

Agenda Item Number 9.A.

Willamette Basin DEQ Requirements

Presenter: Byron Vanderpool

Action Recommended: Direct staff to seek funding from DEQ to allow Lane County agencies to respond to planning requirements ordered by DEQ.

Issue Summary:

- The State of Oregon has established a program called Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to measure and respond to water quality pollutants. DEQ will be issuing TMDLs on the Willamette Basin around May of 2004.
- Local agencies in Lane County will be Designated Management Agencies (DMA). A DMA will have 12-18 months from the issuance of the TMDL to develop an implementation plan.
- A funding opportunity exists to conduct the planning work necessary in response to a TMDL. Applications are due October 14, 2003, with awards expected in May of 2004.

Background:

On September 12, members of the Mid-Willamette Valley COG, Cascades West COG and LCOG met with DEQ and DLCD to discuss DEQ's Willamette Basin TMDL program for 303d listed streams.

To comply with the Clean Water Act, the State of Oregon has established a program called Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to measure and respond to water quality pollutants such as temperature, bacteria, and toxic materials. TMDLs will be issued as orders by the DEQ and will set limits for various pollutants, descriptive information about location specific problems, and identify the various pollutant sources. More information on TMDLs is available at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm>.

A Designated Management Agency (DMA) is an entity with legal authority over a source of pollutants. For example, cities are DMAs for non-point sources such as storm water. (DEQ is the DMA for all point source, permitted sources.)

DEQ expects to issue the TMDL for the Willamette Basin by May of 2004. In it DMAs will be identified. A DMA will have 12-18 months from the date the TMDL order is approved by the EPA to submit an Improvement Plan to the DEQ, describing the DMA's mitigation strategies. It is likely all non-coastal cities in the county and Lane County will be designated DMAs.

Funding to assist the process may be available through the DEQ's Nonpoint Source Pollution 319 Grant program. Deadline for grant submittal is October 14. Grants will be awarded in May of 2004. (The next 319 grant opportunity is one year later.) More information on this grant program is available at:
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/nonpoint/wq319gt.htm>.

Given the timing, the uncertainty about which agencies will be DMA's, the magnitude of the planning process, and DEQ's stated preference for regional grant applications, LCOG is proposing it submit a grant application to conduct the necessary planning activities in conjunction with its member agencies who may fall under a TMDL order. This proposal was taken to the Regional Managers on September 16 and received their endorsement.