

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 9-10, 2025**

Prepared on September 25, 2025

**ITEM NUMBER:** 9

**SUBJECT:** Wastewater Needs Assessment

**STAFF CONTACTS:** Tamara Anderson, (805) 549-3334,  
[Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov)

**KEY INFORMATION:**

Location: Statewide Assessment

**ACTION:** Information/Discussion

**SUMMARY**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) started work on the Water Boards' Wastewater Needs Assessment (WWNA) in July 2023. The WWNA is a four-year project with the overarching goal to provide information on sanitation needs across California and develop strategies to address the state's sanitation system needs. Annalisa Kihara, Assistant Deputy Director and Erica Kalve, Supervising Engineering Geologist at the State Water Resources Control Board, will provide a presentation on this topic.

**DISCUSSION**

**Background**

As specified in the State Water Board [Resolution No. 2022-0019](#), the State Water Board authorized the Executive Director or designee to enter into contracts to support a statewide effort to conduct an assessment of wastewater needs to improve sanitation access to all Californians and to help achieve the human right to water goals. State Water Board contracted with the University of California, Los Angeles – Luskin Center for Innovation (UCLA, primary investigator contracted), Sacramento State – Office of Water Programs, University of California – Agriculture and Natural Resources, and University of Massachusetts – Amherst (WWNA project team) to provide information on and strategies to address California's water-related sanitation system needs. The WWNA contract lasts for four years (2023 to 2027) and is conducted in sequential 2-year phases.

By the end of October 2025, the State Water Board plans to release its Wastewater Needs Assessment Phase 1 report. Phase 1 establishes methodologies, addresses data gaps and sets a baseline assessment of existing sanitation conditions. The report, which will be a focus of the October 24, 2025, Wastewater Needs Assessment Advisory Group [meeting](#) in Sacramento, also develops key definitions of inadequacy and risk for sewage collection systems, sewage treatment plants, and decentralized systems, as well as potential solutions to address inadequate systems. This first-of-its-kind effort aligns with the Water Boards' vision of clean, safe, and affordable water for human uses and environmental resource protection across California with a particular focus on disadvantaged communities and decentralized systems.

### More Information

Additional information is available on the State Water Board's wastewater needs assessment program page:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/waste\\_discharge\\_requirements/wastewater\\_needs\\_assessment.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/waste_discharge_requirements/wastewater_needs_assessment.html)

r:\rb3\shared\board meetings\current agenda\2025\10\_oct\_9 10\item  
9\item09\_stfrpt.docx