6.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF TMDLS

6.1 Coordination

In this watershed public awareness and involvement will be crucial to the successful implementation of these plans and improved water quality. Staff from SWQB will work with stakeholders to provide guidance in developing the Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS). The WRAS is a written plan intended to provide a long-range vision for various activities and management of resources in a watershed. It includes opportunities for private landowners and public agencies in reducing and preventing impacts to water quality. This long-range strategy will become instrumental in coordinating and achieving constituent levels consistent with New Mexico's WQS, and will be used to prevent water quality impacts in the watershed. The WRAS is essentially the Implementation Plan, or Phase Two of the TMDL process. The completion of the TMDLs and WRAS leads directly to the development of on-the-ground projects to address surface water impairments in the watershed.

SWQB staff will assist with any technical assistance such as selection and application of BMPs needed to meet WRAS goals. Stakeholder public outreach and involvement in the implementation of this TMDL will be ongoing. Stakeholders in this process will include SWQB, and other members of the WRAS.

Implementation of BMPs within the watershed to reduce pollutant loading from nonpoint sources will be encouraged. Reductions from point sources will be addressed in revisions to discharge permits.

6.2 Time Line

Table 6.1 details the proposed implementation timeline.

6.3 Clean Water Act §319(h) Funding Opportunities

The Watershed Protection Section of the SWQB provides USEPA §319(h) funding to assist in implementation of BMPs to address water quality problems on reaches listed as category 4 or 5 waters on the Integrated §303(d)/ §305(b) list. These monies are available to all private, for profit and nonprofit organizations that are authenticated legal entities, or governmental jurisdictions including: cities, counties, tribal entities, Federal agencies, or agencies of the State. Proposals are submitted by applicants two times a year through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process and require a non-federal match of 40% of the total project cost consisting of funds and/or in-kind services. Funding is available for both watershed group formation (which includes WRAS development) and on-the-ground projects to improve surface water quality and associated habitat. Further information on funding from the CWA §319 (h) can be found at the SWQB website: http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/.

Table 6.1 Proposed Implementation Timeline

Implementation Actions	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Public Outreach and Involvement	X	X	X	X	X
Form watershed groups	X	X			
TMDL Development	X				
WRAS Development		X	X	X	
Revise any NPDES permits as necessary (currently EPA Region 6)	X	X	X	X	X
Establish Performance Targets		X	X		
Secure Funding for WRAS		X	X		
Implement Management Measures (BMPs)		X	X	X	
Monitor BMPs		X	X	X	
Determine BMP Effectiveness				X	X
Re-evaluate Performance Targets				X	X

6.4 Other Funding Opportunities and Restoration Efforts in the Rio Grande Basin

Several other sources of funding existing to address impairments discussed in this TMDL document. NMED's Construction Programs Bureau assists communities in need of funding for WWTP upgrades and improvements to septic tank configurations (such as the design of cluster systems). They can also provide matching funds for appropriate CWA §319(h) projects using state revolving fund monies. The USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) program can provide assistance to private land owners in the basin. The USDA Forest Service aligns their mission to protect lands they manage with the TMDL process, and are another source of assistance. The BLM has several programs in place to provide assistance to improve unpaved roads and grazing allotments.