

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SCALE

The watershed management scale selected for a particular watershed management effort is an important consideration that should be tailored to the water quality issues to be addressed. If watershed planning is conducted on too large a scale, the effort could be dispersed and rendered ineffective due to large numbers of smaller watersheds, multiple political jurisdictions, water quality monitoring costs, and differences in stream quality and land development patterns. Watershed management at a smaller watershed scale can serve to encourage local efforts at developing solutions to water quality problems. However, small scale watershed efforts may lack the scope necessary to address water resource issues (such as fish passage, nutrients, heavy metals, water supply, flood protection, and waste discharge effluent limitations) in downstream watershed areas. Issues such as these may transcend a small watershed and would be best addressed at a larger watershed scale. "Nesting" smaller watershed areas (such as source water protection areas or special management areas designated for wetlands protection) into larger watershed areas allow those involved at every level to scale their efforts up or down to address specific concerns and still maintain consistency with related efforts.

For purposes of this document, there are four levels of watershed management scale. Level 1 involves dealing with matters on a regionwide scale. Level 2 involves dealing with matters on the scale of an entire hydrologic unit or watershed management area. Level 3 involves dealing with matters on the scale of an entire hydrologic area. Level 4 involves dealing with matters on the scale of an entire hydrologic subarea or portion thereof (including individual water bodies and portions thereof).

In general, watershed management activities will be implemented at Level 2. However, watershed management activities can and will be conducted at whatever watershed management scale is appropriate. Some water quality programs, problems or issues will continue to be implemented or addressed on a regionwide basis (Level 1). Smaller watershed scales will be favored for addressing water quality problems that are not regionwide in scope. Occasionally the SDRWQCB may implement watershed management activities at Levels 3 or 4, particularly where local citizens and agencies are active and motivated to voluntarily develop a watershed management program.

It is important to recognize that substantial portions of the funding for various regulatory programs will need to be devoted to conducting required program activities, without regard to the extent to which such activities are likely to be effective in addressing water quality and beneficial use problems and threats. As noted previously, RWQCBs have little flexibility to direct funding to activities and locations where it will be most effective in addressing water quality and beneficial use problems and threats. For example, staff will have to continue to process applications for new permits and permit renewals, respond to spills and citizen complaints, work on producing the outputs (or "beans")

required by various programs, and respond to requests from SWRCB staff, the SWRCB and the SDRWQCB. **Appendix B** contains schedules for completing specific SDRWQCB program activities that are mandated by the California Water Code, the Clean Water Act, or related programs.