



Delta Regional Monitoring Program Long-Term Planning Direction 2024-2029

Purpose

This document has been developed to reflect the direction provided by the Delta Regional Monitoring Program (DRMP) Steering Committee (SC) stakeholders regarding the allocation of DRMP resources to the various efforts funded by both contributions and in-kind services.

The Long-Term Planning Direction provided by the SC serves as a road map to inform the DRMP Annual Monitoring Workplan. The Long-Term Planning Direction is developed using a strawman proposal process, which is reviewed and revised every three years to reflect SC monitoring priorities.

Background

The long-term planning direction was developed with the input of SC stakeholders, including representatives on the Technical Advisory Committees (TACs), during a series of planning meetings that occurred in 2024 for fiscal years (FY) 2024-2025 through 2028-2029.

A Strawman 5-Year Priorities proposal (the basis of the Long-Term Planning Direction) was provided to the SC in advance of a long-term planning meeting held on August 8, 2024. During the SC meeting on August 8, 2024, the following questions were asked of the meeting attendees to get feedback on the priorities outlined in the strawman proposal:

1. Does the Strawman 5-Year Plan **prioritize the right monitoring sectors** (Current Use Pesticides, Constituents of Emerging Concern, Nutrients, and Mercury) for the next 5 years?
2. Does the Strawman 5-Year Plan **prioritize the right types of efforts** (Planning, Monitoring, Reporting, and Synthesis) for the next 5 years?
3. Is there a **monitoring sector that is missing**? If yes, what is that monitoring sector?
4. Is there a **type of effort that is missing**? If yes, what is that effort?
5. In addition to the existing monitoring sectors, should money in the annual budget be allocated to a **“special studies” category** (i.e., not monitoring sector-specific)?
6. Should the long-term planning effort go out further than 5 years? If yes, how far out?
7. What policy is coming up that should be considered when prioritizing monitoring sectors?

DRMP Key Takeaways

2024 LT Planning

Feedback received during the meeting was incorporated into Figure 1, which reflects the recommended priorities for the DRMP from the SC for the next 5 years. The DRMP Monitoring Workplan is due to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board by May 1 each year for the next FY, which starts July 1. At the beginning of each year (January through April), the SC is engaged in DRMP Monitoring Workplan development for the upcoming FY. During the development of the Monitoring Workplan, the specifics regarding monitoring, reporting, and planning for each monitoring sector are refined and described, including schedules, work products, and budgets. The intent of this guidance document is to outline high-level priorities to aid those conversations.

SC Direction

The SC agreed that the strawman proposal provides the appropriate guidance for monitoring sector priorities and DRMP efforts for the next five years (Figure 1).

The **Key Takeaways** from this discussion are summarized to the right.

The strawman proposal was adjusted to include the potential to collaborate on and fund the State Water Resources Control Board's bioaccumulation program, which plans to monitor rivers (including the Delta region) in FY 27/28. The budget allocation has not changed since the DRMP will explore using Region 5 SWAMP funds allocated to the DRMP annually.



TAKEAWAY 1

Appropriate Monitoring Sector Priorities

Identify ways to connect monitoring to fish and food web monitoring
Use other programs (e.g. bioaccumulation monitoring) to shorten planning time



TAKEAWAY 2

Correct DRMP Effort Priorities

Increase efforts to synthesize information collected and coordinate with other programs



TAKEAWAY 3

Emphasis on Outreach and Coordination

Identify a vehicle to use SEP funds
Maximize efforts to conduct outreach with other collaborators
Coordinate to maximize resources and identify data gaps



TAKEAWAY 4

Holistic Approach is a Benefit

Evaluate water quality concerns holistically rather than through individual permit requirements.



TAKEAWAY 5

LT Planning Timeframe

Long term planning should continue to look five (5) years into the future

Figure 1. Strawman 5-Year Priorities. Key: orange = planning, blue = monitoring (including modeling and special studies), green = reporting. The color coding in this figure reflects what most of the effort for the fiscal year (FY) is focused on. The nutrient monitoring referenced in FY 27-28 and FY 28-29 assumes that \$150,000 will continue to be allocated for Focus Area #3 for 5 years. Mercury monitoring in FY 27/28 assumes contributing to the State Board bioassessment program.

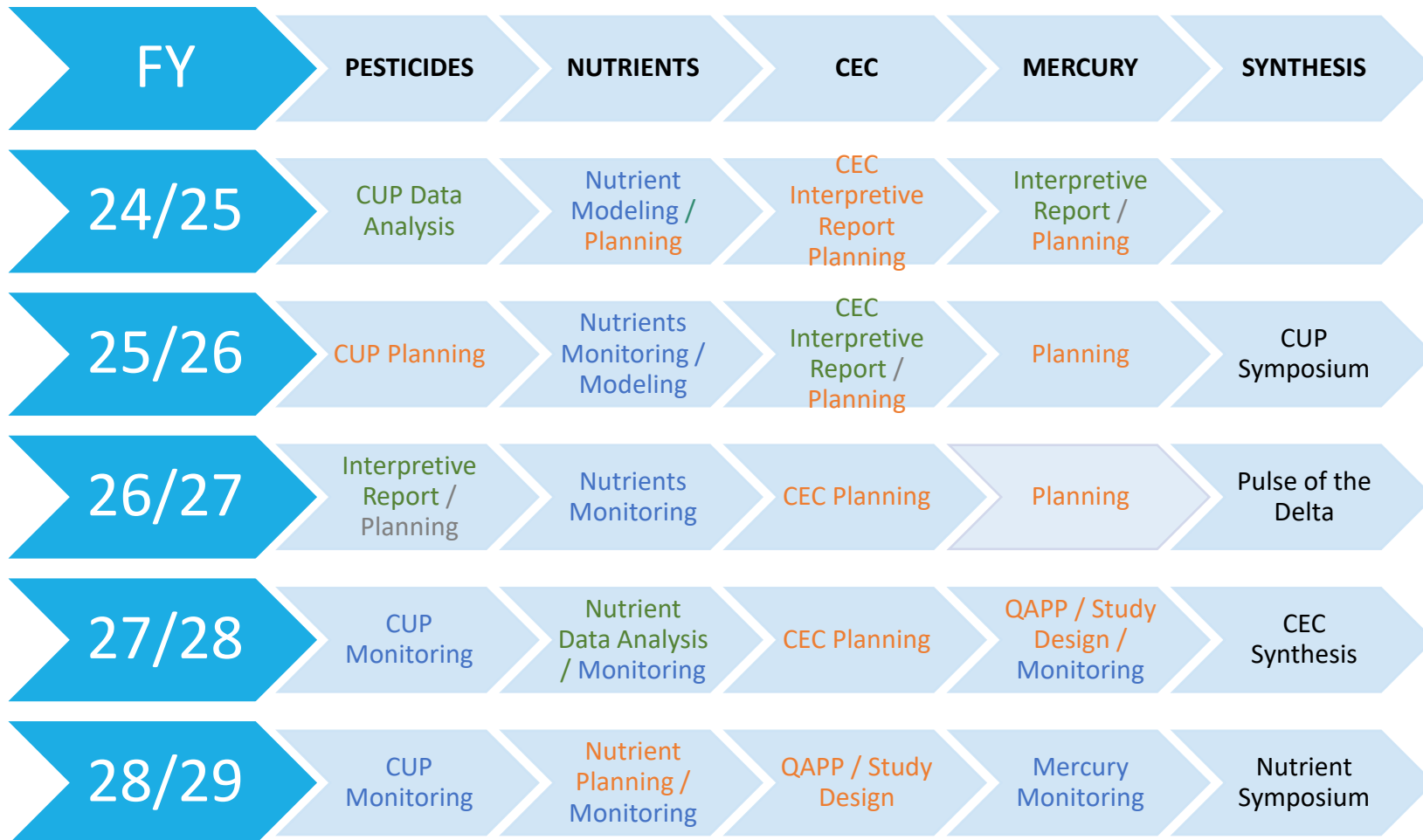


Figure 2. 5-Year Budget Estimates Associated with Priorities Outlined in Figure 1.

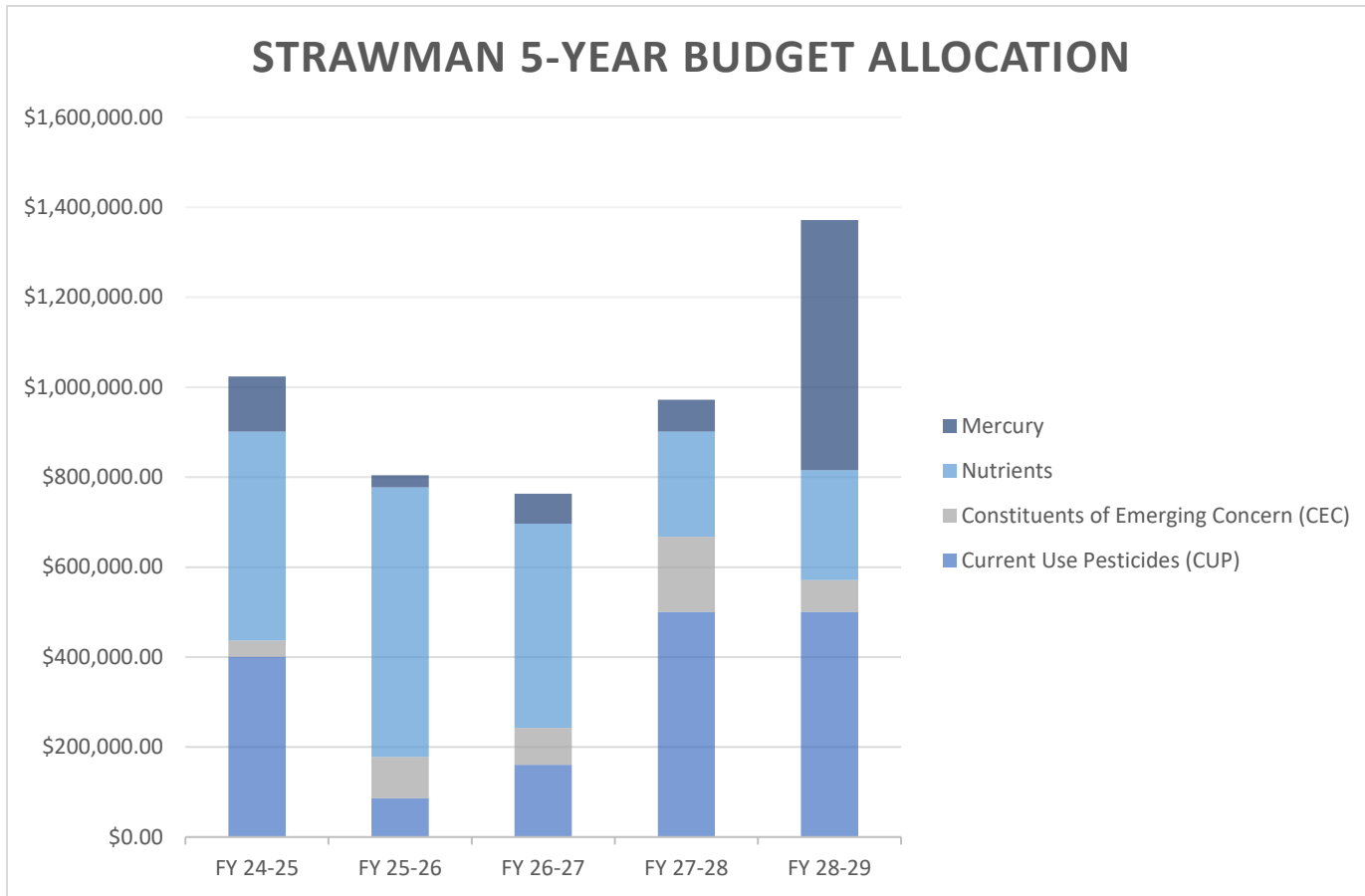


Figure 3. 5-Year Budget Estimates by Fiscal Year, Monitoring Sector, and Type of Effort.

