

6. *Salt/Nutrient Management Plans*

a. *Introduction.*

- (1) Some groundwater basins in the state contain salts and nutrients that exceed or threaten to exceed water quality objectives established in the applicable Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans), and not all Basin Plans include adequate implementation procedures for achieving or ensuring compliance with the water quality objectives for salt or nutrients. These conditions can be caused by natural soils/conditions, discharges of waste, irrigation using surface water, groundwater or recycled water and water supply augmentation using surface or recycled water. Regulation of recycled water alone will not address these conditions.
- (2) It is the intent of this Policy that salts and nutrients from all sources be managed on a basin-wide or watershed-wide basis in a manner that ensures attainment of water quality objectives and protection of beneficial uses. The State Water Board finds that the appropriate way to address salt and nutrient issues is through the development of regional or subregional salt and nutrient management plans rather than through imposing requirements solely on individual recycled water projects.

b. *Adoption of Salt/ Nutrient Management Plans.*

- (1) The State Water Board recognizes that, pursuant to the letter dated December 19, 2008 and attached to the Resolution adopting this Policy, the local water and wastewater entities, together with local salt/nutrient contributing stakeholders, will fund locally driven and controlled, collaborative processes open to all stakeholders that will prepare salt and nutrient management plans for each basin/sub-basin in California, including compliance with CEQA and participation by Regional Water Board staff.
 - (a) It is the intent of this Policy for every groundwater basin/sub-basin in California to have a consistent salt/nutrient management plan. The degree of specificity within these plans and the length of these plans will be dependent on a variety of site-specific factors, including but not limited to size and complexity of a basin, source water quality, stormwater recharge, hydrogeology, and aquifer water quality. It is also the intent of the State Water Board that because stormwater is typically lower in nutrients and salts and can augment local water supplies, inclusion of a significant stormwater use and recharge component within the salt/nutrient management plans is critical to the long-term sustainable use of water in California. Inclusion of stormwater recharge is consistent with State Water Board Resolution No. 2005-06, which establishes sustainability as a core value for State Water Board programs and

also assists in implementing Resolution No. 2008-30, which requires sustainable water resources management and is consistent with Objective 3.2 of the State Water Board Strategic Plan Update dated September 2, 2008.

- (b) Salt and nutrient plans shall be tailored to address the water quality concerns in each basin/sub-basin and may include constituents other than salt and nutrients that impact water quality in the basin/sub-basin. Such plans shall address and implement provisions, as appropriate, for all sources of salt and/or nutrients to groundwater basins, including recycled water irrigation projects and groundwater recharge reuse projects.
 - (c) Such plans may be developed or funded pursuant to the provisions of Water Code sections 10750 *et seq.* or other appropriate authority.
 - (d) Salt and nutrient plans shall be completed and proposed to the Regional Water Board within five years from the date of this Policy unless a Regional Water Board finds that the stakeholders are making substantial progress towards completion of a plan. In no case shall the period for the completion of a plan exceed seven years.
 - (e) The requirements of this paragraph shall not apply to areas that have already completed a Regional Water Board approved salt and nutrient plan for a basin, sub-basin, or other regional planning area that is functionally equivalent to paragraph 6(b)3.
 - (f) The plans may, depending upon the local situation, address constituents other than salt and nutrients that adversely affect groundwater quality.
- (2) Within one year of the receipt of a proposed salt and nutrient management plan, the Regional Water Boards shall consider for adoption revised implementation plans, consistent with Water Code section 13242, for those groundwater basins within their regions where water quality objectives for salts or nutrients are being, or are threatening to be, exceeded. The implementation plans shall be based on the salt and nutrient plans required by this Policy.
- (3) Each salt and nutrient management plan shall include the following components:
- (a) A basin/sub-basin wide monitoring plan that includes an appropriate network of monitoring locations. The scale of the basin/sub-basin monitoring plan is dependent upon the site-specific conditions and shall be adequate to provide a reasonable,

cost-effective means of determining whether the concentrations of salt, nutrients, and other constituents of concern as identified in the salt and nutrient plans are consistent with applicable water quality objectives. Salts, nutrients, and the constituents identified in paragraph 6(b)(1)(f) shall be monitored. The frequency of monitoring shall be determined in the salt/nutrient management plan and approved by the Regional Water Board pursuant to paragraph 6(b)(2).

- (i) The monitoring plan must be designed to determine water quality in the basin. The plan must focus on basin water quality near water supply wells and areas proximate to large water recycling projects, particularly groundwater recharge projects. Also, monitoring locations shall, where appropriate, target groundwater and surface waters where groundwater has connectivity with adjacent surface waters.
 - (ii) The preferred approach to monitoring plan development is to collect samples from existing wells if feasible as long as the existing wells are located appropriately to determine water quality throughout the most critical areas of the basin.
 - (iii) The monitoring plan shall identify those stakeholders responsible for conducting, compiling, and reporting the monitoring data. The data shall be reported to the Regional Water Board at least every three years.
- (b) A provision for annual monitoring of Emerging Constituents/ Constituents of Emerging Concern (e.g., endocrine disrupters, personal care products or pharmaceuticals) (CECs) consistent with recommendations by CDPH and consistent with any actions by the State Water Board taken pursuant to paragraph 10(b) of this Policy.
 - (c) Water recycling and stormwater recharge/use goals and objectives.
 - (d) Salt and nutrient source identification, basin/sub-basin assimilative capacity and loading estimates, together with fate and transport of salts and nutrients.
 - (e) Implementation measures to manage salt and nutrient loading in the basin on a sustainable basis.
 - (f) An antidegradation analysis demonstrating that the projects included within the plan will, collectively, satisfy the requirements of Resolution No. 68-16.

Waterbodies



Standards



Assessment

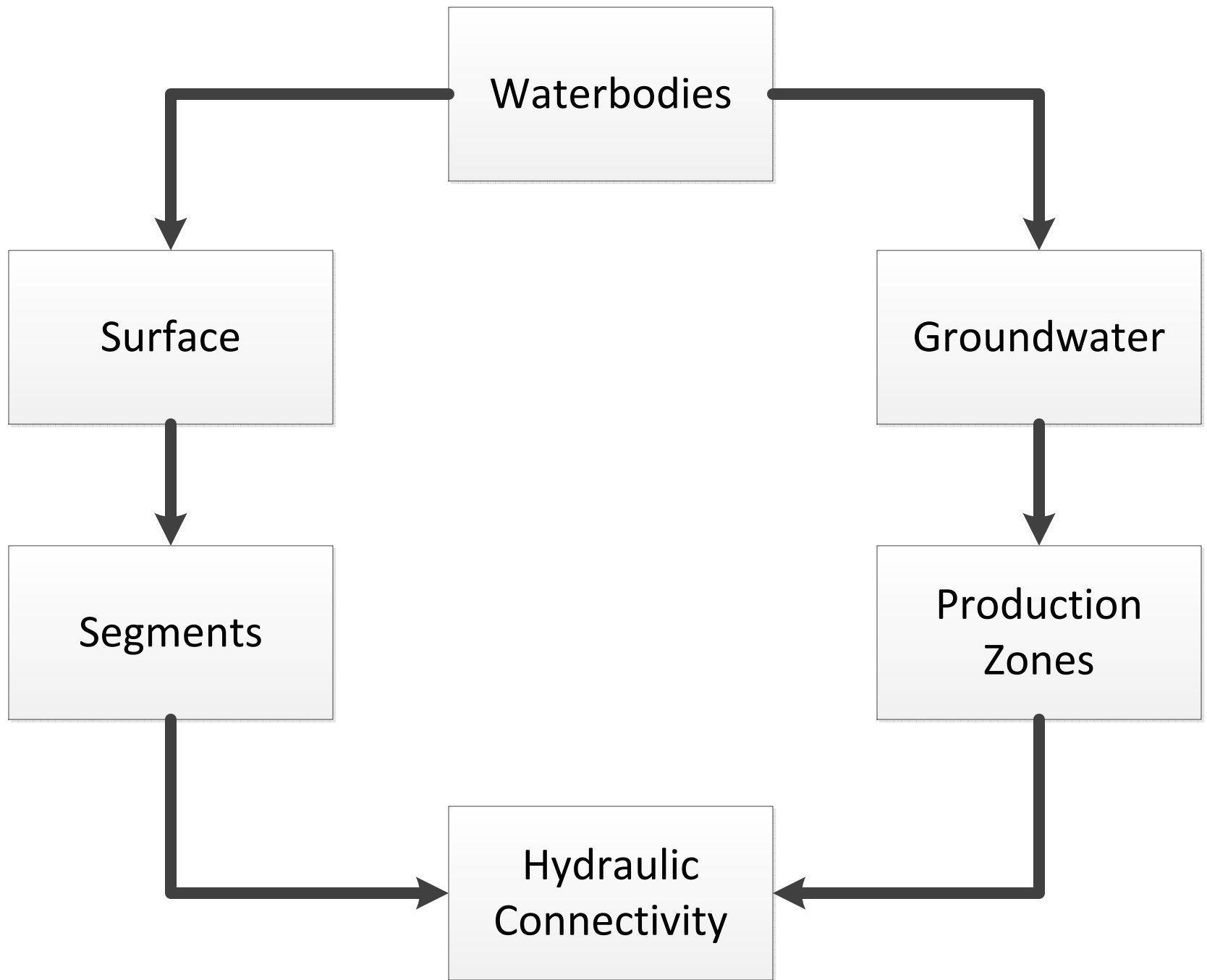


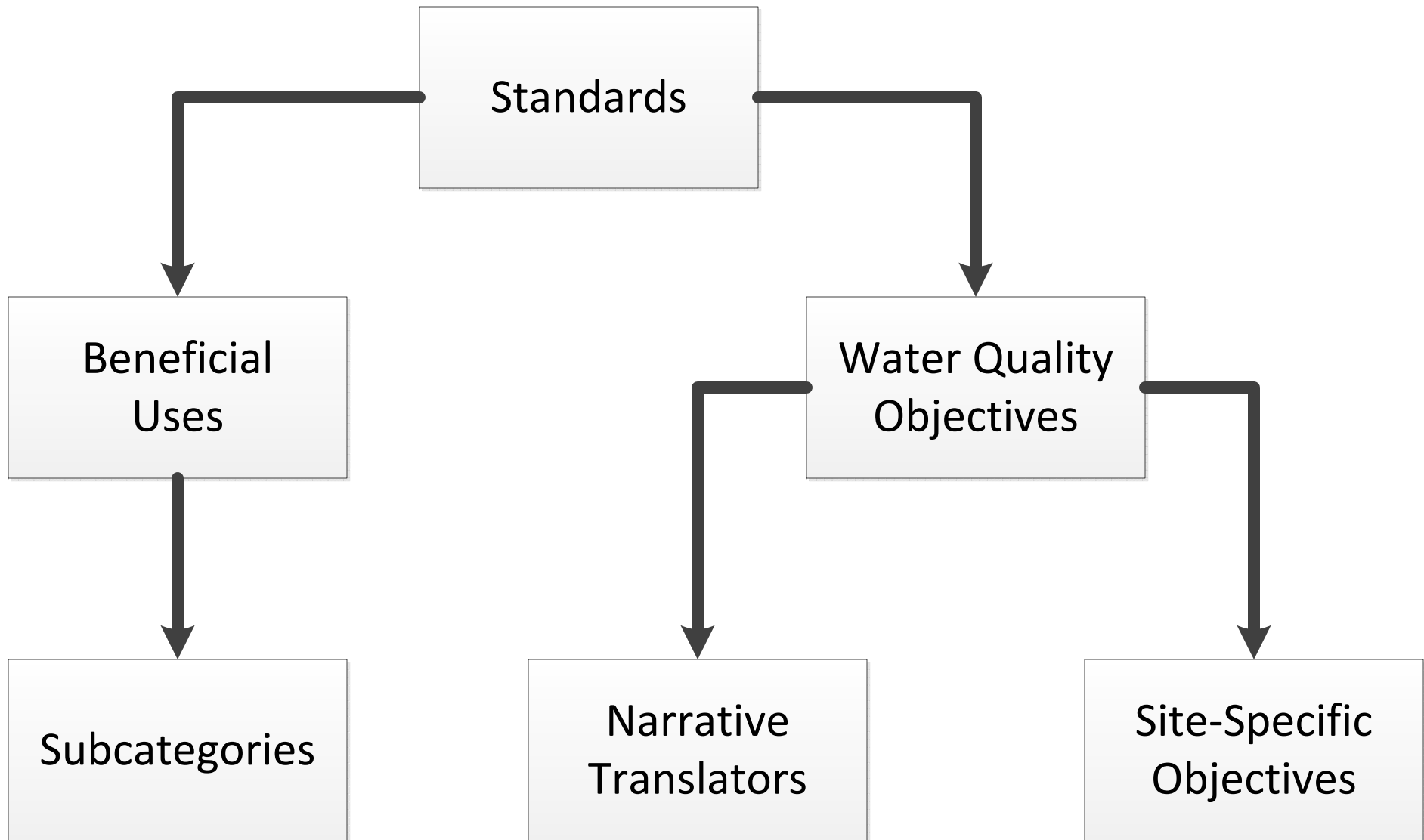
Implementation

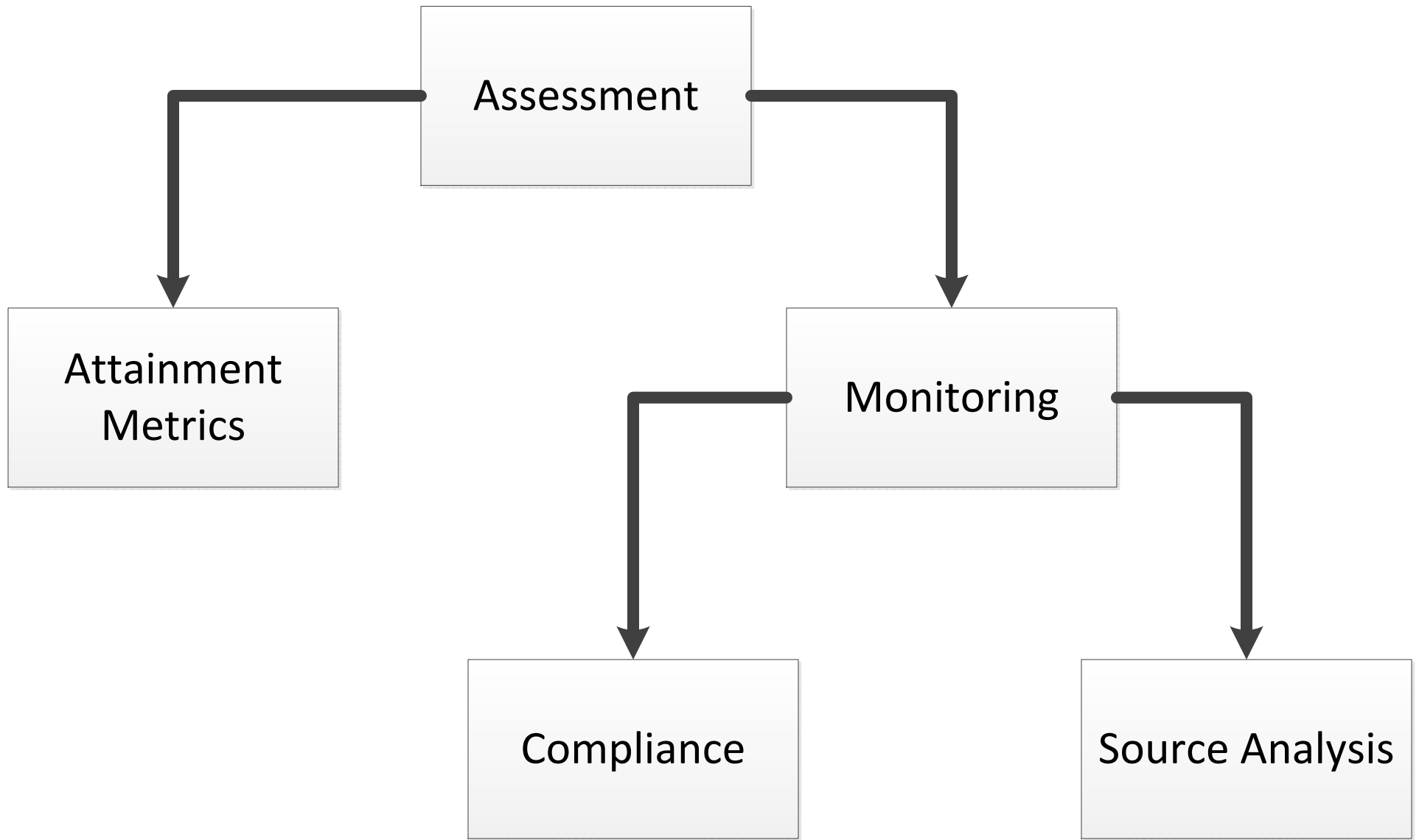
BASIN PLAN

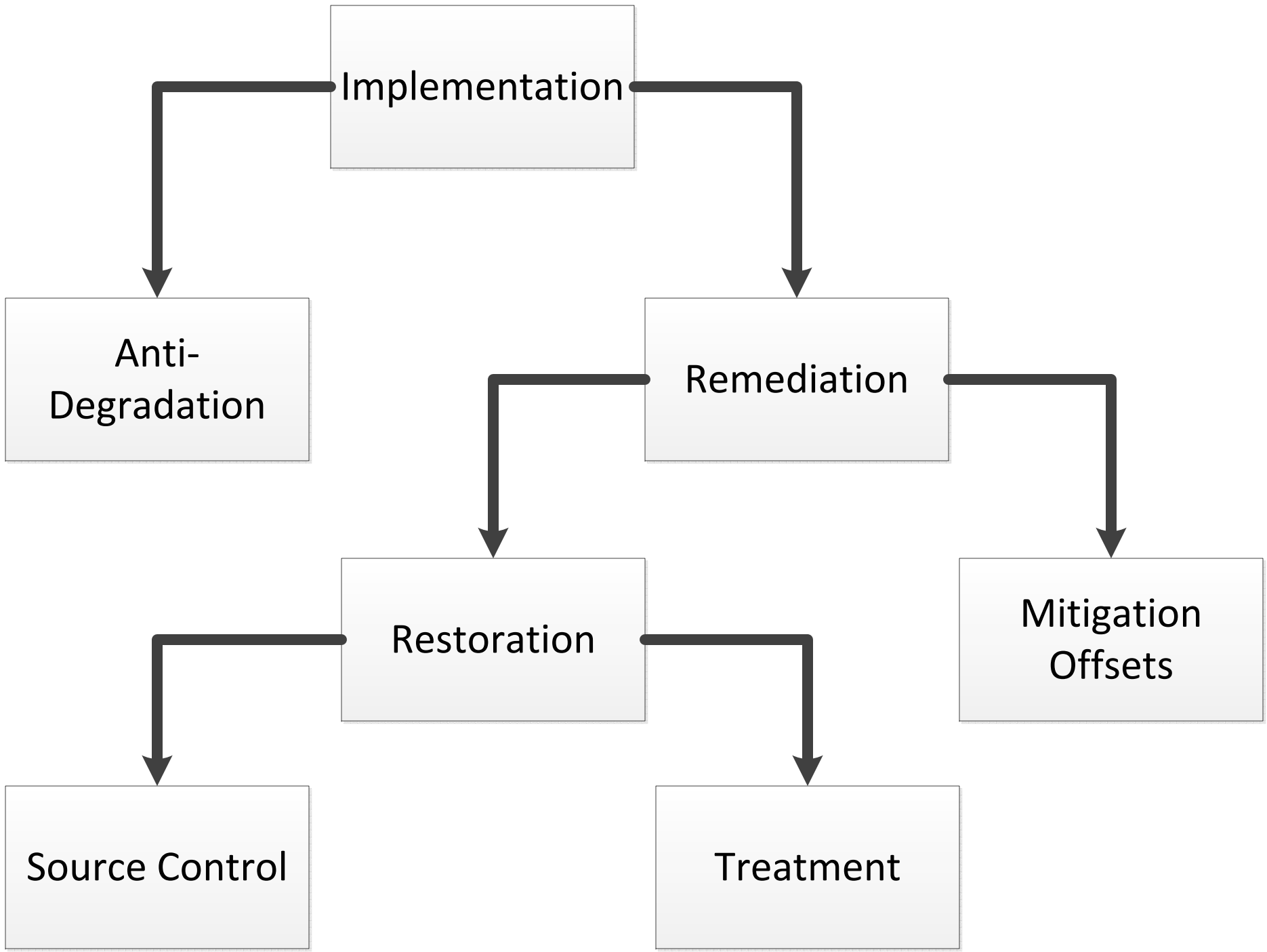


SNMP









Tier	Description	Focal Areas	Technical Tasks	Policy Decisions
1	WATERBODIES	Surface	GIS Maps	
			Map Characteristics	
		Groundwater	Map Connectivity	
			Identify Aquifers	Define "Pt. of Use"
		Identify Production Zones		
2	STANDARDS	MUN Uses	Map Supply Intakes	88-63 Exceptions
			Map Effluent Discharges	Define Subcategories
		MUN Objectives	Quantify EC Impacts	Define EC Thresholds
		AG Uses	Map Crops	Ag Zoning Rules
			Map Limiting Conditions	
		Ag. Objectives	Crop Sensitivity	Define Existing Use
	Define Most Sensitive Use			
3	ASSESSMENT	Attainment Metrics	Assess Available Data	Points-of-Compliance
			Assess Data Quality	Spatial Averaging
			# Historic Quality	Temporal Averaging
			# Current Quality	Threshold Values
		Surveillance Plan	W.Q. Monitoring Program	Action Triggers
			Source Analysis	
4	IMPLEMENTATION	Anti-Degradation	# Assimilative Capacity	Define Thresholds for Degradation, Assim. Cap, & "Maximum Benefit"
			# Trend	
		Restoration	Source Control Projects	
			Treatment Projects	
		Offsets	ID Projects	Define Conditions
		Variances		