

Sources Pathways and Loadings Workgroup (SPLWG) - Priority questions

SPLWG October 23, 2013

Meeting Guidelines: This meeting is meant to be an open, constructive dialogue.

- Avoid unnecessary details - be succinct
- Allow others to finish their thoughts
- Let's work together to keep the meeting on time and focused.

Specific questions for each agenda item

2b Monitoring program elements. Loads and ranking watersheds

- What success criteria indicate when there is sufficient information to answer the MQs?
 - Are particle concentrations known with sufficient accuracy?
 - Is the method of ranking watersheds robust?
- What are the decision criteria for shifting to other watersheds?
 - Quantifying loads from polluted watersheds with a better mix of source areas?
 - Long term trends?
- Do we need to reallocate loads monitoring resources to other efforts e.g. source area monitoring?

2c Marsh Creek Case Study (Contra Costa)

Based on this detailed case study, what information would be needed to support a technical recommendation to reduce or cease monitoring effort at the Marsh Creek in relation to the management drivers?

2d Modeling element using the regional watershed spreadsheet model (RWSM)

- What success criteria indicate the model is good enough to answer the MQs?
- What improvements can/should be made to increase model confidence for:
 - Regional scale loads (low granularity)?
 - Ranking watersheds (medium granularity)?
- Can the RWSM be improved to address the source area emphasis (high granularity) (or would SWMM or some other model be more appropriate)?
 - Improved parameterization (source area concentrations, BMP performance data)?
 - Improved watershed outlet calibration data?
- Are there cost efficient alternative methods that could be considered to answer our management questions?

2e MQ4 What are the projected impacts of management actions (including control measures) on tributaries and where should these management actions be implemented to have the greatest beneficial impact?

3 Programmatic level evaluation - alternative monitoring and modeling design to address changed management emphasis

- What combination of monitoring and modeling would be most appropriate to address current permit provisions and the management focus proposed for MRP 2.0?
 - Do we need to place an emphasis on characterizing pollutants in tidal areas?
 - Are there pollutant specific program designs that could be considered?
- What are the pros and cons for the monitoring/modeling alternatives?
- Are there tools other than monitoring and modeling that should be considered?
- What is a cost efficient design going forward?