

Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable

Water & Energy Issues in the West

National Renewal Energy Laboratory
Golden, Colorado

David Berry Manager and John Wells, SWRR Co-Chair

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable



A national collaboration of federal, state, local, corporate, non-profit, and academic interests

A subcommittee of the
Federal Advisory Committee on
Water Information

Our Mission

To promote sustainability of the nation's resources through ...

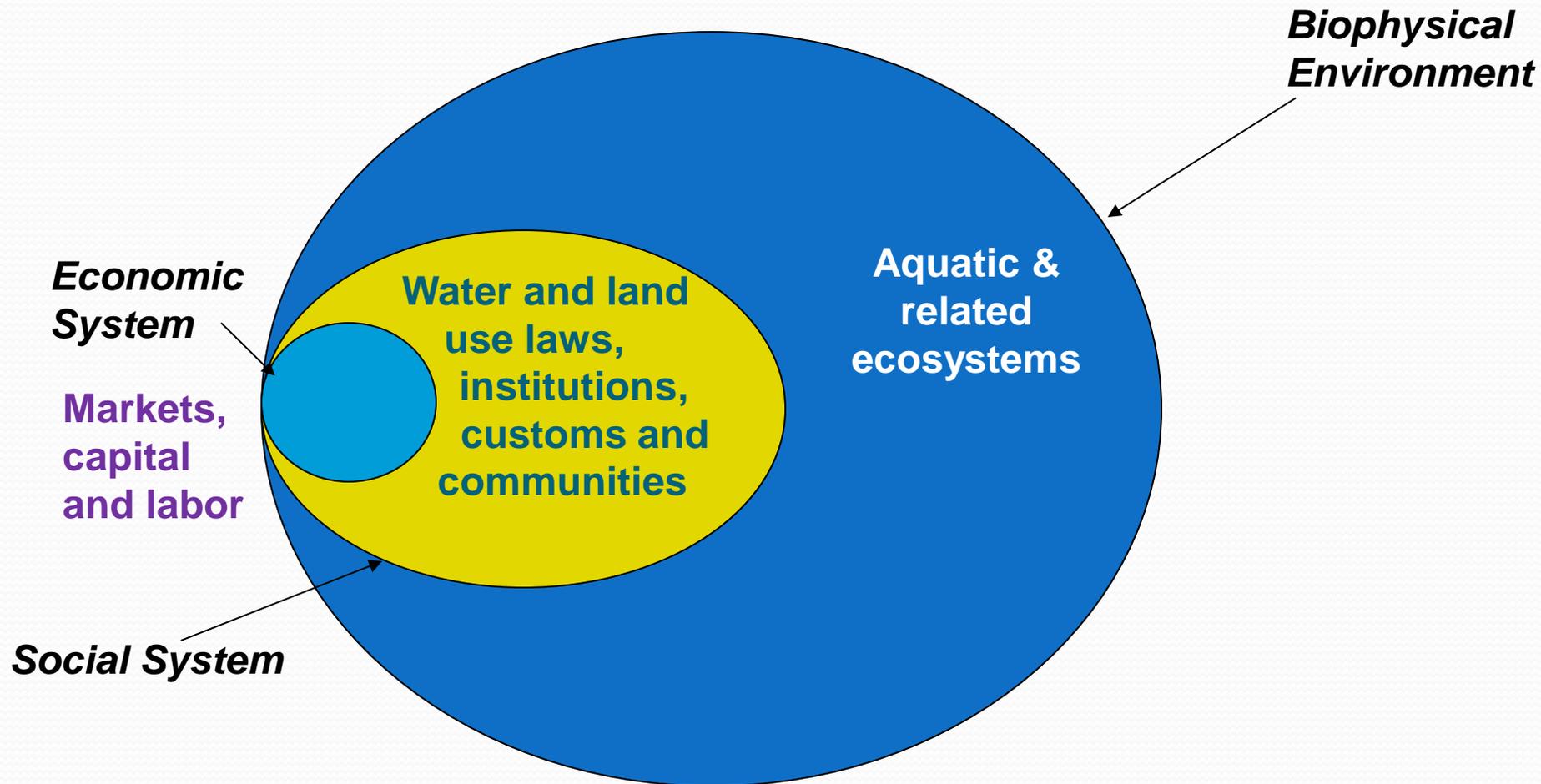
- Identification of Issues
- Sharing and Evaluation of Information
- Development & use of indicators
- Engagement of people & partners
- Fostering Collaboration among Organizations



Collaboration

- 1,000 participants from federal, state and local governments; corporations; nonprofits and academia
- Meetings in California; Colorado; Florida; Maryland; Michigan; Minnesota; New Hampshire; Virginia; Washington, D.C.
- Web site <http://acwi.gov/swrr/index.html>

Essential Relationships of Sustainability with Water Use



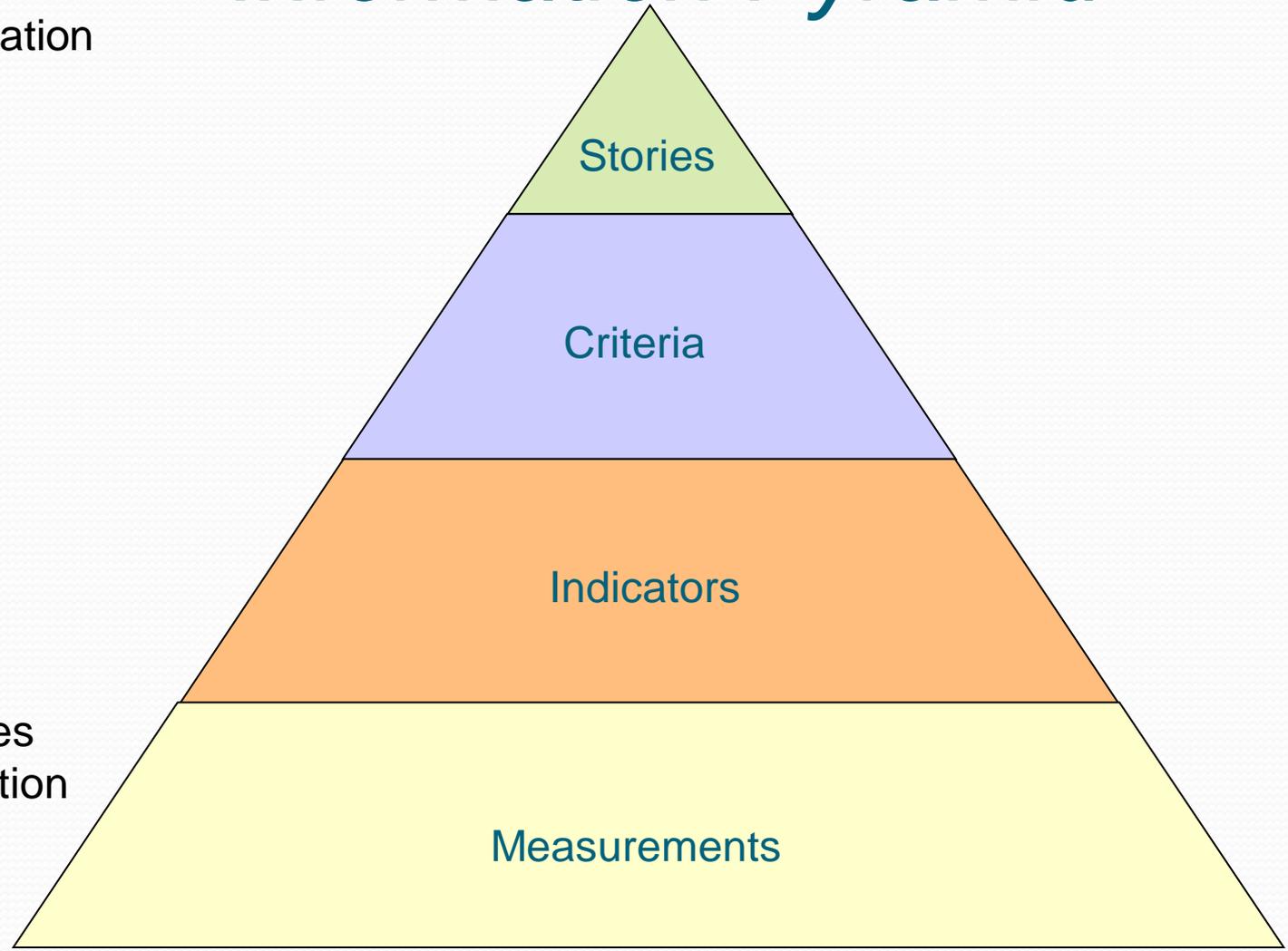
Capital and System Capacities

- **Capital is the capacity to produce value over time**
- **Environmental, social and economic systems produce value through flows of services, experiences, or goods that meet human and ecosystem needs over time**
- **We achieve sustainability by maintaining capital (resources) to meet needs**





Information Pyramid



Fewer Pieces
Of Information



More Pieces
Of Information

The SWRR Indicator Framework

- Water availability
- Water quality
- Human uses and health
- Environmental health
- Infrastructure and institutions

Water Availability

- **Renewable water**
 - Upper limit of water availability
- **Water in the environment**
 - Water remaining after human uses
- **Water use sustainability**
 - Degree to which water use meets current needs while protecting ecosystems and the interests of future generations



A System in Crisis

Reduced Prosperity for Future Generations

- Greater Drought Impacts - Unreliable Water Supplies
- Increasing Flood Risk
- Groundwater Depletion and Subsidence
- Degraded Water Quality
- Declining Environmental Conditions
- Aging Infrastructure



Low water level at Folsom Lake (January 2014)

Contact Information

SWRR Co-Chairs

- Robert Wilkinson, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara, wilkinson@es.ucsb.edu
- John Wells, 651-686-8615, John R. Wells and Associates, jrwells2411@gmail.com

SWRR Manager and Facilitator

- David Berry, 703-741-0791, davidberry@aol.com
- Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable
<http://acwi.gov/swrr>