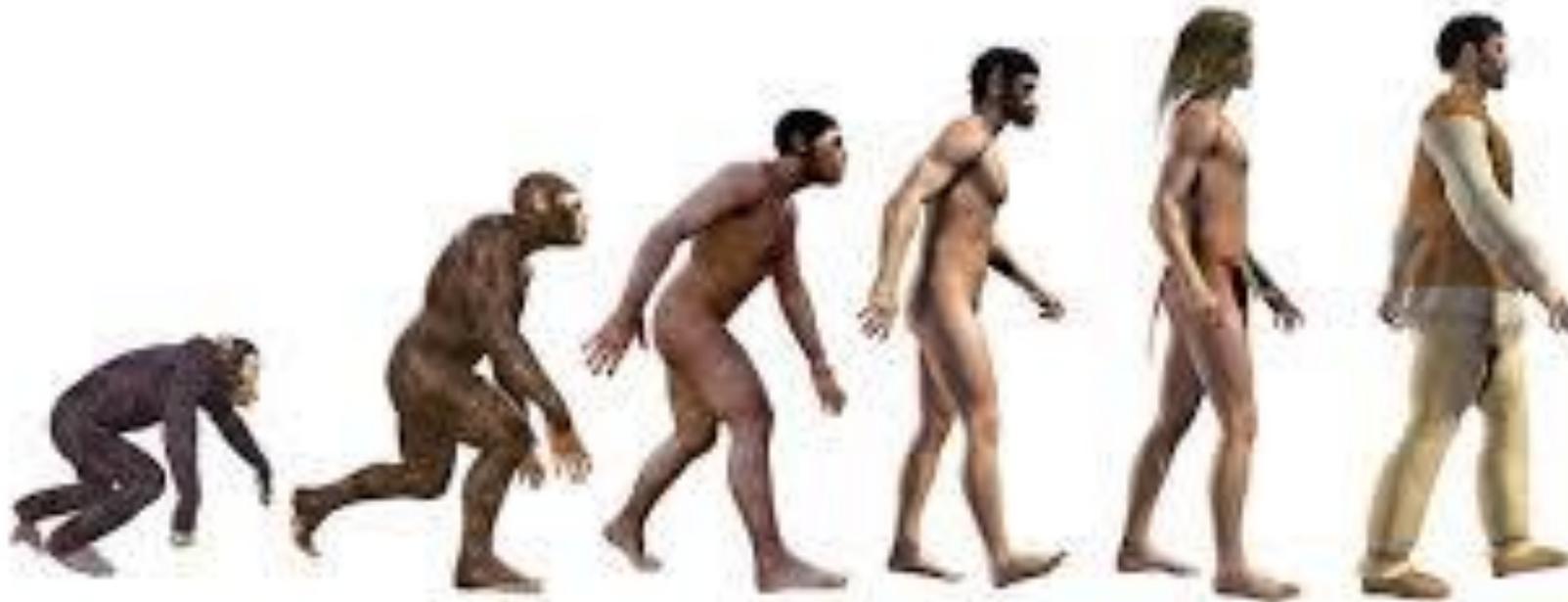


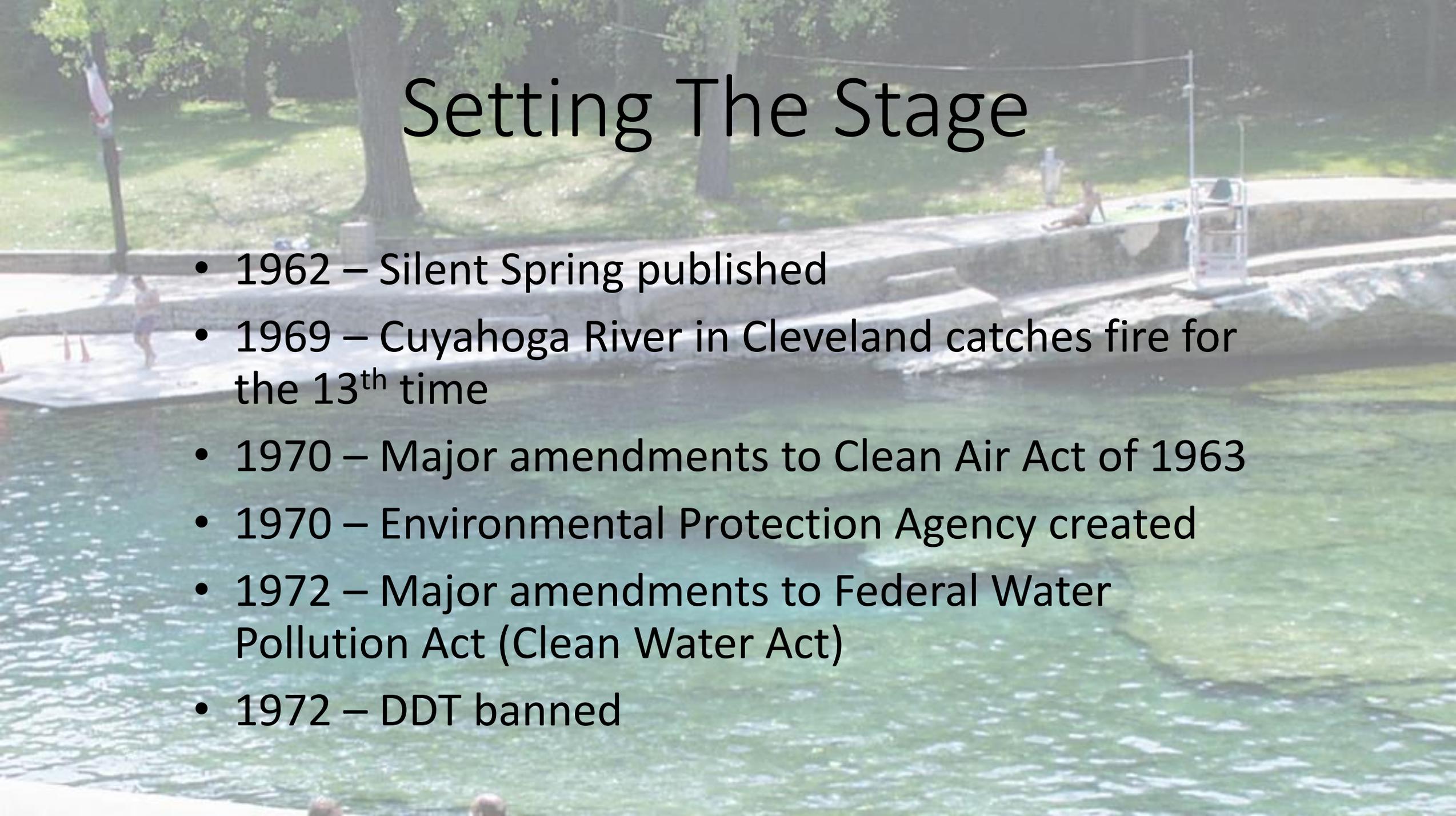
# WPD/ERM: Where Did We Come From?



OERM

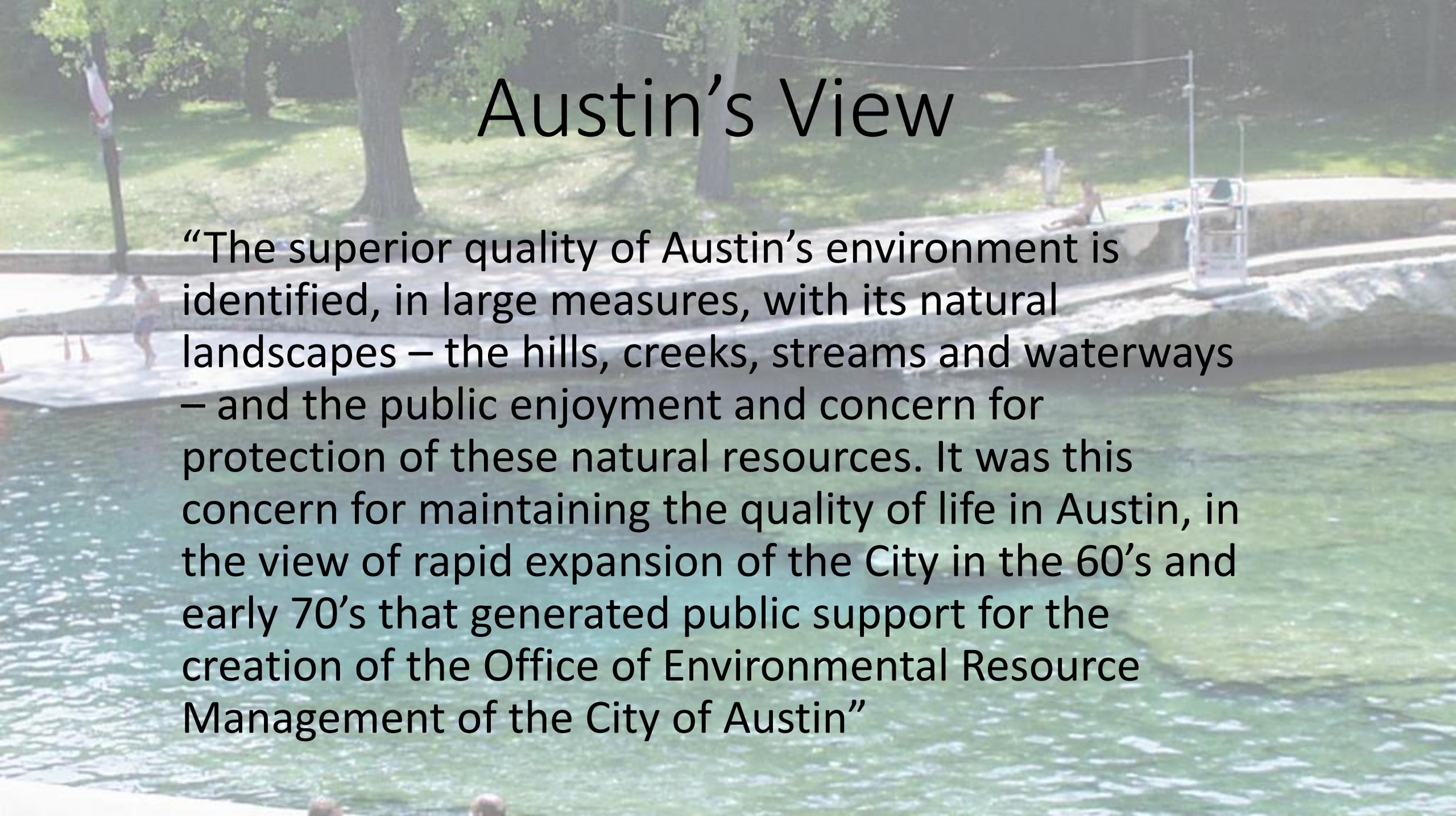
WPD

# Setting The Stage

The background image shows an outdoor swimming pool with a concrete deck. Several people are visible: one person is standing on the left side of the pool, another is sitting on the edge of the pool on the right, and a lifeguard stand is positioned near the water's edge. The pool water is clear and blue. In the background, there are green trees and a grassy area.

- 1962 – Silent Spring published
- 1969 – Cuyahoga River in Cleveland catches fire for the 13<sup>th</sup> time
- 1970 – Major amendments to Clean Air Act of 1963
- 1970 – Environmental Protection Agency created
- 1972 – Major amendments to Federal Water Pollution Act (Clean Water Act)
- 1972 – DDT banned

# Austin's View

The background image shows an outdoor swimming pool with several people swimming. A lifeguard stand is visible on the right side of the pool. The pool is surrounded by a concrete deck and a grassy area with trees in the background.

“The superior quality of Austin’s environment is identified, in large measures, with its natural landscapes – the hills, creeks, streams and waterways – and the public enjoyment and concern for protection of these natural resources. It was this concern for maintaining the quality of life in Austin, in the view of rapid expansion of the City in the 60’s and early 70’s that generated public support for the creation of the Office of Environmental Resource Management of the City of Austin”

# First Actions

- Sept. 1971 – Creation of Office of Environmental Resource Management
- Dec. 1971 – Creation of the Citizen’s Board for Natural Resources and Environmental Quality (later called the Environmental Commission)
- April 1972 – Stuart Henry appointed Director of OERM
- June 1972 – First meeting of Citizen’s Board (17 citizens)
  - “citizens of the city who have demonstrated their concern for and desire to improve the status of our natural resources and environment.”

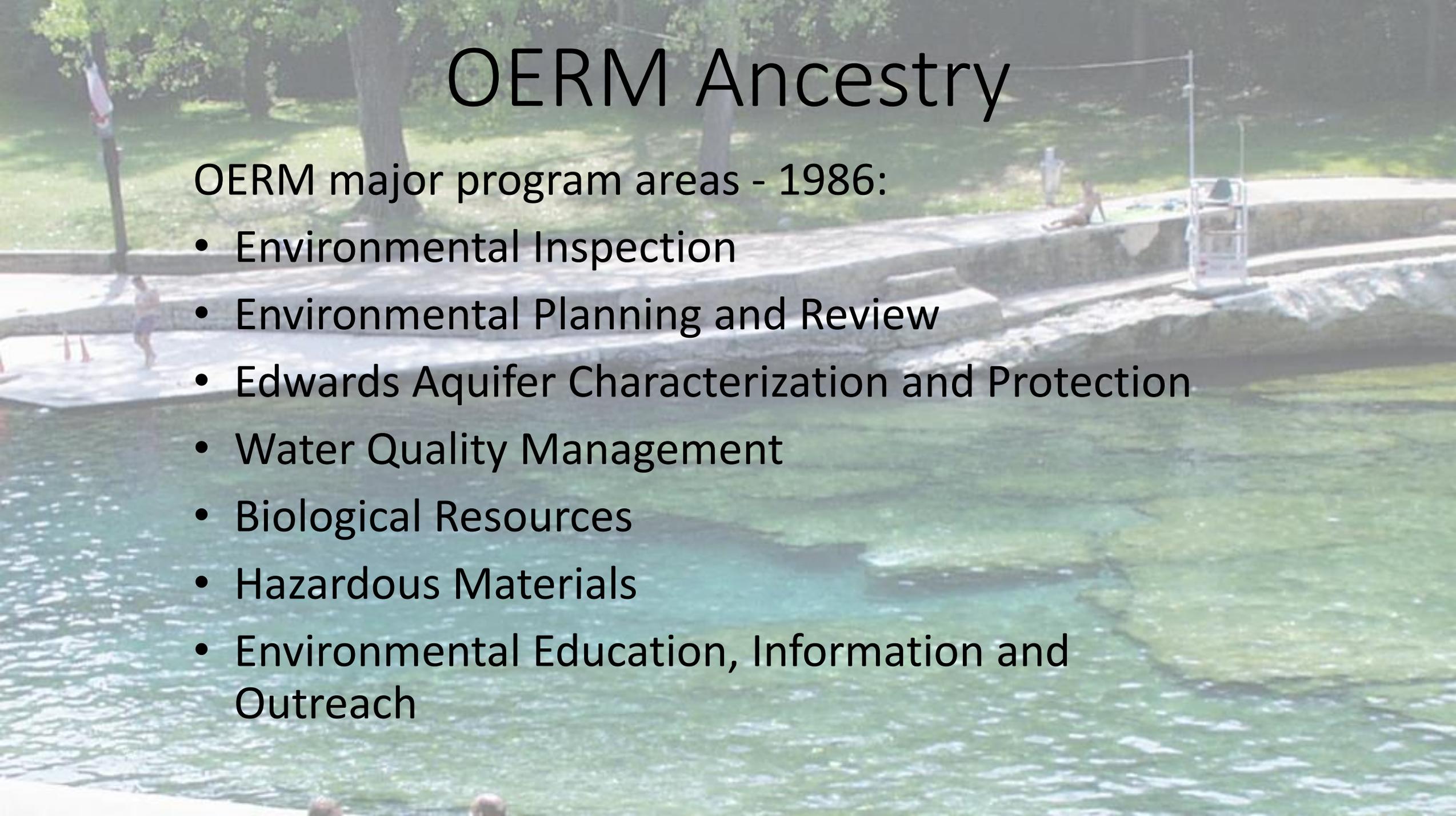
# Additional Actions

- March 1973 – Council adopts an environmental policy
- 1974 –
  - Analysis of Barton Creek Interceptor
  - Lake Austin Growth Management Plan
  - Creeks Ordinance
- January 1976 – Dr. Maureen McReynolds appointed OERM Director
- 1977 – Barton Creek Watershed Study (objective to preserve Barton Springs water quality)

# Additional Actions

- 1980 - Symposium on Edwards Aquifer
- 1981 – several “Creeks” ordinances
- 1983 – Environmental inventory programs initiated
- 1984 – OERM reorganizes
  - Review goes to OLDS
  - Remainder of OERM to PGM
- 1985 – Environmental element of Comprehensive Plan
  - Onion Creek watershed study
- 1986 – Comprehensive Watershed Ordinance (CWO)

# OERM Ancestry

The background of the slide is a photograph of an outdoor swimming pool. The pool is filled with clear, blue-green water. In the foreground, the heads and shoulders of several people are visible, suggesting they are swimming. The pool deck is made of light-colored concrete. In the background, there are lush green trees and a few people sitting on the edge of the pool. A lifeguard stand is visible on the right side of the pool.

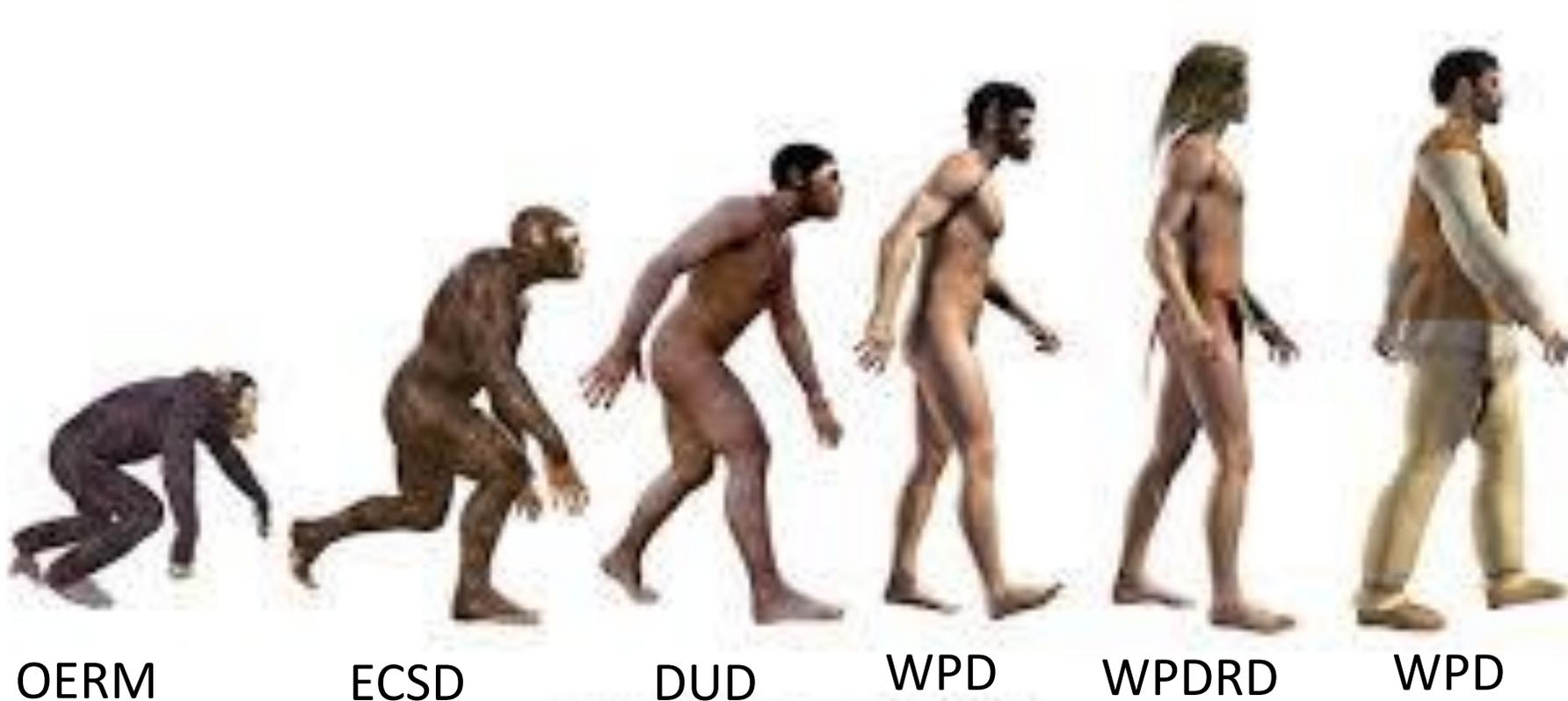
OERM major program areas - 1986:

- Environmental Inspection
- Environmental Planning and Review
- Edwards Aquifer Characterization and Protection
- Water Quality Management
- Biological Resources
- Hazardous Materials
- Environmental Education, Information and Outreach

# Division and Department

- 1986 – Department of Environmental Protection
- 1989 – Environmental and Conservation Services Department – wed with Solid Waste and Resource Management Dept
- 1994 – Drainage Utility Department – divorce and wed with Watershed Engineering
- 1998 – Watershed Protection Department – name change
- 2000 – Watershed Protection and Development Review Department – wed with reviews
- 2010 – Watershed Protection Department - divorce

# WPD/ERM: Where Did We Come From?



OERM

ECSD

DUD

WPD

WPDRD

WPD

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