

## **APPENDIX A**

### **REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR WATERSHED-BASED PLANS PER CWA SECTION 319**

All projects supported with CWA Section 319 funds must implement activities based on sound watershed-based plans as defined by the USEPA in its National NPS Program Guidance. USEPA's guidance is based on the idea that significant environmental results are more likely where plans provide detailed information to ensure that priority activities are being undertaken to achieve water quality objectives and beneficial uses within a specific time frame. This is important for a wide range of reasons including the need to (1) ensure that limited resources address significant pollutant sources, (2) accelerate the pace of restoration, (3) provide information to leverage related resources, and (4) establish feedback mechanisms for adjustments to ensure ongoing progress.

Watershed-based plans are holistic documents that are designed to protect and restore a watershed. These plans provide a careful analysis of the sources of water quality problems, their relative contributions to the problems, and alternatives to solve those problems. Watershed-based plans should also deliver proactive measures to protect waterbodies. In watersheds where a TMDL has been developed and approved or is in process of being developed, watershed-based plans should be designed to achieve the load reductions called for in the TMDL.

USEPA's Guidance states that all project implemented with CWA Section 319 funds are directed to projects that are identified in watershed plans that address the following nine key elements:

#### **Element 1: Causes and Sources**

Clearly define the causes and sources of impairment (physical, chemical, and biological).

#### **Element 2: Expected Load Reductions**

An estimate of the load reductions expected for each of the management measures or best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented (recognizing the natural variability and the difficulty in precisely predicting the performance of management measures over time).

#### **Element 3: Management Measures**

A description of the management measures or management practices and associated costs that will need to be implemented to achieve the load reductions estimated in this plan and an identification (using a map or a description) of the critical areas where those measures are needed.

#### **Element 4: Technical and Financial Assistance**

An estimate of the amounts of technical and financial assistance needed, associated costs, and/or the sources and authorities that will be relied upon, to implement this plan.

#### **Element 5: Information/Education**

An information/education component that will be used to enhance public understanding of the

project and encourage their early and continued participation in selecting, designing, and implementing management measures.

**Element 6: Schedule**

A schedule for implementing management measures identified in this plan that is reasonably expeditious.

**Element 7: Measurable Milestones**

A schedule of interim, measurable milestones for determining whether the management measures, BMPs, or other control actions are being implemented.

**Element 8: Evaluation of Progress**

A set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made towards attaining water quality standards and, if not, the criteria for determining whether the plan needs to be revised or, if a TMDL has been established, whether the TMDL needs to be revised.

**Element 9: Monitoring**

A monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation efforts over time, measured against the criteria established in the Evaluation of Progress element.

For additional information, including the full text of the CWA Section 319(h) guidelines, visit the USEPA's NPS website (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2003/October/Day-23/w26755.htm>).

For detailed information on the nine elements and resources for developing sound watershed plans visit: [http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed\\_handbook/](http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed_handbook/) (Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters)

## **WATERSHED-BASED PLANS IN CALIFORNIA**

In California, wide ranges of plans are being used to comply with the nine key elements, often in combination with each other. Examples of plans that are being used to comply with the key elements include local watershed plans, coordinated resource management plans, TMDL implementation plans, comprehensive conservation and management plans, Regional Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans), and their Regional Water Boards Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) Chapters under the WMI Integrated Plan, and combinations thereof. Applicants that need assistance may work with their Regional Water Boards to verify that the combination of plans has the nine elements. Those elements that are not included in existing plans will need to be incorporated into the plans, as appropriate, to be eligible for CWA 319(h) funds. During the FP stage of the grant selection process, applicants for CWA 319(h) funds will complete a table ([Table F-1](#)) to indicate where each key watershed plan element is addressed. Grant awards may be withdrawn if all nine key elements are not adequately addressed.

Regional Water Board WMI chapters can be accessed at the following websites:

Region1

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/watershed\\_management.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/watershed_management.shtml)

- Region 2:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/watershed/#wmi](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/watershed/#wmi)
- Region 3:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/wmi/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/wmi/index.shtml)
- Region 4:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/regional\\_program/index.shtml#Watershed](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/regional_program/index.shtml#Watershed)
- Region 5:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/watershed\\_management/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/watershed_management/index.shtml)
- Region 6:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\\_issues/programs/watershed\\_management/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/watershed_management/index.shtml)
- Region 7:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water\\_issues/programs/wmi/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/wmi/)
- Region 8:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water\\_issues/programs/wmi/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/wmi/index.shtml)
- Region 9:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/wmc/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/wmc/index.shtml)