Forest Improvement Program: \$3 million

Planning Watershed Pilot Projects

- Collaborative and multi-disciplinary (Pilot Project Working Group or PPWG);
- Data collection and characterization;
- ID of information and methods used for cumulative impacts assessment;
- ID of specific restoration opportunities;
- Draft concept paper provides details, including identifying 6 critical questions.

Forest Planning Watershed Pilot Projects

Concept Paper: **Organization**

- Introduction
- Substantive Elements
 - proposed critical questions
 - data collection and characterization
 - cumulative impacts assessment information and assessment approaches used
 - identification of restoration opportunities
- Process and Collaborative Elements
- Implementing Lessons from the Pilot Projects
- Project Reporting
- References
- Appendix

Concept Paper: Substantive Elements

- Critical questions

- Center on breadth and quality of the data contained in THPs

1. What criteria should and can be employed, at the planning watershed scale, to identify restoration needs and priorities for watershed and biological resources based on available information in THPs and other readily available sources?
2. Do past THPs, collated on a planning watershed basis, contain the information needed to guide restoration at the planning watershed scale?
3. What are the qualitative and quantitative methods presented in THPs to analyze the potential for THPs to create or add to adverse cumulative effects on watershed and biological resources?

Concept Paper: Substantive Elements, cont.

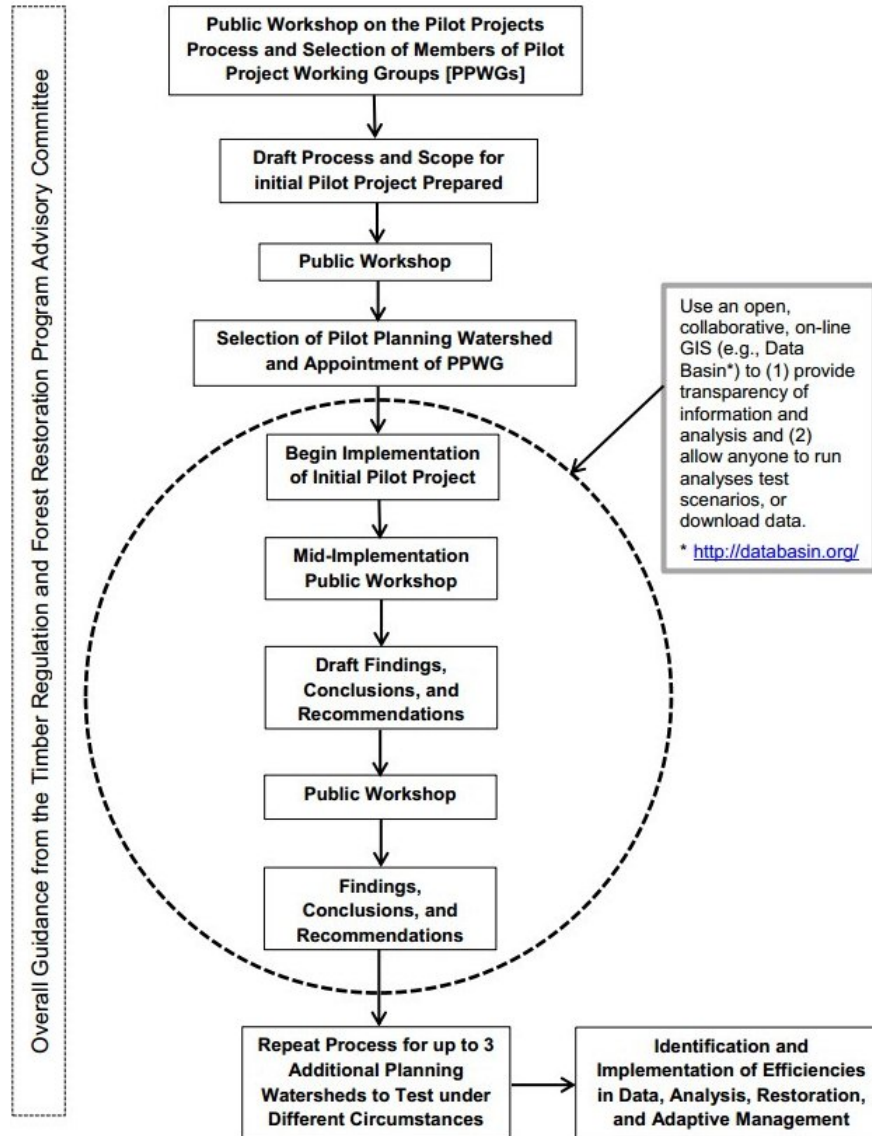
- Critical questions
 - Center on breadth and quality of the data contained in THPs
- 4. Are there major gaps in available information, on a planning watershed scale, that would be useful for THP preparation and review, and assessment of cumulative impacts?
- 5. If there are gaps, what additional information is needed and what data are available?
- 6. What restoration needs can be identified from the planning watershed scale versus needing a larger spatial context?

Concept Paper: Substantive Elements, cont.

- Data
 - Data collection will be existing spatial data found in THPs or other permitting documents and existing spatial data sets
- Cumulative impacts
 - The data collected will be evaluated for its ability to support cumulative effects analyses
 - We will catalogue the methods used in THPs for cumulative effects analysis
- Restoration
 - The information developed as part of the first two elements will be examined for its utility for landowners and restoration programs to identify where and how to move restoration projects forward

Concept Paper: Public Process

Flow Chart for Pilot Projects Process



Concept Paper: Implementation & Reporting

- Data and products will be shared with the public
- Reports will use spatial information, tables, maps, etc., and possibly include an on-line DataBasin interactive GIS project
- Report will be submitted:
 - To the Legislature via required annual AB 1492 Program report
 - Report will be used to develop recommendations to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Concept Paper: Appendix

- Usal Creek is used as a hypothetical example of a watershed that could be used for this project
- We have begun initial brainstorming on criteria that would be used to select a watershed:
 - Type of ownership
 - Number and quality of THPs
 - Availability of existing digital information
 - Presence of listed species that would benefit from restoration actions
 - Willingness of landowners to participate

Comments and Questions

- We will shift back and forth between the room and the phone;
- People in the room, please speak directly into one of the phone extensions;
- People on the phone, please put your phone on mute unless you are speaking;
- Please be brief and succinct.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Some key messages from today;
- Requesting written comments by COB Friday, October 23, submitted to:
AB1492Program.Comments@Resources.ca.gov;
- Next public workshop: Mid-November?;
- Early 2016: complete selection of initial pilot, establish PPWG, and start work.

Thank You!

Watershed Anatomy

