

**PPACG Member**  
**Watershed Planning Survey**  
**Draft: August 2022**

**Background:**

As the designated water quality planning agency, PPACG is required to prepare and update a Regional Water Quality Management Plan to address regional water quality issues under Section 208 of the CWA. This plan is commonly referred to as the 208 Plan<sup>1</sup> and, as defined in state and federal law, it is a planning document, not a regulatory document.

The 208 Plan is used to address water quality and environmental-related issues and to recommend implementation strategies to restore impaired rivers and streams. It is developed through a regional cooperative planning effort which involves representatives from local municipalities and counties, special districts, and state and federal agencies. This process is continuous and iterative.<sup>4</sup>

The 208 Plan for our COG encompasses five watersheds located within two river basins:

- South Platte River Basin: South Platte Headwaters, and Upper South Platte Watershed
- Arkansas River Basin: Upper Arkansas Watershed, Fountain Creek Watershed, Chico Creek Watershed

Within the Pikes Peak region, both water quality management associations and general-purpose local governments act as water quality management agencies. Once designated by the Governor and approved by the EPA, functional responsibility for carrying out all or part of the water quality management plan is legally assigned to that entity. Most of the management agencies in the 208 Plan were established in the 1970s and are comprised of local governments and special districts. The focus of these agencies has been primarily point-source issues and concerns. The designation of management agencies establishes part of the legal basis for delegation of entities with the authority and ability to implement the recommendations of the 208 Plan; however, the authority to make changes to the regulations rests with the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC).

<sup>1</sup> PPACG's 208 Plan: <http://ppacg.org/water-quality-plan/>

<sup>2</sup> CDPHE Fact Sheet on Reducing Nonpoint Source Pollution: [https://ppacg-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/awerner\\_ppacg\\_org/EbaDMgzi6R1MtYsnDD-ZCwYBFhj6upkwestgZc2FW-gGog?e=LhOXTY](https://ppacg-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/awerner_ppacg_org/EbaDMgzi6R1MtYsnDD-ZCwYBFhj6upkwestgZc2FW-gGog?e=LhOXTY)

<sup>3</sup> Current CDPHE grant: [https://ppacg-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/awerner\\_ppacg\\_org/EUG7ekfjkgFKtQOhIRI-nIAB24wL-bzs\\_TBHm7XzKEMAWA?e=Keyvxyv](https://ppacg-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/awerner_ppacg_org/EUG7ekfjkgFKtQOhIRI-nIAB24wL-bzs_TBHm7XzKEMAWA?e=Keyvxyv)

PPACG serves as a regional forum for the identification, discussion and resolution of water quality management issues confronting local communities. As a portion of our responsibilities, PPACG will continue to:

- support and participate in watershed-based water quality planning processes;
- encourage and assist local governments in developing and reviewing regulations and policies that address water quality issues;
- facilitate intergovernmental agreements that will further watershed water quality planning;
- assist with the development and implementation of nonpoint source and stormwater control programs conducted by local governments;

PPACG recognizes the pressing concerns for nonpoint source issues in the region and the need to take an active and lead role in building towards long-term solutions. PPACG seeks to build public awareness of water quality management issues through public education.

As part of this effort, CDPHE approached PPACG and the other three designated 208 Water Quality Planning Agencies in the latter half of 2021, to consider accepting grant funding to initiate the process of preparing an EPA Nine Element Watershed Management Plan. This management plan pertains to Nonpoint Source (Those streams/rivers not covered by MS4 permits.) watersheds impacted by pollutants and sources of contamination which are not regulated<sup>2</sup>. All the 208 programs accepted the grant funding, which was awarded at the beginning of 2022<sup>3</sup>. This is a three-year process with grant funding being awarded at the start of each calendar year. The first part of this process includes determining a “Plan” for the Watershed Management Plan. We have been working together with CDPHE to figure out the best approach. Here is where we believe conducting a stakeholder survey will be beneficial in helping to shape the EPA Nine Element Watershed Plan for our COG region.

### **Survey:**

The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) Environmental -Water Quality section is seeking stakeholder input on a regional Nonpoint Source Watershed plan (Plan) for our COG area which includes El Paso, Teller, and Park Counties. The Plan hopes to provide a more wholistic understanding of the number and types of groups working in this area of the watershed, types of water quality projects completed, and anticipated projects. Your input will ensure a [more\[SS1\]](#) complete picture of actions being taken to improve water quality. Participation could, help you make connections with likeminded stakeholders, and create

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the opportunity to build on and support (cross jurisdictional) projects [PA2] across jurisdictions to reach common water quality goals while maximizing use of financial resources. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

- Name
- Jurisdiction
- Email
- Phone

Which watershed?

- South Platte Headwaters
- Upper South Platte Watershed
- Upper Arkansas Watershed
- Fountain Creek Watershed
- Chico Creek Watershed

### Water Quality Impacts from Nonpoint Sources

This section includes questions about nonpoint source pollution in your watershed(s) [AL3][TJ4]. Please answer specifically related to the watershed(s) in your previous response.

**Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution** is any pollution that doesn't come from a "point source," defined in the Clean Water Act as "any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance . . . from which pollutants are or may be discharged."

NPS pollution generally results from runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, or hydrologic modification. NPS pollution, unlike pollution from industrial discharges and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall, snowmelt, or water diversion return flows that pick up and carry natural and human-made pollutants into lakes, rivers, wetlands, and ground waters.

1. What level of impact do the following nonpoint sources have on water quality in your watershed? (Check one for each row)	Very Low		Mode rate		Very High		N/A to my water shed	I don't know
	Low	Low	rate	High	High	High		
Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (aka private/backyard septic systems)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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1. What level of impact do the following nonpoint sources have on water quality in your watershed? (Check one for each row)	Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	N/A to my watershed	I don't know
Abandoned Mines (e.g., adits, waste rock, tailings)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Runoff from Roadways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impacts from Urban Land Uses (stormwater runoff, reduction in open space, landscaping chemicals, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impacts from Agricultural Land Uses						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post-Wildfire Impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flow Reductions due to Local Water [AB5] Diversions (agriculture, municipal, industrial) (list particular water quality impacts you're dealing with at end)[AL6]						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flow Reductions due to Out-of-Basin/Trans-basin/Trans-mountain Water Diversions						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change							
Hazardous household wastes (pharmaceuticals, oil, paint, acids, pesticides, etc.)							

2. Please explain any particular water quality impacts that warrant additional detail (for example, any specific local water diversion or urban land use issues).

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3. What are the most problematic pollutants in your watershed?

- Temperature
- Metals: Cadmium
- Metals: Copper

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- Metals: Zinc
- Metals: Molybdenum[AB7]
- E Coli
- Nutrients
- Anthropogenic sediment sources
- Other: (long response) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please briefly list priority projects, planning activities[AL8], or ideas for next steps to address nonpoint source pollution for your jurisdiction or within your watershed?

**5. Rate your jurisdiction's capacity related to the following aspects of development review[AL9][TJ10][AL11]?**

Capacity could relate to the quality of information provided by applicant, the ability to evaluate whether the standard is met, whether standards are adequately protective or achieving their purposes, adequate capacity to conduct review, etc. (Check one for each row)

	Very Low	Low	Neutral	High	Very High	Do not know
Determining adequate stormwater protections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ensuring adequate buffers from waterbodies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Determining adequate water supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reviewing water quality impacts from onsite wastewater treatment systems (aka OWTS or septic systems)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reviewing for adequate water efficiency measures such as water budgets, native landscaping, impervious surface reductions, water reuse, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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**5. Rate your jurisdiction's capacity related to the following aspects of development review**<sup>[AL9][T]10[AL11]</sup>?

Capacity could relate to the quality of information provided by applicant, the ability to evaluate whether the standard is met, whether standards are adequately protective or achieving their purposes, adequate capacity to conduct review, etc. (Check one for each row)

	<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Do not know</b>
Enforcing erosion and sediment control requirements during construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Enforcing revegetation requirements after construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

6. Are you currently or will you soon undertake comprehensive planning, land use code, or water efficiency plan updates? (Check all that apply)

- Yes, comprehensive plan
- Yes, land use code
- Yes, water efficiency plan
- No
- Unsure
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. If yes, please explain and provide an estimated start date.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Please provide any additional information or comments.

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time! Let us know if there are others with your jurisdiction you would like to take the survey separately!

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