

Criteria Assessment Protocol Meeting

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Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome Revisions

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WQSAM

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.

Management Board Guidance

- Consensus on update for WQSAM!
- Overall:
 - Address endpoint (WQS attainment) in language
 - Include tidal and nontidal monitoring/analysis
 - Monitoring is a priority within the partnership
 - Open to considering other parameters besides (N,P,S,DO,Clarity,CHLA) but not as the focus and need existing monitoring and assessment methods
 - Keep WIP and WQSAM as separate outcomes

OUTCOME

High level outcome language. (The change in state we aim to influence or the future state we aspire to reach as a consequence of our actions and their outputs.) This language does not need metrics.

- Bullets of **measurable targets** or objectives. These are shorter-term steps and results: this is the place to be as specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound (SMART) as possible to ensure we are tracking our work, learning from the results, and being publicly accountable.
- These could be more direct measures of our efforts and whether we are following through on plans and commitments.
- Interim steps and tiered targets acknowledge what is realistic in a set period while leaving space for what we ultimately know is needed for the healthy watershed we envision.
- Targets that are not thoroughly flushed out can be listed as “under construction.”

Survey Overview

- Clearer language
- Do not reference “reaching full attainment”
- SMART Targets/Outputs
- Group 1: Monitoring Capacity
- Group 2: Similar to new WIP Outcome (Consolidate? Focus more on physical monitoring/capacity?)
- Group 3: Focus on tidal and nontidal (attainment for accountability, but nontidal too vague?)
- Group 4: Our Goal language speaks more to what an outcome could be
- Group 5: Need to be more broad, open the door for other indicators

High Level Sentence

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

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SMART Targets

- Water Quality Standards Attainment Method
- Water Quality Standards Attainment
- Collaboration with WIP Outcome
- Nutrient and Sediment Trends in the Watershed
- Tidal Trends

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

SMART Targets

- **Water Quality Standards Attainment:** Sustaining bay recovery rates for 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.
- **Nutrient and Sediment Trends:** For all 123 stations, see improving trend conditions in X%, Y%, Z% in nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment respectively by 2030.

SMART Targets

- CCSR Report has stated how we are not doing enough and need to see a strong change in order to reach our goals in regards to trends
- Management Board is asking for SMART Targets/Outputs. These allow us to go down a quantitative path and show progress towards our high level statement and goal. If not, our targets will only refer to activities.
- These examples are very similar to how other outcomes have/will present their targets – SAV, Stream Health, Forest Buffers, Tree Canopy

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Overall Message

- Items not represented in outcome language will still be included in supporting documents –
Management Strategies, Workplans
- There may still be changes in the outcome language
– Approval from MB, PSC, and public feedback