

# **WATERSHED PRIORITY STRATEGY**

A New Approach to Address Impaired  
Water Bodies

**Communities Working Together**



**Taking Care of Our Rivers, Lakes, and Bays**

**Total Maximum Daily Load Program**



# 303(D) VISION OVERVIEW

- Developed in 2011 by the States and EPA
- A strategy to improve on the TMDL approach to addressing impairments
- TMDLs are still important and required, but the new Vision also gives credit for trying restoration efforts first; if standards are then met, a TMDL is not needed
- Will be built into the National Water Program Guidance



# 303(D) VISION GOALS

- **“Prioritization”** Review, systematically prioritize, and report priority watersheds or waters for restoration and protection
- **“Assessment”** Identify the extent of healthy and CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters in each State’s priority watersheds or waters through site-specific assessments
- **“Protection”** Identify protection planning priorities and approaches along with schedules to help prevent impairments in healthy waters
- **“Alternatives”** Use alternative approaches, in addition to TMDLs, that actively engage the public and other stakeholders to improve and protect water quality
- **“Engagement”** Engage the public and other stakeholders to improve and protect water quality
- **“Integration”** Identify and coordinate implementation of key point source and nonpoint source control actions that foster effective integration across all applicable State programs, Federal departments and agencies



# NEW PERFORMANCE MEASURE

## WQ27

- Based on the 303(d) Vision
- Developed by the States and EPA 2013
- Replaces the current, number of TMDLs per year, measure
- A 7 year effort
- 2016 to 2022
- The goal is approved plans for impairments



# NEW PERFORMANCE MEASURE

- 4 Elements
  - Priority Waters
  - Universe
  - Baseline
  - Targets
- Starts 2016
- The goals will be set for 2016 - 2022



# PRIORITY WATERS

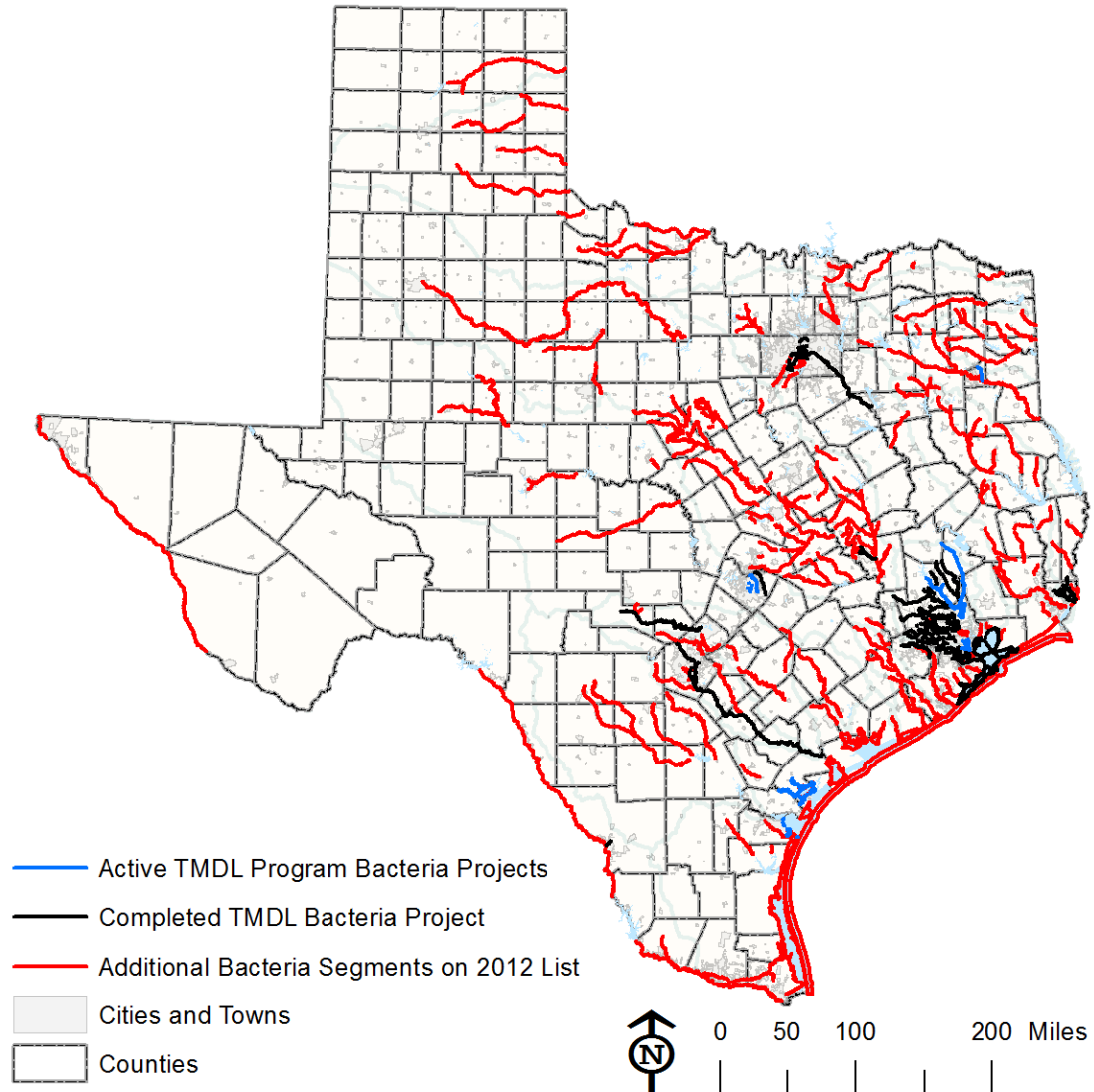
- Contact Recreation Use Impairments
- Greater than 45% of the 2012 303(d) list impaired segments
- Every River Basin in Texas has at least one contact recreation impairment
- This is a long term focus and it does not mean that all the Priority Waters need to be completed within a specific time frame
- The short term commitment is defined in the Targets



# PRIORITY WATERS

- Contact  
Recreation  
Impairments

## Bacteria Listings and Projects

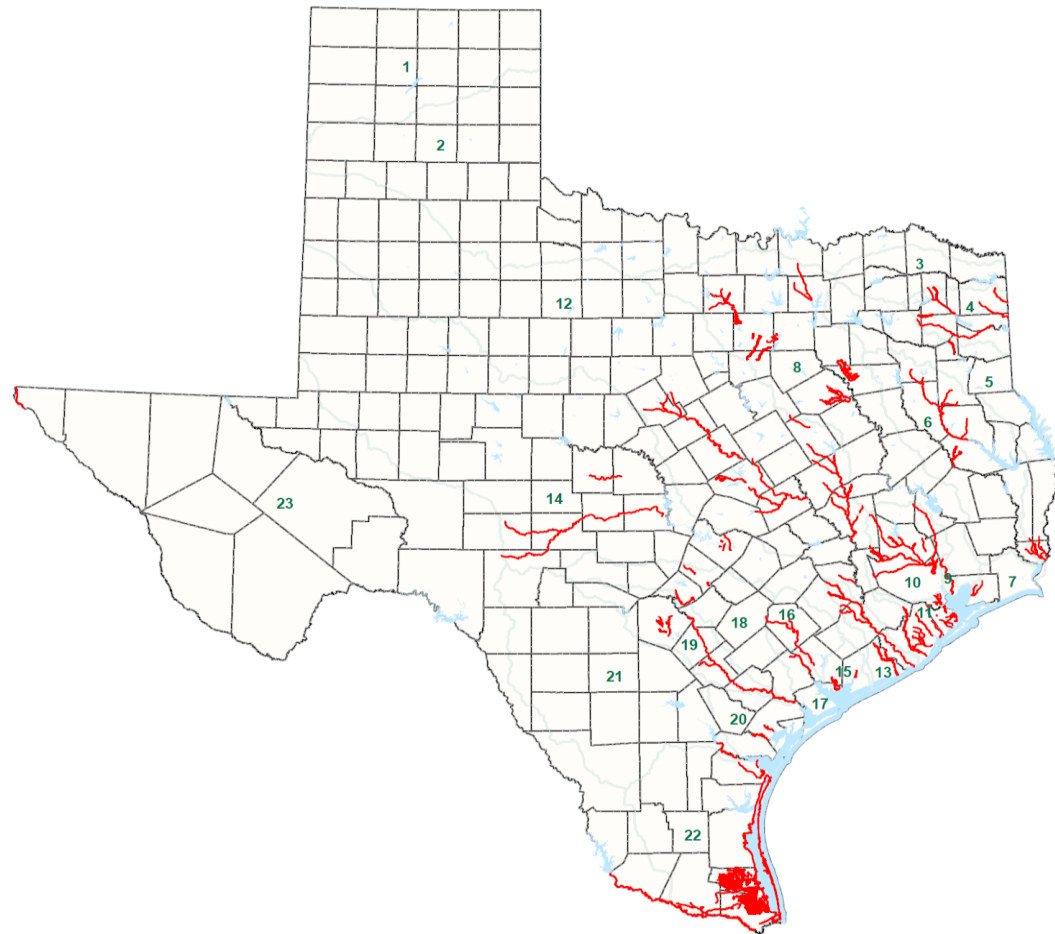


# UNIVERSE

- The total acreage of the priority waters

## Bacteria Impairments "Vision" Planning

Map Modified June 2015





# **BASELINE**

- The Baseline is the percentage of the Universe that has an approved plan in place
- Approved plans include
  - TCEQ adopted and EPA approved TMDL with TCEQ approved Implementation Plan
  - EPA approved Watershed Protection Plan



# TARGETS

- The extent of areas within the Universe projected to have a TMDL or alternative restoration or protection plan per year by 2022
- States identify annual commitments in each fiscal year to work toward the 2022 target



# 2016 – 2022 Targets

- The Targets developed with the TCEQ Nonpoint Source Team and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.
- 148 segments with 239 assessment units that will produce plans that meet the 303(d) Vision requirements.
- 97 segments have projects underway and are in some stage of progress.



# GENERAL APPROACH

- 7 years to complete the plans
- Years 1-3
  - Initial outreach to raise awareness in the watershed
  - Determine the need for Recreational Use Attainability Analyses (RUAAs) and additional sampling
  - Complete the RUAAs and sampling



# GENERAL APPROACH

- Years 3-7
  - Get stakeholder consensus on what approach will be used to develop plans
  - Develop plans
    - TMDL/Implementation Plan
    - Watershed Protection Plan
    - Both
    - Other





# QUESTIONS?

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