



**U.S. EPA Healthy Watersheds Initiative
California Project**
in support of the
California Healthy Streams Partnership



HWI Purpose

Identify healthy watersheds using an integrated systems approach and implement strategic programs that establish priorities for protecting healthy watersheds and restoring watersheds

Proposed Project

Under the direction of the California Healthy Streams Partnership and working through contract task order manager, Laura Gabanaki at USEPA

- 1) Use existing data from various programs/sources to identify healthy watersheds throughout California including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a) Reference Condition Management Program
 - b) Stream Pollution Trends
 - c) Bioassessment (PSA)
 - d) Statewide toxicity
 - e) Physical Habitat
 - f) Land use / land disturbance index
 - g) California Rapid Assessment Method (wetland and riparian areas) scores
 - h) Flow / hydrology / hydrologic alteration (CDEC, Water Data Library, USGS)
 - i) Fire Regime Condition Class (USFS and CDF)
 - j) Biology (BIOS, CalFish)
 - k) Fish Tissue Contaminants (BOG)
 - l) Integrated assessment (303d/305b)
 - m) California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN)
 - n) Water Rights diversions (eWRIMS)
- 2) See what integrated assessment methods other states have used and how they may be applied to California
- 3) Identify assumptions, uncertainties, use of surrogate information, and where California lacks adequate data
- 4) Tie healthy watersheds to local stewardship and education programs, via citizen monitoring groups (California action)
- 5) Add the above information to the Healthy Steams Portal in Phase II (California action)

Steps

- a) Flesh out proposal through a meeting of the Healthy Steams Partnership (October 3, 2011)
- b) Brief Water Board managers Vicky Whitney and Jonathan Bishop (October 11, 2011)

- c) Discuss first steps with USEPA and contractor, Cadmus Group (October 11, 2011)
 - All future email contacts with Cadmus must cc Laura Gabanski of USEPA
- d) Develop list of data sources to be used with contacts and web source addresses (supplied to Cadmus on October 25, 2011)
- e) Based on available data, Cadmus will propose one or more technical approaches/methodologies for integration, informed by what other states have done (draft Technical Approach submitted November 14 and discussed November 23, 2011)
- f) Bring proposal to the Monitoring Council for review and approval (November 30, 2011)
- g) Add workgroup members from Non-point Source and 401 Certification programs to help identify protection program elements
- h) Project due date: November 12, 2012

— JBM November 18, 2011