

## *Bear Creek Watershed Association*

Approved July 9, 2014

### **Policy 29 BCWA Integrated Planning Program**



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#### **Statement of Basis and Purpose**

The Bear Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) is the local water quality agency responsible for implementation of a watershed plan in the Bear Creek Watershed (*BCWA Policy 28 BCWA Watershed Plan*). The BCWA is the implementing management agency for the *Bear Creek Control Regulation No. 74 (5 CCR 1002-74)*. The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission expects the BCWA as a designated management agency to integrate its planning efforts with other appropriate planning agencies and water quality/environmental affiliated groups.

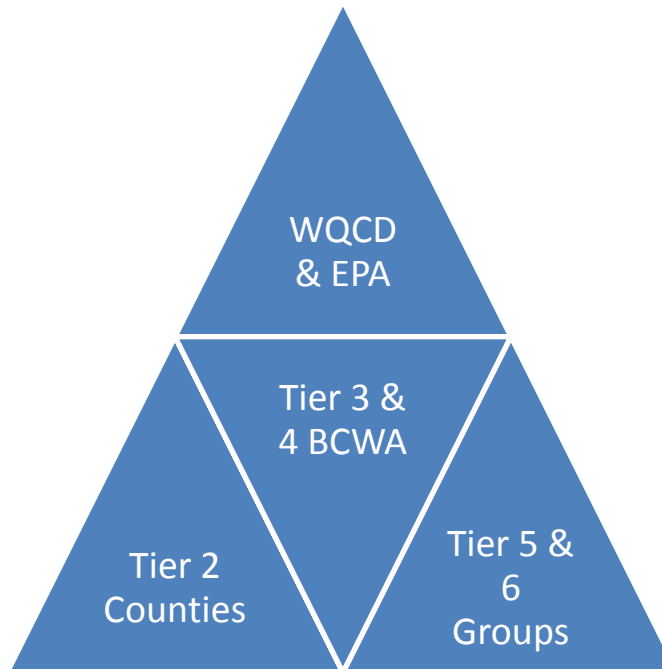
The WQCD has assumed the role of planning agency for the Denver region, including the entire Bear Creek Watershed. The BCWA now operates under the *Statewide Water Quality Management Plan (SWQMP) (WQCD Version 1.0- June 13, 2011)*. The SWQMP is considered a *living document* with links to other planning agencies, policies and regulations and provides a framework for water quality planning, protection and management. The management agency expectations for the BCWA are outlined in *A Guide to Colorado Programs for Water Quality Management and Safe Drinking Water (Commission Policy #98-2, updated August, 2013)*.

The BCWA integrates its watershed program at the local, county, state and federal levels. The BCWA is a referral agency for land use development applications submitted to Jefferson and Clear Creek Counties, and potentially Park County. Additionally, there are a number of agencies and groups that can be consulted in the watershed planning and implementation processes. The BCWA will also integrate its watershed plan with other local and state planning programs (e.g., county comprehensive plans, community plans, State Water Plan, SWQMP, and Source Water Protection Plans). The BCWA has determined that an integrated water quality and watershed planning program has six different levels of involvement (tiers). The BCWA doesn't perceive this planning process as hierarchical, rather integrated:

- Tier 1 WQCD as the Planning Agency (Note the WQCD integrates planning with the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal regulatory agencies);
- Tier 2 County Planning (Jefferson County, Clear Creek County and Park County), also see *BCWA Policy 2 Site Application Review* and *BCWA Policy 3 4-Step Review*.
- Tier 3 BCWA Membership Entities (See *BCWA Policy 16 Membership*);
- Tier 4 BCWA Designated Participants (See *BCWA Policy 16 Membership*, which includes only active participants);
- Tier 5 Other local, State and Federal Agencies (See *BCWA Policy 16 Membership*, which includes eligible participants) (e.g., Lower Bear Creek Watershed Group, Barr/Milton Watershed Association, Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Colorado Department of

Transportation, Colorado Water Engineer);

- Tier 6 Public in the watershed, including but not limited to homeowner associations, high schools, civic groups, and environmental groups.



## **Policy Positions**

1. The BCWA recognizes the WQCD as the planning agency and operates under the *Statewide Water Quality Management Plan*.
2. The BCWA has adopted a tiered planning integration process.
3. The BCWA watershed planning program will integrate with other appropriate planning agencies and water quality/environmental affiliated groups.
4. BCWA is an active referral agency for land use development applications submitted to Jefferson and Clear Creek Counties, and potentially Park County.