

Fecal Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) in 4 Austin Watersheds

Presented to the City of Austin Environmental Board
November 7, 2012



What is an Impairment?

- TCEQ required by the federal Clean Water Act (Section 303 (d)) to regularly identify water bodies not meeting designated uses
 - www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/assessment
- A water body is “impaired” for contact recreation if fecal bacteria levels exceed Texas standard

Options to Address Impairments

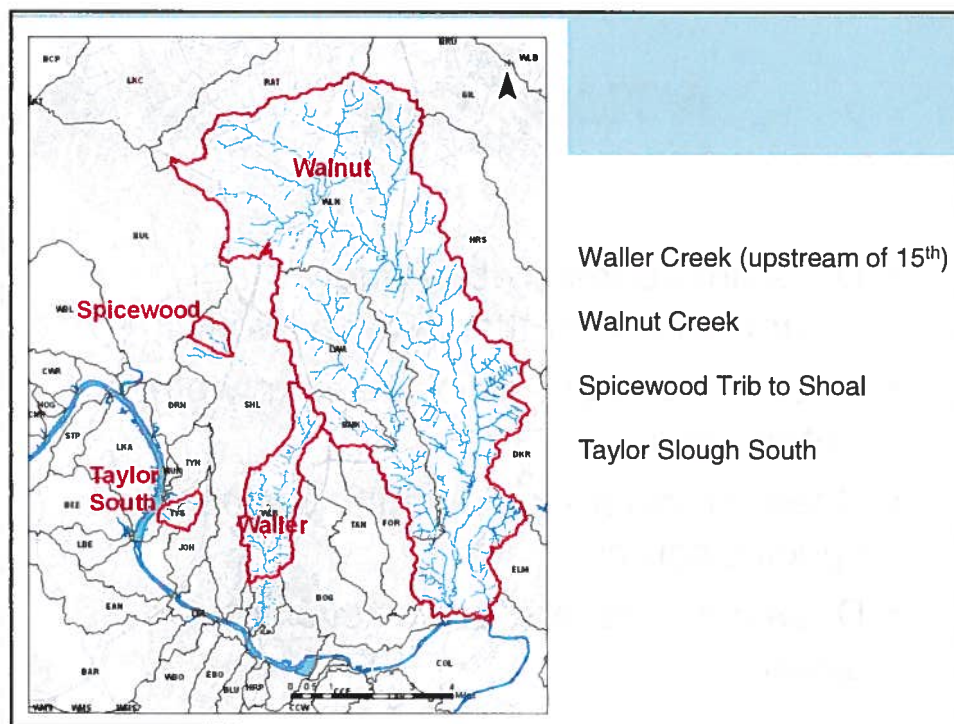
As presented to Environmental Board on 03/07/2012, there are 4 options to address impairments:

- Use Attainability Analysis
- Watershed Protection Plan
- No action
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

Total Maximum Daily Load

- Planning tool created by the Clean Water Act to address impairments
- Determines how much pollution must be reduced to achieve water quality standard and maintain designated uses.

$$\text{TMDL} = \text{WLA} + \text{LA} + \text{MOS}$$



A TMDL will...

- Determine how much bacteria must be reduced to meet the standard
- Identify probable sources of fecal bacteria
- Change status of impairment on 303(d)

A TMDL will not...

- Does not address water quality parameters other than fecal bacteria
- Does not address problems in any other watersheds
- Does not determine quantitative load from specific sources
- Does not require specific actions to be taken

Implementation Plan

- Description of what solutions or actions will be implemented to achieve the necessary load reductions calculated by the TMDL
 - Developed by Stakeholders
 - Participants make voluntary commitments

Process-TMDL

- TCEQ staff develop the TMDL for all 4 watersheds concurrently
- City of Austin providing input data
- Draft TMDL scheduled to be presented to TCEQ Commissioners by August 2013

Process-Implementation Plan

- Stakeholder process coordinated by a contractor paid by TCEQ
- Participation, commitments are voluntary
- I-Plan Coordination Committee sets agenda, writes the plan
- I-Plan develops in parallel process with TMDL; draft to TCEQ by August 2013

Citywide Focus

Although TMDL and I-Plan will focus only on the 4 impaired watersheds, City of Austin will focus on city-wide strategies.

2012 De-Listings

Three Austin water bodies removed from 2012 List of Texas of Impairments because of improving bacteria levels :

- Eanes Creek
- Westlake-Davenport Trib to Lake Austin
- Colorado River below Longhorn Dam

Next Steps

First Public Meeting

November 28, 2012 at 6:30 pm

One Texas Center, 3rd Floor Room 325
505 Barton Springs Rd
Austin 78733

For More Information

- Visit TCEQ:
 - www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/assessment
 - www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl
- Read City report about the affected watersheds:
<http://assets.austintexas.gov/watershed/publications/files/SR-11-04%20TMDL%20Bacteria%20Data%20Analysis.pdf>
- Email: Chris.Herrington@austintexas.gov

