

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This strategic plan represents the City of San Diego (City) Storm Water Pollution Prevention Division's implementation strategy for watershed activities within the City's jurisdictional boundaries. This strategy covers the five year period of the current San Diego County Municipal Storm Water Permit (Final Order R9-2007-0001, January 24, 2007).

The Strategic Plan sets forth the City's process for prioritizing of both sources, and activities in order to maximize water quality benefits cost effectively.

The Strategic Plan includes the following components presented in the referenced sections:

- Activity Location Prioritization Strategy – The methodology for developing a prioritization of watershed activities is presented. This methodology uses the priority watershed pollutants and potential sources from the Baseline Long-Term Effectiveness Assessment (BLTEA), water quality data, land use, pollutant load modeling, and geospatial mapping of these data to develop prioritization of watershed activities.
- Implementation Strategy and Activity Prioritization – The strategy for the implementation of watershed activities uses an integrated Best Management Practice (BMP) approach. An integrated approach considers the current and anticipated future Priority Water Quality Problems (PWQPs) to assure cost effective implementation. BMP implementation is also prioritized using a tiered approach. Source control and pollution prevention Tier I BMPs are the focus of early implementation, as well as Tier II runoff reduction and aggressive street sweeping activities. Tier III Treatment BMPs are implemented at a later stage, if necessary, based on the effectiveness of the Tier I and II activities. The Implementation Strategy identifies the prioritized first and the following intermediate steps for each tiered activity. The five-year goal for each activity is also presented. Linked to these general steps is the Activity Prioritization that is based on the pollutant and source priorities. These two tools, the Implementation Strategy and Activity Prioritization, provide a road map for watershed activities over the five-year permit period.
- Required Permit and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Potential Watershed Activities – In order to develop an estimated annual budget for watershed activities, a defined list of potential activities by watershed that would meet the requirements of the Municipal Permit is presented. To meet the current Municipal Stormwater Permit, two potential projects per watershed per year that result in load reductions are identified. Included in this list are also projects that address current and anticipated TMDL and Ocean Plan pollutant reduction goals. These projects are identified as Phase I and Phase II activities and are costed separately to provide flexibility based on available resources. This strategic plan also lists the studies, design and monitoring activities that are required to support the implementation and assessment of the potential activities. This list is provided as guidance and does not reflect actual planned projects. As guidance, it provides the City a planning document to meet permit and TMDL requirements over the next five-years.

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

- Potential Watershed Activities Location Maps – Using the Activity Location Prioritization Strategy for BMP implementation, potential project locations are identified within the priority sectors. The Phase I projects that have been identified and concept planned, are shown on the watershed sector maps. Potential tiered BMP projects are also identified on the sector maps that correspond to the list of potential watershed activities. These maps provide the City with the tools to identify projects to meet the permit and TMDL goals as resource are made available. These projects have been prioritized to sectors with the highest loading potential for the priority pollutants of concern with the goal of achieving load reductions of these pollutants to receiving waters.
- Effectiveness Monitoring Plan - This strategic plan provides a framework for a monitoring program to determine the effectiveness of applicable watershed activities. This plan presents the methods to measure the effectiveness of the planned and potential activities. These measurements also link back to the five-year goals for the general activities that are listed in the Implementation Strategy. The goal of the effectiveness monitoring is not only to provide results for regulatory reporting, but also to provide program management feedback on the success of the projects and whether individual activities should be modified, expanded or discontinued in future years

The purpose of this document is to develop a comprehensive watershed activity strategy that addresses the following regulatory drivers:

- Municipal Storm Water Permit – The Final Order (order No. R9-2007-0001), dated January 24, 2007, requires each Copermittee to implement no less than two Watershed Water Quality Activities and two Watershed Education Activities each year that results in a “significant pollutant load reduction, source abatement, or other quantifiable benefits to discharge or receiving water quality in relation to the watershed’s high priority water quality issues.”
- Current and Near Term (within next five years) Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) – The existing TMDLs for Chollas Creek include the diazinon and mouth of Chollas Creek sediment toxicity TMDLs. The dissolved metals TMDL is anticipated for adoption in 2007. The final bacteria TMDL for shoreline sections of San Diego River, Tijuana Valley, Mission Bay, Los Penasquitos and San Dieguito Watersheds is anticipated in 2008. These TMDLs will likely require additional watershed activities beyond the municipal permits requirements to meet the load reduction and concentration based requirement of the existing and anticipated near-term TMDLs.
- Ocean Plan Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) Exception Process for La Jolla Shores – The draft ASBS Exception Process indicated defined pollutant load reductions are likely to be required to meet the criteria of the Ocean Plan or “natural water quality” conditions. Watershed activities will therefore need to better define the source of pollutants of concern, their impact on the marine ecology, and result in targeted reductions that address these potential impacts.

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

Key Planning Tools Developed in the Plan

The following key planning tools have been developed as part of the plan. The locations of these tools are also highlighted below. These tools will be used by the City to develop and update annual watershed activities as well as implement the overall stormwater management strategy for six watersheds which the City has jurisdiction.

- Activity Location Prioritization Maps (Section 2.0) – These maps are used to identify the priority sectors of each watershed that should be the focus of the first phase of watershed activities. These sectors have the highest potential loading of constituents that have a high priority rating. These maps also show the location of potential sources that should be the focus of source control and pollution prevention activities.
- Implementation Strategy and Activity Prioritization (Section 3.0) – Using a tiered approach, this prioritization tool identifies the activities that meet the five-year goals for each watershed. The activities begin at the identified prioritized first step. Use then the Activity Priority to identify the source group, watershed, or pollutant that is of higher priority. This allows for implementation of these activities in a phased manner depending on available resources. As more resources are made available, activities can be expanded to the next priority listed in this tool.
- List of Potential Watershed Activities (Section 3.0) – This tool provides for budgeted purposed the required watershed activities on an annual basis, and the potential additional project that will be needed to meet the TMDL and other program goals. This is guidance for annual activity planning and budgeting.
- Potential Watershed Activities Maps (Section 4.0 and Section 5.0) – This tool assists in coordinating of activities and for the development of conceptual plans for these activities.
- Framework for Effective Assessment Monitoring (Section 7.0) – Use this plan to develop the specific monitoring, data management, and reporting programs that will be needed to assess the effectiveness of the activities.