

California Water Sustainability Indicators Framework

OBJECTIVE

Help monitor progress to meeting water sustainability objectives through the development and application of an analysis framework. The framework also includes the development and evaluation of water footprint. The framework is being developed in collaboration with experts from UC Davis and U.S. EPA Region 9, and a wide array of stakeholders.

DELIVERABLES

Analytical Framework

- Stakeholder driven vision and vision alignment.
- Goals and objectives for water sustainability.
- Identification of a set of indicators and indices.
- Consideration of water footprint, as one way to illustrate measuring both impacts to earth systems and sustainability of practices.
- Identification of targets or desired future conditions for the selected indicators.
- Analytical and interpretation methods.
- Reporting methods.

Quantitative Analysis

- Condition and trends of the selected sustainability indicators.
- Calculation of water footprint to track sustainable use of water.
- Reporting of the indicators relative to desired future conditions.
- Evaluation of the indicators compared to water sustainability objectives.

Gap Analysis

- Identification of issues.
- Data gaps.

SCHEDULE

Phase 1 (Analytical Framework)

Workshop 1: Draft Framework review	Fall/2011
California Water Sustainability Indicators Framework	On-going

Phase 2 (Quantitative Analysis & Gap Analysis)

Scoping for quantitative analysis	Fall/2011
Workshop 2: Proposal on a Pilot analysis	Late/2011
Workshop 3: Pilot results and a proposal for extended analysis	Summer/2012
Workshop 4: Results from extended analysis	Late/2012
Draft documentation and deliverables:	Spring/2013
Final documentation and deliverables:	Fall/2013

RELEVANCE TO IRWM PLANNING

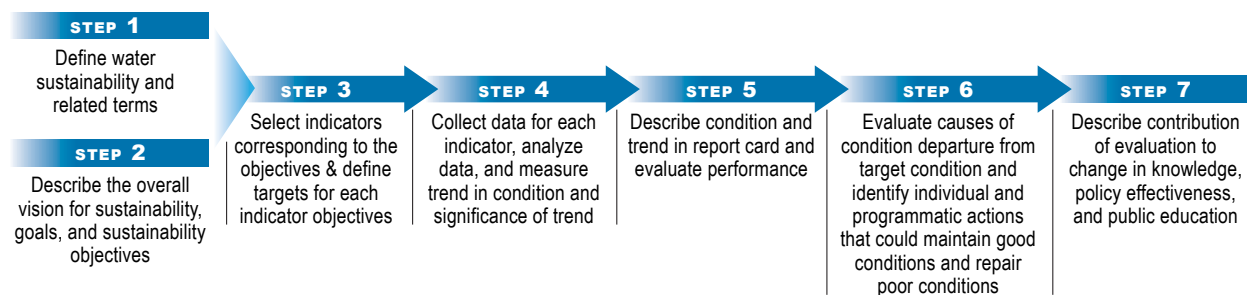
- The Framework provides a toolbox, useful templates, and a set of illustrative examples for the IRWM regions to conduct water sustainability analysis at the local scale using local data, results from which may be rolled up to regional and state level.
- By utilizing this Framework, local and regional water agencies comprising the IRWM regions may improve their water sustainability through an evaluation of condition and trends of relevant indicators reflective of their particular needs.
- The analysis may help identify issues and data gaps to inform future data monitoring needs to enable better quantification of water sustainability.
- Similar to the case for the state as a whole, the analysis on a local and regional scale by the IRWM regions may highlight policy needs to ensure local and regional water sustainability.

APPROACH

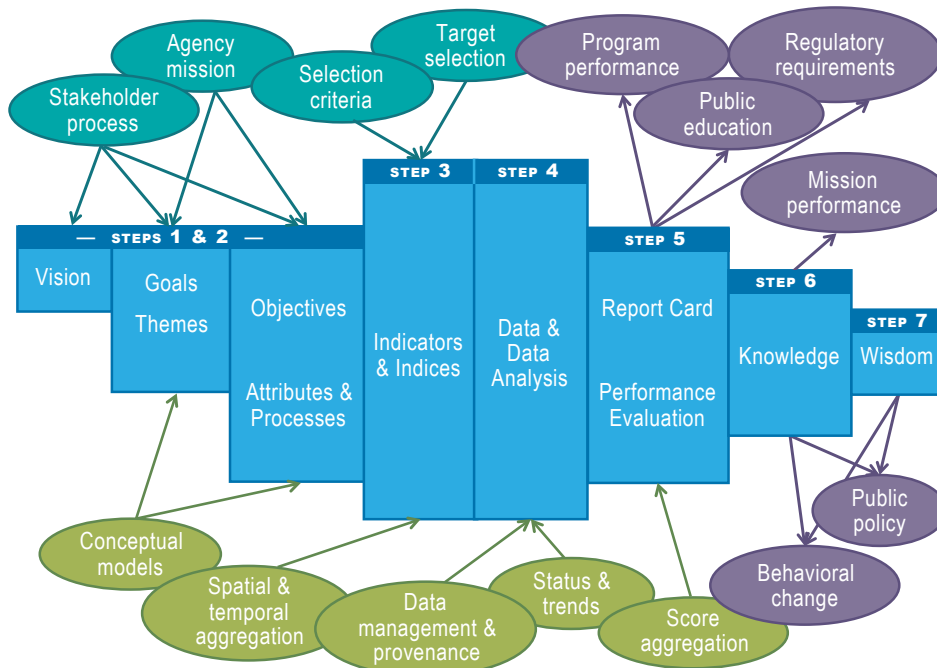
Summary

The California Water Sustainability Indicator Framework is composed of a cycle of process steps that build upon each other. The cycle begins with defining what is meant by sustainability and other terms and completes one cycle by informing policy and decision-making. The process is intended to be part of a cycle of adaptive learning and action.

Process Steps



Framework Flowchart



CONTACT INFORMATION

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