
1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under Section 303 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), states establish water quality standards, which are submitted and subject to the approval of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Under Section 303(d)(1) of the CWA, states are required to develop a list of waters within a state that are impaired and establish a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for each pollutant. A TMDL is defined as “*a written plan and analysis established to ensure that a waterbody will attain and maintain water quality standard including consideration of existing pollutant loads and reasonably foreseeable increases in pollutant loads*” (USEPA 1999). A TMDL documents the amount of a pollutant a waterbody can assimilate without violating a state’s water quality standards. It also allocates that load capacity to known point sources and nonpoint sources at a given flow. TMDLs are defined in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 130 as the sum of the individual Waste Load Allocations (WLAs) for point sources and Load Allocations (LAs) for nonpoint sources and natural background conditions, and includes a margin of safety (MOS). This document provides TMDLs for assessment units within the Rio Hondo watershed that have been determined to be impaired based on a comparison of measured concentrations and conditions with water quality criteria and numeric translators for narrative standards.

This document is divided into several sections. Section 2.0 provides background information on the location and history of the Rio Hondo watershed, provides applicable water quality standards for the assessment units addressed in this document, and briefly discusses the intensive water quality survey that was conducted in the Rio Hondo watershed in 2003. Section 3.0 provides detailed descriptions of the individual watersheds for which TMDLs were developed. Section 4.0 presents the TMDLs developed for bacteria in the Rio Hondo watershed. Section 5.0 provides nutrient TMDLs, Section 6.0 contains temperature TMDLs, and Section 7.0 contains a turbidity TMDL. Pursuant to Section 106(e)(1) of the Federal CWA, Section 8.0 provides a monitoring plan in which methods, systems, and procedures for data collection and analysis are discussed. Section 9.0 discusses implementation of TMDLs (phase two) and the relationship between TMDLs and Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRASs). Section 10.0 discusses assurance, Section 11.0 public participation in the TMDL process, and Section 12.0 provides references.