DEVELOPMENT of WETLAND WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

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Oklahoma Water Resources Board
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Project Management Check-in

- Where are we?
- Where are we going?
Where are we going?

WQS

- Definition
- Draft Beneficial Uses
- Criteria
- Anti-degradation Policy

Today

- Discuss draft language for new criteria
- Provide feedback/direction to OWRB

Next Meeting (end of June)

- Review revised language for new criteria
- Consider existing criteria - Rec & Aesthetics
- Agency management briefings
Where are we going?

**Implementation Provisions**
- Exclusions Considerations - 1st Round
- Revisit exclusion considerations
- Other Implementation Provisions
  - Mixing Zones
  - Other?

**Stakeholder Outreach**
- Project Troubleshooting
- Group review of FAQ & Factsheet  **June Meeting**
- Post workgroup info & docs to web
- Stakeholder meetings
  - Individual meetings
  - Large Wetland Work Group meetings
Questions

Yosemite National Park
View from Half Dome
Criteria Overview

- 2 types of criteria
  - Numeric
  - Narrative
- Both applicable to wetlands

- Numeric – specific values
  - Values not to be exceeded address both short-term and long-term effects: example = toxics
  - Values must be exceeded: example = DO
Criteria Overview - Narrative

- Narrative - qualitative description of water quality
  - Statement prohibiting action or condition – *free from*
  - Positive statement about expected condition – *natural status*
  - Can address physical and biological aspects of water quality
  - Require interpretation & translation
    - Wetland Rapid Assessment Methods generate numerical translation for narrative criteria
Beneficial Use Applicable to Wetlands

- New Wetland Beneficial Uses
  - Wetland Habitat & Biota
  - Water Quality Enhancement
  - Flood Protection & Erosion Control

- Need criteria for protection of these uses
Wetland Criteria

3 Matters to Address

1. Retain existing criteria that are suitable for wetlands
2. Revise/update existing criteria to be accurate for wetlands
3. Adopt new criteria to fill any gaps and fully protect wetlands
Organization within Standards Document

2 Options

Option 1

- 785:45-5-3 – insert language to remove default designations from wetlands
- Create new section 785:45-5-21 Wetland Beneficial Uses & Criteria
  - Insert all wetland beneficial uses (3 new & REC & Aesthetics)
  - Insert all wetland criteria – new, revised & retained
Criteria Organization within Standards Document

Option 2

- Partially remove default designations from wetlands
- Create new section 785:45-5-21 Wetland Beneficial Uses & Criteria
  - Insert 3 new wetland beneficial uses
  - Reference default beneficial uses we want to retain
  - Insert new wetland criteria
  - Reference retained criteria associated with retained default uses
  - Insert language for wetlands applicability in retained criteria sections – example fish & wildlife prop.
  - Insert language to revise/include wetlands in retained criteria sections.
Yosemite National Park
Vernal Falls – Merced River