

TMDL Program Decision Record Memo

December 2014

Introduction

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 and discuss TMDL Program progress and challenges, and to consult on upcoming program priorities and direction. At this *Program Review Meeting*, TMDL Program Managers present recommended program adjustments contained in the *Findings & Recommendations Memo* and other information relevant to program direction, priorities and/or communication. This, the *Decision Record Memo*, documents program adjustment decisions made by TMDL Executives during the *Program Review Meeting* to promote TMDL Program transparency, accountability and efficiency.

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, Dave Gaskin and Bureau of Water Quality Planning Chief, Kathy Sertic on December 18, 2014 at NDEP's office in Carson City for the first TMDL Management System *Program Review Meeting*. Also in attendance were representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Jacques Landy and Sam Ziegler, and TMDL Management System consultants from Environmental Incentives. During the meeting TMDL Program Managers oriented their executives to the processes and products that comprise the TMDL Management System, updated executives on TMDL Program performance and gained executive buy-in and feedback on: 1) the full TMDL Management System process and products, 2) proposed TMDL Program adjustment recommendations and 3) the *TMDL Annual Strategy* for 2015.

Meeting Details

When: Thursday, December 18, 2014, 9:00am-12:00pm

Where: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Office

Participants: Robert Larsen, Patty Kouyoumdjian, (Lahontan); Jason Kuchnicki, Dave Gaskin, Kathy Sertic (NDEP); Jacques Landy, Sam Ziegler (EPA), Jeremy Sokulsky, Patricia Sussman, Brian Strachan (Environmental Incentives)

Objectives:

- Orient executives to the processes and products of the TMDL Management System
- Update executives on TMDL Program performance and status to date
- Gain executive buy-in and feedback on
 - Proposed Annual Strategy for 2015
 - Proposed adjustment recommendations for 2015

The 2014 *Program Review Meeting* resulted in three major decisions:

- 1) The TMDL Executives adopted the TMDL Management System Handbook, effectively approving the adaptive management process and associated products contained within the document;
- 2) The TMDL Executives supported and approved all recommendations contained in the 2014 [Synthesis of Findings & Program Adjustment Recommendation Memo](#) with minor language adjustments;
- 3) The TMDL Executives supported and adopted the [2015 TMDL Annual Strategy](#).

Decisions

Item I: TMDL Management System Handbook

Context: The TMDL Management System Handbook describes a deliberate and organized adaptive management system to guide successful implementation of the Lake Tahoe TMDL Program (TMDL Program). It is written for the Lahontan Water Board and NDEP, the agencies charged with overseeing the implementation of the Lake Tahoe TMDL Program. The TMDL Management System has been in development for the past several years and was pilot tested in 2014. With the adoption of the TMDL Management System Handbook, TMDL Program Managers will initiate execution of the management system process and associated products beginning in 2015.

Decision: TMDL Executives unanimously approved adoption of the TMDL Management System Handbook V. 1.0. The TMDL Management System Handbook will be posted to the TMDL Online Interface as an accessible document for interested stakeholders.

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. Such adjustments ensure procedures and tools are practical and encourage effective actions to meet TMDL Policy objectives. 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. TMDL Program Managers presented the following four recommendations, contained in the *2014 Synthesis of Findings & Program Adjustment Recommendation Memo* to TMDL Executives during the *2014 Program Review Meeting*:

1. Advocate for Urban Jurisdictions to secure funding for road operations and maintenance;
2. Update the Lake Clarity Crediting Program Handbook;
3. 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;
4. Advocate for ongoing nearshore status and trend monitoring and broadcast the relationship of nearshore quality to TMDL implementation in TMDL Management System products.

Decision: TMDL Executives approved each of the four recommendations proposed in the *2014 Synthesis of Findings & Program Adjustment Recommendation Memo* with minor semantic modifications. TMDL Program Managers will implement the following program adjustment recommendations in 2015. A complete description of each of the recommendations is found in Part II, Recommendations, of the *2014 Synthesis of Findings & Program Adjustment Recommendation Memo*.

1. Assist Urban Jurisdictions to secure funding for road operations and maintenance
2. Update the Lake Clarity Crediting Program Handbook
3. Establish a new TMDL Performance Measure (TMDL PM) to track and report floodplain restoration activities in a manner consistent with TRPA's EIP reporting efforts.
4. Encourage ongoing nearshore status and trend monitoring and broadcast the relationship of nearshore quality to TMDL implementation in TMDL Management System products.

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 unanimously approved the *2015 TMDL Annual Strategy* as proposed. The *2015 TMDL Annual Strategy* is available on the TMDL Online Interface.