MEETING DATE: July 27, 2015
AGENDA NUMBER: 15
ITEM: EPA Comments on WRAPS study and TMDL

POLICY IMPACT: Discussion
FISCAL IMPACT: Budgeted

REQUEST
Review preliminary comments from EPA on WRAPS study and TMDL.

BACKGROUND
CCWD entered into agreement with MPCA in 2013 to complete a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS). This is the final year of our contract with MPCA with work on schedule to be completed by December 2015.

As required by the Clean Water Act, all pending TMDLs and related studies must undergo EPA review and receive approval or disapproval. In partnership with MPCA, the CCWD allowed EPA to undertake a preliminary review of pending TMDL work within CCWD before entering into the formal 30-day final approval process.

A draft TMDL report was sent to EPA on April 20th, 2015 for preliminary review. A total of eight comments were provided to MPCA on July 7, 2015 and were largely of no consequence. Seven comments requested simple clarification and the final comment was complimentary of work completed to date.

ISSUES/CONCERNS
Once final approval is received, CCWD and its partners will be responsible for displaying progress toward meeting wasteload allocations. The CCWD TMDL will operate under a “categorical” approach which will require close collaboration amongst CCWD and its partners.

OPTIONS
Address EPA comments and pursue final approval of WRAPS study and TMDL.

RECOMMENDATION
Address EPA comments.
Pursue Final approval of WRAPS study and TMDL.
Pursue section 319 grant funding giving priority to projects with a completed WRAPS or TMDL implementation study.