



2026 Annual Strategic Work Plan

State Water Resources Control Board

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Mission Statement

The State Water Resources Control Board's mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations. To this end, the State Water Resources Control Board develops statewide permits, policy, and regulations to protect water quality, regulates drinking water, administers California's water rights system, and supports Regional Water Quality Control Board efforts. In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board provides financial assistance in the form of grants and loans for projects that clean up and protect water quality and drinking water supplies, and that otherwise protect water resources.

About this Work Plan

The 2026 annual strategic work plan is a comprehensive overview of the work done by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). The body of the work plan is organized by thematic areas and describes the State Water Board's programmatic, immediate, and ongoing priorities for the coming year. The appendices acknowledge and catalog the rest of the State Water Board's work.

Thematic areas

Thematic areas are broad, interconnected categories which reflect the fundamental ways in which the State Water Board carries out its mission. The following four thematic areas are used to organize the identified priorities:



Protect public health by ensuring reliable access to safe, affordable drinking water and sanitation.

The State Water Board protects public health by ensuring state-regulated water systems meet drinking water and sanitation standards and that Californians, who rely on water systems not under state regulation, know the quality of their water; by adopting and enforcing standards for contaminants that threaten human health; and by ensuring groundwater meets or exceeds water quality objectives.



Protect and restore watersheds, marine waters, and ecosystems.

The State Water Board protects Californians' water resources by ensuring surface water quality, flow, and management protects fish, wildlife, recreation, and other beneficial uses; by reducing and managing nutrient issues such as harmful algal blooms; and by managing the Bay-Delta to balance water supply reliability and a healthy ecosystem.



Increase statewide water resiliency in the face of climate change and other threats by expanding and integrating California's water supply portfolio.

The State Water Board is increasing the resilience of California's water supplies by managing drought and other emergencies; by facilitating diverse local and regional water supplies; and by supporting sustainable and multi-benefit management of stormwater and groundwater resources.



Strengthen relationships, systems, and organizational capacity to accomplish the State Water Board's mission strategically, transparently, equitably, and efficiently.

The State Water Board is incorporating effective public participation into decision-making and supporting effective partnerships by strengthening meaningful government-to-government partnerships with Native American Tribes; by tracking and communicating the State Water Board's work; by managing data effectively; and by supporting the evolution of organizational structures, processes, and culture.

Priorities

There are three categories of priorities described in the 2026 strategic workplan:

- **Programmatic priorities** represent significant, long-term focal areas for the Board and the administration. They are critical, high-profile, and overarching efforts that advance multiple, inter-related actions. Some of these associated actions will come before the Board in 2026 and are therefore separately listed in the workplan as immediate or ongoing priorities.
- **Immediate priorities** are high-visibility actions that will be heard before the Board, or that the Board has directed staff to bring before them, in 2026. They include actions required by administration or legislative mandates, settlement agreements, and petition orders. Note that the immediate priorities in this work plan are subject to change. Responding to emergencies, for example, may require other work to be delayed.
- **Ongoing priorities** are high-visibility, multi-year regulatory and management actions that may come before the board as information items but are not anticipated to require a formal decision in 2026.

Appendices

There are four appendices in the 2026 workplan.

- **Appendix A** identifies capacity-constrained actions.
- **Appendix B** spotlights completed actions from the [2025 Strategic Work Plan](#).
- **Appendix C** lists the informational items that regularly come before the Board.
- **Appendix D** catalogs the State Water Board's core workload

Programmatic Priorities

Thematic areas			
Public health			   
			Safe and affordable funding for equity and resilience (SAFER). Focus on four SAFER program goals for public water systems. Focus on providing support to systems that were out of compliance in 2019 (the Senate Bill 200 baseline year), getting all systems into compliance within an average of five years, assisting “At-Risk” systems before they fail, and meeting consolidation goals by 2030. Continue supporting coordinated solutions for private domestic wells and state small water system with Regional Boards, Department of Water Resources, and other partners.
	Watersheds	Resiliency	Implementation of Water Supply Strategy and Participation in Water Plan. Implement programs and policies that advance the goal of securing additional water supply, as described in the Administration’s Water Supply Strategy (2022) and in recent legislation updating the California Water Plan . Specific focus areas for the Board include streamlined groundwater storage permitting, water conservation, enhanced stormwater capture, recycled wastewater, and desalination.
	Watersheds	Resiliency	Strategy to optimize resource management of stormwater (STORMS). Advance the STORMS program’s mission to lead the evolution of stormwater management in California by advancing the perspective that stormwater is a valuable resource. Prioritize STORMS projects considering scale, impact, existing resources, and the 2030 and 2040 goals identified in the Water Supply Strategy.
Public health	Watersheds	Resiliency	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Implement State Intervention , including making determinations on inadequate basins referred to the State Water Board and development and implementation of interim plans.
	Resiliency	Organizational capacity	Financial Assistance. Continue administering financial assistance programs, including loan and grant funding for construction of drinking water treatment and distribution systems, municipal sewage conveyance and treatment systems, and water recycling facilities; remediation for underground storage tank releases and groundwater contamination; technical assistance for small communities; interim water, operation and maintenance and administrator support for small, disadvantaged community water systems; and dry well support for individual households. In 2026, the Board will consider adopting the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plans, the SAFER Fund Expenditure Plan and the Proposition 4 guidelines for stormwater projects and US/Mexico border projects .

Immediate and Ongoing Priorities



1. Protect public health by ensuring reliable access to safe, affordable drinking water and sanitation

The State Water Board protects public health by ensuring state-regulated water systems meet drinking water and sanitation standards and that Californians, who rely on water systems not under state regulation, know the quality of their water; by adopting and enforcing standards for contaminants that threaten human health; and by ensuring groundwater meets or exceeds water quality objectives.

Immediate Priorities

1.1. Statewide wastewater needs assessment

Identify communities without adequate sanitation systems by evaluating data on at-risk communities and the condition of their sanitation systems. [The assessment](#) will include analysis of technical, managerial, and financial factors to determine and identify solutions for inadequacies, including possible consolidation with another wastewater treatment system. [DWQ, DFA]

2026 Milestones:

- Hold second annual update.
- Release assessment's draft results.

1.2. Lead and Copper Rule

Develop regulatory revisions to conform with new [Lead and Copper Rule](#) improvements issued by U.S. EPA October 2024. Accept, review, and approve private-side lead service line surveys. Develop a new data system to track service line surveys and reporting requirements. [DDW]

2026 Milestones:

- Draft emergency regulations.
- Hold adoption hearing for emergency regulations.

1.3. Cyanotoxins Notification and Response Level	Hold a public information item, receive public comments, and issue Notification and Response Levels for four cyanotoxins produced by harmful algal blooms. [DDW] 2026 Milestone: • Issue Notification and Response Levels.
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1.4. Manganese Notification and Response Level	Issue Notification and Response Levels for manganese along with waiver cancelations for community water systems. [DDW] 2026 Milestone: • Issue Notification and Response Levels.
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Ongoing Priorities

1.5. Drinking water regulatory priorities identified in annual priority update	Hold annual update for the Division of Drinking Water regulatory priorities list. Conduct staff-led workshop. [DDW]
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1.6. Water and wastewater affordability	Consider affordability in State Water Board funding programs, where appropriate. Take specific action regarding operation and maintenance support for drinking water systems, such as assisting systems with appointed Administrators and those with significant affordability burdens. [DFA]
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1.7. PFAS: investigations	Continue investigations of industrial sources of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contaminants in public drinking water systems statewide. Continue a multi-year study to monitor PFAS at community public water systems serving disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. Begin planning to test available treatment options and estimate treatment costs to support developing a treatment-based maximum contaminant level for PFAS. [DDW, DWQ, DFA]
1.8. PFAS: maximum contaminant level	Develop a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS). Continue PFAS testing program of public water system wells in disadvantaged communities and the project to identify additional per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. [DDW]
1.9. Technical, Managerial, and Financial Regulations	Per Senate Bill 1188 (2024), develop and adopt minimum standards related to the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of community water systems serving fewer than 10,000 people or 3,300 service connections and non-transient noncommunity water systems that serve K–12 schools. [DDW]



2. Protect and restore watersheds, marine waters, and ecosystems

The State Water Board protects Californians' water resources by ensuring surface water quality, flow, and management protects fish, wildlife, recreation, and other beneficial uses; by reducing and managing nutrient issues such as harmful algal blooms; and by managing the Bay-Delta to balance water supply reliability and a healthy ecosystem.

Immediate Priorities

2.1. Harmful algal blooms strategy	Develop a harmful algal blooms (HABs)-specific coordinated management strategy to organize and integrate the Board's approach to addressing HABs, coordinating with other state and local agencies, and communicating with the public [DWQ, OIMA, DDW, Division of Water Rights, Comms]. 2026 Milestone: • Finalize HABs strategy.
2.2. Bay-Delta Plan: Sacramento and Delta Tributaries	Complete the Sacramento/Delta update to the Bay-Delta Plan, including consideration of voluntary agreements included in the 'Healthy Rivers and Landscapes' proposal, while preparing for implementation once plan is adopted. Continue to consult with Tribal governments during the development of the Bay-Delta Plan update and implementation processes. [Division of Water Rights] 2026 Milestone: • Update Bay-Delta Plan.
2.3. Irrigated lands regulatory program expert panel update	The Second Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel convened in Summer 2025 to develop recommendations to support the Water Boards' approach to a long-term, sustainable Panel. Complete Expert Panel meetings, release the draft final Panel recommendations report for public comment and finalize the report by mid-2026. [DWQ, OCC] 2026 Milestone: • Finalize and release Agricultural Expert Panel report. • Present Agricultural Expert Panel recommendations to the State Water Board.

2.4. NPDES pesticide application permits	Release formal draft of a general permit that replaces the following existing (expired) statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to allow updated pesticide applications: (1) Vector Control Permit, (2) Aquatic Weed and Algae Control Permit, (3) Spray Applications Permit, and (4) Aquatic Animal Invasive Species Control Permit. [DWQ] 2026 Milestone: • Release formal draft permit for public comment.
2.5. Water Quality Petition Orders for dairies	Release the draft final Water Quality Order regarding the Central Valley Regional Water Board's General WDR for Existing Milk Cow Dairies (SWRCB/OCC File A-2283(b)) and present to the Board for consideration of adoption. [OCC, DWQ] 2026 Milestones: • Release draft final order for public comment. • Finalize draft order. • Hold adoption hearing.
2.6. Build capacity to continue water quality protection for all waters of the state	Develop for public comment waste discharge requirements to supplement 401 water quality certifications for Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits. Develop, for public comment, procedures for stream delineation. Conduct training for staff at the State and Regional Water Boards to build capacity to assume tasks formerly conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Develop internal guidance and continue to provide training on enforcement strategies utilizing existing state enforcement authorities. [DWQ, OE, OCC] 2026 Milestone: • Adopt and implement 2026 Nationwide Permits General Order for discharges to waters of the state. • Develop permit and environmental document for utility operations and maintenance activities.

2.7. Statewide Utility Wildfire General Order	Finalize the permit for electric utility wildfire mitigation and for electric operations and maintenance activities with the potential to affect waters of the state. Consider adopting the permit in 2026. [DWQ] 2026 Milestone: • Release final draft order for public comment.
2.8. Mono Lake	Prepare for a hearing to determine whether Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's water rights should be modified to raise Mono Lake's water level, and hold one or more staff workshops to gather information on the condition of Mono Basin's public trust resources and evaluate potential management options. [Division of Water Rights] 2026 Milestones: • Hold staff workshops. • Evaluate potential next steps.
2.9. Site-specific objectives guidance for copper and zinc	Adopt a policy for the development of site-specific water quality objectives for copper and zinc in freshwater. Release the draft policy for public comment in 2026 and present to the board for consideration of adoption later in the year. [DWQ] 2026 Milestones: • Submit draft policy and staff report for scientific peer review. • Release draft policy for public comment. • Hold Board workshop.
2.10. Statewide industrial stormwater general permit	Release informal draft of the revised statewide Industrial Stormwater General national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) Permit for public comment. [DWQ] 2026 Milestone: • Release informal draft permit for public comment.

2.11. NPDES statewide phase II small MS4 permit	Release formal draft of the updated statewide national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) NPDES Permit for public comment. [DWQ] 2026 Milestone: • Release formal draft MS4 Phase II permit for public comment.
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Ongoing Priorities

2.12. Bay-Delta Plan: Lower San Joaquin River and Southern Delta	Prioritize work needed to consider changes to the Bay-Delta Plan adopted in 2018 to incorporate the Tuolumne River Healthy Rivers and Landscapes proposal, and possibly other watersheds, while aligning implementation with future updates to the Sacramento/Delta portion of the Bay-Delta Plan. [Division of Water Rights]
2.13. Clear Lake Hitch	Continue efforts to protect the Clear Lake Hitch by evaluating water availability and assessing pumping impacts on streamflow, enforcing on illegal diversions and unlicensed cannabis cultivation, supporting Tribal and community data collection efforts, and encouraging collaborative actions to preserve streamflow, remove fish passage barriers, and follow best practices for water diversions. [Division of Water Rights, OE]
2.14. Carmel River	Continue oversight of the cease-and-desist order related to California American Water Company and illegal diversions from the Carmel River. [Division of Water Rights]
2.15. Water Rights Enforcement Policy	Release a Draft Water Rights Enforcement Policy that establishes a framework for strong, fair, transparent, and efficient enforcement of the state's water rights priority system for public comment. Conduct staff-led workshop(s) to present the Draft Policy, solicit public input, and respond to comments with the goal of considering to adopt the policy in 2027. [OE, Division of Water Rights]

2.16. Salton Sea	Oversee, monitor, and assess progress on the implementation of the Salton Sea Management Program, recognizing megadrought in the Colorado River basin, potential water shortages and related impacts to the Sea, and federal investments and collaboration within the watershed. [Division of Water Rights]
2.17. Harmful algal bloom-based objectives	Develop policy options to establish a statewide harmful algal bloom narrative objective, numeric objectives for several cyanotoxins, and a program of implementation for inland waters. For 2026, focus on (1) developing the policy options; (2) identifying tools to determine likely causes of harmful algal blooms, including nutrients; and (3) developing the program of implementation. [DWQ, OIMA]
2.18. Ocean acidification and hypoxia	Develop an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan) to address ocean acidification, hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, and the effects of anthropogenic sources of nutrients in ocean waters off the Southern California Bight. Work with the Regional Water Boards to incentivize or require technologically feasible wastewater treatment controls for ocean discharges. For 2026, focus on (1) evaluating potential water quality objectives and alternatives for program implementation; (2) gathering information to develop and run the Regional Ocean Modeling System-Biogeochemical Elemental Cycling; and (3) investigating wastewater treatment technologies including incentives and regulatory options. [DWQ]
2.19. Scott and Shasta Rivers instream flows	Continue efforts to develop appropriate science and other documentation to evaluate instream flows needs for the Scott and Shasta rivers in the Klamath watershed. [Division of Water Rights]
2.20. Protecting and monitoring water quality during and after wildfires	Explore new ways to further protect and monitor water quality during wildfire response and recovery work. [DWQ, OIMA, ORPP]



3. Increase statewide water resiliency in the face of climate change and other threats by expanding and integrating California's water supply portfolio

The State Water Board is increasing the resilience of California's water supplies by managing drought and other emergencies; by facilitating diverse local and regional water supplies; and by supporting sustainable and multi-benefit management of stormwater and groundwater resources.

Immediate Priorities

3.1. Sites Reservoir water rights application	Issue draft order for public comment, revise draft based on public comment, and bring revised draft to the Board for formal adoption. [AHO, Division of Water Rights] 2026 Milestone: • Hold adoption hearing for the Sites water right permit.
3.2. Delta conveyance water rights petitions	Implement the State Water Board's responsibilities for processing water rights change petitions and water quality certifications related to the proposed Delta conveyance project, including conducting the necessary water rights hearing. [Division of Water Rights, AHO] 2026 Milestones: • Continue the hearing.
3.3. Urban and Industrial Stormwater Infiltration Policy	Develop a policy for infiltration of urban and industrial stormwater runoff. [DWQ] 2026 Milestones: • Release draft policy for public comment. • Hold Board workshop.

Ongoing Priorities

3.4. Amendment to the Ocean Plan desalination provisions	Consider amendments to the Ocean Plan 's desalination provisions to clarify permit requirements and encourage development of pilot technologies. Initiate Tribal consultation and CEQA scoping in 2026. [DWQ]
3.5. Water rights data stewardship and efficiencies with new CalWATRS data system	Increase the accuracy of reported diversion data as well as streamline reporting requirements and processes for reporters in the California Water Accounting, Tracking, and Reporting System (CalWATRS) data system, which began receiving water diversion reports in October 2025. [Division of Water Rights]
3.6. Water rights permitting for underground storage	Prioritize water rights applications for underground storage , including 180-day and 5-year temporary permits, standard water rights applications, and applications that pursue the board's recently developed streamlined pathway for capturing high flow events. Continue to coordinate with the Department of Water Resources to facilitate applications, conduct outreach and education, and assist applicants in accordance with the Water Supply Strategy. [Division of Water Rights]



4. Strengthen relationships, systems, and organizational capacity to accomplish the State Water Board's mission strategically, transparently, equitably, and efficiently

The State Water Board is incorporating effective public participation into decision-making and supporting effective partnerships by strengthening meaningful government-to-government partnerships with Native American Tribes; by tracking and communicating the State Water Board's work; by managing data effectively; and by supporting the evolution of organizational structures, processes, and culture.

Immediate Priorities

4.1. Tribal beneficial use designations

Identify options for accelerating [Tribal beneficial uses](#) (TBU) designations. Provide guidance, information, and improved communication to support Tribal participation in the TBU designation process. Consider the formal designation of the Tribal Tradition and Culture Beneficial Uses as part of the update to the Bay Delta Plan. [DWQ, OPEETA, Division of Water Rights, OCC]

2026 Milestone:

- Release draft Guidance for Designating Waters for Tribal Beneficial Uses.

4.2. Water TAP

Complete the IT planning and approval process and secure a contractor to begin building the [Water Technical Access Portal \(Water TAP\)](#), which will connect existing drinking water program data into a single, cohesive and integrated system. When completed (est. 2028), the system will streamline information access for staff and the public. [DDW, DIT]

2026 Milestones:

- Select vendor.
- Execute contract.

4.3. Climate Change Resolution	Update the 2017 Climate Change Resolution to articulate policy principles, goals, and objectives related to climate change and management of California water resources. [ORPP] 2026 Milestone: • Release draft resolution for public comment.
<i>Ongoing Priorities</i>	
4.4. Enterprise IT strategy	Building upon the foundational work started by the Division of Water Rights and Division of Information Technology during the CalWATRS project, establish governance and develop an enterprise-wide information technology strategy to guide future IT priorities and investments. [DIT, Exec]
4.5. Racial equity	Build upon the work completed in the first Racial Equity Action Plan by developing a new 3-year Racial Equity Action Plan, by continuing to assess racial equity needs and targets, and by providing training. Solicit and select projects that qualify for Cleanup and Abatement Account funding to benefit disadvantaged environmental justice communities or Tribal communities. Consistent with Resolution No. 2026-0009, ensure funded projects include community engagement. [OPEETA, DFA]
4.6. Invoice tracking system	Continue ongoing efforts to develop an invoice tracking system, working with FISCAL and internal staff to ensure invoices are processed and paid in a timely manner. [DAS]
4.7. Workforce strategy	Continue actions to reduce vacancies, provide development and promotional opportunities, and minimize disruption when staff retire or resign. Develop an internal plan with recommended actions to foster a welcoming workplace environment, support organizational goals and objectives, and address barriers to workplace equity and inclusion. Specific plan elements shall include applying a racial equity lens to the annual Workforce Development and Succession Management Plan and ongoing recruitment activities. [DAS, DIT, OPEETA, DAS, DIT]
4.8. Website	Streamline and reorganize website content so that it is more intuitive and user-friendly for interested parties, the regulated community, and the public. [DAS, Comms]

Appendices

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Appendix A: Capacity-Constrained Actions

Capacity-constrained actions are either (1) outstanding priorities staff have made limited progress on because of capacity constraints, including, but not limited to, insufficient resources; or (2) topics that have potential to develop into significant Board actions in the future, if and as resources become available.

Outstanding priorities identified in the [2025 Strategic Work Plan](#)

- **Instream flows.** Continue efforts to develop appropriate science and environmental documentation to establish instream flows needs for priority streams.
- **CEC Management Strategy.** Develop and implement a statewide Constituent of emerging concern (CEC) management strategy to prioritize and manage CECs and proactively ensure the protection of drinking water supplies, public health, and the environment.

Topics that may develop into significant future actions

- **6PPD-quinone.** Collaborate with the Department of Toxic Substances Control's Safer Consumer Products Program and Caltrans to keep up-to-day on studies of 6PPD and 6PPD-quinone, their sources, environmental pathways, and toxic impacts on California's freshwater ecosystems. 6PPD is added to tires to prevent tire cracking. When exposed to ozone in air, 6PPD breaks down and forms the highly toxic byproduct 6PPD-quinone, which has been shown to run off into waterways and cause fish kills.
- **Regulatory Process Review and Improvement.** Review regulatory processes and investigate strategies to improve timelines and efficiencies in updating orders, programs, and plans. Responding to and developing water quality orders in response to petitions is a lengthy, resource-intensive process. Reviewing and making high priority amendments to water quality control plans and policies also takes a long time and a lot of resources.

Appendix B: Completed Actions from the 2025 Annual Strategic Work Plan

- [2026 Integrated Report](#)
- [On-site reuse regulations](#)
- [Language Access Policy and protocol](#)
- [Tribal consultation policy and guidance](#)
- [Tribal consultation dashboard](#)

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Appendix C: Regularly-Occurring Informational Items before the Board

Division of Administrative Services (DAS)

- Annual fee-setting

Division of Drinking Water (DDW)

- ELAP

Division of Financial Assistance (DFA)

- Operator Certification Program (Annual)
- UST Cleanup Fund and UST Program (Annual w/DWQ)
- Intended Use Plan
- Fund Expenditure Plan

Division of Water Quality (DWQ)

- Statewide Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intake Structures, Annual Report Informational Item
- Water Quality Fees Stakeholder Meetings with interested parties
- Section 319h Nonpoint Source Program Annual Workplan
- CEC updates
- CV Salts

Division of Water Rights

- Hydro Updates
- Water Quality Control Plan Updates
- Scott Shasta flows (required by AB 263)
- Water year retrospective

Office of the Delta Water Master (ODWM)

- Periodic report on Legal Delta and Suisun Marsh water rights reporting, water monitoring, measurement, and accounting; water availability, water quality, and water level issues; Delta ecosystem, habitat restoration, climate resilience, and maintenance initiatives; Delta Stewardship Council / Delta Science Plan and other agency and water user issues

Office of Enforcement (OE)

- Annual Enforcement Update (usually at beginning of the calendar year)

Office of Information, Management, and Analysis (OIMA)

- Annual Water Board Performance Program Report

Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA)

- Racial Equity Action Plan

Office of Research Planning and Performance (ORPP)

- Annual update on Implementing the *Making Conservation as Way of Life* regulation
- Annual discussion on the State Water Board's [strategic work plan](#)

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Appendix D: State Board Core Workload

These actions comprise the bulk of staff workload that does not regularly come before the Board. Note: some of these core workload actions were identified as priority actions in the [2025 annual strategic workplan](#).

Communications (Comms)

The Communications Offices oversees media and general public messaging and branding for the State Water Board and all nine regional boards.

- Messaging development on all issues of media and public interest in the Water Boards' portfolio.
- Messaging coordination with Water Boards staff, CalEPA and other state agencies.
- Production, review and editing of all external communications deliverables for the media.
- Review and editing of all core, public-facing external communications materials (Fact sheets, FAQs, web content).
- Media management, engagement and monitoring.
- Weekly and monthly reporting for event and activity coordination with CalEPA and administration.
- Website content review and management.
- Social media content strategy and content development. Management of channels.
- Video production and event photography.
- Graphic design for all external materials (across all Water Boards)
- Information sharing, issue and relationship management with all Regions, Divisions, and Offices.

Division of Administrative Services (DAS)

The Division of Administrative Services provides unified administrative services for the State Water Board and the nine Regional Boards. We also act as the primary interface to many of our control agencies, including the Department of General Services, CalHR, the Department of Finance and the State Controller's Office.

- Accounting
- Budgeting
- Business Services, including facilities management and procurement (both contracts and purchases)
- Fee and Revenue, including setting fees, issuing invoices, and collecting revenue.

- Health and Safety
- Human Resources

Division of Drinking Water (DDW)

DDW's core workload focuses on the protection of public health in its oversight of drinking water system and water recycling and is presented below in its major focus areas of: Safe Drinking Water Act implementation, Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, SAFER, general program support, and Recycled Water.

Safe Drinking Water Act Implementation

- Sanitary Surveys
- [Permitting](#)
- Enforcement
- Review of self-monitoring reporting data
- [Emergency Response](#)
- Regulation development

Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program Implementation

- Accreditation application review and approvals
- Method approvals
- Enforcement

Recycled Water

- Engineering report review
- Regulation development
- Site Inspections

Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER)

- Water system engagement
- Needs analysis
- Local Primacy Agency delegation program oversight
- Rural solutions and consolidations

Program support

- Data system maintenance
- Legislation review
- State Safe Drinking Water Plan
- Quality Assurance

Administrative Hearings Office (AHO)

The Administrative Hearings Office conducts evidentiary hearings and mediation.

- Water right permitting proceedings.
- Water right and cannabis enforcement proceedings.
- Other water rights matters, and as needed on behalf of other Divisions within the State Water Board.

Division of Financial Assistance (DFA)

DFA administers several funding sources to provide grants, loans and other financial assistance to protect groundwater, surface water, cleanup contamination, and ensure clean and safe water.

DFA Funding Programs

- Emerging Contaminants (EC) & PFAS Funding
- County-wide and Regional Domestic Well/State Small Water System Funding Programs
- General Drought Funding – serves as portal to other programs
- Proposition 68 Groundwater Treatment and Remediation Grant Program
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
- Small Community Wastewater Funding Program (CWSRF)
- Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA)
- CAA Urgent Drinking Water Need Projects
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- Drinking Water for Schools Program
- Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program
- Ground Water Quality Funding Program (Prop 1 + Prop 68 groundwater grants)
- Nonpoint Source Grant Program
- Lead Service Line Funding Program
- Public Water Systems Funding Opportunities – serves as portal for other programs
- Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) – serves as portal for SAFER
- Seawater Intrusion Control Loan Program – Managing existing agreements, all funding allocated
- Septic-to-Sewer Funding (subset of Small Community Wastewater Funding)
- Stormwater Grant Program
- Technical Assistance Funding Program
- Backup Generator Funding Program

- Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (USTCF)
- Emergency, Abandoned & Recalcitrant (EAR) Programs
- Commingled Plume Account (CPA) Program
- Orphan Site Cleanup Program (OSCF)
- Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading UST Program (RUST)
- Expedited Claim Account Program (ECAP)
- Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP)
- UST Local Oversight Program Grants
- Water Recycling Funding Program (WRFPP)
- Proposition 4 – US Mexico Border Grant Program
- Drought Response Program for Schools (DROPS)
- School District Account (AB 2729)
- Agricultural Drainage Management Loan Program – Managing existing agreements, all funding allocated
- Lead Testing in Drinking Water for California Child Care Centers (AB2370)
- Beach Water Quality Monitoring
- Fish Advisory Posting
- State Legislature Directed Projects
- Administrator Program
- Drinking Water Operations & Maintenance Funding Program
- Urgent Drinking Water Program

Other DFA Programs and Functions

- Operator Certification Program
- Environmental Section – serves both DFA and DDW
- Financial Review
- Compliance/Surveillance – Loan Recipient Surveillance/Ensure Compliance with Revenue Bonds
- Program Support – Required Reporting, Lead for Coordinating with OLA and Comms
- Fiscal Units – Tracking/Oversight/Reporting all DFA Administered Funds
- Division Support – Administrative Tasks for DFA (supplies, contracts, facilities, etc.)

Division of Information Technology (DIT)

DIT's core workload is to provide information technology hardware, software, services and support to enable the board's programs and divisions to perform their core functions and to continuously monitor the organization for cyber security threats and ensure compliance with state data and information policies.

- Staff Support
 - Office moves/adds/changes
 - Staff endpoint (laptop/desktop/tablet) support
 - Troubleshooting and IT resource access help
- Network Administration
 - Moves/Adds/Changes
 - Troubleshooting
 - Equipment configuration/upgrades
- Server/Infrastructure Administration
 - Patching
 - Configuration Management
 - Troubleshooting
- Database administration
- IT Application Development Services
- Information Security Services
 - Information Security Program Management
 - IT Policy creation/management/enforcement
 - Software evaluations
 - Generative Artificial Intelligence monitoring and reviews
 - Respond to and investigate Cybersecurity incidents statewide
 - California Department of Technology (CDT) Audits
 - California Military Department (CMD) Assessments
- Privacy Services, including policy administration and enforcement
- Website maintenance and updates
 - Redesigns/reconfigurations
 - Posting of information
 - Template updates
 - Accessibility compliance
 - Content strategy consultations
- IT Contract Management
- IT Procurements
- IT Project Management

- Delegated (internal or projects CDT allows us to do without oversight).
- Non-delegated project management and contracting (CalWATRS, Water TAP, CalWRAPP, CERDSI)
- Ongoing Maintenance and Operations of 80+ IT systems
- Board meeting support in the regions (Audio / Visual / Conferencing services)

Division of Water Quality

DWQ is responsible for developing statewide permits, plans, and policies and coordinating statewide efforts between the State Board, Regional Water Boards, and other agencies.

Water Quality Control Plan and Policy Implementation

- Water Quality Control Plan Triennial Reviews
- Ocean Plan implementation
- Inland surface waters, enclosed bays and estuaries plan implementation
- Clean Water Act 303(d) Listing Policy implementation
- Recycled Water Policy implementation (including volumetric annual report)
- Once Through Cooling Policy implementation
 - Statewide Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intake Structures, Annual Report Informational Item
- Low Threat Policy, Antidegradation Policy, and Cleanup Program Policy implementation

Water Quality Standards Development

- Inland Freshwater Standards Development
- Ocean Standards Development

Water Quality Assessment

- Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Program (including aquifer risk map)
- CWA 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated Report Development: data solicitation, organization, assessment, staff report, outreach, and approval every 2 years.
- Total Maximum Daily Load & Basin Planning Coordination, Review, and Submittal

Statewide Order Implementation

- Cannabis compliance assistance
- Winery order implementation
- CalTrans Stormwater Permit Implementation
- Industrial Stormwater General Permit/Construction Stormwater General Permit Implementation

- Compost order implementation
- Board of Forestry's California Vegetation Treatment Program implementation
 - Vegetation Treatment General Order implementation

Permit and Executive Order Administration

- Oil & gas program – aquifer exemptions and project by project reviews
- Carbon Capture Sequestration – coordination with CARB and USEPA on permitting
- Processing Notices of Intent (NOIs) associated with statewide general permits and providing ongoing support to applicants
- Review and approval of trash Full Capture System certification applications
- Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification permitting
- Pretreatment Program Management
- Wildfire and Flood Executive Order and State of Emergency Support
- Assist with USEPA eReporting rule compliance

Administrative Review

- Underground Storage Tank cleanup closure petition and closure denial reviews
- Water Quality Petitions

Grant Program Support

- Federal Grant management (F106, 205J, DOD, USEPA (USTs), Non-Point Source, Santa Monica Bay Restoration)
 - Annual and/or biannual Reporting
- Beach Watch Program management including subgrants to coastal counties

Operations

- Normalizing and operationalizing equity and inclusivity
- Legislative review and comment
- Budget Change Proposal review and development for statewide impacts
- Water Quality Fees Stakeholder Meetings
- Public Records Act response

Statewide or Multi-agency Coordination and Management

- Coordination, leadership and facilitation for 17 Water Board Roundtables
- AB1492 Forestry and Wildfire Coordination
- AB 1282 Caltrans Permitting Coordination
- AB 1755 implementation
- Cutting Green Tape Initiative implementation
- Subsurface Elevated Temperature (SET) agencywide coordination and response

- Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) Commission Technical Advisory Group participation
- Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition representative
- California/Mexico Border Program coordination
- Coordination with the Ocean Protection Council on various cross agency strategies
- Coordination with the California Water Quality Monitoring Council and its workgroups
- Santa Monica Restoration Commission management
- Management Agency Agreement with Dept of Pesticide Regulation
- Stormwater Management and Report Tracking System & GeoTracker management and implementation
- Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, Healthy Soils, Dairy Program management
- Attorney General's Office support (e.g., Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances data and information gathering)
- Site Cleanup and Department of Defense Cleanup Program (including vapor intrusion guidance implementation)
- Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Agency-wide coordination – implementation of monthly coordination meetings with CalEPA Boards Departments and Offices
- Microplastics board wide support
- California Unified Program Agency coordination implementing the Leak Prevention Program, and Office of Tank Tester Licensing
- Coordination with the California Geologic Energy Management Division to implement California's Underground Injection Control and Aquifer Exemption permitting program

Division of Water Rights

The Division's mission is to establish and maintain a modern system of water rights in California that protects vested rights, water quality and the environment.

Permitting, Enforcement, and Petitions

- Processing new Applications, Registrations, Standard Change Petitions, Temporary Urgency Change Petitions, Underground Storage Permits, Transfers, and Licenses
- Responding to complaints, including inspections and investigations
- Responding to cannabis-related complaints
- Enforcement case development and hearings (Prosecution Team)
- Notification of failure to file and annual enforcement (diverters who do not report annual diversions)

- Processing Revocation Requests
- Ongoing implementation and coordination of enforcement actions with Regional Board, NGOs, regulated community, and general public
- Implementing the Carmel River Cease and Desist Order

Bay Delta, Hearings, and Special Projects

- Tracking D-1641 compliance
- Sacramento River Temperature (Order 90-5) Oversight
- Tracking Term 91 updates and compliance
- Bay-Delta Water Use Daily Compilation
- Model development and analysis: SacWAM, SJWAM, DSM2, CalSim, temperature modeling, and other models
- Interagency Ecological Program coordination and other science coordination
- Biological Opinion/Incidental Take Permit coordination
- WOMT and other tributary coordination processes
- Assistance with Application, Petition, and Licensing projects, and Bay-Delta 401 Certification Projects
- Technical support for the Administrative Hearings Office
- Responding to Public Records Act requests
- SB 88 Water Measurement and Reporting outreach and implementation

Water Quality Certifications, Flows, Data, and Administration

- Annual water rights fees and billing
- California Water Accounting, Tracking, and Reporting System (CalWATRS) Oversight and Implementation
- Data Governance Oversight and Planning
- Digitization of water rights records for CalWATRS public access
- Processing address and ownership changes, initial statements of diversion and use
- Annual Water Use Reporting: Reminders, Mailouts, and Customer Service
- Contracting, Procurement, Human Resources/Request for Personnel Action Work, Budgeting
- FERC and water rights-related water quality certifications (approximately 100+ projects statewide); pre- and post-licensing (compliance and oversight) work; petitions for reconsideration
- Developing Supply Demand Assessment models for future curtailments
- Scott/Shasta Instream Flows and implementation of AB 263 regulatory flows

- Cannabis Policy implementation (water quality certifications, coordination with CDFA/CDFW, local cooperative solutions, onstream reservoir determinations, other)
- Records Room File Management

Office of Chief Counsel (OCC)

OCC provides legal advice to the ten Water Boards and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission.

- Advises and counsels Water Boards' members and program staff in all Water Boards programs, divisions, offices, and regions as to compliance with state and federal substantive drinking water, water rights, water quality, and financial assistance laws, as well as compliance with Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, Political Reform Act, conflicts of interest, California Public Records Act, and related open and good government laws
- Advises and counsels all Water Boards on contracts and personnel matters involving Water Boards' staff
- Represents the Water Boards in proceedings before other state and federal administrative agencies
- Represents the Water Boards in judicial proceedings where the Attorney General's Office has a conflict or where the State Water Board is serving as a special master or accepting a judicial reference
- Coordinates all briefing and representation by the Attorney General's Office in offensive and defensive litigation and amicus representation involving the Water Boards
- Supports outside bond counsel in issuance of revenue bonds to support Water Boards' financial assistance programs
- Drafts legislation in support of all Water Boards' programs and the Office of Legislative Affairs
- Advises Governor's Office on legal requirements associated with appointments to the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards and requirements of state and federal drinking water, water rights, and water quality laws.

Office of the Delta Water Master (ODWM)

ODMN is at intersection of SB 88 implementation and building out the prior "experimental" reporting framework encompassed in the Delta Alternative Compliance Plan utilizing OpenET data. Our work involves engagement with diverse interested parties to

increase confidence in data from remote sensing, direct measurement devices, modeling approaches, and experiments across the Delta.

Scope of Responsibilities

- Administration of water rights within Legal Delta and Suisun Marsh
- Enacting requirements of the Delta Reform Act of 2009
- Coordinate with the Delta Stewardship Council, Delta water users, agencies, NGOs, and agents on issues related to Delta water quality and water rights

Legal Delta Diversion and Use Reporting

- Track, review, support timely reporting, and enforce annual reporting compliance
- Track and enforce compliance with metering and measurement regulations

SB 88 Water Measurement Implementation

- Assess costs and technical feasibility of Delta water measurement methods and alternatives
- Convene the Delta Measurement Experimental Consortium quarterly.
- Support research to facilitate water balance, accounting, and modeling studies in the legal Delta

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

- Support Plan development with regard to Legal Delta water use and implementation
- Review Delta permittee obligations with regard to Delta implementation, e.g. Phase 1 Monitoring Special Study (MSS)
- Advance basis to consider feasibility of localized flow experiments to better achieve Delta water quality objectives through operational management

AHO Water Rights Proceedings

- Advance integrated solutions aligned with water quality objectives and water rights that address persistent Delta management challenges (e.g. south Delta water availability in low flow conditions)

Delta Climate Resilience

- Integration between Delta Stewardship Council and State Water Board
 - Advocate for additional science capacity within Delta Science Program
 - Advance habitat programs that contribute to wider land, water and flood resilience
 - Protect against no net-loss of in-Delta monitoring of flow and water quality information
- Integrate accounting methodologies for groundwater banking projects

- Work with interested parties to advance planning and funding for long-term levee investments
- Work with state, federal, and local agencies to advance dredging programs, policies and funding consistent with interagency "Dredging MOU"

Office of Enforcement (OE)

The Office of Enforcement provides legal and technical support for enforcement across all the Water Boards' program areas and to each of the ten Water Boards.

Legal Support

- Provide legal advice and counsel to Water Board enforcement staff
- Represent Water Board staff in administrative enforcement proceedings
- Develop and coordinate enforcement case referrals to the Attorney General's Office
- Coordinate with outside prosecutors and other state and local agencies on enforcement cases
- Develop and maintain enforcement related policies and guidance documents
- Provide training on legal standards, procedures and policies applicable to enforcement

Investigation and Technical Support

- Investigate illegal discharges, pollution, or permit violations related to:
 - Sanitary sewer system compliance inspections, audits and enforcement
 - Stormwater site inspection, compliance, and enforcement
 - Wastewater treatment system inspections and enforcement
 - Operator certification investigations and enforcement for drinking water and wastewater systems
 - Waters of the United States determinations
- Prevent fraud, waste and abuse of state funds
 - Investigate potential misuse of state funds and submittal of false information
 - Administrative Issue administrative enforcement actions
 - Refer cases to Attorney General's Office or outside prosecutors
 - Conduct fraud awareness and prevention training
- Underground storage tanks (UST) inspection and enforcement
 - Investigate UST construction and monitoring violations
 - Conduct single-walled UST closure initiative
 - Take enforcement actions for abandoned UST sites

- Develop UST Inspection and Enforcement Program Plan (IEP)
- Conduct training and outreach to Unified Program Agencies and stakeholders
- Cannabis program enforcement coordination
 - Develop and update Cannabis Program Report and enforcement metrics
 - Execute contracts for imagery resources
 - Support development and implementation of expedited enforcement strategies
 - Coordinate with partner agencies and local regulatory and law enforcement entities
- Cannabis inspections and enforcement
 - Conduct statewide inspections of illegal cannabis cultivation sites
 - Develop and pursue administrative enforcement for water quality violations before appropriate Regional Boards
 - Review illegal cultivation sites inspection reports from other agencies and local law enforcement for Water Code violations and providing testimony in criminal proceedings
- Provide technical expertise in settlement negotiations and expert testimony at administrative hearing and civil proceedings
- Conduct economic benefit analysis
- Improve inspection and enforcement procedures and tracking
- Develop inspection and enforcement guidance documents
- Provide bi-annual enforcement training
- Organize and host Water Quality Enforcement Roundtable
- Represent the Water Boards on CalEPA's Environmental Justice Enforcement Taskforce
- Implement environmental justice enforcement initiatives and the racial equity action plan

Office of Information, Management, and Analysis (OIMA)

- Support data collection, management, governance and informatics associated with SAFER data, cloud-based data governance, etc.
- Lead the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) - pollutants and trends, bioassessment, safe to eat, harmful algal blooms, eDNA
- Maintain systems to support interoperability of water use data
- Administer the organization's Quality Assurance Officer and Quality Assurance Program

- Manage the Statewide Consolidate Contract portfolio
- Lead efforts across all Board programs using best practices for data and code (Equity Data Handbook and Openscapes)
- Steward the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN), including load all data in CEDEN's data centers
- Steward the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) database, including the help desk and maintenance contact
- Champion open data (AB1755) and the principles and tools used to advance open science and transparency to our public partners
- Lead the Performance Based Management Program
- Administer and lead the Water Quality Monitoring Council and workgroups

Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA)

- Represents and advocates for the State and Regional Water Boards on state and federal legislative matters
- Monitors and reviews state and federal legislation
- Provides technical assistance on legislative issues
- Serves as the primary point of contact for legislative briefings, hearings, correspondence, and outreach
- Oversees tracking and follow-up on legislatively mandated reports
- Supports the process for board member appointments

Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA)

OPEETA removes barriers to participation for historically excluded communities and Tribes through engagement and education on decision-making processes that impact their water resources. OPEETA develops a workforce that prioritizes equity and inclusion. OPEETA's five program areas include: SAFER drinking water, language access, public engagement/environmental justice, Tribal affairs, and workforce equity.

Language Access

- Translation of written materials
- Provision of interpretation services
- Bilingual Spanish phone call customer service
- Provides guidance to RDOs on language service assessments
- Responds to language access complaints

SAFER Drinking Water

- Coordinates the SAFER Advisory Group

- Recruits, selects, and onboards new SAFER Advisory Group members
- Coordinates local drinking water solutions community meetings
- Reviews Administrator Community Accountability and Engagement Plans
- Reviews community engagement component of new technical assistance provider applications
- Manages SAFER public website

Environmental Justice/Public Engagement

- Coordinates Environmental Justice Roundtable
- Co-hosts the Racial Equity Data Subcommittee
- Coordinates implementation of the Racial Equity Action Plan
- Develops guidance, tools, templates, training, and resources related to public engagement and environmental justice
- Provides guidance to RDOs on development of community profiles, public engagement plans, and facilitation agendas
- Provides meeting facilitation
- Provides equity impact analyses
- Serves as the State Water Board ombudsperson and responds to public inquiries
- Responds to public requests for reasonable accommodations
- Responds to public complaints about discrimination or reasonable accommodations

Tribal Affairs

- Develops guidance, tools, templates, training, and resources related to Tribal affairs
- Provides guidance to RDOs on development of Tribal engagement plans, consultation letters, and other communications materials
- Maintains a Tribal contacts database
- Coordinates the Tribal Coordinators Roundtable
- Coordinates the Tribal Beneficial Uses Working Group
- Participates in Tribal consultations
- Coordinates quarterly and annual Tribal affairs reporting
- Participates in quarterly CalEPA Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting and US EPA Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting

Workforce Equity

- Coordinates the Advancing Racial Equity at the Water Boards training
- Recruits, selects, and onboards new Advancing Racial Equity train-the-trainers
- Provides guidance to RDOs on workforce development efforts
- Coordinates the Workforce Equity Roundtable

- Coordinates implementation of the Workforce Equity and Inclusion Plan
- Supports the monthly Racial Equity Support Lunch
- Participates in implementation of the CalEPA Affinity Groups

Office of Research, Planning, and Performance (ORPP)

The Office is responsible for several Boards-wide programs that improve the Boards' capacity and impact regarding climate change and that add value at the intersection of policy, technical expertise, coordination, and operations. The Office also runs the long-term urban water use efficiency and urban drought water conservation program.

- [Urban water use efficiency: Making Conservation a California way of life](#)
- [Climate change coordination and policy](#)
- Employee training and development
- [Emergency management](#)
- [External scientific peer review](#)
- Economic analysis
- [Monthly urban water use data](#)
- Water quality benefits of certain Water Storage Investment Act programs
- International Engagement
- State Water Board Management Coordination Committee planning
- [Annual strategic work plan development](#)

Office of Sustainable Groundwater Management (OSGM)

The Office of Sustainable Groundwater Management is responsible for implementing the Water Board's provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

- Conduct technical evaluation of groundwater sustainability plans for: basin conditions, sustainable management criteria, monitoring data, projects, management actions, and other aspects of groundwater management
- Hold technical consultations with groundwater sustainability agencies to support improvements to their plans
- Present subbasins to the Board with recommendations to exit state intervention, enter probation, and/or qualify for exclusions, as appropriate
- Conduct outreach and engagement in basins under our authority, which includes: developing informational mailings, developing accurate mailing lists, developing and updating website content, conducting outreach to Tribes, meeting with non-governmental organizations and community members, and supporting SGMA Inbox operations.

Applicable to Subbasins in Probation:

- Develop Interim Plans as appropriate
- Maintain the [GEARS](#) reporting system and evaluate reported information
- Evaluate and adjust annual fees, as appropriate

DRAFT

Acronyms Used

Acronyms or short names for State Water Board Divisions and Offices

Comms	=	Communications Office
DAS	=	Division of Administrative Services
DDW	=	Division of Drinking Water
DFA	=	Division of Financial Assistance
DIT	=	Division of Information Technology
DWQ	=	Division of Water Quality
OCC	=	Office of the Chief Counsel
ODW	=	Office of the Delta Watermaster
OE	=	Office of Enforcement
OIMA	=	Office of Information Management and Analysis
OLA	=	Office of Legislative Affairs
OPEETA	=	Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs
ORPP	=	Office of Research, Planning, and Performance
OSGM	=	Office of Sustainable Groundwater Management