2ND WATERSHED PERMIT BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

BACWA Annual Meeting

January 27, 2017

1st Watershed Permit

- Took effect July 1, 2014; expires 2019
- Major Requirements
  - Monitoring and reporting of individual plant nutrient loads
  - Annual Group Report on loading trends
  - Optimization and Upgrade Study of 37 plants
  - Funding the Science Program ($880k/yr.)

Schedule for 2nd WS Permit Adoption

- WB drafts permit in late 2018
- Tentative Order out for review and comment early spring 2019
- Adoption likely in April/May 2019
- Permit takes effect July 1, 2019

WB Intent for Next WS Permit

- Continue monitoring and reporting; individual and group trend analyses
- Continue funding the science
- Include a load cap for nutrients to essentially halt further increases.

Current Status

- Ten year Science Plan severely underfunded ($1.4M/yr. available vs. 4M+/yr. needed)
- POTW nutrient loadings trending flat to slightly upward depending on subembayment
- Preliminary costs for Optimization may be in range of $1-2/lb TN and Upgrade $5-10/lb TN

Alternative to Load Caps in 2nd WS Permit

- WB is open to consideration of increased funding of the Science Plan in lieu of load caps in the 2nd WS Permit provided that:
  - Increased in funding is tied to providing answers to key scientific questions needed to help inform the need for management actions in the 3rd WS Permit (2024)
  - Further progress is made on identifying regional opportunities for reducing nutrients other than treatment plant improvements (e.g. recycling, wetlands creation, etc.)

Rationale for Increased Funding for Science Option

- Supports the WB's science based Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS)
- Aligned with BACWA's position on science driven regulations
- Allows time for more cost-effective innovative technologies to mature (e.g. anammox, zeolite anammox, CANDO, etc.) if reductions in nutrients are ultimately needed
- Although additional funding is closely scrutinized by governing boards, this option is relatively easy to implement since it does not involve the cost uncertainty associated with regulations that require capital improvements

BACWA Membership Survey

- 9 questions using “gradient of agreement” (strongly support to strongly disagree) responses

- Strong support from the BACWA membership for increased funding of the science program to answer key questions for 3rd WS Permit in lieu of load caps in 2nd WS Permit.

Cost Implications

- **Pardee Discussion**: BACWA would double science funding ($880k/yr) codified in 1st WS Permit, contingent on membership approval

- **WB Response**: Funding level should be tied to answering key scientific questions needed to inform 3rd WS Pemrit

- **10 Year Science Plan (2014 -2024):** Needs $4M+/yr thru 2024, could result in 2+ to 3 x $880k/yr for POTW contribution

Next Steps

- BACWA Nutrient Strategy Team engaged in discussions with Science Manager to understand the key scientific questions for which answers are needed by 2024 and the cost to fund the Plan
- BACWA looking at developing a Bay-wide inventory of where “non-grey scape” options for reducing nutrient can be implemented as a means to further regional planning efforts
- BACWA to prepare a proposal for negotiation with the WB for key provisions to be included in the 2nd WS Permit
- Will communicate and seek consensus of the entire BACWA membership for the tenets of the 2nd WS Permit – Goal to conclude effort by mid-2017