

## **Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG): Midpoint Assessment Priorities [Draft] 09-14-2012**

As requested by the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team, the WWTWG discussed its priorities given the comments submitted on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Following the WWTWG's September 4<sup>th</sup> conference call the workgroup refined its list of priorities via e-mail for submission to the WQGIT on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The priorities are divided into two categories to reflect the WWTWG's point- and nonpoint-source areas: wastewater plants, and on-site/septics.

### **Wastewater Plants:**

1. Determine how to reconcile/account for actual or apparent differences in reported annual loads versus WLAs due to permanent or annual Trades and Offsets.
2. Determine how to improve nutrient loading data from Non-Significant Facilities, especially the Non-Significant Industrial Facilities.
3. Agree on methodologies to reflect the expected variability in point source loads when reporting on progress:
  - a. To account for the expected variability due to wet weather impacts – to be consistent with how non-point source progress is characterized; and
  - b. To ensure that increases in loads attributable to growth that are under the load caps is expected/acceptable and is not mistaken for lack or a decline in progress.
4. Standardize the methods used to calculate the net loads from industrial plants with river uptakes and defining the no-net-contribution dischargers.
5. Evaluate how biosolids that are land-applied are accounted for – to ensure that net loads are accounted for, and to ensure consistency with how other nutrient load ag practices are accounted for (e.g., manure, chemical fertilizers). [Point raised in BMP Verification process]

### **On-site/Septics:**

1. Determine how to best to use local septic information to improve Bay model estimates to:
  - a. Better reconcile local and Bay Program data; and
  - b. Assess how this information can be used to improve how loads are estimated in growth projections.
2. Develop methods for identifying/quantifying loads from commercial and residential systems.
3. Agree on methods to account for reduced septic loads due to:
  - a. Septic system/BMP upgrades;
  - b. Connections to sewer systems; and
  - c. Determine how to address affordability issues associated with onsite/septic upgrades for nutrient removal - and identify potential funding sources; recognizing the increased concerns as we move forward in the process.