

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): A Watershed Planning Tool for Counties



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This Presentation Covers...

- NACo / EPA partnership
- Basics of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program
- Benefits of the TMDL Program for counties and opportunities for involvement
- Funding sources for TMDL implementation

NACo / EPA Partnership

2005

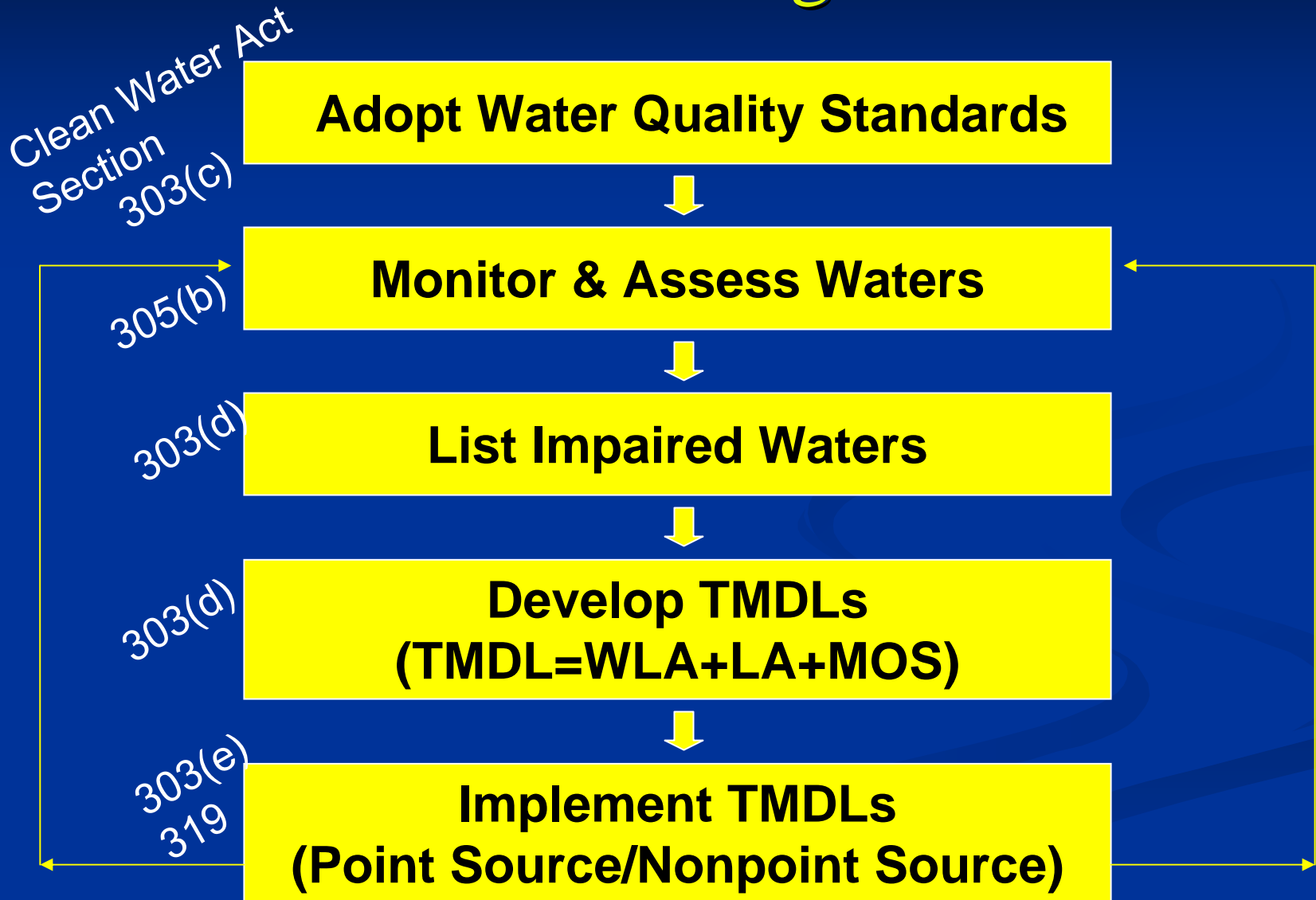
- EPA hosted Watershed Dialogue attended by Commissioner Pam Newton; encouraged TMDL outreach and collaboration with NACo
- EPA reps met with NACo members at:
 - Western Interstate Region Annual Conference
 - NACo Annual Conference

2006

- EPA reps met with NACo members at Annual Legislative Conference
- County issue brief with TMDL case studies
- “Tools for Protecting and Improving Water Quality” workshop at Annual Conference

Clean Water Act

Framework for Restoring Polluted Waters



What is the TMDL Program?

- The Clean Water Act's section 303(d) requires states to:
 - Solicit and compile existing and readily available water quality data and information
 - Develop lists of impaired waters every two years (2004, 2006...)
 - Establish TMDLs for waters on the list

What is a TMDL?

- A calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources.

➤ “Pollutant Diet”



TMDL = WLA + LA + MOS

WLA Waste Load Allocation

Amount of pollutant from existing point sources
(e.g., sewage treatment plant; industrial facility)

LA Load Allocation

Amount of pollutant from existing nonpoint
sources and natural background
(e.g., urban runoff; atmospheric mercury)

MOS Margin of Safety

Part of TMDL allocated to uncertainty in analysis

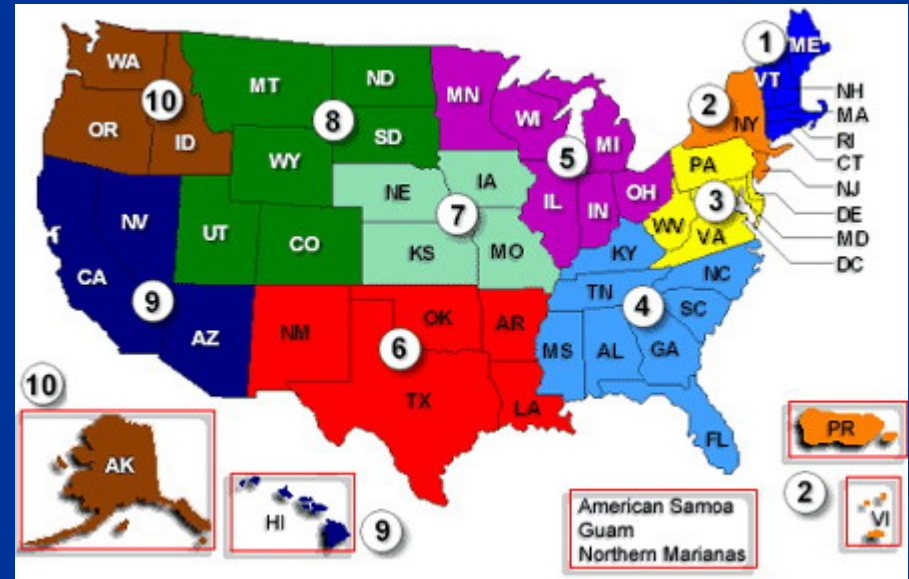
TMDL Requirements

- States develop TMDLs for waters on 303(d) list, & in accordance with priority ranking
- No statutory or regulatory timeframe for TMDL development
 - EPA guidance established 8-13 year time frame from time of initial listing

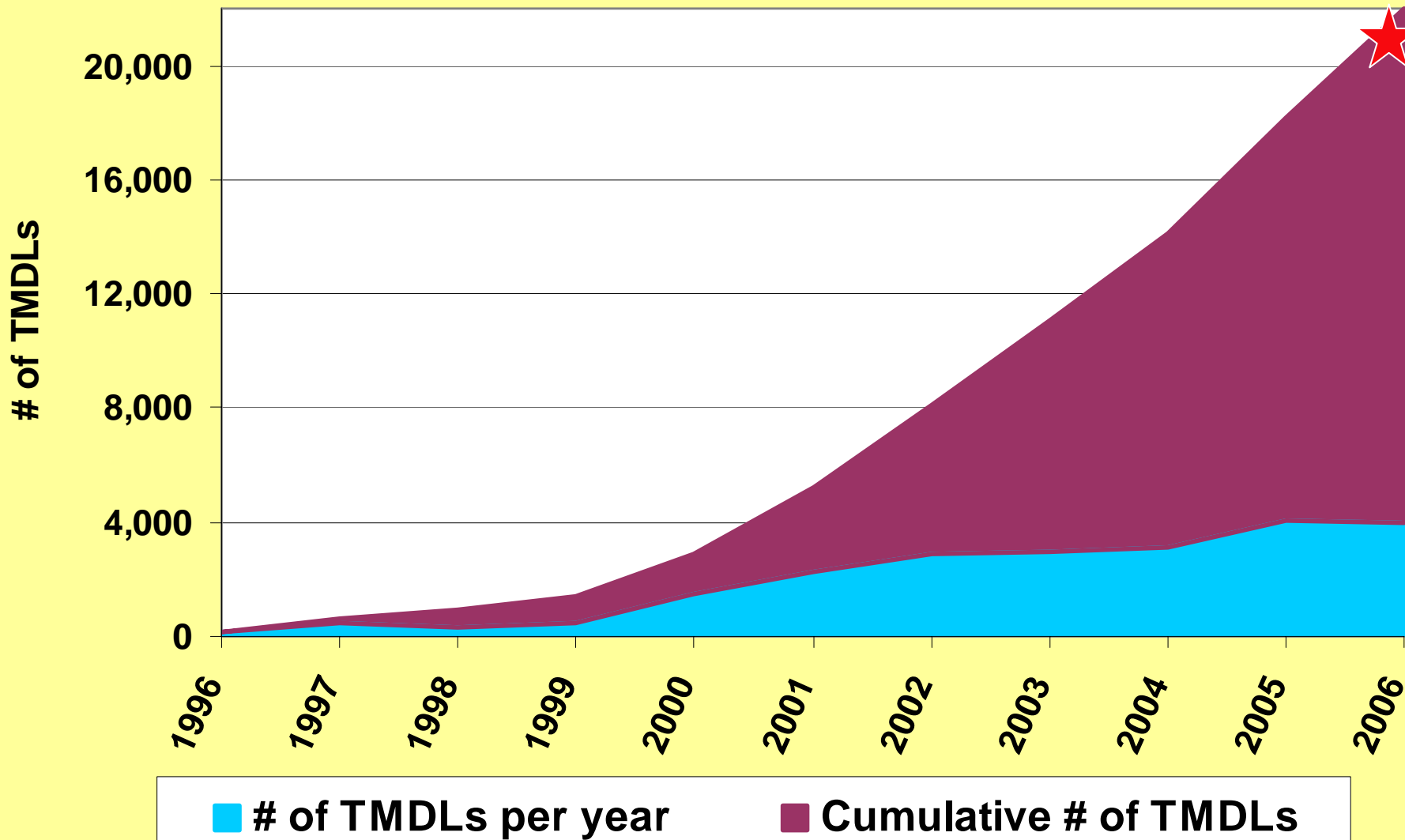


The National Picture

- ~ 35,000 waters listed as impaired
- Top causes of impairments:
 - pathogens
 - metals
 - nutrients
 - sediment
 - low dissolved oxygen



20,000 TMDLs Completed



TMDL Program Benefits to Counties

- Watershed planning tool (roadmap)
- Common understanding of impaired waters (state / county)
- Catalyze involvement – improving overall water quality in watersheds; water quality trading

How Can Counties Get Involved?

Clean Water Act Process

Adopt Water Quality Standards



Monitor & Assess Waters



List Impaired Waters



Develop TMDLs



Implement TMDLs
(Point Source/Nonpoint Source)

Counties:

Comment on proposed water quality standards

Submit monitoring data to state

Comment on list of impaired waters

Participate in state TMDL development;
Develop 3rd party TMDLs

Review point source permits;
Implement nonpoint source controls;
Broker water quality trading;
Monitor water quality response;
Review TMDL

Funding Sources for TMDL Implementation

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/funding.html>

- Federal
 - Clean Water Act sections 106, 319 funds
 - EPA Targeted Watershed Grants
 - US Department of Agriculture funds (Natural Resource Conservation Service)

- State

- Other

For More Information

TMDL Home Page at www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl

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