

PRIORITY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREAS

In many cases, water quality and beneficial use problems in a watershed must be addressed and solved incrementally. Complex water quality and beneficial use issues in a single watershed may require repeated and ongoing efforts to achieve satisfactory results.

Furthermore, the SDRWQCB cannot devote all of its resources to one watershed or a few watersheds to the exclusion of all others. For these reasons, the watershed management approach is an iterative process that builds on past efforts to achieve measurable improvements in water quality and beneficial uses within individual watersheds.

Until recently, SDRWQCB staff envisioned a planned rotational implementation of the watershed management approach in different watershed management areas. This was intended to ensure that the watershed management approach was implemented in all nine watershed management areas over a period of years. In the annual updates of this document for the past several years, the three or four highest priority watershed management areas for the year were specified.

This planned rotation has not proven successful, largely because so much of the watershed management approach depends on the initiative of and funding available to stakeholders in each watershed. Consequently, SDRWQCB staff now intends to be more opportunistic in how the watershed management approach is implemented, i.e., SDRWQCB staff intends to give priority to watersheds where stakeholders appear to be most ready to move forward. At the same time, SDRWQCB staff intends to work with stakeholders in other watersheds to develop interest and initiative.