

## ATTACHMENT #2

### LAKE TAHOE BASIN EXECUTIVES BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

**RECOMMENDATION:  
RE-CHARTERING  
of the  
STORM WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**JULY 30, 2004**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The *Soil Erosion Control Working Group* (Working Group) is requesting that the Lake Tahoe Basin Executives consider the following action:

- ▶ Re-charter the Storm Water Quality Improvement Committee (SWQIC), pursuant to the discussion contained herein, for a period of two additional years.

#### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

The SWQIC has completed the core efforts that were outlined by the Basin Executives in the previous committee formation charter and has made progress in a number of related areas. These core efforts included recommendations for procedural improvements to the delivery processes for collaborative storm water quality improvement projects.

The Working Group is continuing to place a priority on efforts to improve the design and effectiveness of storm water quality improvement projects. Consequently, the Working Group and the SWQIC have evaluated additional programmatic matters that require further attention. Focus on these ongoing matters is critical to the successful implementation of collaborative storm water quality projects.

In prioritizing these matters, the Working Group has identified the following four items as the next set of priority activities for SWQIC. These activities would collectively comprise the bulk of the committee's next two-year's of effort.

#### **PRIORITY ACTIVITIES:**

An brief description and explanation of these priority items is as follows:

- 1.) Net Water Quality Benefits

The SWQIC is currently working to define interim qualitative tools to help policy-makers and project Technical Advisory Committee members determine if a project has an overall net water quality benefit. Completion of these tools has not yet been achieved. Development of a qualitative methodology is a current necessity. Completion of this effort will help to bridge a gap between the current absence of net water quality benefits methodology and the future implementation of methodologies being developed in conjunction with the TMDL program. Qualitative net water quality benefits clarification is necessary on the majority of water quality improvement projects. This work item proposes continuation of SWQIC efforts on development of this interim methodology.

## 2.) Hydrology and Hydraulics (H&H) Manual

The Working Group has previously directed the SWQIC to work on the development of an H&H procedures manual with the intent of creating procedural consistency throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The initial element of this effort is currently being completed through a collaborative effort with Army Corps of Engineers and is scheduled for completion by the end of calendar year 2004. Future elements are necessary to complete the overall effort. It is currently estimated that the development of a complete H&H procedural manual will take approximately three years.

This work item maintains the current SWQIC role in the completion of the overall H&H procedures manual development effort.

## 3.) Constraints Action Plan

The proposed Constraints Document action plan identifies a role for the SWQIC to work on the resolution of certain constraints and opportunities. Improvements to project delivery effectiveness can be realized through the achievement of the action plan items.

This work item maintains the proposed SWQIC role as identified in the constraints action plan.

#### 4.) Implementation of FEA/PDP/Interactive Protocol

It is anticipated that the implementation of the SWQIC deliverables will identify issues that will likely need to be addressed in the future. An appropriate role for the SWQIC would be to work through process implementation issues. The SWQIC is also identified as one of the upward referral levels in the proposed conflict resolution process.

This work item keeps the SWQIC in an advisory role during the implementation effort.

#### **POTENTIAL SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES:**

There are other important ongoing basin-wide efforts that overlap with programmatic and specific storm water quality improvement project delivery. An appropriate supplemental activity for the SWQIC is to collaborate, to the extent feasible, with existing working groups and committees currently engaged in some of these ongoing work efforts. The role of the SWQIC would be to work with the others on cross-program elements that intersect with project delivery.

The SWQIC activities on the following items could be integrated into the previously described SWQIC work efforts pursuant to the availability of committee time and resources.

#### 5.) Project Level TMDL Implementation

The future implementation of the TMDL includes a project-specific element. As the technical TMDL is completed and the greater TMDL implementation strategies are considered, this activity proposes that the SWQIC assist the TMDL team by providing technical and procedural recommendations related to the project-level element of the overall TMDL implementation. The California NPDES co-permittees will be working the Regional Water Quality Control Board on related issues as the current NPDES permit is reissued in 2005.

#### 6.) BMP Performance

Establishment of collectively agreed-upon BMP performance measures as well as a clear tie to project level implementation is one of the critical elements necessary to achieve overall storm water quality improvement program success. This activity proposes that the SWQIC

participate in the completion of this element of the proposed adaptive management framework.

7.) Facilitation of Adaptive Management

This activity proposes that the SWQIC work in conjunction with others who are facilitating stronger ties between scientific research and project implementation.

8.) Project Management/Program Coordination

This is an area of emphasis that can assist in meeting Basin project implementation targets. This activity proposes that the SWQIC work on the collaborative implementation of this program, including a support role in recommending and developing storm water quality project EIP priorities.

**RECOMMENDED SWQIC APPROACH:**

It is proposed that the SWQIC continue to involve senior level management staff and to utilize regular meetings, subcommittee meetings and non-meeting time to accomplish the new objectives of the committee.

The SWQIC would be encouraged to evaluate and form new subcommittees that will best meet the needs of the new work plan. Under this recommendation, it is proposed to advocate preservation of the following existing SWQIC subcommittees:

- ▶ Hydrology and Hydraulics (H&H)
- ▶ Net Water Quality Benefits

Previously, each SWQIC member individually contributed time to develop, read, review, analyze, and evaluate work products as well as contributed time to provide comments and recommendations to the full committee on SWQIC deliverables. Throughout the periods of concentrated work product development, individual member commitment averaged from between two and four days per month.

This level of commitment will require continuing support of Basin Executives.

As noted above, the Working Group is recommending that SWQIC be re-chartered for a period of two years. If SWQIC is re-chartered, we would request that it prepare a work program (including the need for financial contributions) for the next set of priority activities (and supplemental activities if appropriate), and to transmit the work program to the Basin Executives at its next regularly scheduled meeting.