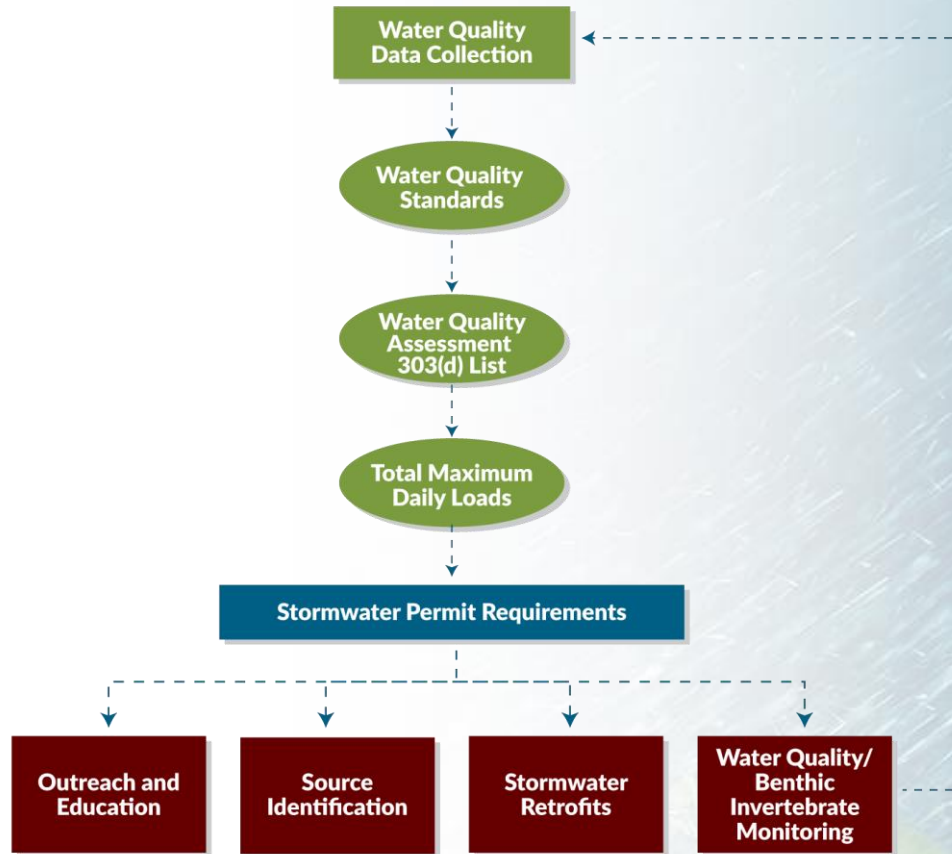


# Improving Water Quality Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load Programs

Interagency Project Team  
Municipal Stormwater Conference  
November 6, 2014

# Permit Nexus



# What brought us together?

- 303(d) list is easy to get on, but difficult to get off (de-listing).
- Listings and TMDLs based on questionable data.
- Addressing nonpoint pollution equitably.
- How are WQA and TMDL program decisions made?

# What brought us together? Cont.

- TMDL methodologies need to be explicit and transparent.
- Uncertainty surrounding non-pollutant surrogate TMDLs.
- Need to implement alternatives to TMDLs more frequently.
- Lack of TMDL success stories.

# Interagency Team

Clark, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish,  
and Thurston counties, and the  
Washington State Department Of  
Transportation.

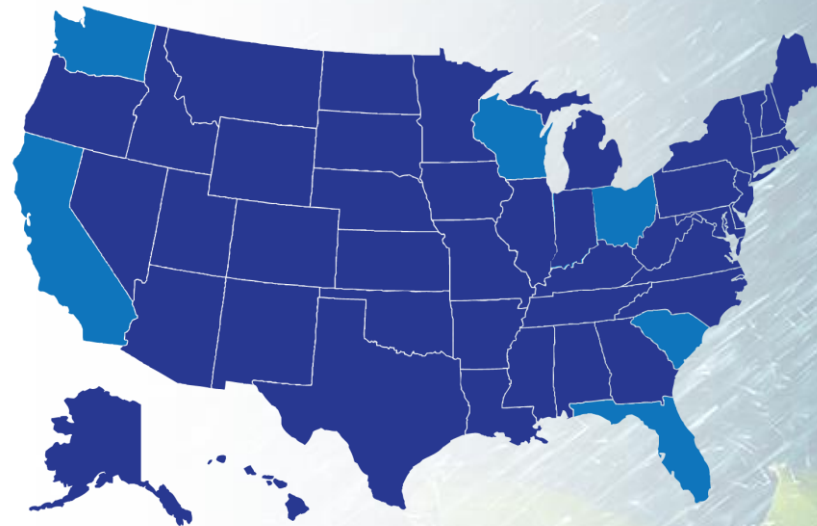


# Project Goal

Improve accuracy, transparency, predictability,  
and consistency of policy and decision making.

# Approach

Compare and contrast Washington State's WQA and TMDL programs to five other states.



**Recommendations for Improving Water Quality  
Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load  
Programs in Washington State**

Prepared for the  
Interagency Project Team<sup>1</sup>  
July 29, 2014



<sup>1</sup>The Interagency Project Team is composed of representatives from Clark County, King County, Kitsap County, Pierce County, Snohomish County, Thurston County and the Washington State Department of Transportation.



# Recommendations from Report

- Establish a multi-stakeholder Standing Committee to improve coordination and engagement with the regulated community.
- Refine water quality standards and water quality assessment methodologies.
- Improve and employ consistent processes for collecting, assessing, and utilizing credible data in WQA and TMDL development.
- Update current biological assessment and listing methodology.
- Define TMDL prioritization methodology, timelines, and process for public involvement.

## Recommendations from the Report

- **Refine water quality assessment categories to improve clarity and aid in defining priority water bodies.**
- **Implement existing regulatory authority related to unpermitted and nonpoint sources.**
- **Define TMDL development methodology; and Develop consistent TMDL implementation expectations.**

# Closing Remarks

