

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

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

**Prepared on September 22, 2025**

**ITEM NUMBER:** 10

**SUBJECT:** Executive Officer's Report to the Board

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**ACTION:** Information/Discussion

**KEY INFORMATION:** This item presents a brief overview of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any item.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

The purpose of this summary is to provide an update on the [Central Coast Water Board's Strategic Plan](#). The Strategic Plan is intended to be a living document that includes four broad regional priorities focused on 1) workforce planning and development, 2) core programmatic functions, 3) climate change adaptation and resilience, and 4) environmental justice.

Each year, as part of our core programmatic functions review, we evaluate program priorities. Program managers provided an end of fiscal year update on priorities identified for fiscal year 24-25 and updated priorities for fiscal year 25-26. Priorities are often a moving target based on discharger, public, policy or legislative changes, complaints, unauthorized discharges of waste, or other needs or new water quality information. Changing priorities requires us to redirect resources to new tasks based on need. The Strategic Plan highlights the priority programmatic functions and projects we plan to focus on in the coming year and provides an opportunity to evaluate those priorities and to adjust as needed to account for unanticipated work and availability of resources.

Board members suggested including accomplishments in the Strategic Plan and so we included an attachment summarizing our [fiscal year 24-25 accomplishments](#). Each program evaluated the previous year's priorities and completed work and reflected on accomplishments. Every program is unique in the projects and tasks they work on and complete in any given year with water quality improvements as the fundamental driver. This is our first effort to capture accomplishments in the Strategic Plan. Program managers provided a detailed list of accomplishments that are summarized in Attachment 1 to the Strategic Plan.

## HACIENDA APARTMENTS

In 2018, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 1215 (SB 1215) into law<sup>1</sup>, which established funding and the regulatory framework for a statewide Wastewater Consolidation Program to facilitate the consolidation of inadequate onsite wastewater treatment systems in disadvantaged communities (DACs) into existing sewer systems. SB 1215 authorizes regional water quality control boards to mandate the provision of sewer service to DACs through collaboration with local sewer systems or through enforcement orders that establish timelines for consolidation given certain conditions related to median income of the residents of the community, age and condition of onsite wastewater treatment systems, and proximity to existing sanitary sewer collection infrastructure. SB 1215 requires regional water quality control boards to take certain actions before mandating provision of sewer service, including an extensive public notice and comment process.

The Central Coast Water Board established the Wastewater Consolidation Program in 2021 and identified Hacienda Apartments as high priority for consolidation. Hacienda Apartments is a 24-unit farmworker housing apartment complex located approximately three miles northwest of the city of Soledad. Hacienda Apartments relies on a septic system for wastewater treatment and disposal; however, records indicate that the Hacienda Apartments' septic system has a long history of failure and requires pumping every 3-4 months as well as weekly flushing of the line to avoid active failure. Local agency representatives and community members have expressed significant concerns about unsanitary conditions at Hacienda Apartments related to the failing septic system, potential exposure to waste, odors, extreme limits on the accessibility and use of water, and lack of laundry services. The failing septic system is a threat to public health and exposes the residents of Hacienda Apartments to unsanitary conditions. In addition, the system is impacting local groundwater quality resulting in increasing nitrate and bacteria concentrations. Adequate sewer service is necessary to protect water quality and public health.

Since 2021, Central Coast Water Board staff have discussed voluntary consolidation with Monterey County and the City of Soledad. In April 2024, Black Water Consulting Engineers, Inc. completed a draft engineering feasibility report for the Hacienda Apartments Septic2Sewer Project as part of a technical assistance grant. The draft engineering feasibility report identified proposed alternatives; However, connecting to the City of Soledad's existing sewer system is likely the only feasible solution for Hacienda Apartments. Since September 2024, Central Coast Water Board staff have met with representatives from Monterey County, the City of Soledad, and elected officials on multiple occasions to discuss options and next steps. On July 29, 2025, the Central Coast Water Board issued a six-month letter<sup>2</sup> to the City of Soledad Department

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<sup>1</sup> California Water Code, §§ 13288-13289.

<sup>2</sup>[https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/deliverable\\_documents/3921231925/Hacienda%20Apartments%206%20month%20letter\\_2025July29\\_sign.pdf](https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/deliverable_documents/3921231925/Hacienda%20Apartments%206%20month%20letter_2025July29_sign.pdf)

of Public Works, the owner of Hacienda Apartments, and the residents of Hacienda Apartments, to provide notice that the City of Soledad has six (6) months to negotiate with the owner of Hacienda Apartments to extend sewer service, or provide another means of providing adequate sewer service, to the residents of Hacienda Apartments. The letter directs the City of Soledad to report the outcome of the negotiations (Outcome Report) to the Central Coast Water Board no later than six months from January 29, 2026. The Central Coast Water Board encourages the City of Soledad to consider an approach to voluntarily extend sewer service to Hacienda Apartments and apply for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) planning and construction grant, which will provide funding for the project. In addition to the CWSRF planning and construction grant, the CWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) also provides no-interest loans for up to \$10 million for local wastewater agencies that consolidate voluntarily. A meeting is scheduled for October 2025 with representatives from the Central Coast Water Board, Monterey County, and the City of Soledad to discuss the six-month letter.

For more information about the Hacienda Apartments Wastewater Consolidation Project, go to the GeoTracker database (Project Identification number T10000023276) at the link below:

[https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report?global\\_id=T10000023276](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report?global_id=T10000023276)

## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD FUNDING INFORMATION

The State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) administers a number of funding programs supporting wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects in addition to other water quality protection and restoration projects. See the [DFA website](#)<sup>3</sup> for information regarding available loan and grant programs administered by the State Water Board.

State Water Board DFA maintains the following online dashboards tracking project funding applications and funded projects:

[Application Status Search Tool](#),<sup>4</sup> allows users to search for the status of State Water Board drinking water and clean water State Revolving Fund (SRF) project applications that have been submitted for funding consideration and are currently under review (this portal does not include approved projects).

[Program funding dashboard](#),<sup>5</sup> documents funded projects and descriptions via pull down menu options and graphics by funding program and geographic area for the most recent fiscal year for which the funding cycle has ended.

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<sup>3</sup> DFA website: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans)

<sup>4</sup> Application Search Tool: <https://public.waterboards.ca.gov/dfaAppSTAT/>

<sup>5</sup> State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance project funding dashboard: [2023-24 Performance Report | California State Water Resources Control Board](#)

## **PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Please see the following standard attachments.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Table 1 - 401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received
2. Table 2 - 401 Water Quality Certifications Issued
3. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
4. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
5. Table 5 - Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers

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