

# TMDL Program Decision Record Memo

## December 2015

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Each year TMDL Program Managers meet with Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Executives to review TMDL Program operations and discuss emerging issues, program priorities and future direction. At this Program Review Meeting, TMDL Program Managers present any program adjustments recommended in the *Findings & Recommendations Memo* and other relevant information. The *Decision Record Memo* documents outcomes and executive decisions resulting from the Program Review Meeting.

## Summary

TMDL Program Managers Robert Larsen (Lahontan) and Jason Kuchnicki (NDEP) met with the Lahontan Water Board Executive Officer, Patty Kouyoumdjian, and NDEP Deputy Administrator, Jennifer Carr, on December 14, 2015 at NDEP's office in Carson City for the 2015 TMDL *Program Review Meeting*. During the meeting, TMDL Program Managers summarized 2015 calendar year program activities, discussed the 2015 *Findings & Recommendations Memo*, and outlined the *TMDL Annual Strategy* for 2016.

The 2015 *Program Review Meeting* resulted in three major decisions:

- 1) The TMDL Executives accepted the Lake Clarity Crediting Program Handbook Version 2.1, effectively approving refinements to the Crediting Program protocols and tools ;
- 2) The TMDL Executives supported ongoing work to implement the recommendations established by the previous *Findings & Recommendations Memo* and carried forward in the 2015 version; and
- 3) The TMDL Executives supported and adopted the *2016 TMDL Annual Strategy*.

## Decisions

### Item 1: Lake Clarity Crediting Program Handbook, Version 2.1

**Context:** The Lake Clarity Crediting Program (Crediting Program) motivates effective actions to improve Lake Tahoe clarity by establishing an Urban Uplands load reduction accounting system that connects on-the-ground actions to achieving the milestones set by the Lake Tahoe TMDL. The Crediting Program quantifies and tracks pollutant controls implemented to reduce the load of fine sediment particles, nitrogen and phosphorus from urban stormwater and pairs load reduction estimates with roadway, treatment and parcel BMP inspection methods and an internet-based accounting system. Over the past several years, the Crediting Program protocols and tools have been refined to enhance and streamline the user experience and expand tool functionality and compatibility. The *2014 Findings and Recommendation Memo* recommended updating the Crediting Program Handbook and associated suite of tools to reflect recent refinements. Updates to the Handbook and tools were completed and released in August of 2015.

**Decision:** TMDL Executives accepted the updated Lake Clarity Crediting Program Handbook (Version 2.1). The updated Handbook and associated stormwater tools and user manuals are available on the [TMDL Online Interface](#).

### Item 2: Adjustment Recommendations

**Context:** Adopting well-supported TMDL Program adjustment recommendations based on new information is key to the TMDL Program's adaptive management process. The annual *Findings & Recommendations Memo* describes actionable recommendations proposed by TMDL Program Managers to

adjust the TMDL Program, including management strategies and guiding policies. TMDL Program Managers present these recommendations to TMDL Executives for discussion and approval at the annual Program Review Meeting.

The 2015 program findings did not support any new program recommendations. TMDL Program Managers carried forward three recommendations from the *2014 Findings & Recommendation Memo*:

1. Support Urban Implementers' efforts to secure funding for road operations and maintenance;
2. Establish a new TMDL Performance Measure (TMDL PM) to track and report floodplain restoration activities in a manner consistent with TRPA's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) reporting efforts;
3. Lead ongoing nearshore program efforts and broadcast nearshore program activities in TMDL Management System products.

**Decision:** TMDL Executives supported retaining the three recommendations proposed in the *2014 Findings & Recommendation Memo*. A complete description of each of the recommendations is found in Part II, Recommendations, of the [2014 Findings & Recommendation Memo](#).

### Item 3: Annual Strategy

**Context:** The *TMDL Annual Strategy* is a short document prepared by TMDL Program Managers that informs the prioritization of day-to-day activities and TMDL Program messaging for the year. It includes a long-term goal, 5-year milestone objectives, annual objectives and current themes. The *TMDL Annual Strategy* is reviewed and finalized by TMDL Executives at the annual *Program Review Meeting* and subsequently published on the TMDL Online Interface.

**Decision:** TMDL Executives approved the *2016 TMDL Annual Strategy* as proposed. The *2016 TMDL Annual Strategy* is available on the [TMDL Online Interface](#).