

Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring

STAR

CAP/ITAT/NTN/Modeling
WG/DIWG

Presenter: Breck Sullivan

PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

Capture improving water quality conditions to enhance ecosystem health by maintaining monitoring and assessment, evaluating attainment of established water quality standards (DO, Clarity, Chl-a) in the Bay, and strengthening scientific understanding of patterns in nutrients (N & P), sediment and other parameters in the watershed and Bay.

EXISTING 2014 AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

Continually improve the capacity to monitor and assess the effects of management actions being undertaken to implement the Bay TMDL and improve water quality. Use the monitoring results to report annually to the public on progress made in attaining established Bay water quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed.

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*WQSAM is seeking guidance on target language

PROPOSED TARGETS : All Under Construction, Conceptual Topics	
Water Quality Standards Attainment Method	
Water Quality Standards Attainment	
Nutrient and Sediment Trends in Watershed	
Factors Impacting Tidal Waters	

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- CESR report:
 - Attaining water quality standards was not showing signs of needed improvement or happening at an acceptable rate
 - We have not seen this improvement because nutrient loads need to be lower
- No where in the current Watershed Agreement is there language speaking to a specific point of attaining water quality standards
- EC Charge requests SMART Outcomes
- WQSAM is proposing quantitative SMART targets that will address water quality patterns needed to enhance ecosystem health. Seeking guidance on the language.

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Target Topic	Example SMART Target :	Example Activity Target :
Water Quality Standards Attainment Method	Establish partnership approved approaches to assess all criteria (DO, Clarity, CHLA) in all designated uses using all available data. For DO, have it approved by 2028 and reported on in 2030.	
Water Quality Standards Attainment Results	Through actions supporting the WIP Outcome, sustain CB water quality standards attainment at historical rates of at least 20% - 40% percent per year as generated and reported by the multimetric water quality standards indicator.	Report on water quality standards attainment annually.
Nutrient and Sediment Loads and Trends in the Watershed	In coordination with the WIP, see improving trend conditions in X%, Y%, Z% in nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment respectively by 2030.	On an annual basis for RIM stations, produce load and trend analysis. Conduct the same analysis for the nontidal network on a biennial basis.
Factors Impacting Tidal Waters	Need to speak with subject matter experts.	On an annual basis for tidal Bay and tributary stations, produce trend analysis.