Proposed STAC Activity in CBP Hydrodynamic Modeling for 2011-2013

EPA is currently suggesting that a single hydrodynamic/water quality model is required for regulatory decisions (Shenk, March 2011 STAC meeting; Linker, September 2011 STAC meeting) and the "next generation" hydrodynamic model needs to be in place by 2015.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Any future hydrodynamic/water quality model shall be selected through quantitative skill assessment (STAC June 2011 Workshop recommendation) and an independent peer review process.

RECOMMENDATION 2: To insure that the regulatory model and its output is reasonable and to provide some estimate of uncertainty in the model simulations, EPA shall direct a portion of its modeling funds each year to the modeling community to develop and run multiple hydrodynamic/water quality models . The output from these multiple models shall then be routinely compared to the EPA regulatory model output to build scientist, management, and other stakeholder confidence in the model, which is critical for generating confidence for the appropriate use of public funds in meeting TMDLs across the region.

ACTION: STAC and model experts will meet with the CBP administration and modeling team as an *ad hoc* modeling advisory committee to identify how the EPA modeling strategy will be adapted to include recently recommended modeling methodologies (e.g. use of quantitative skill assessments and multiple open source community models). In addition the expert advisory committee will provide specific criteria for developing an RFP for the selection and EPA support of multiple hydrodynamic/water quality models from the larger community to complement the existing regulatory modeling strategy of the CBP.