Chesapeake Bay TMDL 2017 Midpoint Assessment: Setting up for Upcoming Policy Decisions

Request for Further Direction from the Principals' Staff Committee March 1, 2017

Estimated Current Load

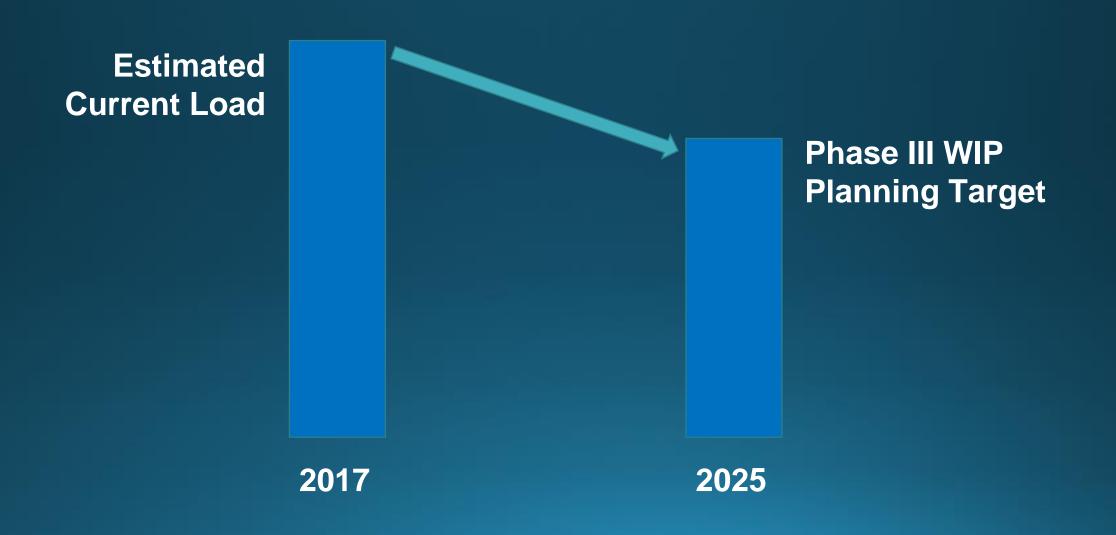
[Model simulated loads under average rainfall/ river flow condition factoring in all reported pollution reduction practices]

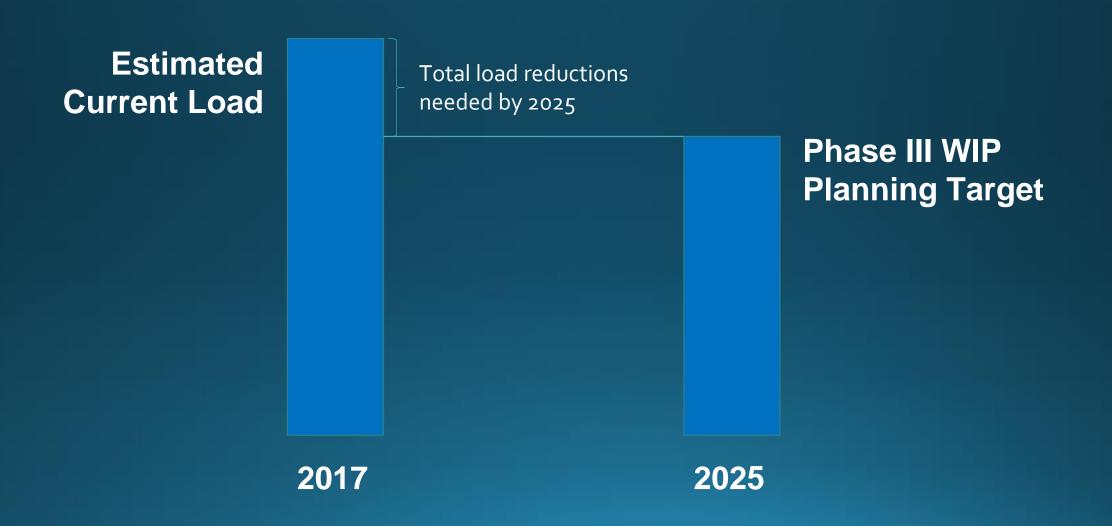
Estimated Current Load

Phase III WIP Planning Target

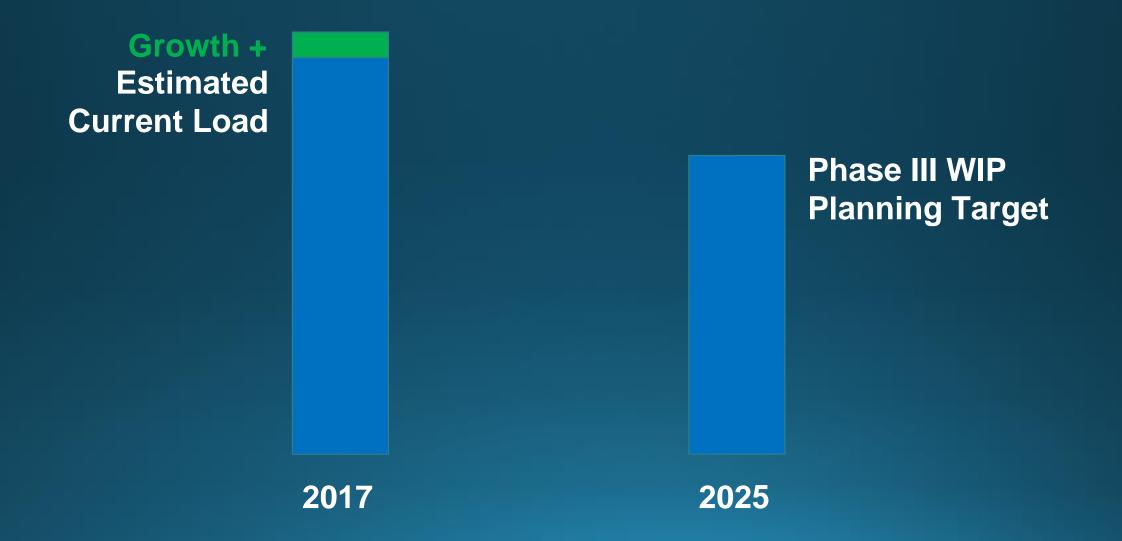
[Model simulated loads the Bay's tidal waters can absorb and still achieve the four jurisdictions' Chesapeake Bay water quality standards]

2017 2025









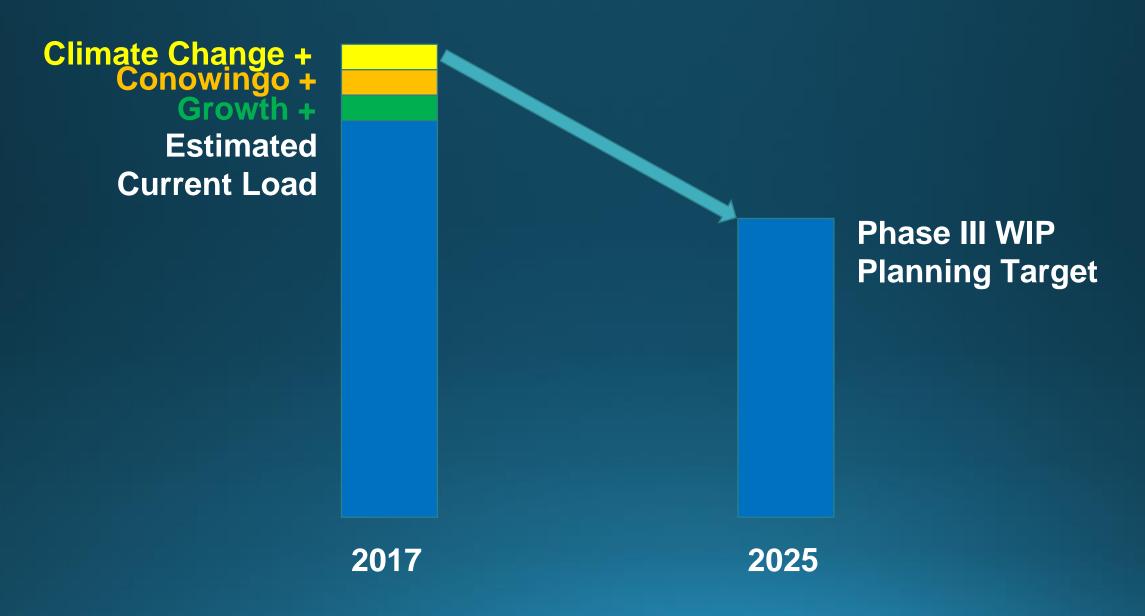
Conowingo + Growth + **Estimated Current Load** 2025 2017

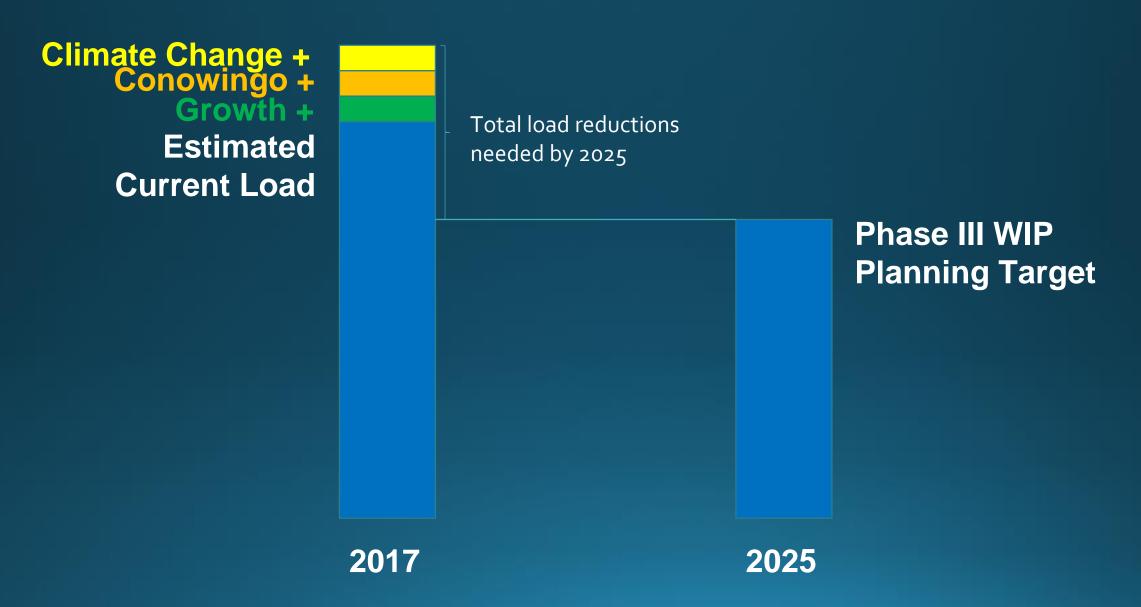
Phase III WIP Planning Target

Climate Change + Conowingo + **Estimated Current Load**

Phase III WIP Planning Target

2017 2025





Does How Each of These Policy Decisions Fit Together Make Sense?

Current Midpoint Assessment Schedule

Midpoint Assessment Deliverable	Current Schedule
Partnership's fatal flaw review of the suite of Phase 6 models	April – May 2017
Release of draft Phase III WIP planning targets	June 2017
Partnership's review of draft Phase III WIP planning targets	June – December 2017
EPA releases final Phase III WIP expectations	June 2017
Release of final Phase III WIP planning targets	December 2017
Draft Phase III WIPs due to EPA	August 2018
EPA review and engagement with jurisdictions on feedback of draft Phase III WIPs	August – October 2018
Final Phase III WIPs due to EPA	December 2018

WQGIT Needs to Come Back to the PSC With a Request for a Revised Schedule Once We are Running the Final Phase 6 Model Calibration

Request for Additional Information Needed to Make Remaining Midpoint Assessment Policy Decisions

Phase III WIP Planning Targets Decision

The PSC will decide on the draft and final Phase III WIP Planning Targets based on:

- Applying the previously agreed equity based allocation methodology used in the 2010 Bay TMDL
- Continuing to make allowances for special cases and consideration of special circumstances

What information do you need in order to make this decision?

Accounting for Growth Policy Decisions

The PSC will decide how to account for growth by either:

- Using 2025 forecasted conditions to account for projected growth
 - Build Phase III WIP input decks on 2025 forecasted conditions
 - Factor into future milestones, updating forecasted conditions every 2 years

OR

 Making each jurisdiction responsible the specific procedures, underlying data sources, and programmatic commitments for regular accounting for growth and tracking/accountability mechanisms for ensuring all new or increased pollutant loads are fully offset

What information do you need in order to make this decision?

Conowingo Dam Infill Policy Decisions

Who?







How?

Allocation equity rules used in the Bay TMDL

Most cost effective practices and locations

When?

By 2025

Beyond 2025

Post 2025

What information do you need in order to make these decisions?

Climate Change Policy Decisions

 The PSC will decide whether to address climate change considerations:

• Quantitatively — accounting for additional loads due to climate change impacts projected through 2025 in the Phase III WIPs

AND/OR

• Qualitatively — adaptively manage climate change considerations through the implementation of BMPs (with climate resilient characteristics) through the Phase III WIPs and 2-year milestones

What information do you need in order to make these decisions?