

# **Section 5**

## **Methodology for Developing an Ecological Testing Studies Plan**

### **5.1 General**

Further work will be required after the completion of this conceptual plan and basis of design in order to develop an ecological testing studies plan. It is the intent of this section to describe the methodology that will be used to develop this plan.

After completion of the CWRDP Conceptual Plan and Basis of Design, a technical advisory committee will be formed. This committee will be known as the Ecological Technical Advisory Committee (ETAC), and it will be comprised of members who are recognized experts in this field. Members of the ETAC will be collectively responsible for making recommendations to the MDWASD on the appropriate ecological testing protocols for the CWRDP. Of particular interest to the stakeholders are nutrient enrichment studies and evaluations of community dynamic shifts in response to the WRDP's effluent. It is anticipated that these ecological tests will be on a smaller scale than envisioned in the original 1 MGD Project. These protocols will be incorporated into a detailed aquatic toxicity and ecological testing plan. This plan will be subjected to outside Peer Review. The Peer Review Committee will comment and provide recommendations on the plan, which will be updated, as needed.