

2-6.4 303(d)- and TMDL-Listed Water Bodies

The federal Clean Water Act requires states to prepare a list of water bodies that fail to meet water quality standards. If a water body segment does not meet water quality standards for a specific pollutant, it gets added to the Water Quality Assessment list, known as the 303(d) list. The 303(d) list consists of water bodies for which Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) must be developed to address the water quality impairment. A TMDL addresses pollution problems in the watershed by specifying pollution reduction targets and strategies to achieve clean water.

When a TMDL identifies a WSDOT discharge as a source of the pollutant of concern, specific action items, compliance timelines, and wasteload allocations (WLAs) may be assigned. EPA-approved TMDLs that include WLAs and/or actions for WSDOT are included in Appendix 3 of WSDOT's NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit.

For 303(d) and EPA-approved TMDLs that do not specifically identify WSDOT discharges as a pollutant(s) source, efforts should still be made to avoid impacts where feasible. To determine whether a 303(d)- or TMDL-listed water body exists within or near the proposed project footprint, access WSDOT's GIS Environmental Workbench>Water Quality>"303(d), Basin Plans & TMDLs" dataset. View each layer in the dataset independently to identify listings that may overlap. Since 303(d) and TMDL listings and basin plans change frequently, these GIS layers should be reviewed at the start of each project to document all applicable listings/basin plans.

If stormwater will discharge to a 303(d)- or TMDL-listed water body, where feasible, BMPs should be selected that: 1) Reduce the pollutant(s) of concern; and 2) Do not adversely affect the listed water body (e.g., add the pollutant(s) of concern). The first page of each BMP section in Chapter 5 includes TMDL/303(d) considerations to aid in BMP selection when discharging to an impaired water body. As a general rule, infiltration and dispersion BMPs are the most desirable approach for 303(d)- or TMDL-listed situations.

For more information on TMDLs or 303(d) listings, contact the Stormwater and Watersheds Program in the Environmental Services Office, access the internal WSDOT TMDL webpage (<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/stormwater/tmdl.htm>), or visit Ecology's website (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/>).

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