

Charting a course to _____



_____ **Clarity**

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of blue water with gentle ripples and waves, creating a textured, shimmering effect. The text is overlaid on this background in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Water Quality Crediting Program

TMDL Tracking and Verification



Water Quality Crediting Program Design

Project Purpose

- **Develop a meaningful and trackable unit of credit linking projects, maintenance, and other activities to expected pollutant reductions**
- **Design operational protocols for a crediting activities on the ground to load reductions**
- **Define a consistent accounting mechanism for pollutant load reductions**
- **Tool for permit compliance assessment**

Are the expected reductions of each pollutant to Lake Tahoe being achieved?

Can innovation and new information improve our strategy to reduce pollutants?

Water Quality Crediting Program Team

- **Project Team develops products**
 - Environmental Incentives
 - Kieser & Associates
- **TMDL Advisors direct production & integrate**
 - Lahontan, NDEP & TRPA
- **Project Advisory Committee provide review & guidance**
 - National experts on crediting & trading programs
 - CA, NV & Tahoe specific policy experts

Are the expected reductions of each pollutant to Lake Tahoe being achieved?

Water Quality Crediting Program Approach

- **Assess Tahoe need and analogous programs**
 - Complete
- **Develop a consistent and robust credit & define appropriate uses**
 - Current through summer
- **Establish Program guidelines, roles & protocols**
 - Summer and fall
- **Related projects develop tools**
 - Load reduction estimation tools
 - Tracking system
 - Verification & assessment protocols

Are the expected reductions of each pollutant to Lake Tahoe being achieved?

What is a Water Quality Credit?

- **An estimate of pollutant loading mass**
- **A testable, verifiable and adaptable unit**
- **Characteristics**
 - Based on best available science
 - Easy to use by many
 - Practical for most significant sources and controls
 - Supports adaptive management

Are the expected reductions of each pollutant to Lake Tahoe being achieved?

Water Quality Credit Uses

General

- **Estimate individual project benefits**
- **Bases to compare to RSWMP monitoring results**
- **Prioritize projects in programmatic planning**
- **Track and report project & programmatic accomplishments**

Are the expected reductions of each pollutant to Lake Tahoe being achieved?

Water Quality Credit Uses

TMDL Specific

- **Account for pollutant reductions with respect to TMDL load reduction milestones & NPDES permits**
- **Enable geographic flexibility in achieving load reductions & permit compliance**

Are the expected reductions of each pollutant to Lake Tahoe being achieved?

Monitoring & Verification

- **Monitor representative projects and actions for credit verification**
- **Compare expected pollutant reductions with measured reductions - adaptive management**
- **Develop rapid field verification techniques**
 - Verify project constructed as planned
 - Determine if performing or needing maintenance

Are the expected reductions of each pollutant to Lake Tahoe being achieved?

Crediting Program & Management System

- **Crediting and tracking system will feed into an overall TMDL Management System**
 - Provides performance feedback for continual improvement
- **Management System guides adaptive management through continued research and RSWMP monitoring**

Are the expected reductions of each pollutant to Lake Tahoe being achieved?

Crediting Program Next Steps

- **Develop a consistent and robust credit & define appropriate uses**
 - Current through summer
- **Establish Program guidelines, roles & protocols**
 - Summer and fall
- **Stakeholder engagement**
 - Summer and fall

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