WQGIT Recommendations to the PSC

Accounting for Changed Conditions: Climate Change

PSC-Approved Guiding Principles
WIP Development

- **Capitalize on "Co-benefits"** – maximize BMP selection to increase climate resiliency
- **Account for and integrate planning and consideration of existing stressors** – consider existing stressors in establishing reduction targets or BMP selection
- **Align with existing climate resilient plans and strategies** – document jurisdictions' action plans and strategies to address climate change
- **Manage for risk and plan for uncertainty** – employ risk management and flexible implementation strategies to achieve and maintain water quality standards
- **Engage Local Agencies and Leaders** – work cooperatively with local partners to provide best available data on local impacts

PSC Approved Guiding Principles
WIP Implementation

- **Reduce vulnerability** – use “Climate Smart” principles to site and design BMPs

- **Build in flexibility and adaptability** – allow for adjustments in BMP implementation to consider potential uncertainties and response options

- **Adaptive manage** – allow for changes in BMP selection or WIP implementation over-time

WQGIT Recommendations to the PSC

Adopt a dual approach to factor climate change into the Phase III WIPs

1. **Adopt a programmatic approach to address climate change**
   - Include a narrative strategy in the Phase III WIPs that describes the jurisdictions' current action plans and strategies to address climate change, as well as the jurisdiction-specific nutrient pollutant loadings due to 2025 climate change conditions
   - Incorporate local priorities (e.g., flooding) and actions to address climate change impacts
   - Document the current understanding of the science and identify the research gaps and needs, and what we hope to learn over time given the current state of uncertainty (e.g., a better understanding of the BMP responses to climate change conditions)
   - Identify a date by which the Partnership will provide additional science and information to help inform implementation efforts to address climate change (early 2021 to inform 2022-2023 milestones?)

WQGIT Recommendations to the PSC

Adopt a dual approach to factor climate change into the Phase III WIPs

2. **Document and communicate additional nutrient pollutant loads of up to 9 million pounds of nitrogen and 0.5 million pounds of phosphorus due to 2025 climate change conditions**
   - Continue to understand the nature and effect of climate change impacts in the watershed and estuary to inform management strategies (e.g., WIP/2-year milestones)
   - By [insert date], develop recommendations for new and/or refined methods and modeling techniques to better assess projected impacts on watershed loads and estuarine impacts for a range of future scenarios
   - By [insert date], consider results of updated methods, techniques, and studies and revisit whether to explicitly account for those additional nutrient pollutant loads due to 2025 climate change conditions in the Phase III WIPs and/or 2-year milestones
   - Identify a date (post-2025) by which the Partnership will fully address the additional nutrient pollutant loads in a Phase III WIP addendum and/or 2-year milestones

WQGIT Recommendations to the PSC

Provide the jurisdictions with the **flexibility** to explicitly account for additional nutrient pollutant loadings due to 2025 climate change impacts in their Phase III WIPs and/or 2-year milestones **prior to the Partnership agreed-upon date**