

## Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year (FY) 19/20

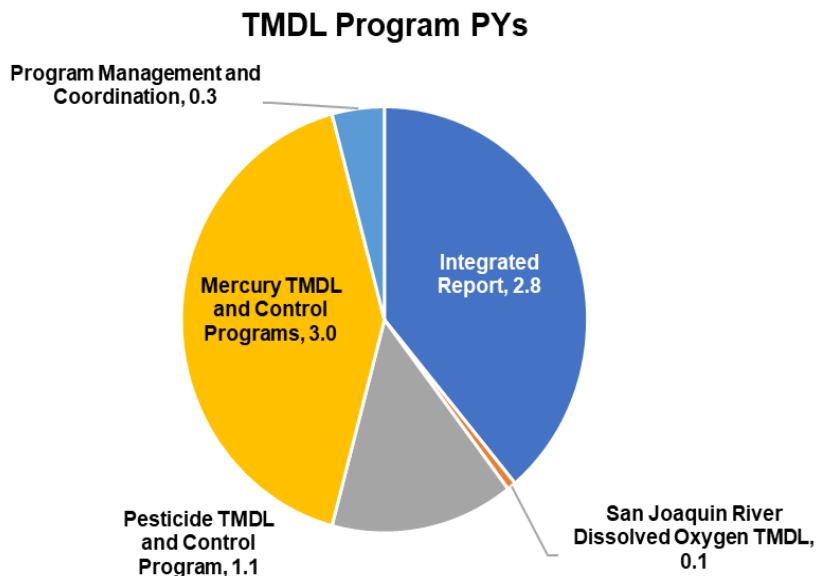
### Overview of the TMDL Program

Clean Water Act section 303(d) requires States to develop a list of surface water bodies that do not meet water quality standards (called the 303(d) list) and to establish pollutant load reduction targets (total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs) or equivalent alternative control programs necessary to attain water quality standards. TMDLs establish numeric targets to attain applicable water quality standards, establish the waterbody's maximum allowable pollutant load consistent with those targets, and allocate the allowable load among the pollutant sources. Under California law, TMDLs must include an implementation plan to achieve the pollutant load reductions.

### Program Goals

The goal of the TMDL program is to protect and restore impaired surface waters through water quality assessments and the establishment of TMDLs, where appropriate. TMDLs and control programs that address 303(d) impairments are primarily established through Basin Plan Amendments. The program has focused on the highest priority pollutants and stressors including pesticides, mercury, salt, selenium, low dissolved oxygen and nutrients. The TMDL program addresses and updates 303(d) listings, develops programs that prevent potential future 303(d) listings, addresses current listings, and documents when existing control programs preclude the need for TMDLs.

### Resources



## **FY 18/19 Accomplishments**

- Updated the 303(d) list, including delisting decisions for the 2018 Integrated Report and began preparing for the 2020 Integrated Report.
- Central Valley Pyrethroid TMDL and Control Program was approved by the Office of Administrative Law and US EPA and implementation began; developed an analytical methods certification process and request with ELAP.
- Continued Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP) outreach and education to consumers of fish through staff and community-based organizations.
- Continued implementation of the Delta Mercury Control Program; compiled new data for TMDL review, and convened external technical review committee to review methylmercury control study reports.
- Compiled data from multiple sources and collected new field samples for the Central Valley Lowland Rivers Mercury Control Program and TMDL development.

## **Priority Projects FY 19/20**

- Initiate region-wide water quality assessment for the 2020 Integrated Report including updating the 303(d) list of impaired water bodies.
- Continue implementation of existing priority TMDL and related control program projects including those for Pyrethroids in the Central Valley, Mercury in the Delta, Clear Lake, and Reservoirs, and low Dissolved Oxygen TMDL in the San Joaquin River.
- Initiate stakeholder process for Delta Methylmercury program review, update linkage and source analysis with new data, coordinate with Tribal Beneficial Use Designation project, and evaluate the demand for the development of a mercury offsets program.
- Continue Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP) outreach and education, conduct program effectiveness evaluation, post the remaining fish consumption advisory signs in the Delta, and provide program materials to community-based organizations.