

I. OVERVIEW

A. ABOUT PROJECT CLEAN WATER

Project Clean Water is a first important step toward defining needs and establishing the commitment necessary to develop and implement effective solutions. Although a great deal of local commitment already exists, we must strengthen commitments and partnerships. This is an opportunity to work together that can lead to innovative solutions, collaborations, and new partnerships between governmental agencies, private institutions and citizens. Stakeholders with diverse missions and a variety of programs are encouraged to come together to solve water pollution problems and to discuss work in common watersheds. Partnerships within the community will provide opportunities for people to make a difference.

The intent of Project Clean Water is to establish a framework and local commitment for restoring and enhancing the quality of coastal and inland waters in the San Diego region. This will be accomplished through the following activities:

- Provide a forum to assemble the people, resources, and information necessary to cooperatively create a consensus approach to water quality management.
- Develop a commitment to develop and implement an action plan.
- Establish a framework for ongoing implementation.

As shown in figure I. 1 below, the development of an action plan will consist of two primary phases; Strategic Planning and Assessment, and Program Development and Implementation Planning.

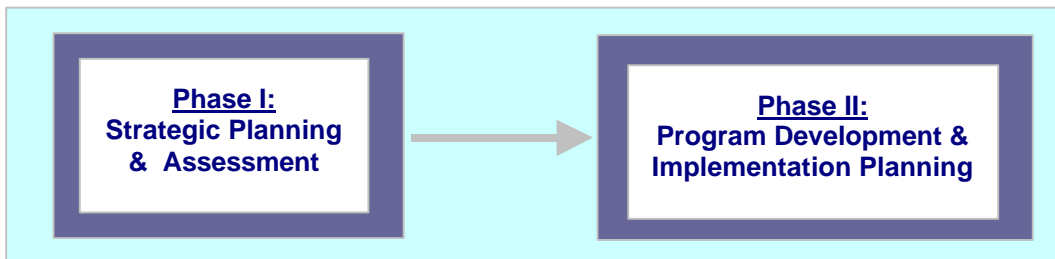


Figure I.1. Project Phases

Phase I: Strategic Planning and Assessment. Building on the results of the October 18, 2000 Clean Water Conference, Phase I is primarily aimed at collecting and assessing the data and information that are necessary to fully characterize existing resources, needs, and expectations. The Strategic Planning component of this phase is also aimed at defining potential logistical and institutional strategies that might be pursued throughout the remainder of the project. This Phase, which will be completed by June 30, 2001, will provide a Clean Water Strategic Plan to guide the implementation of the remainder of the project into the future.

Phase II: Program Development and Implementation Planning. Phase II, which will be built on the framework completed in Phase I, will comprise the majority of the program development work. The primary deliverable of this Phase is a Clean Water Action Plan to implement the Clean Water Strategic Plan. This plan will include an overall strategy to address program implementation at regional, watershed, and jurisdictional scales. Specific timelines and deliverables for this project phase will be established in the Clean Water Strategic Plan to be completed by June 30, 2001.

1. Project Roles And Responsibilities

In general, Project Clean Water consists of three types of activity, (1) policy and legal level planning, (2) project management, and (3) technical guidance and support. Stakeholders, experts, and consultants as needed, will also provide expertise and input at all levels.

- **Policy and Legal Issues.** Policy issues will be addressed by a County of San Diego Board Subcommittee co-chaired by Supervisor Ron Roberts and Supervisor Greg Cox in coordination with a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) after the October 18, 2000 Clean Water Conference. A Legal Review Committee will address legal issues.
- **Project Management.** Project management will be provided by the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health (DEH). The DEH will be responsible for supporting the day-to-day operations of, and ensuring coordination between, the various committees and workgroups to be established throughout the project.
- **Technical Support.** Throughout Project Clean Water, many complex issues will need to be explored and resolved. To ensure that the necessary expertise is brought to bear on these issues, two levels of technical input will be established, Technical Advisory Committees and Technical Workgroups.

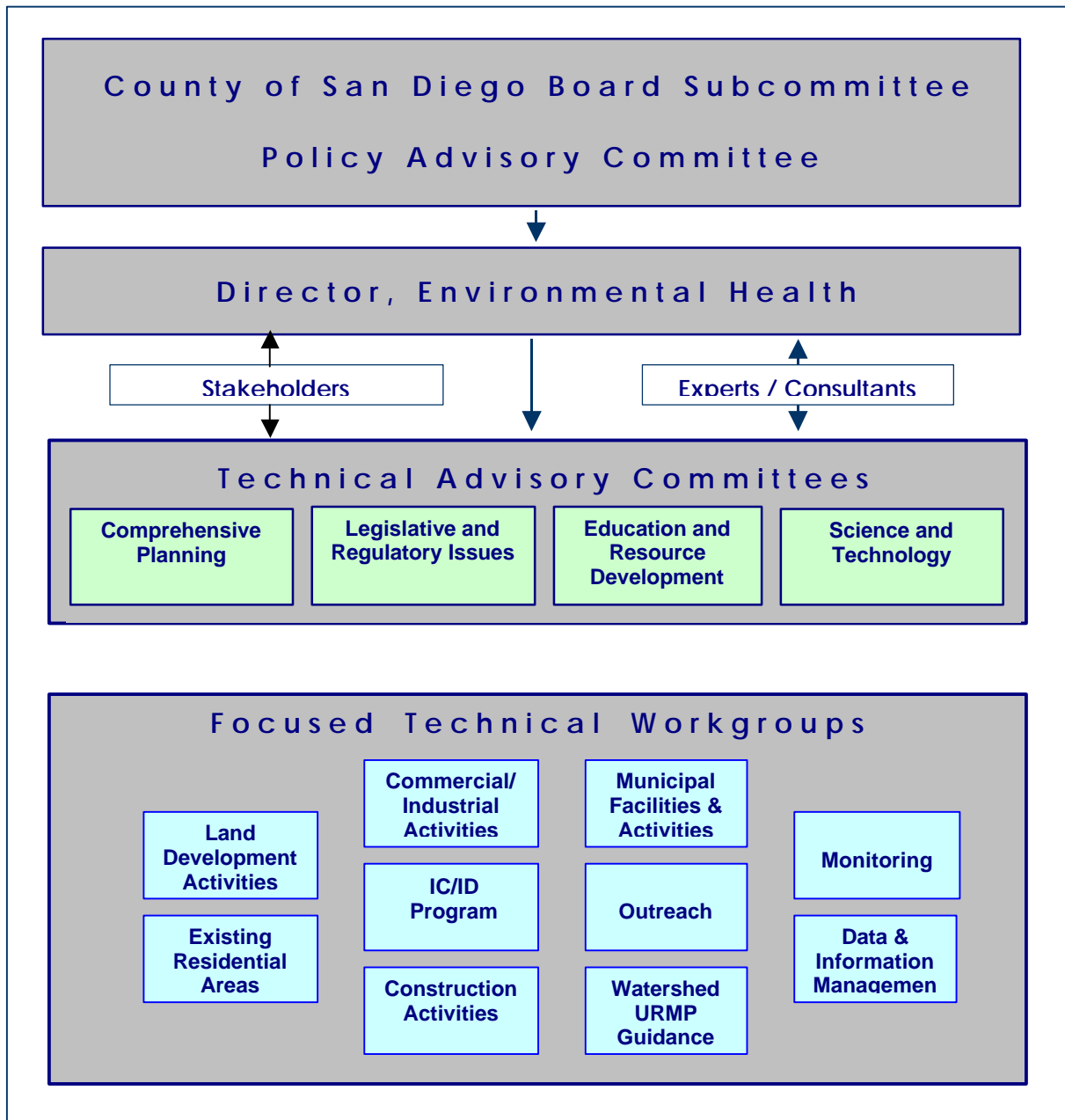
Level 1: Technical Advisory Committees. The first level will consist of four Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) to provide general guidance on planning and technical issues throughout the project. The TACs have been meeting since November 1, 2000 and are compiling a baseline inventory and focused assessment of their respective topic areas, as follows.

- 1) Comprehensive Planning,
- 2) Legislative and Regulatory Issues,
- 3) Education and Resource Development, and
- 4) Science and Technology

Level 2: Technical Workgroups. Throughout the project, Focused Technical Workgroups will also be established to conduct detailed assessments of specific program issues, and eventually to develop recommended management programs to address them. These workgroups will enlist assistance from various stakeholders, experts, and consultants as needed. Ten Technical Workgroups were established during Phase I tasked with developing model programs to facilitate implementation of elements in the new Municipal Stormwater Permit, as follows. The focus and makeup of other specific workgroups will be determined as needed during Phase II.

- 1) Land Development Activities
- 2) Construction Activities
- 3) Existing Residential Activities
- 4) Municipal Facilities and Activities
- 5) Commercial / Industrial Activities
- 6) Illicit Connection / Illegal Discharge
- 7) Outreach
- 8) Watershed URMP Guidance
- 9) Monitoring
- 10) Data & Information Management

Figure I-2



2. Technical Advisory Committees

a) Comprehensive Planning TAC

The Comprehensive Planning TAC was established to provide direction and oversight on strategic planning issues throughout Project Clean Water. The TAC will identify and assess general strategic planning approaches, identify the roles and responsibilities of potential participants in developing and implementing the Clean Water Strategic Plan, and assess potential project costs and sources of funding. Specific responsibilities of the Comprehensive Planning TAC will evolve throughout the project, but some specific tasks are briefly discussed below.

- **Strategic Planning and Assessment.** During the first phase of the project, the Comprehensive Planning TAC compiled a baseline inventory of planning efforts by watershed. This inventory (see Section III. A) Identifies and provides a basic description of the principal strategic planning issues to be addressed throughout the remainder of the project, and will provide a basis for further program development.
- **Clean Water Strategic Plan.** The TAC established a Steering Committee to develop the Clean Water Strategic Plan, which provides the direction for the second phase of Project Clean Water (Development and Implementation Planning).
- **Technical Workgroup Review and Coordination.** During Phase II, the Comprehensive Planning TAC will also coordinate, and assist as necessary, the more detailed assessments of planning and implementation of priority action items to be conducted by the Focused Technical Workgroups.
- **Development and Implementation Planning.** The Comprehensive Planning TAC will also play an important role during this phase of Project Clean Water. After recommended program elements are proposed by Technical Workgroups, the TAC will develop a recommended strategy for implementation of the proposed program elements.

b) Legislative and Regulatory Issues TAC

The Legislative and Regulatory Issues TAC was established to provide direction and oversight on legal and regulatory issues throughout the project duration. This includes both an assessment of current regulatory requirements, as well as opportunities for legislative changes necessary to support water quality protection. Specific responsibilities of the Legislative and Regulatory Issues TAC will evolve throughout the project, but some specific tasks are briefly discussed below.

- **Strategic Planning and Assessment.** During the first phase of the project, the Legislative and Regulatory Issues TAC compiled a baseline inventory to provide

details on laws, statutes, regulations, policies, and other relevant authorities governing or affecting water quality management (see Section III. B.). The TAC also identified relevant legal issues surrounding these practices, programs, and their implementation.

- **Technical Workgroup Review and Coordination.** During Phase II, the Legislative and Regulatory Issues TAC will also coordinate, and assist as necessary, the more detailed assessments of legal and regulatory issues and implementation of priority action items to be conducted by the Focused Technical Workgroups.
- **Development and Implementation Planning.** The Legislative and Regulatory Issues TAC will continue to provide input and recommendations on legal and regulatory issues as needed during the Development and Implementation Planning phase of Project Clean Water.

c) Science and Technology TAC

The Science and Technology TAC was established to provide direction and oversight on scientific and technology issues throughout the project duration. This included a general baseline inventory and a more focused assessment of the technical issues relevant to water quality management. Specific responsibilities of the Science and Technology TAC will evolve throughout the project, but some specific tasks are briefly discussed below.

- **Strategic Planning and Assessment.** During the first phase of the project, the Science and Technology TAC compiled an inventory (see Section III. C.). Of existing data and information, including preliminary work of the sources and types of data and information available to support urban runoff management activities (monitoring data, resource inventories, GIS coverages, etc.). It also includes a description of data availability and data management practices.
- **Technical Workgroup Review and Coordination.** During Phase II, the Science and Technology TAC will also coordinate, and assist as necessary, the more detailed assessments and implementation of priority action items to be conducted by the Focused Technical Workgroups. Focused Assessments will include tasks similar to those conducted in the Baseline Inventory, but with the goal of producing a more detailed characterization of the technical requirements for each of the subject areas described above. Unlike the Baseline Inventory, Focused Assessments will extend beyond information gathering to draw conclusions about specific source categories and specific mitigation opportunities. Some issues are identified as follows:
- **Resource Identification.** The Science and Technology TAC will further identify the water resources (watersheds, water bodies, etc.) in San Diego County, which are impacted or potentially impacted by urban runoff.

- **Impact Assessment.** This task will further identify specific impacts (known or potential) to water resources from urban runoff.
- **Contaminant Identification.** This task will further identify the contaminants or stressors that are causing, or which may cause, impacts to water resources.
- **Source Identification and Mitigation Opportunities.** This task will further identify and characterize the sources of contaminants or stressors, and opportunities to mitigate adverse impacts at the point of origin, in the transport/infiltration system, or prior to final discharge.
- **Development and Implementation Planning.** The Science and Technology TAC will continue to provide input and recommendations on scientific and technical issues as needed during the Development and Implementation Planning phase of Project Clean Water.

d) Education and Resource Development TAC

The Education and Resource Development TAC was established to provide direction and oversight on resource issues throughout the project duration. This includes both assessments of current resource requirements necessary to support water quality protection. Specific responsibilities of the Education and Resource Development TAC will evolve throughout the project, but some specific tasks are briefly discussed below.

- **Strategic Planning and Assessment.** During the first phase of the project, the Education and Resource Development TAC compiled an inventory of local outreach efforts (see Section III. E.).
- **Technical Workgroup Review and Coordination.** During Phase II, the Education and Resource Development TAC will also coordinate, and assist as necessary, the more detailed assessments and implementation of priority action items to be conducted by the Focused Technical Workgroups. Some issues are identified as follows:
- **Existing Practices.** This task will identify and provide a general characterization of the current programs and practices that are relevant to protecting local water quality.
- **Stakeholder Objectives.** This task will identify the parties responsible for, or affected by, water quality impacts, and characterize their long-term management expectations.

- **Potential Resources.** This task will identify the human and financial resources currently available to support water management activities, and characterize levels and types of commitment and funding available.
- **Development and Implementation Planning.** The Education and Resource Development TAC will continue to provide input and recommendations on resource issues as needed during the Development and Implementation Planning phase of Project Clean Water.

3. Phase I Work Products

Through thousands of hours by hundreds of participants the following major work products have been successfully produced during Phase I of Project Clean Water.

- The Clean Water Strategic Plan
- TAC inventories and assessments
- Five draft model programs
- Draft ordinances
- This Phase I Results Report

4. List of TAC Participants

Since we started last year, nearly 300 people representing 78 various agencies have come to the table. Participants (Attachment A) include representatives of the following:

- The County of San Diego
- The 18 incorporated cities in the region,
- The San Diego Unified Port District
- The California Department of Transportation
- The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
- The San Diego Association of Governments
- Academic institutions
- Industry groups
- The United States military
- Consultants
- Local environmental groups
- Professional associations
- Environmental Attorneys
- Community members, and
- Other federal, state and local agencies

B. REGIONAL ISSUES

1. Urban / Population Growth

A number of problems associated with increasing urban / population growth currently impair or threaten water quality. When areas are urbanized, much of the vegetation and soil is replaced by impervious surfaces such as roads and pavement. As a result, the velocity of water movement increases, increasing the risk of flooding and the introduction of numerous contaminants to surface and groundwater. Other effects include eutrophication, invasive species, oxygen depletion, littering, and an increase in pathogenic organisms. Portions of the region are still underdeveloped and contaminant loadings are expected to increase with further urbanization, thus emphasizing the need to better characterize the respective contributions of potential sources and to identify effective management options to protect water quality now.

2. Impairment of Beneficial Uses

There are many beneficial uses of the waters within the San Diego region, including recreation, drinking, commercial and residential supply, and sustaining species and habitat. The Basin Plan, adopted by the Regional Board, designates the beneficial uses for waters in the region and establishing water quality objectives to protect those uses. Water pollution will impair these uses, making it necessary to implement these standards.

3. Water Resources

The region is one of the fastest growing in the nation and will continue to put record demands and pressures on water supply. San Diego County relies almost totally on imported water supplies. It is necessary to implement measures to protect the water quality of our potable supply, including surface and groundwater and to make water available to the San Diego region in the event of an interruption in imported water deliveries.

4. Coastal / Recreational Water Pollution

The San Diego Region is considered to be one of the most enjoyable areas for recreational activities like swimming, fishing, and water sports. However, polluted runoff and other negative impacts from urbanization have degraded the quality of our coastal waters. Using waters polluted with pathogens can be dangerous to human health. Beaches are often closed to reduce the risk of health effects from contaminated waters. It is imperative to identify and control sources of pollution that have the potential to hinder not only our enjoyment of these waters, but also the aquatic species that depend on water quality to survive.

5. Flooding

Because many years usually pass between major flood episodes, development has been allowed to expand into the floodplains. As a result, this area is densely urbanized, with a large population at risk for disastrous flooding. Flooding can adversely affect our health as well as destroy property and disrupt habitats. Management solutions are necessary to further reduce the risk of disastrous floods.

6. Decline in Wetlands, Habitat, Natural Process

The San Diego Region is one of the richest in biological resources and diversity, but much of this has been depleted or is currently threatened by the adverse effects of water pollution. Future development is a critical issue in the region. Endangered species must be protected and habitats should be maintained or restored. We should also protect and enhance wetlands to fully utilize their natural purification functions.

7. Endangered and Threatened Species

The region is home to approximately 200 plant and animal species that are federally or state listed as endangered, threatened, rare, or sensitive. Water literally is a breeding ground and host for many species. Moving water beyond its natural site to other destinations and disrupting its quality interferes with species relying on the original source and condition of the water. Most endangered and threatened species depend on water quality to complete their life cycle. Water management must address the need to sustain the life of these species.

8. Groundwater

Groundwater is a potential source of drinking water for humans. It is being used faster than it can be replenished. Contaminated groundwater is very difficult and expensive to mitigate. Pollution prevention and conservation practices should be adopted in order to protect important groundwater supplies from being contaminated in the first place. Management and monitoring are necessary to protect groundwater quality without upsetting California's recognition of property rights to groundwater.

9. Air Pollutants Disposition

There is a complex relationship between the management of water resources and the control of air pollution. The issue of air deposition of pollutants is a source of water pollution that now requires consideration in the development of water management activities.

C. STAKEHOLDERS

During Phase I of Project Clean Water, the Education and Resource Development TAC created a baseline inventory of the agencies, institutions, and other entities that play a role or have a stake in the quality of our local waters. The purpose of this inventory is to identify the entities that could potentially participate or provide resources in support of clean water. The inventory (Attachment B) includes a table of the watersheds to summarize where each stakeholder plays a role in the San Diego Region. This preliminary inventory has not been completed entirely; it is a dynamic document that will continuously be updated over time. Phase II will conduct activities to strengthen the coordination of the inventory.

1. Federal

At all levels, stakeholders include agencies as well as elected officials. Elected officials at the federal level include the United State Senate and House of Representatives, contributing mostly to a role in legislation. Some major agencies participating in water quality include the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Interior.

2. State

Participating at the state level, elected officials include Governor Gray Davis, the state senate, and the state assembly. There are many agencies authorized under the California Environmental Protection Agency, including the State Water Resources Control Board, the Integrated Waste Management Board, and the Air Resources Board. The Air Resources Board will become a significant agency as cross-media activities are developed in Phase II. There are also many departments within the California Resources Agency. Significant stakeholders associated with water quality include the Department of Conservation, an agency mostly with water supply. Also included are the Department of Fish & Game, the Department of Water Resources, and the California Coastal Commission.

3. Regional

While stakeholders at the federal and state levels tend to provide a broad perspective for water quality, the regional level tends to be more narrowly focused to conduct more specific activities, including actions for implementation. Regional stakeholders include the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and the San Diego Unified Port District. Other participants addressing water quality include municipal water districts, sanitation districts, and task forces.

4. Watershed

Included in the inventory are the eleven watersheds that exist in the San Diego Region. Watersheds are becoming the focus for water quality and restoration activities, they are presenting opportunities to expand our knowledge in areas of science and technology. For example, there has been a focus on how upstream actions affect conditions in the watershed

below. Thus, identifying watersheds as a significant component to water quality improvement will help determine the current coordination of stakeholders within their respective areas in the region.

5. Local

The content of the inventory contains a relatively large number of stakeholders at the local level. However, this may not always be an advantage. Coordination can be difficult to sustain at this level. For example, there are 18 cities in the region, numerous school districts as well as colleges and universities, and participating chambers of commerce. There are also a variety of environmental groups and professional associations that are significant stakeholders. In addition, local tribal involvement has increased to improve water quality on tribal lands. Cooperation at the local level is a significant issue that will be addressed in the next phase of the project.