

CALIFORNIA (REGION 9)

A Snapshot of California's TMDL Program (August 2008)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website

California Environmental Protection Agency
www.calepa.ca.gov
State Water Resources Control Board (TMDL Program)
www.swrcb.ca.gov
(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl.shtml)

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Statewide program management is headquartered at the State Water Resources Control Board; Regional Water Quality Control Boards develop the TMDLS

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters 691

Number of Causes of Impairment 2238

Top Five Causes of Impairment

1. Pesticides
2. Pathogens
3. Metals (other than mercury)
4. Nutrients
5. Salinity/TDS/Sulfates/Chlorides

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually 25

Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA) 841

Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007 32/177/152

2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date) early 2009

Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues 108

TMDLs

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs? Y

Broad-Scale? (*e.g.*, watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.) Y

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters? Y

Example(s) Single permit actions, enforcement, certification of third party actions

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program \$14.5 million

Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding state general funds; federal 106 & 319(h) funds

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required? Y

Innovations

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed

-- Planner/Tracker data system to facilitate work planning and reporting and meet US EPA requirements for accountability; TMDL development guidance (Impaired Waters Guidance) and policy (Water Quality Control Policy for Addressing Impaired Waters: Regulatory Structure and Options)

--Program coordination, planning, and tech transfer occur through statewide TMDL roundtable made up of the State and Regional Manager and technical staff; hosts joint meetings with the implementing programs; every 18 months, we hold a multiple-day statewide training/team-building retreat that includes all TMDL staff, plus some staff from the implementing regulatory programs; each listing cycle, each Regional Water Board prioritizes its workload; the prioritization consists of a TMDL completion schedule for all waters still needing a TMDL; this schedule is the basis for annual workplans

--deploying a new data system that is the equivalent of electronic health records for CA water bodies; being used to develop the 2008 IR and will contain all the lines of evidence used to make listing decisions, the listing decisions, and links to the actual data used by staff; system will place each water body in the appropriate category; with each listing cycle, we will be able to evaluate progress towards restoration of water quality

TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

--Los Angeles Region/Santa Monica Bay Bacteria: uses reference beach/exceedance day approach; LA River Trash: uses target of zero trash
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl_list.shtml

--Central Valley Region/Diazinon and Chlorpyrifos TMDLs: accounts for synergistic effects of multiple pesticides that have the same mode of action
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/tmdl/central_valley_projects/index.shtml

--North Coast Region/Shasta River TMDL: includes a flow component
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/shasta_river/

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. resources
2. California Environmental Quality Act
3. lawsuits

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. resources
2. lawsuits