

An aerial photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California. The bridge is a prominent orange-red color, stretching across the water. The surrounding landscape is hilly and green, with some buildings and roads visible. The water is a dark green color.

San Francisco Bay Mercury TMDL – Regulatory Update

**SF Bay Mercury Research Coordination Meeting
February 23, 2005**

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**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region**

Three More Approvals To Go!

Region 2
(Already
Approved)



State Board

Acts within 60 days of receipt
of Administrative Record

OAL *California Office of
ADMINISTRATIVE
LAW*

OAL

Acts within 30 days



USEPA

Approval within 60 days of receipt
Disapproval within 90 days

TMDL in a (very small) Nutshell

- **Reductions Needed**

- Fish tissue levels cut in half
- Load reduced from 1200 to 700 kg/yr
- Urban Runoff Load cut in half
- Guadalupe River load cut by a lot



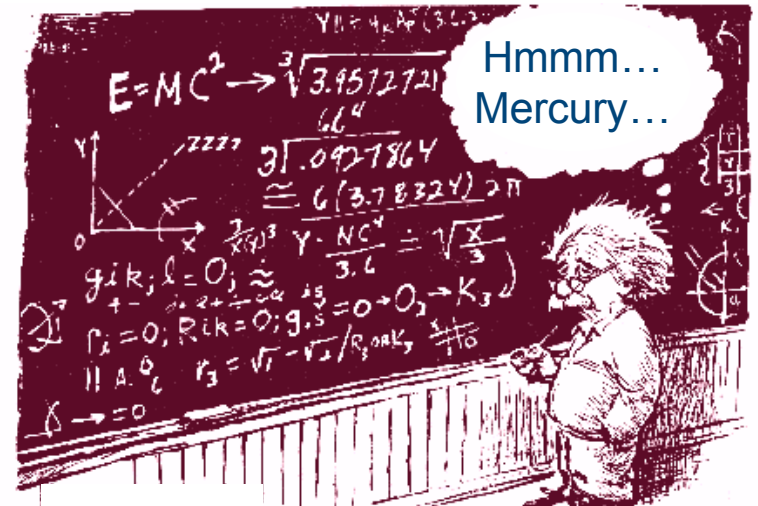
- **Challenges**

- Scientific Complexity
 - Fate, transformations, dynamics
- Legacy sources hard to control
- Long recovery time (~100 years?)



Adaptive Implementation Incorporates New Scientific Info

- Urban runoff loads / BMP effectiveness
- Role of wetlands in methylmercury production
 - Hamilton wetlands
 - Salt ponds restoration
 - Wetlands Prop 13 projects
- CalFed mercury program
- USGS / SFEI projects
 - Sediment transport
 - Central Valley load
- CEP / RMP projects



Adaptive Implementation

What It Means For Us



- Acknowledge data needs and state hypotheses
- Monitoring Program to:
 - Assess progress toward targets
 - Refine load estimates
- Special studies to assess:
 - Appropriateness of targets
 - Controllability of loads and methylation
- Re-visit decisions on monitoring targets, allocations, and implementation actions about every 5 years.
 - Substantial changes will require Basin Plan Amendment
- Form new hypotheses and test them.