

Quality Assurance for EPA Grants

EPA Region 9 Virtual WPDG Meeting

June 17, 2024

Dana Michels

What is Quality Assurance?

QA – an organization's system of planning, performing & documenting its activities, reviewing those activities & making systematic or project improvements.

Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)

- formal planning document describing how environmental information operations are planned, implemented, documented, and assessed during a project.
- describes the Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) requirements and other technical activities that must be implemented to ensure results of the environmental information operations will satisfy the stated performance criteria.

When is a QAPP Required?

- A QAPP is required when **environmental information operations** are conducted.



- **Environmental information operations** are “work performed to *collect, produce, evaluate, or use environmental information & the design, construction, operation or application of environmental technology*”

When is a QAPP Required Cont'd

Environmental information operations include, but are not limited to:

- direct measurements of environmental parameters or processes.
- analytical testing results of environmental conditions (e.g., geophysical or hydrological conditions).
- calculations or analyses of environmental information.
- information provided by models.
- development of environmental software, tools, models, methods, applications.
- information compiled or obtained from databases, software applications, decision support tools, websites, existing literature.
- design, construction, & operation or application of environmental technology.

Developing a QAPP

- QAPPs are project specific
- Level of detail needed in the QAPP is commensurate with project complexity
- QAPP elements are organized into four groups:
 - GROUP A - Project Management and Information/Data Quality Objectives
 - GROUP B - Implementing Environmental Information Operations
 - GROUP C - Assessment and Oversight
 - GROUP D - Environmental Information Review and Usability Determination
- Follow the EPA standard for formatting and sections: [EPA's Quality Assurance Standard for QAPPs](#)

Other Important QAPP Info.

- EPA Grant funds can be used to support QAPP development (e.g., your organization's staff time or through contracts)
- Use example approved QAPPs for similar project types
- Draft QAPPs submitted to EPA have ~ 60-day review time leading to approval or comments to revise the QAPP
- The QAPP should be approved and final before data collection begins

Example WPDG QAPPs

Project type	Recipient	Link to document
Coastal Wetland Dashboard	SCCWRP	SCCWRP CoastalWetlandDashboard QAPP Jan2025.pdf
Ridge to River Wetlands Project	Ventura County RCD	VenturaRCD RidgetoRiver QAPP May2025.pdf

THANK YOU