

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The SDRWQCB watershed management approach is guided by the following seven guiding principles.

Geographic Focus

Activities should be directed within specific geographical areas, typically the areas that drain into a surface water body, or that recharge or overlie a ground water basin, or a combination of both.

Comprehensive Perspective

Watershed management should provide a comprehensive perspective that considers all water resource problems and the sources and factors causing and contributing to those problems throughout a watershed. Ground and surface water, point and nonpoint source pollution, and economic as well as environmental impacts in any given geographic area should be brought into the SDRWQCB decision making process.

Partnerships with Stakeholders

The parties most affected by water resource decisions should be involved throughout and shape key actions. Concerned citizens, private landowners, and representatives of local, state, and federal agencies, and appropriate public interest groups, industries and academic institutions should be included in watershed management teams. This involvement is intended to ensure that people who depend upon, have an interest in, and are knowledgeable about water resources are kept well informed and participate in the development of mutually beneficial solutions. The collaboration between agencies at all levels of government and with the public is intended to lead to coordination on watershed management efforts so that available funds and staff resources are put to maximum benefit.

Coordinated Priority Setting

The highest priority water quality and beneficial use problems and issues should be addressed. The SDRWQCB should focus resources on priority water quality issues. Through coordinated efforts with other stakeholders, priorities should be established and integrated actions should be taken based on consideration of all environmental and social issues.

Best Use of Resources

Those water quality and beneficial use protection actions that demonstrate the greatest benefits in the form of measured improvements in the quality and beneficial uses of water within the watershed for costs incurred should be pursued. The SDRWQCB's

ability to quantitatively demonstrate economic and environmental benefits should be improved.

Improved Decision Making

The scientific basis for water quality management decisions should be improved. The SDRWQCB, in conjunction with stakeholders, should employ sound scientific data, tools, and techniques in an iterative process that includes monitoring, assessment, identification of water quality goals, characterization of priority problems and solutions, development and implementation of action plans, and evaluation of effectiveness.

Improved Efficiency

The efficiency of SDRWQCB programs should be enhanced. Activities such as water quality assessment, monitoring, and permitting should be integrated and focused on a limited number of point source and nonpoint source pollution issues at a time. SDRWQCB staff working in different programs and units should work in a consistent and coordinated manner to achieve defined watershed goals.