



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Western Region Eugene Office

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November 8th, 2024

Brent Stevenson
District Manager - Santiam Water Control District
284 East Water St, Stayton OR, 97383

Re: Department Order Approving the Santiam Water Control District Nonpoint Source Mercury TMDL Implementation Plan

Dear Brent Stevenson,

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality approves the Santiam Water Control District TMDL Implementation Plan. The District's Plan meets the implementation plan criteria as outlined in OAR 340-042-0080 and the *2019 Revised Mercury TMDL Water Quality Management Plan*.

This approved Plan outlines the actions for minimizing mercury and sediment inputs into surface waters from those areas where the District has jurisdiction to reduce mercury and sediment in the Willamette Basin in order to protect people who regularly eat fish and shellfish from streams and lakes across the basin.

The District must report on Plan implementation in order to document that the Plan is being implemented to restore and protect water quality in the Willamette Basin. To adequately fulfill the reporting and implementation requirements of the TMDLs the District must:

1. Implement the best management practice activities it has proposed in the Plan.
2. Consult DEQ for approval on any changes to the updated Plan activities and timelines in advance.
3. Monitor, document, and report on progress in implementing the provisions of the updated Plan:
 - a. Submit annual reports to the Department by November 1 each year. Reports should cover the previous months of implementation for October 1 through September 30.
 - b. Submit complete reports. Reports must contain sufficient information to enable the Department to assess reporting metrics, measurable goals, compliance with the provisions of the Plan, progress, and delays and challenges, towards implementing the Plan for meeting the TMDL load allocation.

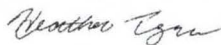
4. TMDL implementation is an iterative process that continues every five years. The fifth report, due on November 1, 2028, must document 1, 2, & 3 above and include information on the following:
 - a. A comprehensive review of overall plan implementation progress over the previous years (November 2024 through September 2028).
 - b. Evaluation, in consult with DEQ, to determine whether strategies, timelines, or other components of the updated Plan are adequate for the next five-year timeline.
 - c. Submittal of an update to the updated Plan for approval by the Department if evaluation determined Plan and/ or effectiveness of management strategies are inadequate for meeting the TMDL load allocations. At a minimum, update the five-year timeline for the continuation of implementation effective October 1, 2028.

The TMDLs, WQMPs, Department approved TMDL Implementation Plan, and the deadlines and requirements established by this letter are enforceable orders. Failure to implement or timely implement the approved Plan is therefore an enforceable violation. The District's reporting on implementation is the mechanism to document the District is implementing the terms and conditions of the above-mentioned orders and failure to report is also an enforceable violation. Compliance with the approved Plan is considered compliance with the TMDL.

The Department endeavors to assist you in your implementation efforts. Please do not hesitate to contact your basin coordinator if you have questions about TMDL implementation:

Grace Goldrich-Middaugh
Watersheds and Stormwater
Grace.goldrich-middaugh@deq.oregon.gov
541-972-5520

Sincerely,



Heather Tugaw, Western Region Watersheds and Stormwater Manager, DEQ

DEQ file – Grace Goldrich-Middaugh, grace.goldrich-middaugh@deq.oregon.gov