

## Florida Stormwater Association Position Statement on TMDLs

The Florida Stormwater Association (FSA), an organization of stormwater management professionals who practice in Florida, believes that:

Science-based TMDL's, developed using good data in conjunction with suitable models, form the basis for a comprehensive watershed management approach that can, over time, reduce annual pollutant loads to receiving waters and facilitate the ability of currently impaired waters to meet or exceed state standards in the future.

FSA also believes that the TMDL program should:

1. Acquire, review and assess all available water quality data, and eliminate suspect or non-representative data and information, and then use the screened, viable information with consideration given to its precision and accuracy.
2. Apply accepted/proven public-sector simulation models for watersheds and water bodies, calibrate/verify the model's predictive accuracy, and employ these models to assess the effectiveness of proposed management actions.
3. Embrace the use of an effective public involvement process that includes all impacted stakeholders - including governments, private industry, agriculture, individual landowners and environmental organizations - in a continuing effort to develop a formal consensus that generally meets the needs of all interested parties.
4. Facilitate a "bottom-up" process for negotiating the allocation of annual pollutant reductions between the stakeholders, and only resort to a "top-down" allocation or reductions if the stakeholder negotiation process fails.
5. Compile the negotiated allocation of reductions - and their underlying strategies, management actions and implementation responsibilities - into a formal watershed management plan that establishes specific responsibilities for pollutant reduction

identification and a schedule for implementing practices to provide clear basis for permits

6. Support research to accurately identify the effectiveness and costs associated with structural and non-structural management practices, activities and programs through the use of funded research activities.
7. Support promulgation of Florida-based research results regarding design criteria, cost, performance results, maintenance costs, limitations, unanticipated consequences and net cost effectiveness of structural and non-structural management practices, activities and programs currently implemented in Florida.
8. Be implemented on a watershed basis, with stakeholders who actively participate in the implementation of basin management action plans being held harmless from third-party lawsuits seeking to enforce TMDL standards.
9. Be implemented in conjunction with a review and likely reclassification of the designate uses of waters in the State of Florida.
10. Recognize the use of adaptive management practices in implementing TMDL allocations and basin management plans.
11. Be implemented based upon the community's ability to fund TMDLs to the maximum extent practicable.

*Adopted in Orlando, December 4, 2002*