

+ Better negotiations.
Better decision making.
Better results.

Salinas River Long-Term Management Plan Stakeholder Issue Assessment



Consensus Building Institute

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CBI Role

- Provide **impartial facilitation services** to support development of a Long-Term Management Plan for the Salinas River
- Selected by MCWRA; now working with the broader stakeholder community

Approach





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Findings and Key Themes

17 Interviews with 26 people

Confidential

Findings not yet reviewed by interviewees



Salinas River Value and Future

Findings

- The Salinas River is the **lifeblood of the Valley**
- Behave more like **a natural system, recharge and management**
- It is important to **expand the scale of river maintenance and engage all property owners** in implementation
- “We need a **model for our future** that creates a path forward”
- Long-term balance between **environment and agriculture**

“The river is essential to everyone but in different forms.”



LTMP Development

Findings

- Sound, accessible scientific and technical information is key to building a shared path forward.
- Opportunity to link LTMP development with local groundwater sustainability planning efforts
- Varied perspectives on how best to manage for flooding.
- Consider opportunities to distribute implementation costs beyond individual property owners.

“We need good information that is presented in a very user-friendly way but not dumbed down.”



Suggested Keys To Success

Findings

- Transparency: **clarify objectives** and set **ground rules**
- Process must **manage for historic tensions** and areas of distrust
- Take time to understand needs and concerns from a **range of perspectives**
- **Engage private property owner representatives** that have influence, enthusiasm, and hesitation at the table
- **Build trust** by focusing on areas where there is some agreement (**win/wins**) before turning to areas of disagreement
- Use a **scientific approach** to identify key management areas
- **Manage expectations** among stakeholders (my property and river system)



Interviews on Issues for LTMP

- Operations
- Flow Management
- Water Storage + Transfer
- Water Quality Management
- Sediment Management
- Opportunities to utilize bursts from Arroyo Seco and headwaters
- Clarity around Biological Opinion Requirements
- Lagoon Management
- Flooding
- Invasive Species
- Vegetation Management
- Habitat Management, including for Fish + Endangered Species
- Conditions on key Tributaries
- Fisheries + Riparian Corridor Protection
- Fish Passage
- Food Safety
- Saltwater Intrusion



Information Needs

Findings

- Hydrogeological Models
- Data on Impacts of Stream Maintenance Program To-Date
- Species of Concern
- Best Approach to Water Releases
- Wetland Development
- High-Res Digital Image of River Corridor



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CBI Recommendations



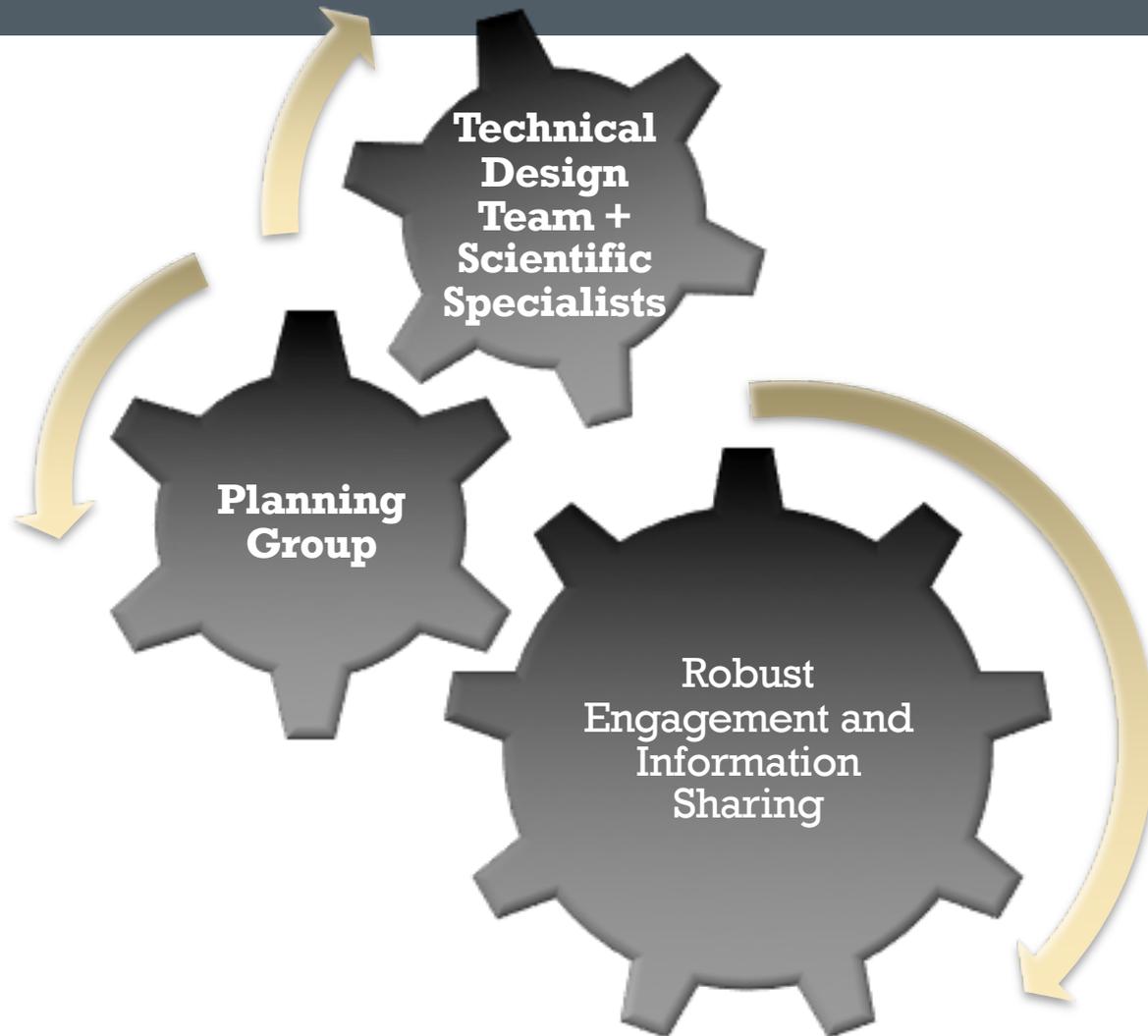
Guiding Elements

- Create a **transparent, inclusive collaborative process** for LTMP development
- Establish opportunities for **widespread participation** across interests; foster cross-interest group discussions
- Closely **coordinate with existing efforts**
- Provide sufficient time for thoughtful deliberations without exhausting people's time and resources
- Design and implement a **public engagement plan**



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CBI Recommendations



+ Roles

Stakeholder Planning Group

- “Big Picture”
- Shapes overall LTMP goals and components
- Problem solves on opportunities, challenges, implementation
- Recommends when scientific experts may need to convene
- Represent a broad set of interests
- Understands and shares information with others to build support for the plan

Technical Design Team

- “Nuts & Bolts”
- Provides detailed input on technical and scientific information
- Recommends when scientific experts need to be convened to inform process
- Helps prepare materials to support planning group dialogue
- Identify permitting needs and coordination with landowners



Planning Group (“Big Pic”)

Recommendations

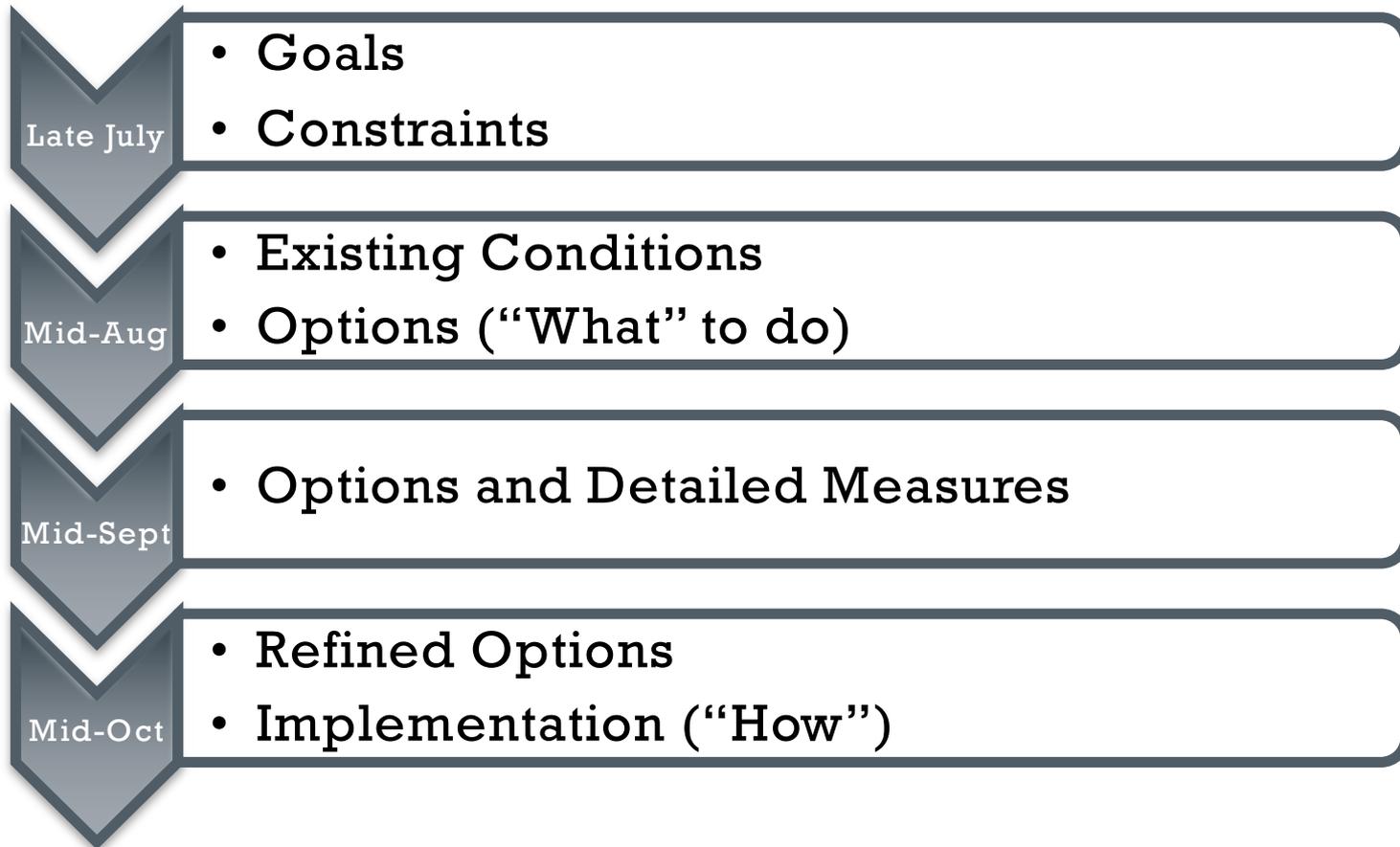
CBI advises active inclusion of the following interest groups:

- Agriculture or Landowners *along different reaches*
- Environmental - *focus on birds, fish or aquatic species, habitat & plants*
- Regulatory Agencies
- Scientific Community
- Stream Maintenance & Lagoon Management Experts
- Water Operations and Groundwater



Anticipated Topics

Planning Group





Technical Design Team “Nuts & Bolts”

Recommendations

CBI suggests experts / specialists on the following:

- MCWRA staff
- Invasive species / plants
- Lagoon management
- Stream maintenance and landowner engagement
- Groundwater planning
- Specialists on endangered or threatened species
- Permitting



Topics

Technical Design Team

- Link to Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Lagoon Management
- Stream Maintenance
- Vet Materials for Planning Group Consideration



Next Steps

Recommendations

Today – Workshop, Incorporate Feedback into Assessment

Next Week - Share Assessment Report with Interviewees

July 12 - Public Draft Assessment Report

July/Aug - Convene Planning Group + Technical Design Team this Summer

Aug - Finalize Assessment Report + Recommendations



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