Clean Water
Healthy Coastal Environments
Healthy Functioning Watersheds

Measurable Goal #1: By 2025, 80% of the watershed riparian systems are healthy, and the other 20% are getting healthier.

Rationale/Notes: *Healthy* will be defined by a multi-parametric evaluation of water quality, habitat quality [i.e., geomorphology, shade, aquatic substrate, etc.], and biologic function [i.e., bugs]. *Healthy* = a defined target or range described by the multiple parameters [staff is currently developing the target(s)]. Healthy is evaluated at the individual watershed level. *Getting healthier* is a positive trend toward the defined multi-parameter target. The multi-parameter approach is based on defining and protecting properly functioning ecological systems; this is a fundamental shift for the Water Board. We need to ground-truth and adjust the 80/20 ratio.

***Example* Organizational Objectives to achieve this goal:**

1. Define "healthy" in terms of the multi parameter approach (chemical, physical, and biological parameters) including the desired target. (1 year)
2. Identify tools and approaches to monitor and assess riparian/aquatic environments relative to the goal of protecting functioning systems. (6 months)
3. Implement the assessment to determine current conditions relative to the goal. (1 year)
4. Develop a Basin Plan amendment to implement the multi parametric standard. (2 years)
5. Identify all other regulatory tools (TMDLs, NPDES permits, 401 certs, etc.) that we can use to implement the standard. (1 year)
6. Include the goal and objectives in Non-Point Source and TMDL work plans. (3 months)
7. Ground truth the goal: adjust ratio as necessary. (Annually)

***Example* Individual Objectives:**

1. Establish a team to develop and implement organizational objectives above. (Done)
2. Identify additional resources needed, internal and external, to develop and implement the objectives above. (6 months)
3. Prepare a report to the Board describing the existing information and precedent for aquatic/riparian corridor system protection. (6 months)
4. Complete training for team members to develop expertise in this area. (1 year)
5. Develop a process for drafting the Basin Plan amendment and for getting input from stakeholders. (1 year)

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Measurable Goal #2: By 2025, 90% of the land within any watershed is free of impervious surfaces.

Rationale/Notes: 10% (or 90% free) value taken from Pew Oceans Report [2002] and must be validated. The percentage is based on protecting watershed functions. We need to define the watersheds (use existing hydrologic designations?).

Example **Organizational Objectives to achieve this goal:**

1. Define the design standards that must be implemented by municipalities to achieve the goal. (Done?)
2. Identify all regulatory approaches/strategies for achieving the goal. (1 year)
3. Prioritize CEQA review to ensure impervious surfaces issue is addressed in project planning phase. (1 month)
4. Define watershed scale for this goal. (6 months)
5. Develop a tool to assess existing impervious surfaces and its change over time. (6 months).
6. Develop an assessment program to track water quality over time comparing regular developments to LID. (6 months)
7. Develop an assessment approach to measure compliance, and implement the assessment.
8. Develop a Basin Plan amendment to require the design standards, and/or revise the General Storm Water Permit to require the design standards. (1 year for Basin Plan amendment; permit cycle for General Permit revision)

Example **Individual Objectives:**

1. Research the latest LID design standards for incorporation into the Basin Plan and/or General Storm Water Permit. (Done?)
2. Establish and implement a standard education/outreach effort for municipalities. (1 year)
3. Establish a working relationship with County and City planning agencies to ensure they are aware of our goal, regulatory authorities, and Low Impact Development (LID) design standards. (1 year)
4. Help municipalities develop pilot LID projects via grant funding and leveraged funding. (Ongoing)
5. Develop guidelines to help municipalities revise ordinances that require LID. (6 months)

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Measurable Goal #3: By 2025, 80% of land within any watershed is properly managed to support a healthy functioning watershed, with the remaining 20% achieving a positive trend.

Rationale/Notes: A *healthy functioning* watershed is defined by a multi-parameter approach, similar to Goal #1 but on a watershed scale. This goal focuses on source control measures across most of our programs, and inherently acknowledges the fundamental role of land management practices in protecting water quality and watershed functions. We need to define the watersheds (use existing hydrologic designations?).

***Example* Organizational Objectives to achieve this goal:**

1. Define a healthy functioning watershed via a multi-parametric measure. (1 year)
2. Define watershed scale appropriate for this goal (and assessment). (6 months)
3. Define and prioritize the land management practices (grazing, irrigated ag, oilfields, etc.) that must be addressed by the Water Board to achieve this goal (which are the biggest threats?). (6 months)
4. For priority land management practices, define the "best land management" practices that must be implemented to achieve the goal.
5. Develop a Basin Pan amendment that defines and requires the best land management practices (using adaptive management) from #4, above. (2 years)
6. Modify our region-wide monitoring program to assess watershed health using a multi-parametric approach. (1 year, or coinciding with next rotational shift)
7. Modify all program work plans to incorporate the goal and specific objectives. (3 months)
8. Coordinate all program work plans such that they reinforce and compliment each other (alignment). (1 year)

***Example* Individual Objectives:**

1. Review existing research and literature for best land use management practices related to land use issues in our region. (6 months)
2. Identify and target funding sources for monitoring efforts; align grant funding toward achieving the goal. (Ongoing)
3. Attend training on land management issues, zoning, CEQA, and other legal authorities. (1 year)

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Measurable Goal #4: By 2025, 80% of groundwater is clean, with the remaining 20% getting cleaner.

Rationale/Notes: *Clean* is defined as meeting water quality objectives for defined beneficial uses. *Getting cleaner* is defined as a positive trend in groundwater quality achieved by source control and/or remediation. This only covers groundwater impacted by human sources.

***Example* Organizational Objectives to achieve this goal:**

1. Agree/Define "clean" as meeting Region 3 Basin Plan beneficial use designations
2. Agree/Define existing groundwater quality
3. Agree/Define threats to groundwater quality
4. Determine areas not meeting quality standards required for present and future beneficial uses
5. Implement/continue programs for improving water quality
6. Continue tracking/measuring groundwater quality for changes

***Example* Individual objectives:**

1. Agree/Define GW basins (Basin Plan, DWR Bull 118, or aerial versus volumetric estimations, or both), sub-basins, and aquifers/zones. (four months).
2. Define threats to groundwater basins:
   Overdraft: groundwater mining—withdraw exceeds recharge.
   Pollution: nitrates from agriculture and contamination from human activities.
   Seawater intrusion: rising ocean level and aquifer overdraft within coastal regions.
3. Identify databases for compiling, and compile, water quality info for each basin, sub-basin, and aquifer/zone (six months).
4. Identify and acquire groundwater basin studies (such as USGS GAMMA) within Region 3 to develop inventory assessments (one year).
5. Identify all stakeholders within groundwater basins and begin developing working relationships between staff and stakeholders (one year).
6. Inventory and plot all municipal and agricultural wells within Region 3 using GIS application (two years).
7. Collect data from inventoried wells regarding water level trends to begin identifying areas in potential overdraft (two years).
8. Designate/Map areas not "clean" (six months).
9. Determine probable sources of pollutants (6-12 months).
10. List sources of pollutants addressed by existing programs/activities (6 months).
11. Develop/Implement region-wide groundwater monitoring program (one year).
12. Evaluate effectiveness of activities/programs currently in place (6 months).
13. Develop recommended changes to make activities/programs more effective (one year).
14. Implement recommended changes (ongoing timeline).

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15. List sources not addressed by existing programs/activities (six months).
16. Develop recommended activities/programs to address sources (ongoing timeline).
17. Implement recommended activities/programs (ongoing timeline)
18. List sources not "addressable" or changeable (four months)
19. Identify, protect, and enhance groundwater basin recharge areas (immediately, on-going).
20. Improve irrigation use efficiency to mitigate and reverse aquifer overdraft conditions (two to five years).
21. Improve municipal use efficiency to mitigate and reverse aquifer overdraft conditions (two to five years).
22. Develop/Continue compilation/sampling program of water quality info to track water quality changes/improvements in basins. (two years, and ongoing timeline).
23. Develop system to calculate region wide contaminant mass reduction with implementation of cleanup systems (one year).
24. Identify areas where contamination is contained to demonstrate preventative measures for maintaining groundwater quality in areas adjacent to contamination—i.e. maintaining beneficial uses (one year).
25. Develop system for evaluating potential subsidence in groundwater basins using GPS coordinates for elevation, longitude, and latitude at reference points (two years).

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Measurable Goal #5: By 2025, the Water Board will manage all discharges to ensure a healthy coastal environment for humans and wildlife.

Rationale/Notes: This goal is designed to address discharges in the marine environment.

***Example* Organizational Objectives to achieve this goal:**

1. Define physiographic scope of "coastal environment." Include habitat types, e.g., rocky intertidal, shallow estuarine, sandy beach; and developed environments, e.g., piers, small-craft harbors. (1 year)
2. Expand and/or develop tools for assessment of coastal environment; spatial delineation, habitat typing, water quality (including non-traditional indicators). (1 year)
3. Expand menu of mitigation types, available to dischargers violating orders, to include options for watershed protection and marine protection. (6 months)
4. Identify existing program activities supporting Measurable Goal 5; identify gaps in protection; select strategy to fill gaps. (1 year)
5. Identify and prioritize "emerging issues" affecting coastal environment (e.g., desal, cruise ships, oil development, dredging, etc.). (6 months)
6. Review all marine discharge permits for adequate requirements. (1 year)

***Example* Individual Objectives:**

1. Develop individual and team expertise in coastal water quality issues; include an efficient balance of field time (surfing?) and office time. (1 year)
2. Routinely examine daily calendar for relevance to organizational and unit goal and objectives. (Ongoing)
3. Use Individual Development Plan to define strategy for pursuing goal and objectives (i.e., link professional development activities to those that support goal attainment). (6 months)
4. Get comfortable pursuing a balance of a) immediate, short term actions that seem effective, and b) long term activities that do not have immediate rewards. (Now)

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