

Restoring Water Quality through a Watershed Approach



A stronger focus on restoring polluted waters through implementation of TMDLs and watershed plans...

EPA Region 9 – January 2009

“Measure W” (SP-12)

➤ **By 2012, improve water quality conditions in 250 impaired watersheds nationwide using the watershed approach.**

- Model & Demonstrate Watershed that Approach Works
- Watershed boundaries
 - "12-digit" HUCs
- Baseline
 - 2002 303(d) List
- Watershed Approach
 - **Defined Hydrologic Area**
 - **Involved Stakeholders**
 - **Uses Iterative Planning or Adaptive Management**
 - **Integrates Tools & Programs**

➤ **What Does "Improve" Mean?**

“Measure W” (SP-12)

What Does *Improve* Mean?

Option 1

Impairment Removal (Delisting)

- Tracks Progress Based on Removal from State 303(d) List
- 1 or More Impairment Causes Removed for at Least 40% of Impaired Water Bodies or Stream Miles/Lake Acres
- Perhaps Most Rigorous Option

OR

Option 2

Watershed-Wide Improvement

(demonstrated by valid scientific information)

Option 2a

Statistical
Procedures

OR

Option 2b

Multiple Lines of
Evidence

“Measure W” (SP-12)

Option 2: Significant Watershed Wide Improvement (demonstrated evidence of a positive trend/change)

Option 2a
Statistical Procedures Approach

OR

Option 2b
Multiple Lines of Evidence Approach

Statistically significant change in WQ parameters or related indicators

- 90% or greater confidence level

Improving trend in WQ parameter
AND
Improving trend in biological index
OR
Improving trend in WQ based on predictive/modeled data
OR
Significant load reductions

AND

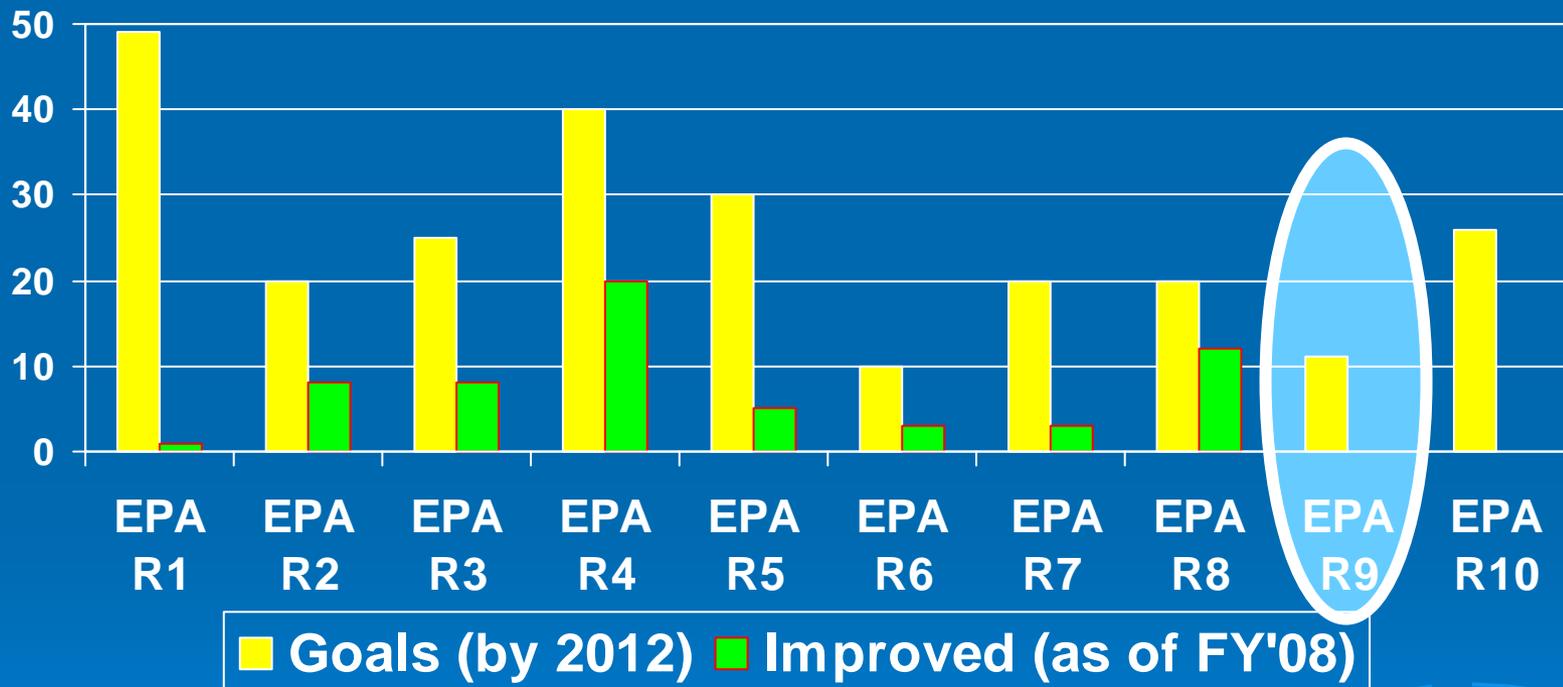
Widespread NPS implementation or other implementation activities.

AND

No deteriorating trends in parameters related to impairment.

“Measure W” (SP-12)

➤ Nation-Wide Goal: 250 Watersheds by 2012



Where Do We Go From Here?



➤ Increase Effectiveness & Results

- Identify & Address Needs in “Watersheds of Focus”
- Target Implementation of TMDLs & Watershed Plans
- Build Partnerships
 - Alignment of Federal, State & Local Efforts
- Facilitate Information Exchange/Highlight Progress
 - Communicate Goals & Account for Results

➤ Learn and Adjust

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/watershed/index.html>