

Water Quality Attainment Strategy Studies

Project Title:	<i>Task 1: Prepare Water Quality Attainment Strategy (WQAS)</i>
Pollutant:	Bacteria
Waterbody:	Ballona Creek
Estimated Project Start Date:	04/01/05
Estimated End Date:	11/01/05
Estimated Cost:	\$95,000 - \$125,000 (see note ^a below)
Priority:	High
Date this Scope Last Updated:	<i>June 20, 2005</i>

^a Section 3.0 presents a preliminary estimate of the cost to conduct the proposed project assuming no changes in scope and normal project execution variables. The high end of the estimated cost range adds in a contingency to account for potential changes in scope and potential unanticipated difficulties or complexities in project execution.

1.0 Project Description

1.1 TMDL / Watershed management issues to be addressed

Purpose: At the Technical Committee Meetings of December 7, 2004, the Committee heard from the Regional Board about the Ballona Creek/Estuary Bacteria TMDL. The Committee brainstormed a list of potential analyses and data development. At the February 15, 2005 meeting, the Technical Committee reviewed a preliminary priority rankings of the full brainstormed list. The Technical Committee agreed on three high priority tasks associated with the water quality attainment strategy of the TMDL.

1. Implementation options and strategies (a range of options and strategies will be considered)
2. Compliance Approach and Requirements
Including: Compliance timelines
3. Adaptive management
Including: Monitoring Elements to Support Compliance Determinations

Below are brief descriptions of the three high priority tasks. Technical and economic information will be prepared and potential strawman options will be developed for each TMDL element within the Water Quality Attainment Strategy (Implementation which includes potential strategies, schedule and cost analysis; and Monitoring which includes ambient and compliance assessment monitoring, and special studies) for discussion among CREST members of the Technical Committee. Based on the consensus reached by the CREST Technical Committee, the potential implementation elements will be provided to the Steering Committee as a report out from the Technical Committee.

1.2 Task Approach

The following descriptions are proposed for the three Tasks:

- Task 1.1 – Establish TMDL potential implementation strategies: Various implementation options and strategies (combinations of options) will be identified for point and nonpoint sources. These will address both dry weather and wet weather strategies and may include both structural (examples include diversions, treatment and discharge, treatment and reuse, regional or local and on-site infiltration, channel modification) and non-structural (e.g. source control) measures. Potential implications of implementing various options will be addressed at a reconnaissance level, e.g. potential effectiveness and technical feasibility of various options, siting of structural control measures, potential multiple benefits and coordination with other programs (such as IRP, Watershed Management Plan). This will include a preliminary evaluation of potential impacts on the estuary from possible dry weather flow diversions as one option under consideration based on review and analysis of available data, information and studies within Ballona Creek or, if available, from similar conditions in other locations where effects of flow diversion has been studied. The analysis will be used to get a broad picture of potential impacts and to further define the pertinent questions that need to be addressed in future studies. If the analysis shows that diversions or any other compliance options bring up major issues or that substantially more data and analysis is needed, those additional studies would be factored into the TMDL special studies and compliance timeframe. Preliminary estimates of cost of the various implementation strategies will be prepared. A general implementation framework will be developed, but as in other area TMDLs, detailed implementation plans are expected to be developed by the responsible jurisdictions. How can iterative management be employed to ensure assurances of continuous improvements of both the understanding and refinement of the problem as well as the solutions.
- Task 1.2 – Establish TMDL compliance approach and requirements: The method for evaluating compliance with the TMDL will be developed. Applicable elements of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches TMDL will be used as a starting point, but agreement will be sought on approaches that address issues specific to Ballona Creek and Estuary. These may include (a) where will compliance be measured (e.g. downstream point of each reach and tributaries, in estuary), dry vs. wet weather monitoring factoring in the high flow exclusion allowance, (b) a schedule of TMDL activities, including additional special studies, dates for completion of jurisdictional implementation and monitoring plans, TMDL reopeners, and (c) discussion on physical and technical issues that might affect jurisdictional groupings and/ or agency coordination requirements to meet compliance.
- Task 1.3 – Establish TMDL monitoring elements: Basic monitoring elements will be identified for point and nonpoint sources and a monitoring framework identified that supports the compliance approach. General requirements will be developed, but as in other area TMDLs, detailed monitoring plans are expected to be developed by the responsible jurisdictions. In addition, relevant Special Studies that may serve to reduce uncertainties and refine estimates of loading capacity, waste load allocations, or evaluate effectiveness of potential implementation measures will be identified.

Task 1.4 Prepare Deliverable - A deliverable will be prepared that includes potential draft language for the Implementation and Monitoring sections of the TMDL and an indication of areas of agreement and/or alternative opinions within the Technical Committee members.

1.3 Why this project is needed and consequences/costs of not doing the project

The WQAS encompasses sections of the TMDL that define how the TMDL will be implemented. It not only describes in general terms the required implementation activities, but it also establishes the schedule for implementation. If this activity is not carried out by CREST, the Regional Board and EPA will develop this section for incorporation into the TMDL based on best available information without the benefit of early stakeholder input.

2.0 Project Timing

2.1 Estimated Project schedule including milestones and decision points

Total estimated time: 6-7 months

- Task 1.1 – Establish TMDL potential implementation strategies: Months 1-6.
- Task 1.2 – Establish TMDL compliance approach and requirements: Month 1-6.
- Task 1.3 – Establish TMDL monitoring elements: Month 1-6.
- Task 1.4 – Prepare deliverable: Months 6-7.

2.2 Assumptions and uncertainties affecting project timing

The above activities could result in considerable discussion among stakeholders. If additional meetings are necessary, then this task will take additional time.

3.0 Project Cost Estimate

3.1 Estimated Cost analysis and justification

Estimated cost: \$95,000 (\$90,000 labor; \$5,000 ODCs)

- Task 1.1 – Establish TMDL implementation strategies: \$55,000.
- Task 1.2 – Establish TMDL compliance approach and requirements: \$15,000.
- Task 1.3 – Establish TMDL monitoring elements: \$15,000.
- Task 1.4 – Prepare deliverable: \$10,000.