Integrating Watershed Management Efforts

Planning and Regulatory Processes

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Everyone's an Expert

- Every agency, and every department within an agency, has their own version of "Watershed Management", based on their specific mandated purpose.
  - EPA/Regional Boards looks at water quality, watershed wide.
  - Flood Districts look at flooding, watershed wide.
  - Corps ecosystem projects look at habitat, watershed wide.

Integrated Management

- What is single-purpose watershed management?
- How can anyone separately manage their part of an integrated system?
- Watershed: Everything in a watershed interacts with one another. People, roads, water resources, sewers, parks, shopping malls, houses, schools, habitat, water quality, etc.
- Management: Strategically **coordinating** the use of resources to achieve a desired outcome.

Solutions

- So how do we coordinate everything and everyone in a watershed in order to achieve a healthy ecosystem?
- Know your role in the bigger picture.
  - Everyone plays a role, based on the way they impact land and water.
- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Look for opportunities to collaborate.
- Be prepared to evolve.

What's the Corps' Role?

Civil Projects

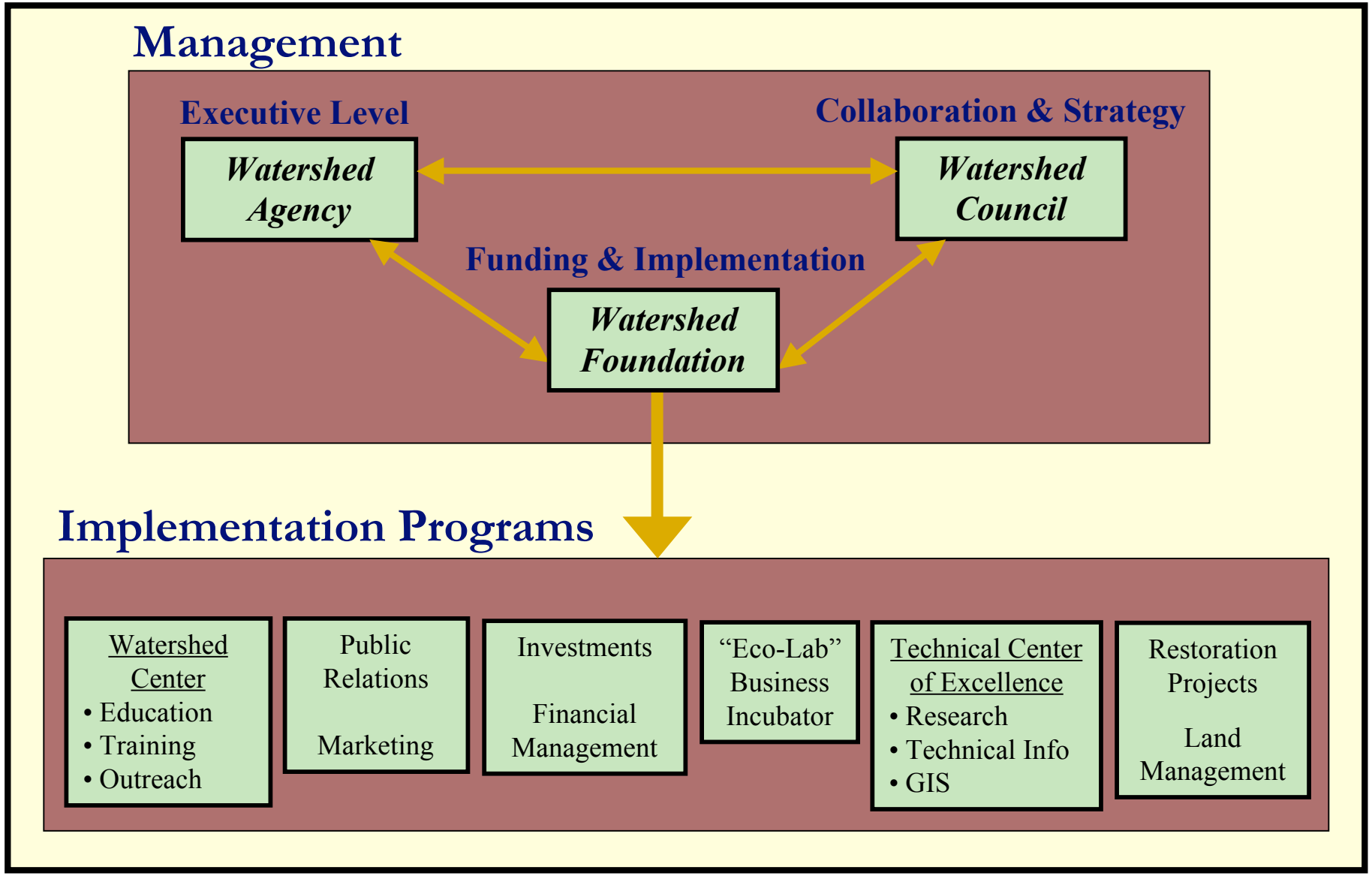
&

Regulation

How Our Civil Works Process Fits In

- Watershed Studies allow for planning flexibility
- Newport Bay Watershed Management Plan
  - Urban Design
    - Including possible Corps Ecosystem Restoration Projects
  - Finance
    - We are a funding mechanism
  - Data
    - We collect some data. How can others use this?
  - Policy & Regulation
  - Communication
  - Organizational Structure
    - Land Manager to coordinate Corps projects along with other activities in the watershed
    - Forum for collaboration across stakeholders & interests.

Local Mechanisms & Big Picture



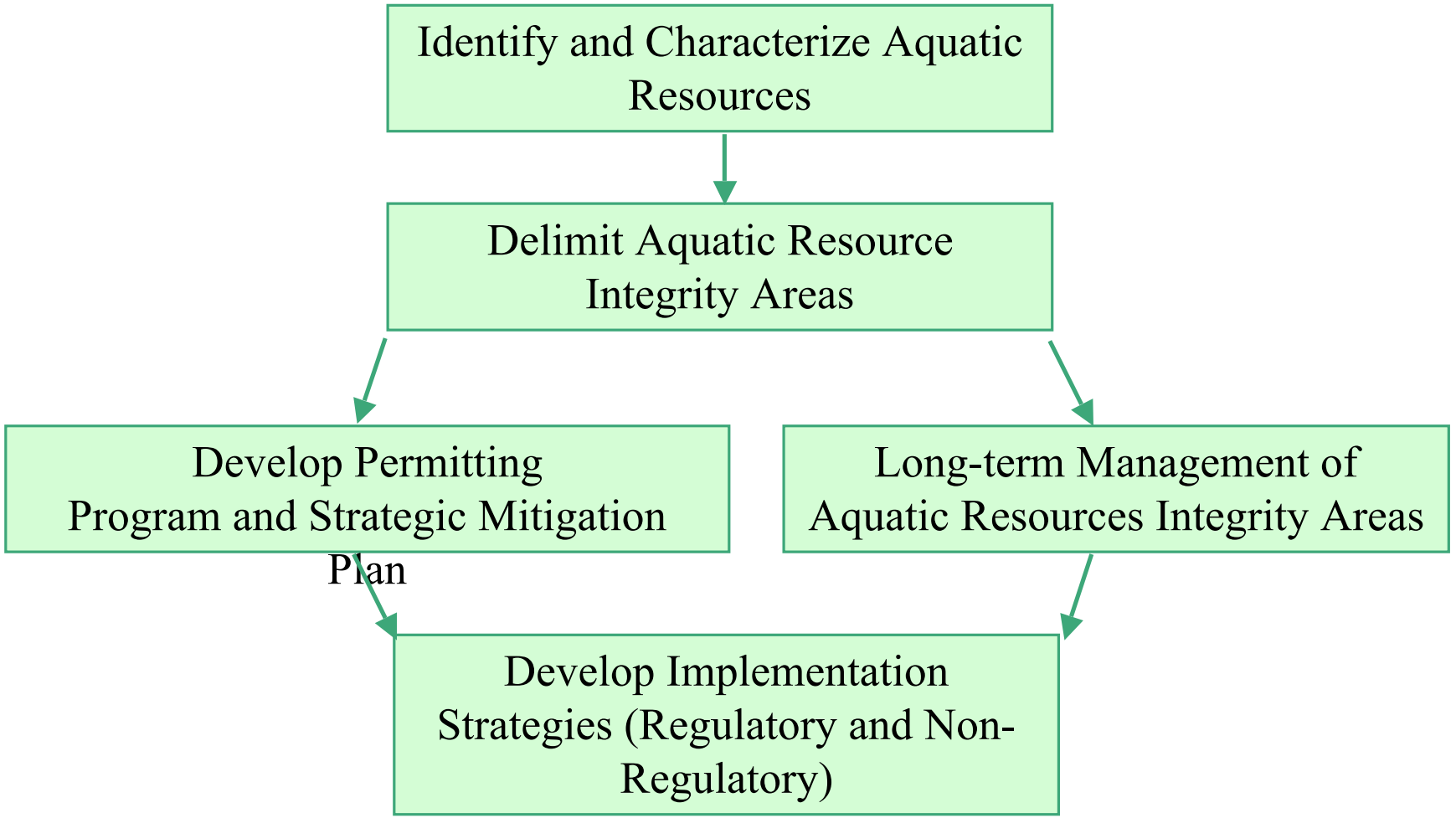
SAMP as a Tool for Applying the Watershed Approach to the Regulatory Process

- Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) is different from the conventional regulatory process
  - Conventional permitting is project-by-project and doesn't usually analyze project as part of watershed system
  - SAMP is a collaborative watershed-based plan
    - Comprehensive planning approach to address regulatory issues
    - Improved regulatory and resource agency coordination
    - Enhanced efficiency of the Corps 404 program
    - Coordinated approach to permitting with California Department of Fish and Game
    - Increased regulatory predictability for the regulated community

How This Tool Works

- Phase I
  - Aquatic resource identification (planning level delineation)
  - Aquatic resource characterization (landscape level functional assessment)
  - Supplemental technical studies (hydrology, water quality, and habitat)
- Phase II
  - Analytical framework based on integrity of aquatic resources
  - Analysis of known projects, anticipated regulated activities
  - Permitting program, including Mitigation Framework
  - Strategic Mitigation Plan and Mitigation Coordination Program (strategy for restoration and conservation program)
  - Issuance of draft SAMP and draft EIS/EIR
- Phase III
  - Final SAMP and Final EIS/EIR
  - Establishment of permit process (LOP Procedures, RGP, Mitigation Framework)

Approach for San Diego Creek Watershed SAMP



Outcome: Informed Decisions