



# Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Meeting

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE IMPACTS TO IMPLEMENTING WATER QUALITY GOALS**

February 10-11, 2020

Annapolis, Maryland



# Purpose of This Meeting

- ▶ Address the PSC charge directed to the Modeling Workgroup and the WQGIT on factoring in climate change in WIP and 2-year milestone development and implementation
- ▶ Understand the updated climate modeling & assessment framework
- ▶ Develop preliminary recommendations for the policy issues associated with the numeric climate targets
  - ▶ Where full consensus cannot be reached, points of disagreement and requests for additional information will be identified for future WQGIT discussions



# PSC Decisions to Date on Climate Change – March 2, 2018

The PSC agreed to the following language laying out how and when the jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs would address climate change narratively and numerically:

## 1. Incorporate Climate Change in the Phase III WIPs

- **Include a narrative strategy in the Phase III WIPs** that describes the state and local jurisdictions' current action plans and strategies to address climate change and commit to adopting climate change targets by 2021, employing the Partnership's suite of models that factor in climate change and other relevant local information. Acknowledging the challenges that lie ahead, reference the **preliminary modeling estimates attributable to climate change by 2025** to be roughly an **additional 9 million pounds of nitrogen** and **0.5 million pounds of phosphorus**



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## 2. Understand the Science

- By **refining the climate modeling and assessment framework**, continue to sharpen the understanding of the science, the impacts of climate change, and any research gaps and needs.
- **Develop an estimate of pollutant load changes** (nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment) **due to 2025 climate change** conditions.
- Develop a better understanding of BMP responses, including new, enhanced and resilient BMPs, to better address climate change conditions such as increased storm intensity.
- In March 2021, the Partnership will consider results of updated methods, techniques, and studies and refine estimated loads due to climate change for each jurisdiction.
- **In September 2021 jurisdictions will account for additional** nutrient and sediment **pollutant loads due to 2025 climate change conditions** in a Phase III WIP addendum and/or 2-year milestones beginning in 2022.



# PSC Decisions to Date on Climate Change – March 2, 2018

## 3. Incorporate into Milestones

- ▶ Starting with the 2022-2023 milestones, the Partnership will determine how climate change will impact the BMPs included in the WIPs and address these vulnerabilities in the two-year milestones.

**Addendum to the PSC Decision:** The District of Columbia raised the point that even though the original Climate Resiliency Workgroup references to “the jurisdiction specific nutrient and sediment pollution loadings due to the 2025 climate change conditions” was removed from the PSC approved language, the **jurisdictions still have the option to include these specific targets within their Phase III WIPs and work towards them if they choose to do so.** The PSC agreed that jurisdictions may still consider that option.



# Policy Considerations Associated with Adoption of Climate Targets

## **1. Year on which to base climate targets**

- a) Confirm the PSC decision of 2025 or explore other future years, such as 2035, 2045, or 2055?

## **2. Adoption of refined or original 2018 climate targets**

## **3. Options for allocating climate targets (pollutant loads) amongst the jurisdictions**

## **4. Timing options for achieving the climate targets**

- a) By 2025? Post-2025? Date certain post-2025?

## **5. Deadline for final recommendations on policy issues for Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee consideration and decision**

- a) Prior to the 2020 EC meeting? By the end of 2020 so jurisdictions have one year to prepare for the 2022-2023 milestones?)