SCP Case Prioritization

In the Site Cleanup Program (SCP), we prioritize our cases to ensure we are (1) working on cases with the greatest threat to human health and water quality, (2) providing the most "bang for the buck" (amount of cleanup and economic benefit resulting from a given amount of case oversight), and (3) providing good customer service. Below is a description of our approach.

We derive a numerical score for each case based on these three elements, as shown below. The data needed to apply this prioritization approach comes mostly from GeoTracker, the GIS database used by the Water Boards for its cleanup programs, augmented by ratings given by Water Board case managers. We assign a *high priority* to cases with high scores (at or above the 75th percentile), a *medium priority* to cases with medium scores (between the 25th and 75th percentile), and a *low priority* to cases with low scores (at or below the 25th percentile).

- A case's overall score is the sum of the "threat" score, the "economic considerations" score, and the "customer service" score (the three elements).
- The "*threat*" score is the sum of the scores for three factors: human health threat, groundwater threat, and surface water threat.
- The "*economic considerations*" score is the sum of the scores for three factors: discharger's ability to pay for cleanup, the economic value of cleanup (e.g., Brownfield redevelopment), and the "bang for the buck".
- The "*customer service*" score is the sum of the scores for two factors: need for community involvement and environmental justice.
- The elements are weighted as follows: 50% to threat (25% to human health threat, 12.5% to groundwater threat, and 12.5% to surface water threat), 25% to economic considerations, and 25% to customer service.
- Cases where human health exposure is not controlled automatically get the highest score and are high-priority cases.

Figure 1 below illustrates the results of applying this prioritization approach to the roughly 800 SCP cases we oversee as of July 2016. Overall scores range from 5 to 17, with the lowest third of the scores being low priority and the highest third of the scores being high priority. A handful of cases having a 17 score due to human health exposure not being controlled. About 300 lower-priority cases are inactive.

We implement the results by making lower-priority cases inactive and by focusing our oversight efforts on high-priority cases, through staff's monthly workplans and other program-management tools.

We intend to re-apply this prioritization approach periodically, to cover new cases and to reflect changes in existing-case priorities as a result of changed site conditions. For example, a case's priority would go up if we learn that it has impacted or has the potential to impact a nearby drinking water supply well.

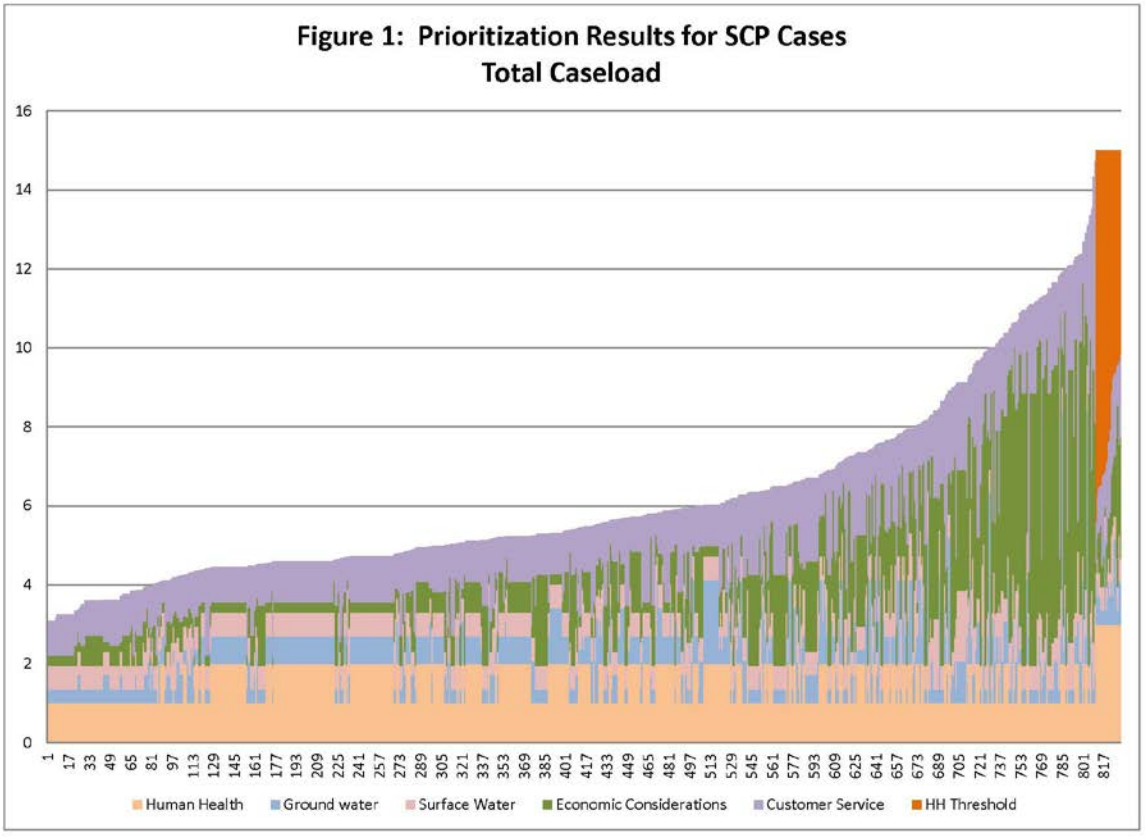
Figure 1: Prioritization Results for SCP Cases
Total Caseload
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
1
17
33
49
65
81
97
113
129
145
161
177
193
209
225
241
257
273
289
305
321
337
353
369
385
401
417
433
449
465
481
497
513
529
545
561
577
593
609
625
641
657
673
689
705
721
737
753
769
785
801
817
Human Health
Ground water
Surface Water
Economic Considerations
Customer Service
HH Threshold