

## **Biennial Review Request for Comments From DEQ (revised 12-30-14)**

*"The State Department of Agriculture and the State Board of Agriculture shall consult with the Department of Environmental Quality or the Environmental Quality Commission in the adoption and review of water quality management plans and in the adoption of rules to implement the plans." ORS 568.930(2)*

### Survey Checklist for **Southern Willamette Valley AgWQ Management Area**

DEQ Basin Coordinator: **Pamela Wright**

Date: **November 24, 2014**

(If answered "no", please provide information and/or example language)

#### **I. Area Plan Content**

##### **A. Issue identification**

1. Does the Area Plan include all water quality limited water bodies, including 303(d) listed and with approved TMDLs?

*DEQ COMMENTS: Yes, see attached table updated with 2012 status.*

*ODA RESPONSE: The updated DEQ table is included in the Area Plan as an attachment.*

2. Does the Area Plan adequately reflect current TMDL status?

*DEQ COMMENTS: Yes, see attached table updated with 2012 status.*

3. Does the Area Plan sufficiently present the TMDL load allocation that it is intended to address?

*DEQ COMMENTS: Yes.*

4. Does the Area Plan adequately include items from applicable Groundwater Management Area Action Plans?

*DEQ COMMENTS: Not applicable. The SWV GWMA is located just downstream of the Management Area.*

5. Does the Area Plan present the requirements of Coastal Zone Management Act applicable to agriculture?

*DEQ COMMENTS: Not applicable.*

6. Does the Area Plan include sufficient items from the State of Oregon; Pesticide Management Plan for Water Quality Protection?

*DEQ COMMENT: I believe the Southern Willamette Valley would be an excellent area for a Pesticide Stewardship Partnership. The SWCD staff and Watershed Councils are technically skilled and have good relationships with landowners. I suggest pursuing that.*

*ODA Response: This recommendation has been passed along to Water Quality Pesticide Management Team for consideration.*

7. Does the Area Plan sufficiently address the needs in drinking water source areas related to agricultural pollution sources within the geographic area of the plan?  
*DEQ COMMENT: DEQ recommends that the Area Plan include more specifics about potential impacts of agricultural practices on drinking water quality and ways to reduce or prevent these impacts. The primary drinking water contaminants of concern in the geographic area that can be related to agricultural pollution sources include: harmful algae blooms, bacteria, turbidity, disinfection by-products, nutrients, and pesticides.*

*ODA Response: Agricultural water quality regulations currently require that producers prevent and control water pollution to meet federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requirements. Protection of drinking water sources is encompassed in the CWA (e.g., 40 CFR Part 403). However, ODA welcomes a summary of information from DEQ about drinking water source areas.*

**B. Goals and Objectives:**

1. Do the goals and objectives of the Area Plan clearly state that the purpose of the Area Plan is to prevent and control water pollution and to meet water quality standards?

*DEQ COMMENTS: Yes.*

2. Does the Area Plan include clear and measurable objectives that are designed to meet water quality standards and TMDL load allocations?

*DEQ COMMENTS: No.*

*ODA RESPONSE: ODA continues to work with the LAC and SWCD to establish measurable objectives, including milestones and timelines, which achieve the goals of the Area Plan as resources allow. ODA's priority for this biennial review was to work with the LAC and the SWCD to convert this Area Plan to a new template format to be utilized across Oregon. ODA will work with the LAC and the SWCD to prioritize measurable objectives at the next biennial review.*

**C. Strategies to Meet Water Quality Goals and Track Progress**

1. Are geographic and/or water quality issue priorities listed in the Area Plan consistent with TMDL and GWMA priorities?

*DEQ COMMENTS: Yes, for the Gettings Creek Focus Area, but not for the management area.*

*ODA RESPONSE: ODA believes the geographic and water quality issue priorities listed in the Area Plan are consistent with the TMDL. Over time ODA will work with the LMA and the LAC to implement the Focus Area concept and track progress throughout the management area. ODA continues to work with the LAC and SWCD on this path of continual improvement and adaptive management.*

2. Are geographic scales and implementation actions identified in the Area Plan appropriate to track implementation, progress, and effectiveness?

*DEQ COMMENTS: Yes, for the Gettings Creek Focus Area, but not for the management area.*

*ODA Response: Over time ODA will work with the LMA and the LAC to implement the Focus Area concept throughout the management area. The goal is to prioritize water quality goals and track progress throughout the management area. ODA will continue to work with the LAC and SWCD to improve measurable objectives over time.*

3. If applicable, is the Watershed Approach Action Plan addressed?

*DEQ COMMENT: No, but we will discuss that in the near future.*

*ODA RESPONSE: Although a Watershed Approach Action Plan is not applicable at this time, ODA looks forward to discussing this in the future.*

4. Does the Area Plan include timelines, schedules, and measurable milestones that are consistent with the TMDL WQMP?

*DEQ COMMENTS: No.*

*ODA RESPONSE: See above response #B.2.*

5. Is monitoring adequate to determine whether progress is being made to achieve the goals of the plan? If no, are monitoring needs identified and is there a strategy to meet those needs?

*DEQ COMMENTS: No. Ambient trend data scale is too coarse. The only landscape monitoring is the DEQ ambient network, which is also too coarse a scale. We could work together on a 319 grant if interested.*

*ODA RESPONSE: The Area Plan is updated to provide information about past and current monitoring efforts. We anticipate that our collective ability to report results will improve over time at various scales. We look forward to considering a possible 319 grant.*

## **II. Implementation/evaluation**

- A. Is reasonable progress being made towards accomplishing milestones and timelines in the Area Plan?

*DEQ COMMENTS: Yes, for the Gettings Creek Focus Area, but not for the management area.*

*ODA COMMENT: As noted earlier, ODA continues to work with the LAC and SWCD to establish measurable objectives, including milestones and timelines, which achieve the goals of the Area Plan as resources allow. ODA's priority for this biennial review was to work with the LAC and the SWCD to convert this Area Plan to a new template format to be utilized across Oregon. ODA will work with the LAC and the SWCD to prioritize measurable objectives at the next biennial review. This will be an iterative process based on continual review and adaptive management. We look forward to DEQ input as we develop these.*