

# Total Maximum Daily Load Adoption/Approval

Typical TMDL Process	Water Quality Management Plan Update Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used when impaired segment(s) are not within the watershed area of a previous TMDL project. Requires significant initial public outreach.</li> <li>• Contractor creates Technical Support Document (TSD) with the TMDL allocations and watershed information. This is posted on the TCEQ TMDL Program's website and is used to develop the less-detailed TMDL document.</li> <li>• The draft TMDL document goes through extensive peer and management review.</li> <li>• The draft TMDL document is taken to a TCEQ Commissioners' Agenda to secure permission to release it for public comment.</li> <li>• The draft TMDL has a 30-day public comment period, during which a formal public comment meeting is held in the watershed.</li> <li>• The draft TMDL is changed as needed based on public comments. The final version goes back through extensive management review.</li> <li>• The final version of the TMDL is taken to another TCEQ Commissioners' Agenda for adoption.</li> <li>• The TMDL document is then sent to EPA for approval.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used when the impaired segment(s) are within the watershed area of a previous TMDL project. Typically requires far less public outreach, as stakeholders are already familiar with TMDLs.</li> <li>• Contractor creates TSD with the TMDL allocations and watershed information. This is posted on the TCEQ TMDL Program's website and is used to develop the less-detailed TMDL Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) update document.</li> <li>• The draft TMDL WQMP update document goes through limited peer and management review.</li> <li>• The draft TMDL WQMP update is included in the TCEQ's first available broader quarterly WQMP update (January, April, July, or October), which is posted online and has a 30-day public comment period.</li> <li>• The draft TMDL WQMP update is changed as needed based on public comments.</li> <li>• The TCEQ's Executive Director certifies the final update and sends it to EPA for approval.</li> </ul>
<p>Total length of time from completion of the TSD to EPA approval can be 1.5 years or more. For projects in new areas, the TMDL is often circulated in conjunction with an Implementation Plan, which goes through virtually the same process except it doesn't get sent to EPA. (If the TMDL watershed is adjacent to an existing Implementation Plan area, it often just gets added to that Plan, as was the case for the TMDLs for the Watersheds Upstream of Mountain Creek Lake.)</p>	<p>Total length of time from completion of the TSD to EPA approval is usually 6-9 months.</p>