

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

To: Umpqua Basin TMDL File

Date: October 31, 2006

From: Lauri Aunan, WQ Administrator



Subject: Umpqua Basin TMDL Order

On October 31, 2006, the Umpqua Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was issued as an order by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). The area covered by the Umpqua Basin corresponds to three fourth-field hydrologic unit codes (HUC): 17100301, 17100302 and 17100303 for the North Umpqua, South Umpqua, and Umpqua sub-basins respectively. The Umpqua Basin encompasses an area of approximately 3.24 million acres, 90% of which is federal, state, and private forest lands, located in southwest Oregon. The TMDLs addressed the parameters of temperature, bacteria, pH, dissolved oxygen, aquatic weeds/algae and biological criteria. The temperature and bacteria TMDLs are applicable to all perennial waters, and the allocations are applicable to all sources and land uses in the sub-basins.

This final Umpqua Basin TMDL, developed under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, has been submitted for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approval. The document, when approved, will be an update to Oregon's Continuous Planning Process pursuant to Section 303(e) of the Clean Water Act. Oregon's Umpqua Basin Water Quality Management Plan is also being submitted to USEPA, although it does not need to be approved or disapproved as specified under the terms of the February 1, 2000 Memorandum of Agreement between USEPA and ODEQ regarding the implementation of Clean Water Act Section 303(d). Should USEPA modify or disapprove this TMDL, such actions will be made public.

Draft TMDLs were presented to and discussed with the Umpqua Basin Technical Committee comprised of various stakeholders and interest groups. Committee members provided input to drafts that resulted in changes to draft and final documents. The intent was to get informal review and comment while DEQ was completing the development of the draft TMDLs.

The public comment period on the draft Umpqua Basin TMDL opened February 21, 2006 and closed April 24, 2006. Informational meetings to present background on the technical and modeling components of the draft TMDLs were provided preceding the public hearings and on March 9, 14, 16 and 21, 2006. Public hearings were held in Reedsport (March 30, 2006) and Roseburg (April 6, 2006). Copies of the document were made available at various locations within the basin including Douglas County libraries, Douglas County Commissioner Offices, offices of area Tribal Nations and watershed councils as well as at the Roseburg, Eugene, Medford and Portland DEQ offices and on the internet.

DEQ received comments on the draft TMDLs from 21 parties including Federal, State, County and City Officials; various stake holders; interest groups and private citizens.

DEQ summarized the issues raised, prepared responses and made revisions to the draft TMDL and Water Quality Management Plan. The Response to Comments document along with the comments and the modified TMDLs are included with this submittal.

A strong partnership has developed with the partners for Umpqua Rivers Watershed Council and Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District. These organizations have and will continue to play a key positive role in collecting data, informing the public, and working on restoration projects. The efforts of these groups and others in the basin are an important component in assuring that these TMDLs and the associated Water Quality Management Plans are locally accepted and implemented.

This memo and the related public notification represent the beginning of the 60-day appeal period on this ODEQ action. The Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) allow for the following:

- (1) Any person who participated in establishing a TMDL, including those who submitted comments, and any other person entitled to seek judicial review of an order issuing a TMDL may request reconsideration by the Director in accordance with OAR 137-004-0080.
- (2) A person may file a petition for judicial review of a final TMDL order as allowed by ORS 183.484.

This TMDL/WQMP and Response to Comments documents can be found at the following website: www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm or can be viewed at the following locations: ODEQ Headquarters, 811 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204; ODEQ Roseburg Office, 725 SE Main St., Roseburg, OR 97470; ODEQ Eugene Office, 1102 Lincoln St. Suit 210, Eugene, Oregon 97401. Once USEPA has approved this TMDL, this document will be made available via a CD electronic file or paper copy.

Should you have any questions about this TMDL, please contact (Paul Heberling at 541-440-3338 ext 224.

Issued by:

Lauri Aunan
Water Quality Administrator

Date: October 31, 2006

Attachments

