STATEMENT READ TO ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY WORK GROUP BY JIM MALLOLM (AEF) AT MEETING # 4 ON 23 FEBRUARY 2017.

To: ADEQ 303(d) Assessment Work Group February 23, 2017

As part of the ADEQ 303(d) assessment workgroup discussions/reviews, the AEF raised questions regarding apparent differences between ADEQ's benthic scoring system and attainment status categories (part of ADEQ's Biological Integrity 303(d) Assessment Methodology) versus EPA's Rapid Bioassessment benthic scoring system (Pflakin, et al 1989). AEF specifically requested written review and clarification of the differences. AEF received ADEQ's response to this request yesterday, February 22, 2017 via email, thank you. We have <u>briefly reviewed ADEQ's response at this time</u>. The AEF will provide further written comments in response to the ADEQ policy after having time to review and confer with the membership.

Sincerely, Charles Miller