

Section 3.12 Planning and Standards Program Activities Throughout the Region ('Regionwide')

The Porter-Cologne Act directs the RWQCBs to adopt, review and revise Basin Plans and provides specific guidance on factors that must be considered in adoption of water quality standards and implementation measures. The federal Clean Water Act directs the state to publicly review water quality standards at least once every three years, and the Porter-Cologne Act directs that Basin Plans shall be periodically reviewed to evaluate necessary revisions. These two review processes are combined into the 'Triennial Review'.

Basin Planning Tasks:

Triennial Review: The last formal Triennial Review for the Region was conducted starting in 1993 and concluded with the approval by the SWRCB in 1995. A public workshop in 1997 resulted in Regional Board direction on Basin Planning priorities. Tasks to complete the Triennial Review include initial development of an issues list, several public scoping meetings to revise the list and receive input on a priority order for issues on the list, a public hearing(s) to receive additional public input and input from the RWQCB, formal adoption of the list by the RWQCB members, and transmittal of the list and related public record to the SWRCB. **The estimated resources needed to complete the Triennial Review process are 0.5 PY. Note that additional funds will be needed to address issues identified during the Triennial Review process (see below)**

Preparing Basin Plan Amendments for consideration by the Board for adoption-- An estimated 0.2-0.7PY is needed to process Basin Plan amendments. Amendments underway concern pesticides, review of waiver policy, review of MOUs/MAA with other agencies, and water quality standards for some waters of the Owens and Mojave watersheds.

Baseline standards work -- reviewing and updating basic information in the Basin Plan, conducting beneficial use field surveys, providing technical Basin Plan interpretation and support for permitting staff, reviewing state and federal plans and policies (e.g., California Toxics Rule, draft Inland Surface Waters Plan). **Estimated cost 1 PY**

Triennial review issues -- working to address significant issues identified in the Triennial Review such as new standards, policies, etc. **Estimated cost 0.5 to 1.0 PY per issue**

Responding to Public Requests for Basin Plan Actions -- responding to public requests to complete Use Attainability Analyses (UAAs), Site Specific Objectives (SSOs), basin plan exemptions, etc. **Estimated cost 0.3 to 0.6 PY per most actions.**

TMDL Basin Plan Support—also see TMDL section of this chapter. Adoption of Basin Plan amendments for the Indian Creek Reservoir TMDL is planned for completion in June 2002 but may carry over into FY 02-03.

Nutrient Criteria—The USEPA has directed states to adopt numerical criteria (equivalent to California's water quality objectives) for nitrogen, phosphorus, and related variables such as chlorophyll a, turbidity, and Secchi depth by 2004. The SWRCB has asked all Regional Boards to commit staff time and possibly contract dollars to the criteria development process in FY 02-03 and future years. Some of the technical data collection and analysis is proposed to be done by a consultant to USEPA. Significant Regional Board staff time could be required for review and technical collaboration.

Clean Water Act Section 205(j) Grant Funded Projects

Section 205j of the federal Clean Water Act provides grant funds for water quality planning and assessment activities. Local public agencies and special districts (e.g., resource conservation districts, water districts, councils of governments, city and county agencies, etc.) are eligible to apply. Currently in the

Region, there is one active Section 205(j) project by the Town of Truckee for development of a watershed management plan for the middle reach of the Truckee River. .

Below are potential future Section 205(j) projects.

Table 3.12-4 Potential Future 205(j) projects

An asterisk indicates that project is in a priority watershed as identified under the CA Unified Watershed Assessment

Project Description	Watershed/ Waterbed	Outcomes/ Products
Bioassessment monitoring*	Upper Truckee River(Lake Tahoe Basin)	monitoring and assessment study to determine nutrient and sediment budget/resources for river reaches and subwatersheds
Evaluation of potential water quality impacts*	Truckee River	study of BMP effectiveness, impacts of recreation on fisheries and riparian habitats, impacts of flow and reservoir operations on beneficial uses and/or water quality , for potential for BMP implementation in the Gray Creek watershed
Assessment of stream crossing structures*	Truckee River	study assessing stream crossing structure successes and failures, and determining impacts on water quality
Development of watershed management plans*	Truckee River	watershed management plans with success criteria for restoration projects
Water Quality Assessment Study*	Susan River	study monitoring existing water quality and beneficial use attainment; tracking progress of implementation projects on achieving improvements to water quality; analysis of impacts of present and future discharges on water quality
Water Quality Study*	Honey Lake	study which evaluates the impact from geothermal pumping and discharge activities on water quality
Water Quality Study*	Eagle Lake Basin	study monitoring existing water quality and beneficial use attainment; tracking progress of implementation projects on achieving improvements to water quality; analysis of impacts of present and future discharges on water quality
Habitat restoration*	Indian Creek Reservoir/ Carson River	comprehensive evaluation of trophic status of reservoir and the degree of support for beneficial uses
Habitat improvement and Evaluation of Need for TMDLs*	Carson River	quantitative riparian and aquatic habitat condition survey for Indian Creek to determine whether TMDLs are still needed, and how much restoration may be needed.
Identification of nonpoint source problem areas*	Carson River	fluvial geomorphology study to identify nonpoint source problem areas which will need BMPs
Water Quality Study	upper West Carson River	study to determine presence, magnitude and sources of domestic wastewater impacts; identification of any disposal modifications

Project Description	Watershed/ Waterbed	Outcomes/ Products
Planning Study for Expansion of WWTP Treatment Capacity*	Carson River	planning study for expanding the treatment capacity of the Markleeville waste water treatment plant
Assessment of Septic Impacts*	Carson River	assessment of impacts from septic tanks and to identify and examine future options from wastewater treatment and disposal in Alpine County
Assessment Study*	Carson River	assessment of impacts from metals, sulfate and mining
Assessment Study*	Carson River	assessment of flood impacts
Assessment Study*	Carson River	assessment of impacts to wetlands/riparian areas
Nonpoint source problem survey of 303(d) listed streams*	Bodie Hills/East Walker River	survey showing sources of impacts to Bodie Hills streams..many of which are 303(d) listed
Eutrophication Study*	Crowley Lake/Owens River	study/document eutrophication and sources of nutrients in the lake
Monitoring Program*	upper Owens River	implementation of a sampling and analysis program to evaluate the accuracy of water quality objectives for surface waters in the headwaters of the watershed.
Nonpoint Source Identification Using GIS*	upper Owens River	implementation of GIS for watershed activities and integration of this system with other GIS systems already in the watershed
TMDL Strategy*	upper Owens watershed	development of a strategy for defining TMDLs for the watershed
Stormwater Study*	upper Owens watershed	development and implementation of a sampling and analysis program to survey sedimentation basins and stormwater flow (quality and quantity) in the Town of Mammoth Lakes area
Water Quality Assessment Study*	upper Owens watershed	development and implementation of water quality studies for surface and ground waters which will assist in the assessment and long-term protection of water resources within the watershed (e.g., assessment of individual and cumulative impacts from reclaimed water, MTBE in drinking water supplies, nutrient loadings to Crowley Lake, and long term effects of natural geologic phenomena and anthropogenic effects on water resources and quality)
Monitoring Program*	middle Owens River	implementation of a sampling and analysis program to evaluate the accuracy of water quality objectives for surface waters in the watershed.
Nonpoint Source Identification Using GIS*	middle Owens River	implementation of GIS for watershed activities and integration of this system with other GIS systems already in the watershed
TMDL Strategy*	middle Owens River	development of a strategy for defining TMDLs for the watershed

Project Description	Watershed/ Waterbed	Outcomes/ Products
Assessment of Recreational Impacts*	middle Owens River	development and implementation of a sampling and analysis program to survey water quality impacts from recreational uses in the high Sierra back country
Water Quality Assessment Study*	middle Owens River	development and implementation of water quality studies surface and ground waters which will assist in the assessment and long-term protection of water resources within the watershed
Monitoring Program*	lower Owens River	implementation of a sampling and analysis program to evaluate the accuracy of water quality objectives for surface waters in the watershed.
Nonpoint Source Identification Using GIS*	lower Owens River	implementation of GIS for watershed activities and integration of this system with other GIS systems already in the watershed
TMDL Strategy*	lower Owens River	development of a strategy for defining TMDLs for the watershed
Assessment of Recreational Impacts*	middle Owens River	development and implementation of a sampling and analysis program to survey water quality impacts from recreational uses in the high Sierra back country
Water Quality Assessment Study*	middle Owens River	development and implementation of water quality studies surface and ground waters which will assist in the assessment and long-term protection of water resources within the watershed
Monitoring Program	Mojave River	implementation of a sampling and analysis program to evaluate the accuracy of water quality objectives for surface waters in the headwaters of the watershed, evaluation of current water quality objectives, and development of an updated baseline of water quality for the shallow ground waters within the Mojave River floodplain
Nonpoint Source Identification Using GIS	Mojave River	implementation of GIS for watershed activities and integration of this system with other GIS systems already in the watershed
Develop and Implement a Sampling Plan	Mojave River	development and implementation of a sampling and analysis program to develop a baseline for storm water quality in the Victor Valley
Water Quality Study	Mojave River	development and implementation of water quality studies for surface and ground waters within the watershed which will assist in the assessment and long-term protection of water resources within the watershed