



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

2017

accomplishments

CALIFORNIA STATE AND REGIONAL WATER BOARDS



The California Water Boards are dedicated to a single vision: abundant clean water for human uses and environmental protection to sustain California's future. Under the federal Clean Water Act and the state's pioneering Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Water Boards have regulatory responsibility for protecting the water quality of nearly 1.6 million acres of lakes, 1.3 million acres of bays and estuaries, 211,000 miles of rivers and streams, and about 1,100 miles of exquisite California coastline.

This report summarizes significant accomplishments achieved by the California Water Boards from January through December 2017.

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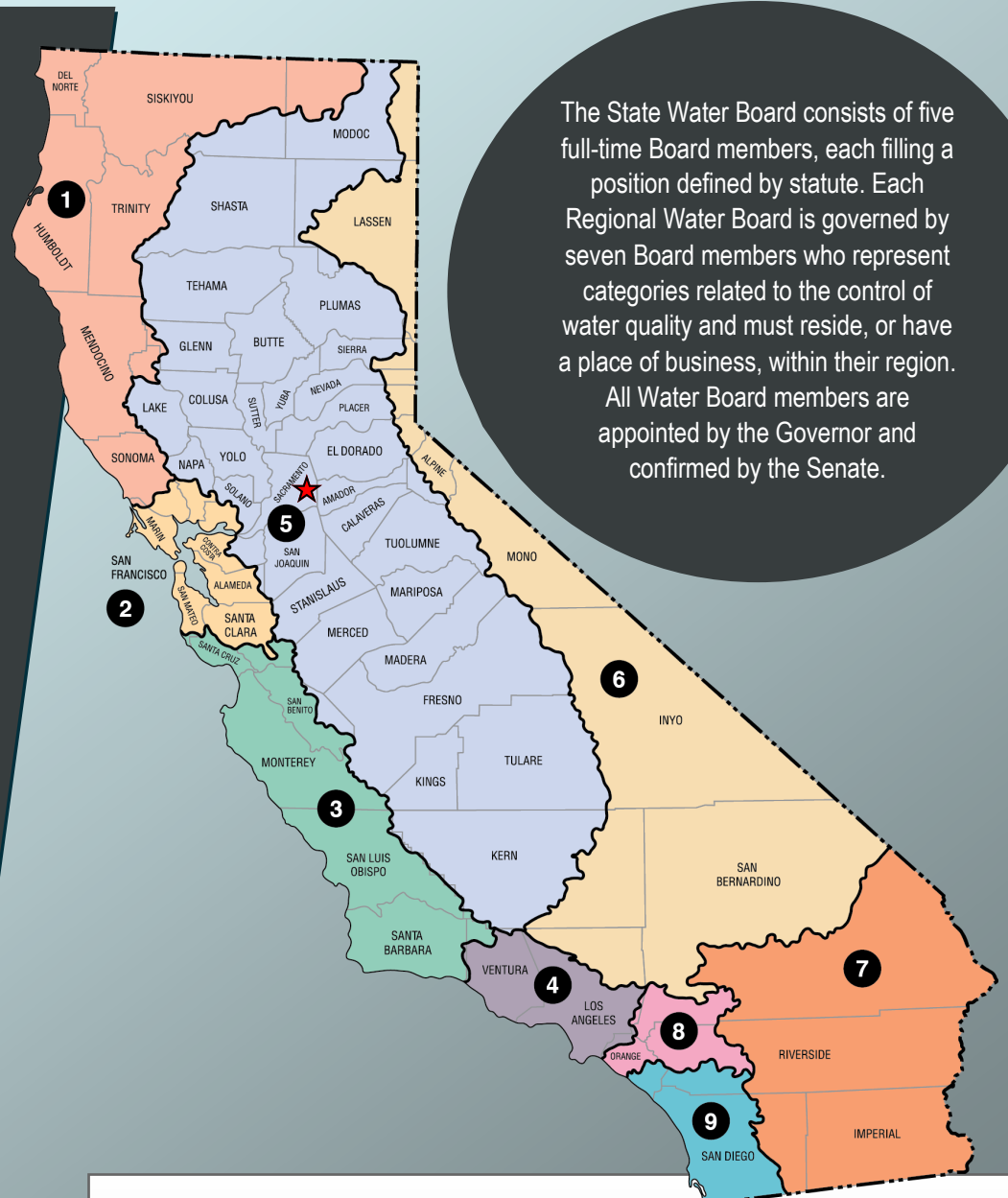
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The State Water Board consists of five full-time Board members, each filling a position defined by statute. Each Regional Water Board is governed by seven Board members who represent categories related to the control of water quality and must reside, or have a place of business, within their region. All Water Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

California Water Board Locations

- 1 = Region 1 (North Coast)
- 2 = Region 2 (San Francisco Bay)
- 3 = Region 3 (Central Coast)
- 4 = Region 4 (Los Angeles)
- 5 = Region 5 (Central Valley)
- 6 = Region 6 (Lahontan)
- 7 = Region 7 (Colorado River Basin)
- 8 = Region 8 (Santa Ana)
- 9 = Region 9 (San Diego)
- ★ = State Water Board Offices

[State Water Board Division of Drinking Water District Offices Map](#)

ABOUT THE WATER BOARDS

The California Water Boards are comprised of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), located in Sacramento, and the nine semi-autonomous Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), located in specific watersheds throughout California. The Water Boards are part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

The Water Boards monitor and report on the quality of surface water and groundwater, develop and implement plans to restore impaired waters, and fund restoration and capital improvement projects aimed at protecting public health and the environment. The complexity of California's statewide and regional water issues is reflected in the large number of Water Board programs and activities throughout the state.

The State Water Board develops statewide policy and regulations for the protection of water quality, regulates drinking water, administers California's water rights system, and supports Regional Water Board efforts. In addition, the State Water Board provides financial assistance in the form of grants and loans for projects that clean up and protect water quality, drinking water supplies, and that otherwise protect water resources. The nine Regional Water Boards implement policy and regulations, develop long-range plans, issue permits, evaluate permit compliance, and take enforcement actions. Together with the Regional Water Boards, the State Water Board is authorized to implement the federal Clean Water Act, and the state and federal Safe Drinking Water Acts in California.

FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017 FAST FACTS

Over 50,000 facilities regulated	Over 34,000 water rights holders regulated
Over 7,500 inspections conducted	Nearly \$1.5 billion in Clean Water State Revolving Funds allocated
Nearly 4,000 enforcement actions	Over \$200 million in Drinking Water State Revolving Funds allocated
Over 5,500 permitting actions	

Source: [Water Board's Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Performance Report](#)

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Conservation & Climate Change

2017 Accomplishments



San Luis Obispo Creek
Credit: State Water Board

Water Conservation Regulations Updated

In February 2017, the State Water Board extended existing [water conservation regulations](#) (initially adopted in 2014), which prohibit wasteful practices such as watering lawns after rainfall, and set conservation mandates for water suppliers that do not have enough water to withstand three additional dry years (the water supplier “stress test”). After a thorough review of the state’s water supply conditions, the regulations were [partially rescinded](#) in April 2017, lifting the water supplier “stress test” requirements and remaining mandatory conservation standards for water suppliers. Monthly reporting of water use and prohibitions against wasteful practices remained in place through November 2017.

Climate Change Resolution Adopted by State Water Board

In March 2017, the State Water Board adopted a [resolution](#) and committed to a proactive approach in addressing climate change through all Water Board actions, including drinking water regulation, water quality protection, and financial assistance. The State Water Board is committed to using current data and models to inform and support Board actions. The approach builds on a 2007 resolution which supported the implementation of the landmark climate change law, Assembly Bill 32. Additionally, in December 2017, the Central Valley Regional Water Board adopted the [Central Valley Region Climate Change Work Plan](#), which builds upon the State Water Board’s efforts. The work plan describes the impact of climate change on water quality in the Central Valley and in particular on each of the Regional Water Board’s programs. It describes current and future priority projects the Regional Water Board will undertake to adapt programs in response to climate change.

Project Approved in South San Francisco Bay to Protect Against Sea Level Rise

In December 2017, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board adopted a [permit](#) for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project (Santa Clara County). The project provides flood protection and shoreline resiliency against projected sea level rise for the community of Alviso and parts of the City of San Jose by constructing approximately four miles of flood management levee. Once complete, the project will restore tidal action to approximately 2,900 acres of historically-diked tidal marsh, and will protect homes, schools and businesses along the shoreline, including the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. The project incorporates elements to restore and enhance salt marsh habitat while providing a resilient shoreline in the face of sea level rise.

Climate Change Strategy Workshop Held in Los Angeles Region

The Los Angeles Regional Water Board developed the [Los Angeles Region Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#) in 2015 which outlined expected impacts of climate change on water quality and beneficial uses, and initiated the identification of regulatory measures Regional Water Board programs could take to mitigate climate change impacts. To further inform the development of mitigation measures and priorities, the Regional Water Board held a [public workshop](#) in August 2017. The workshop presented Regional Water Board efforts that will identify mitigation measures and sought stakeholder input. The workshop highlighted the need for innovative, flexible, and coordinated implementation of regional solutions to address climate change.

Water Boards Respond to Catastrophic Wildfires

In 2017, California experienced catastrophic wildfires on a scale never before witnessed. The Water Boards quickly adapted and adjusted priorities to protect public health, water quality, and the environment. Wastes generated from disasters such as wildfires can be voluminous and contain hazardous pollutants (i.e., fire retardant chemicals, household chemicals, and automotive fluids) that if not properly disposed of are toxic to human health and the environment, and can create new and exacerbate existing water quality threats. The Water Boards coordinated closely with many entities, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), volunteer groups, and other organizations to conduct response and recovery efforts. Working with these partners, the Water Boards assessed damage, identified water quality threats, and recommended mitigation actions so emergency response resources could be prioritized.

Central LNU Complex Fires

On October 8, 2017, unprecedented wildfires (the Central LNU Complex fires) began in Mendocino, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yuba counties, prompting Governor Brown to declare a State of Emergency. The fires claimed numerous lives, ravaged nearly 200,000 acres, and destroyed or damaged 9,000 structures. After the fires ceased and in anticipation of winter rains, the North Coast Regional Water Board conducted field assessments, prioritized mitigation actions, and provided technical assistance to implement controls to prevent fire waste and debris from entering storm water collection systems and streams within the Redwood Valley, Pocket, Tubbs and Nuns fires impacted areas. To address waste disposal issues, the Regional Water Board issued an [emergency permit](#) specifying the conditions for the proper disposal of waste and debris. In response to the Nuns Fire (Sonoma County), the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board worked to protect water quality at high priority sites, mitigated polluted storm water discharges in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, and provided additional time to those required to enroll under the region's [vineyards permit](#) if the fires had impacted them. To manage the drinking water emergency response, the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) established its first-ever statewide virtual Division Response Center. The Response Center took over the functions of the Santa Rosa Drinking Water District Office so staff could evacuate and provided information to local incident command centers and Cal OES. Over 100 water systems were monitored for damage and emergency needs during the fires. Twenty water systems were damaged and seven systems completely destroyed. After the fires, DDW worked with systems to test the quality of their drinking water, issue unsafe water consumption alerts, and return systems to full service.



Santa Rosa

Credit: State Water Board

Thomas, Rye, and Creek Fires

On December 4, 2017, the largest fire in California history, the Thomas Fire, ignited in Southern California, prompting Governor Brown to again declare a State of Emergency. The fire burned over 280,000 acres and destroyed or damaged over 1,300 structures. In response, the Central Coast Regional Water Board issued an emergency permit to Santa Barbara County enabling the clean out of debris and waste from the local flood control system and Carpinteria Creek to reduce flood risk to downstream communities. In anticipation of winter storms that would cause heavy erosion in burn areas, the Regional Water Board worked closely with partners to clean up impacted areas. The Los Angeles Regional Water Board also issued a disaster-related emergency waste handling and disposal permit to streamline waste handling and disposal in the event of large regional disasters. The Regional Water Board also coordinated with partners to determine the extent of the Thomas, Rye, and Creek fires' burn damage and impacts on water quality to prioritize mitigation. In addition, fire-impacted landfills, industrial and construction sites were inventoried and investigated to determine damage in order to prioritize cleanup efforts. The Regional Water Board also assisted CAL FIRE in assessing geohazards (i.e., landslides) after the Thomas Fire. Following the Thomas Fire, DDW worked with damaged water systems in Ventura County to assist bringing them back into service.

Lilac Fire

On December 7, 2017, Governor Brown proclaimed another State of Emergency for the Lilac Fire (San Diego County), which burned 4,100 acres and destroyed or damaged 221 structures, immediately putting into effect the San Diego Regional Water Board's [emergency permit](#) (adopted in 2014), which specifies the proper disposal of disaster-related waste and debris. In anticipation of receiving significant volumes of fire-generated waste, both Sycamore and West Miramar landfills (the landfills closest to the fire zone) immediately enrolled under the permit.

Anticipating Future Disasters

The Water Boards are taking steps to prepare for catastrophic events, including the adoption of emergency waste disposal permits (including those mentioned above) that allow the Water Boards to immediately respond during such situations. In 2017, the San Francisco Bay and Santa Ana regional water boards also adopted emergency permits which specify the disposal conditions of disaster waste and debris at designated landfills and other areas. Such permits streamline cleanup efforts and facilitate the immediate disposal of wastes generated during a State of Emergency to facilities where the waste poses the least threat to human health and the environment. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for additional information.

Policy & Planning

2017 Accomplishments



Illegal Cannabis Cultivation Site.

Credit: State Water Board

Environmental Standards for Cannabis Cultivation Adopted

In October 2017, the State Water Board adopted the [Cannabis Cultivation Policy](#) and a cannabis permit, known as the [Cannabis General Order](#), setting strict standards for cannabis cultivation to protect water flows and water quality in California's streams and rivers. The Policy establishes statewide requirements that will be implemented through the general permit and as conditions for cannabis-related water rights, known as Small Irrigation Use Registrations for Cannabis Cultivation. The Policy protects California's waters from cannabis-related waste discharges, establishes protections for riparian areas and wetlands, and protects stream flows. The Policy was developed in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). It will be incorporated into all commercial cannabis licenses issued by CDFA under its [CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing Program](#).

Agreement Adopted to Restore Salton Sea to Protect Public Health and Wildlife

In November 2017, the State Water Board accepted a [landmark agreement](#) that helps define the state's commitment to restore and manage the Salton Sea. The largest lake in California, the Sea's receding shoreline presents public health risks due to particulate air pollution from dust blown from the exposed lakebed. Declining water levels are increasing the Sea's salinity, threatening wildlife food sources, and affecting migratory bird habitat, including several threatened and endangered species that use the Sea as a critical stop on the Pacific Flyway. The agreement outlines the State Water Board's oversight role in monitoring and ensuring progress toward the goals of the [state's Salton Sea Management Plan](#), including annual milestones for restoration of the exposed lakebed. The State Water Board will hold annual meetings to track progress on the construction of 29,800 acres of ponds, wetlands, and dust-suppression projects. Also, in November 2017, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board developed an [online forum](#) to enhance communication and coordination among stakeholders and the California Natural Resources Agency's advisory committees involved in restoration at the Sea.

Part 1 of the California WaterFix Project Hearing Completed

In July 2017, the State Water Board completed Part 1 of a two-part public hearing to consider a water right change petition for the [California WaterFix Project](#). With the project, the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior are proposing to add points of diversion or re-diversion of water on the Sacramento River for the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project. Part 1 focused on impacts to other legal users of water and was completed in July 2017. Commencing in early 2018, Part 2 will address effects on fish and wildlife, public interest and Delta flow criteria. The hearing will also inform the consideration of a water quality certification for the project.

Final Scientific Report in Support of Phase II Update of Bay-Delta Plan Completed

In October 2017, the State Water Board released the final [Scientific Basis Report](#) that identifies the science upon which the comprehensive Phase II Update of the Bay-Delta Plan is based. The Phase II Update is focused on changes to the Bay-Delta Plan needed to protect fish and wildlife, including Delta outflows, interior Delta flows, Sacramento River and Delta tributary inflows and coldwater habitat.

Policy & Planning

2017 Accomplishments

Water Board Enforcement Policies Updated

In April 2017, the State Water Board adopted an updated Water Quality [Enforcement Policy](#). The updated Enforcement Policy furthers the Water Boards' goals of preserving, enhancing and restoring the quality of water resources and drinking water for the protection of public health and the environment, and advancing environmental justice in enforcement. The updates bring greater transparency to the enforcement process and methodology for assessing penalties. The State Water Board also adopted an updated [Policy on Supplemental Environmental Projects](#) (SEPs), which was updated due to statutory changes requiring the Board to develop a SEP Policy that benefits disadvantaged communities. A SEP is an environmentally beneficial project that a person subject to a Board enforcement action voluntarily agrees to undertake in settlement of that action and to also offset a portion of a civil penalty.

Program Adopted to Protect Central Valley Aquatic Life from Harmful Pyrethroid Pesticides

In June 2017, the Central Valley Regional Water Board adopted a [program](#) to protect aquatic life from the impacts of pyrethroid pesticides. Pyrethroid pesticides are commonly used in urban and agricultural areas to control a variety of insect pests. Pyrethroids are toxic to aquatic life and are considered a potential factor in the decline of Delta fish species of concern. The program requires urban and agricultural dischargers throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins, including the Bay-Delta, to monitor for pyrethroids. Where pyrethroids are found at levels that present a risk to sensitive aquatic life, dischargers will be required to implement practices to reduce pyrethroid discharges.

Water Boards Quality Management and Assurance Plans Approved

In February 2017, the State Water Board and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approved the Water Boards [Quality Management Plan](#), which outlines the pathway to integrate quality assurance principles into all environmental data collection, assessment and analytical work of the Water Boards. In July 2017, USEPA approved the State Water Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program [Quality Assurance Program Plan](#) (QAPP), which establishes quality assurance and quality control standards in order to produce water quality data that is scientifically valid, defensible and of known and documented quality. In addition, USEPA approved the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) QAPP in August 2017, which outlines requirements for collecting environmental data that is used for the regulatory compliance of NPDES-permitted facilities.

Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan Accepted and Supporting Studies Adopted

In March 2017, the Central Valley Regional Water Board accepted the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability [Salt and Nitrate Management Plan](#) (SNMP). Three supporting case studies were also adopted in 2017, which provide guidance on salt management areas; a framework for designating municipal and domestic supply in agriculture-dominated waters to allow for water reuse; and salinity objectives to protect uses in the Lower San Joaquin River. The SNMP will address salt and nitrate accumulation that threatens the water supply for millions of Californians as well as the long-term viability of agriculture and industry in the Central Valley.



Miners Slough Salmon Lecture

Credit: Water Boards

Surface Water Quality 2017 Accomplishments



Leviathan Mine

Credit: Lahontan Regional Water Board

Report on Health of State's Waters Approved

In October 2017, the State Water Board approved the combined 2014 and 2016 list of surface waters that do not meet water quality standards, known as the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of impaired waters. The State Water Board also finalized and submitted to USEPA a report on the overall water quality health of the state's surface waters. Together, the list and report are known as the [2014 and 2016 California Integrated Report](#), which includes water quality assessments for water bodies in the San Francisco Bay, Central Coast, Central Valley, Santa Ana, Los Angeles and San Diego regions. Over 50,000 water quality data assessments were conducted, resulting in 974 new impaired water listings and 191 delistings (removal from the 303(d) List).

Mercury Limits Adopted to Protect Consumers of Mercury-Contaminated Fish

In May 2017, the State Water Board adopted [statewide mercury limits](#) to protect beneficial uses associated with the consumption of fish by both people and wildlife. This consistent, statewide regulatory approach established [new beneficial use definitions](#) to protect California Native American cultural and subsistence fishing and non-tribal subsistence fishing uses. In addition, the action created five new water quality objectives that establish safe consumption levels for fish known to contain accumulated mercury. The objectives are based on the consumption rates for three populations at a higher risk of mercury exposure because they depend on these fish as a regular part of their diet: recreational sportfishers, tribal subsistence fishers, and non-tribal subsistence fishers. In addition, two objectives were established to protect wildlife from the harmful effects of mercury.

Vineyard Regulatory Program Adopted in San Francisco Bay Region

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board adopted a [general permit](#) in July 2017, establishing a program to regulate pollutant discharges from vineyards in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds. The permit requires actions to control storm water runoff and the discharge of sediment from vineyards and unpaved roads located on vineyard properties, and to also control pesticide and nutrient discharges from vineyards. Properties in these watersheds that include a five-acre or larger vineyard are required to enroll in and comply with the requirements of the permit.

Emergency Treatment at Leviathan Mine Superfund Site Prevented Toxic Discharges

Due to record precipitation in 2017, the Lahontan Regional Water Board implemented emergency treatment in early March to prevent the untreated discharge of polluted water, known as acid mine drainage (AMD), to Leviathan Creek from [Leviathan Mine Superfund Site's](#) storage ponds. Summer treatment operations followed in early June, successfully preventing the discharge of toxic heavy metals and arsenic to Leviathan Creek by neutralizing approximately 26 million gallons of AMD. In addition, two small landslides were stabilized to preserve site infrastructure, including the primary access route to the storage ponds, AMD treatment facilities, and storm water drainage facilities, which are critical elements used to prevent AMD discharges.

Surface Water Quality

2017 Accomplishments

Contaminated Sediments Removed from San Diego Bay

In 2017, approximately 7,795 cubic yards of contaminated sediment were removed from [San Diego Bay](#). In August 2017, the San Diego Regional Water Board approved a remediation plan allowing the U.S. Navy to remove contaminated sediment in their Naval Training Center Boat Channel, which is contaminated with toxic amounts of copper, lead, zinc, DDT, and chlordane. In 2017, the Navy removed approximately 7,665 cubic yards of contaminated sediment by dredging from the Boat Channel. Three permits were also adopted in December for Navy facilities to ensure the protection of water quality in the Pacific Ocean and the Bay. In addition, [Teledyne Technologies](#) (TDY) dredged approximately 130 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the Bay in 2017 near the mouth of a storm drain that conveyed pollutants from its former aerospace component manufacturing facility. TDY placed clean sand augmented with activated carbon over a one-acre treatment area to reduce bioaccumulation of any residual polychlorinated biphenyls (known as PCBs).

Restoration Projects Completed in Lahontan Region

In 2017, four restoration projects were completed in the Lahontan Region. The most significant project completed was the Middle Martis Creek Wetlands Restoration Project. Located near Highway 267, the project resulted in the restoration of over 40 acres of wetlands and improved one mile of stream habitat. The project will improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Such projects help advance the development of the Lahontan Regional Water Board's [supplemental environmental project \(SEP\) enforcement program](#). The Regional Water Board may allow a portion of a discharger's monetary civil liability to be used for important and valuable water quality and quantity improvement projects (SEPs) within the Region. In addition, during 2017, the Regional Water Board continued to work with stakeholders to develop potential SEPs that satisfy the State Water Board's SEP Policy and the region's SEP enforcement program.

Plan Adopted to Address Selenium in Newport Bay Watershed

In August 2017, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board amended its Basin Plan to incorporate a [selenium water quality restoration strategy](#) for the Newport Bay Watershed. Known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), the strategy was originally developed in 2002 by USEPA. Since that time, the Regional Water Board has worked extensively with stakeholders, regulators, and the scientific community to develop a revised attainment strategy for selenium in freshwater within the watershed. Selenium concentrations in a number of freshwater streams within the watershed, including San Diego Creek, Santa Ana Delhi Channel, and Peters Canyon and Big Canyon washes, exceed selenium water quality objectives.

Newport Bay Water Quality Restoration Strategy Amended

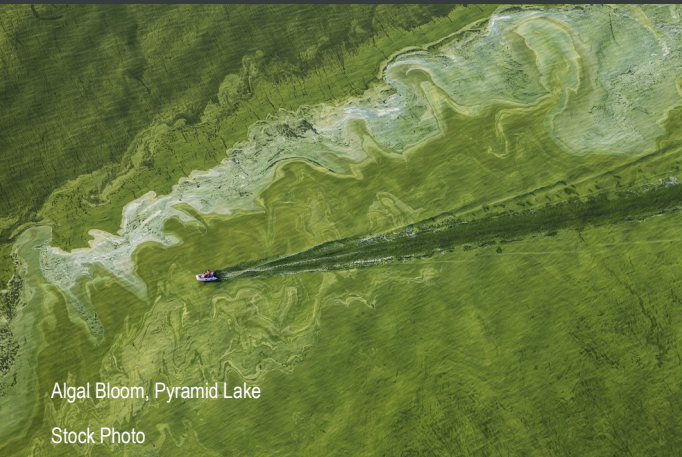
In June 2017, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board amended its Basin Plan to extend the compliance schedule for the [Fecal Coliform TMDL for Shellfish Harvesting](#) in Newport Bay, and revised the definition for the shellfish harvesting beneficial use to ensure consistency with the statewide definition. The three-year time extension will allow the Regional Water Board and stakeholders to investigate fecal coliform issues related to the TMDL and to consider whether modifications to the TMDL are necessary. Modifications may include natural source exclusion in order to account for bacterial contributions from uncontrollable sources, such as waterfowl.



West Martis Creek

Credit: Lahontan Regional Water Board

Water Boards Address Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms



Algal Bloom, Pyramid Lake

Stock Photo

Cyanobacteria, known as blue-green algae, are essential components of healthy freshwater ecosystems. However, when conditions favor cyanobacteria growth, they can rapidly multiply and create nuisance algal blooms. Blooms that are dominated by toxin-producing photosynthetic organisms, including cyanobacteria (called harmful algal blooms, or HABs), pose health risks to domestic animals, wildlife, and humans if toxins are ingested.

Statewide Water Board Efforts

The Water Boards' [Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms \(FHAB\) Program](#), coordinated by the State Water Board and implemented by the Regional Water Boards, took actions in 2017 to address HABs statewide. The FHAB team responded to 181 verified reports of HABs statewide (a two-fold increase from 2016) and coordinated with partners including state and federal agencies, county public health departments, lake and water managers, cities and counties, tribes, non-profits, and private stakeholders, to post 141 advisory warning signs to alert the public of potential health risks at waters affected by HABs. To better inform the

public, HABs data was posted to the [California HABs online web portal](#), HAB information was developed as part of the inaugural [Water Quality Status Report](#), and a [pre-Labor Day assessment](#) was released regarding HAB risks at 43 popular recreational water bodies. To effectively protect public health, the Water Boards closely coordinate efforts with local partners. When monitoring indicated harmful toxin levels, advisory signs were posted at recreational water bodies and beaches throughout the state, including waters used by tribes for cultural and subsistence purposes. Due to the geographic extent of the regions, successful partnerships are critical to ensure prompt responses to HABs. In 2017, the Water Boards provided notification, guidance, training, and tools to local partners supporting appropriate and timely responses. In particular, in August 2017, the North Coast Regional Water Board led two HAB trainings for county public health departments, and State and Regional Water Board staff. The success of these coordinated efforts was notable in the North Coast Region, resulting in the prevention of adverse health impacts to the public and pets throughout nearly 600 HAB-impacted river miles in the Klamath, Eel, and Russian rivers during 2017.

Significant Efforts

In 2017, working successfully with local partners and stakeholders, the Regional Water Boards made significant strides in addressing HABs at Lake Temescal (City of Oakland) in the San Francisco Bay Region, at Pinto Lake (City of Watsonville) in the Central Coast Region, at Lake Tahoe (El Dorado County) in the Lahontan Region, at the Salton Sea (Imperial and Riverside counties) in the Colorado River Basin Region, and at [Lake San Marcos](#) (City of San Marcos) in the San Diego Region. Aluminum sulfate (alum) was applied to [Lake Temescal](#), a popular swimming beach, in the fall to reduce the occurrence of HABs by reducing the cyanobacteria nutrient food supply. Advisory signs were also posted at a pond near Huichica Creek, which was associated with two dog deaths. To reduce blooms at [Pinto Lake](#), alum was applied in the spring. Pinto Lake experiences HABs due to historical nutrient accumulation. The lake continued to experience some blooms in 2017, but they were not as widespread and had lower concentration of toxins than in prior years. The [City of Watsonville](#) also made road improvements to reduce nutrient-rich sediment from entering the lake. Although toxin levels in the southern part of Lake Tahoe were low, colder temperatures in September and the circulation of water by the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association aided in reducing the occurrence of blooms. The Colorado River Basin Regional Board established a HABs monitoring program for the Salton Sea after the Board learned a non-profit, SEAthletes, was introducing children to paddle sports at the Sea. As a precaution, sampling occurred in the areas where children were to recreate and toxins were detected. This prompted the posting of advisory signs and informing SEAthletes of the findings. Additionally, alum treatment was conducted in [Lake San Marcos](#) in the spring and subsequent monitoring indicated significant progress in reducing nutrients. The lake has long experienced HABs due to ongoing nutrient discharges.

Ongoing Efforts

The North Coast and Central Valley regional water boards are working together to facilitate an international scientific workgroup with the goal of accelerating mutual learning and understanding of key issues related to benthic (occurring at the bottom of a water body) HABs in rivers and lake systems. The Central Valley Regional Water Board is also conducting an evaluation study with the goal of developing management and mitigation actions to reduce HAB frequency, magnitude, and duration. Additionally, the Water Boards utilized innovative tools, including satellite imagery risk assessments and [unmanned aerial systems](#) fitted with digital cameras and imaging sensors. The State Water Board also co-chairs the [California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom Network](#), a multi-agency collaborative effort part of the [California Water Quality Monitoring Council](#).



Algal Bloom, Pyramid Lake

Stock Photo

Drinking Water Quality

2017 Accomplishments

Water Systems Required to Test School Drinking Water for Lead

The State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW), collaborating with the California Department of Education, took the [initiative](#) to test for lead in drinking water at all California public K-12 schools. In 2017, DDW and county public health departments [amended](#) the permits of approximately 1,200 public water systems requiring them to test school drinking water for lead upon request by school officials. A total of 2,160 schools requested lead sampling in 2017, and 1,908 schools were sampled. Fifty-two sampling locations had elevated lead levels. Pursuant with the Lead and Copper Rule for Drinking Water (LCR), laboratories were encouraged to utilize DDW's Lab-To-State web portal to submit data for public water systems. In 2017, a total of 1,331 water systems conducted LCR sampling and 486 systems submitted data through the portal. Together, these data helps to inform where public sources of drinking water have elevated levels of lead and copper.

Drinking Water Standard Adopted for Recognized Carcinogen

In July 2017, the State Water Board [adopted](#) a drinking water standard for [1,2,3-trichloropropane](#) (1,2,3-TCP), a man-made chemical and recognized carcinogen that was used in industrial cleaning solvents and soil fumigant pesticides. This is the first drinking water standard adopted by the State Water Board since DDW joined the State Water Board from the California Department of Public Health in July 2014. Approximately 100 water systems in the state serving approximately 920,000 Californians have detected 1,2,3-TCP above the new standard in at least one drinking water source. Several Central Valley communities are particularly impacted due to their reliance on groundwater and past agricultural pesticide use containing 1,2,3-TCP. Public water systems are required to notify their customers and take corrective action when their drinking water exceeds the new drinking water standard.

Drinking Water Replacement Program Established for Salinas Valley Residents

Working closely with the State Water Board and the Central Coast Regional Water Board, in April 2017, the [Salinas Basin Agricultural Stewardship Group](#) agreed to supply replacement drinking water to Salinas Valley communities whose drinking water is above the nitrate drinking water standard. The [temporary program](#) will be organized and funded by the Stewardship Group members (a coalition of local agricultural owners and operators), and will run for up to two years while the parties work toward permanent solutions to respond to the challenges of nitrate in Salinas Valley groundwater. The program covers small water systems and some domestic water supply wells used by approximately 850 residents in the rural area. Additionally, in September 2017, the State Water Board created Facebook pages to inform and engage remote, rural Salinas Valley residents regarding the replacement drinking water program. The pages feature public service announcements in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and reached over 7,000 individuals during 2017.

Free Drinking Water Well Testing Initiated for San Luis Obispo County

In August 2017, the Central Coast Regional Water Board, in coordination with San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Services, initiated a free, voluntary [drinking water well sampling project](#) for county residents, as well as lab analyses, for residents who rely on private groundwater wells for their drinking water. The project is intended to inform residents of their drinking water quality and will allow for the compilation of a shared dataset to help inform decision-makers and residents of their local well water quality. As of December 31, 2017, approximately 85 domestic drinking water wells had been tested for nitrate, arsenic, chromium, perchlorate, and other pollutants, and the results were provided to well owners.

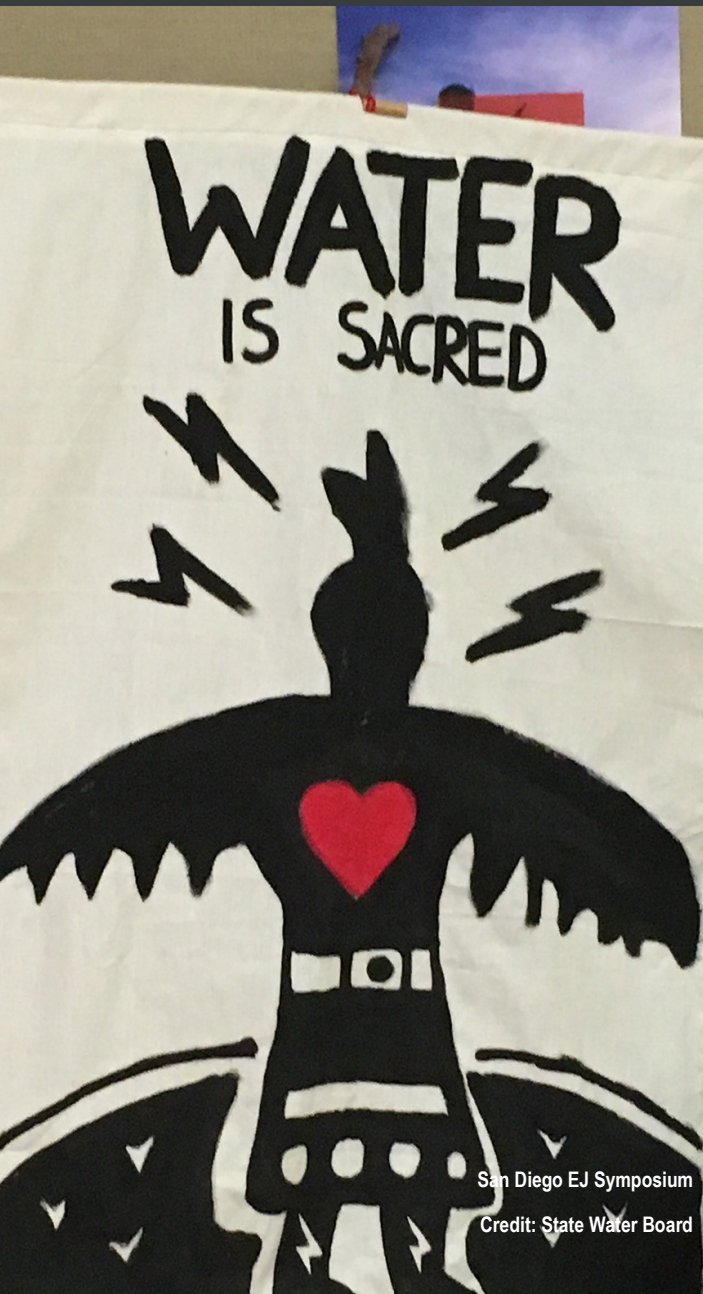


Public Outreach on Drinking Water Issues

Credit: State Water Board

Community Outreach & Engagement

2017 Accomplishments



San Diego EJ Symposium

Credit: State Water Board

Human Right to Water Website Launched to Provide Drinking Water Information to Public

In February 2017, the State Water Board launched the [Human Right to Water \(HRTW\) web portal](#). The portal allows users to look up their community water system and see if it complies with federal drinking water standards. It also includes an interactive map showing water systems that are out of compliance with these standards. The portal will be updated as new information becomes available, including information on accessibility and affordability. The Water Boards' efforts on the California HRTW law strives to ensure every Californian has access to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

Nearly 50 Water Systems Consolidated Statewide to Provide Safe Drinking Water

Specific water systems that consistently fail to provide safe drinking water are required to consolidate with, or receive an extension of service from, another public water system. In 2017, approximately [50 consolidations](#) of small water systems to larger systems occurred statewide with the goal of providing safe and affordable drinking water. Consolidations require complex coordination among multiple parties, including the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water. Notable consolidations occurred in Colusa, Riverside, and Sacramento counties. In Riverside County, approximately 420 customers of the County Water Company of Riverside had their water supply consolidated into Elsinore Valley Municipal and Eastern Municipal water districts. Prior to the consolidation customers experienced water outages and were supplied water above the nitrate drinking water standard. In Colusa County, the Del Oro Water Company-Walnut Ranch District consolidated with the City of Colusa's water supply system, providing safe drinking water to 180 Del Oro customers. In Sacramento County, Ox Bow Marina Mutual Water Company, serving 200 customers, was consolidated with California American Water Company's Isleton water system. Both Del Oro and Ox Bow were supplying customers with water above the arsenic drinking water standard. All three consolidated water companies are now defunct.

Projects Funded to Support Solutions in Small and Disadvantaged Communities

In 2017, the State Water Board approved \$15.6 million in Proposition 1 funding for a wastewater consolidation project in Lewiston (Trinity County), and \$5.3 million in Proposition 1 funding for a wastewater collection and treatment project in Willow Creek (Humboldt County). The North Coast Regional Water Board assisted these disadvantaged communities (DACs) and worked closely with the State Water Board to facilitate funding. The [Lewiston project](#) will consolidate three wastewater collection and treatment systems that have met the end of their useful lives and present potential threats to water supplies. The [Willow Creek project](#) will provide wastewater collection and treatment to downtown Willow Creek where decades-old septic systems are starting to fail. These projects support HRTW by assisting DACs with permanent and sustainable wastewater collection and treatment solutions. Also, during 2017, the State Water Board's [Site Cleanup Subaccount Program \(SCAP\)](#) issued its first 30 grants totaling nearly \$18 million. The funding supports the cleanup of long-neglected contaminated groundwater sites and projects where cleanup has stalled due to the lack of funds. SCAP projects include former dry cleaner businesses, small metal plating facilities, brownfield sites (sites where reuse is hampered due to contamination), and industrial facilities. Most cleanup sites are located in small or disadvantaged communities. The projects will remove toxic contaminants from groundwater across the state, reducing threats to human health and the environment.

Community Outreach & Engagement

2017 Accomplishments

Environmental Justice Efforts Advanced by the Water Boards

The first State Water Board [Environmental Justice](#) (EJ) Summit, held in November 2017, drew more than 60 participants consisting of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and State and Regional Water Board staff. Planned in collaboration with the Regional Water Boards and NGOs, the event assessed Water Board progress toward achieving EJ goals, identified solutions for emerging issues, and built on partnerships. Topics included the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, funding and technical assistance, and implementation of the HRTW law. At the San Diego Regional Water Board's [EJ Symposium](#) in June 2017, residents voiced their concerns and identified the water quality issues most important to them. The North Coast Regional Water Board, partnering with Sonoma County, local Resource Conservation Districts, and the [Rural Community Assistance Corporation](#), are collaborating with stakeholders and residents to plan, develop, and implement sustainable solutions to address failing septic systems located in DACs in the Russian River Watershed. A Citizen Advisory Group has been established to seek input from concerned residents, build consensus on solutions, and secure funding. During 2017, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board participated on the [California Environmental Protection Agency EJ Task Force's](#) City of Pomona initiative, which aims to increase compliance with environmental laws in EJ communities located in the City. The Regional Water Board also actively participated in local interagency efforts through targeted inspection and enforcement activities in response to community concerns. Also, in 2017, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board co-chaired and participated on an EJ task force for the Eastern Coachella Valley and participated in meetings of the Imperial Valley EJ task force. Both task forces are a collaboration with the non-profit, [Comite Civico Del Valle](#), with the focus on making improvements in disadvantaged communities.

Drinking Water Guide for EJ and Disadvantaged Communities Released

In November 2017, the State Water Board released a new educational resource: The [Drinking Water Resource Guide for Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities of the Central Valley and Central Coast of California](#). Developed and designed with input from stakeholders, this bilingual (English and Spanish) guide serves as a companion to the Citizen's Guide to Working with the California Water Boards and is specific to the needs of these regions. The Guide will enable communities to take action to help create and maintain a safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water supply. Topics covered include contaminants found in drinking water, testing private wells, how to receive emergency water, and how to file a drinking water complaint.

Training Conducted to Support Volunteer Scientists and Identify Fecal Contamination

In September 2017, the State Water Board's volunteer citizen science monitoring program, the [Clean Water Team](#), conducted [trainings](#) on the applicability of water contact [sanitary surveys](#) and USEPA's [Marine Beach Sanitary Survey App](#). The sanitary survey trainings were provided to watershed managers, citizen scientists, EJ organizations, and tribal members to assist them in identifying the sources and magnitude of fecal bacterial contamination at beaches and recreational water bodies. Citizen science monitoring programs are an important part of protecting the health of those who recreate at the state's many beaches, lakes, ponds and streams, and who use these waters for cultural or subsistence purposes.



Volunteer Citizen Scientists, Lodi

Credit: State Water Board

Groundwater Quality

2017 Accomplishments



Oil and Gas Field

Credit: State Water Board

Permits Adopted to Protect Water Resources from Oil and Gas Field Activities

In April 2017, the Central Valley Regional Water Board adopted [three general permits](#) to regulate the storage and discharge of oilfield produced water, a by-product of oil production, to land (primarily ponds). The permits require oil and gas facilities to submit technical information and demonstrate that produced water discharges comply with state laws, policies, and regulations. Once technical information compliance is achieved, oil and gas facilities are issued a notice of applicability that brings them under the appropriate permit. Facilities currently regulated by individual permits will be brought under the general permits after unregulated facilities have been addressed. Due to concerns regarding the use of treated [produced water to irrigate crops](#) for human consumption, the Regional Water Board's panel of food safety experts continued to meet in 2017. Thus far, analyzed produce samples (irrigated with and without produced water) do not identify any safety concerns related to consuming produce irrigated with produced water. However, additional samples will continue to be collected and analyzed, along with a detailed review and assessment of toxicity associated with chemicals used by the oil and gas industry during drilling and oil production activities.

Efforts Move Forward to Address San Fernando Valley Groundwater Contamination

To address widespread contamination in the [San Fernando Valley groundwater basin](#), the Los Angeles Regional Water Board, as part of a technical advisory committee established in late 2017, worked to ensure cleanup and restoration projects conducted by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power are coordinated with and complementary to other cleanup efforts by other parties. In addition, in 2017, the State Water Board provided \$50 million in Proposition 1 funding to address the contamination in the basin. Remediation of the basin is a priority for the Regional Water Board because the basin is a vital drinking water source for the Los Angeles area.

Water Quality Objective Adopted to Protect Groundwater in Santa Ana Region

The Santa Ana Regional Water Board continued to implement the Region's [Salt and Nutrient Management Plan](#). During 2017, working with stakeholders, the Regional Water Board amended its Basin Plan to revise the nitrate (as nitrogen) water quality objective for the Chino-South Groundwater Management Zone. To protect drinking water, it was determined that revising the objective was appropriate and the revised objective will not adversely impact municipal and domestic water supply or other uses. Revision of the nitrate water quality objective will allow for recycled water reuse within the Chino-South Groundwater Management Zone. Due to historical agricultural land use in the area, nitrate concentrations have been rising steadily in the aquifer for the past 40 years.

Local Programs Approved to Address Septic System Discharges in San Bernardino County

In 2017, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board approved local programs intended to protect water quality and public health from discharges associated with septic systems for the cities of [Rancho Cucamonga](#) and [Yucaipa](#) in San Bernardino County. These programs, known as Local Agency Management Programs (LAMPs), are the first to be approved in the Region pursuant to the 2012 Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, which regulates septic systems in the state. The policy allows local agencies to manage septic systems via LAMPS, which are tailored to take into account local condition variability (i.e., unique geographical conditions) to ensure water quality and public health are protected.

Recycled Water 2017 Accomplishments

More Than \$748 Million in Water Recycling Projects Funded

In 2017, the State Water Board funded over \$748 million worth of [water recycling projects](#) using Proposition 1 funds and low-interest Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan funds. These projects are projected to add 44,980 acre-feet of recycled water per year to California's overall water supply portfolio. The projects will offset fresh water supplies, help manage the state's water supply under future drought conditions, adapt to climate change, and increase local water supply reliability, a strategy critical to implementing the California Water Action Plan.

Water Recycling Efforts Advanced in Los Angeles Region

In October 2017, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board adopted a permit allowing the Water Replenishment District of Southern California to discharge highly treated recycled water into the San Gabriel River, part of the Montebello Forebay Spreading Grounds (a critical groundwater recharge area due to the soil's composition allowing for deep water percolation). The District is developing the [Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project](#) with the goal of being completely self-sustainable. The District will achieve sustainability by producing 21,000 acre-feet of recycled water annually from local sources which will eliminate the demand to use imported water for groundwater recharge. The Regional Water Board also worked with the Metropolitan Water District and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles to begin construction on a pilot project to assess viability for a facility that will produce up to 150 million gallons of potable water daily, enough to supply more than 335,000 homes.

Permit Issued for Pure Water Monterey Project to Replenish Groundwater

In March 2017, the Central Coast Regional Water Board adopted a [permit](#) for the [Pure Water Monterey](#) Groundwater Replenishment Project allowing Monterey One Water to recharge the Seaside Groundwater Basin by 3,500 acre-feet per year using highly treated recycled wastewater. The State Water Board also provided over \$100 million in CWSRF and Proposition 1 funds for implementation of the project. The project, which utilizes storm water, agricultural runoff and food processing water, will replenish groundwater supplies and protect water quality. It will also increase the amount of recycled water used to irrigate crops in the Salinas Valley, one of the most productive agricultural regions in California.



Wastewater Management

2017 Accomplishments



First-Ever General Permit for Wastewater Treatment Plants Adopted

In August 2017, the Central Valley Regional Water Board adopted a [general permit](#) for wastewater treatment plants. This permit will streamline the permitting process for wastewater treatment plants in the Central Valley Region and is the first general permit applicable to these types of operations in California. The Regional Water Board estimates this permit will apply to at least 23 facilities, will reduce annual fees and simplify application requirements, streamline the permitting process, reduce the processing time for permit renewals, and increase the Regional Water Board's efficiency.

Reissued Permit Supports City of San Diego's Commitment to Water Sustainability

In April 2017, the San Diego Regional Water Board reissued the [permit](#) for the City of San Diego's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. The City is committed to continuing to reduce waste discharges from the facility to the Pacific Ocean and to pursuing potable reuse of treated wastewater from the facility. With the implementation of the City's phased Pure Water Program, the City plans to produce approximately 33 percent of its current daily water demand from local recycled water sources, including treated wastewater, by the end of 2035.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control 2017 Accomplishments

Permit Adopted in Central Coast Region to Protect Drinking Water from Agricultural Discharges

In March 2017, the Central Coast Regional Water Board approved a three-year permit for its [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) (ILRP), which regulates discharges associated with irrigated agriculture. Nitrate pollution of drinking water supplies is a critical problem throughout the Central Coast Region. Studies indicate fertilizer from irrigated agriculture is the primary source of nitrate contamination in drinking water wells and significant nitrate loading continues as a result of agricultural fertilizer practices. Provisions in the permit aim to ensure the protection of public health and water quality by requiring groundwater well monitoring and expanding the reporting requirements on nitrogen applied to crops.

Agriculture Water Quality Management Plans Implemented in Central Valley Region

The Central Valley Regional Water Board [ILRP](#) requires growers to develop management plans and implement practices to address water quality problems caused by agricultural discharges. Nineteen management plans were successfully implemented and deemed completed by the Regional Water Board in 2017 (most for eliminating pesticide and toxicity water quality problems). Options to obtain regulatory coverage under the ILRP permit include joining a coalition group that assists farmers and landowners in complying with permit requirements. In 2017, to obtain permit coverage, farmers and landowners enrolled a total of 111,500 irrigated agricultural acres in the Central Valley Region with a coalition group.



Irrigated Agriculture

Stock Photo

Enforcement

2017 Accomplishments



Mothball Fleet

Credit: San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board

Last of “Mothball Fleet” Military Ships Departs Suisun Bay

In August 2017, the Cape Borda, the last of 57 dilapidated former military ships known as the “[Mothball Fleet](#),” was towed from Suisun Bay for steel recycling in Brownsville, Texas. The ships were removed because they were found to be contaminating the Bay with tons of heavy metal-laden toxic paint peeling from the ships decks and hulls. The departure of the Cape Borda represented the U.S. Maritime Administration’s compliance with an April 2010 consent decree and is the final action completed as part of an 11-year collaborative effort by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board, the San Francisco Baykeeper, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Arc Ecology. Cleanup of the “Mothball Fleet” is now complete.

City of San Diego Required to Pay \$3.2 Million for Storm Water Permit Violations

In August 2017, the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted a [\\$3.2 million settlement agreement](#) with the City of San Diego due to violations of its storm water permit. The City failed to ensure construction sites protected local streams and coastal lagoons from loose sediment, including the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and the Tijuana River Estuary. During inspections of construction sites, the Regional Water Board identified numerous sites that did not adequately implement erosion and sediment control practices required by the City’s storm water permit. During 2017, the City paid half of the penalty, and under the agreement, the City is allowed to use the remaining half to complete four supplemental environmental projects. Also, the City has committed to make necessary changes to gain compliance with the permit.

Settlement Reached with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Over Clean Water Act Violations

During 2017, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reached a [settlement agreement](#) over Clean Water Act violations related to two dredge and fill operations conducted by the Corps in the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. These unpermitted activities resulted in sediment and pollutant discharges that impacted water quality, aquatic life, and wildlife habitat. As part of the settlement, the Regional Water Board and the Corps entered into a memorandum of understanding that is expected to improve communication between both parties to ensure the protection of water quality in the Region.

Consulting Firm Banned from Water Board Programs Due to Negligence and Fraud

In August 2017, the State Water Board settled a [negligence and fraud claim](#) against Ami Adini & Associates (AAA), an environmental consulting firm, for the ineffective and negligent cleanup of petroleum-contaminated underground storage tank (UST) sites throughout the state. Due to submitting false information to the State Water Board’s Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund requesting reimbursement for the remediation of these sites, AAA surrendered more than \$1 million in reimbursements it expected to receive. The company and its owners are disqualified from working with any State Water Board program in the future. Also, the State Water Board settled with three UST site owners over costs that had been billed to the Fund for unreasonable or unnecessary cleanup work conducted by AAA, which resulted in an additional savings of more than \$19,000 to the Fund.

Financial Assistance

2017 Accomplishments

More Than \$1.5 Billion in Funding Committed to Projects to Protect Californians, the Environment, and Water Quality

The State Water Board's [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#) Program had its most productive year since its inception in 1989. In 2017, the Program financed 37 projects worth more than \$1.5 billion, providing affordable financing for California's vital water protection infrastructure, including the construction of sewage treatment plants, and recycled wastewater production and delivery infrastructure; the recharge of groundwater with recycled wastewater; the elimination of storm water pollution; and the protection of the Bay-Delta.

More Than 900 Reimbursement Requests Cleared by the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund

The State Water Board's [Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund](#) cleared a backlog of approximately 975 reimbursement requests in 2017. The Fund's efforts provided claimants with much needed cost reimbursements and reinvigorated site cleanup activities at hundreds of underground storage tank cleanup sites across the state.

Significant Savings Emerged from Completed Cleanup Account Study

The State Water Board's [Expedited Cleanup Account Program](#) (ECAP) completed a year-long study in June 2017, with 40 Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (USTCF) claims participating. The objective was to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the ECAP process, which is intended to reduce costs for petroleum UST clean up sites and the time for UST cases to achieve closure. The results indicated an average cost savings of \$95,763 and time savings of 11.7 months per claim, fewer ineligible costs, and faster review of reimbursement requests. At least 75 percent of the 40 cases are projected to be in the closure process within two years, and 92 percent within five years. The results demonstrate the ECAP process is an effective method for reducing costs and time to bring a UST claim to closure. It is projected that the cost and time savings will increase.

Drinking Water Operator Certification Statutes Updated

In January 2017, updated statutes for the State Water Board's [Drinking Water Operator Certification Program](#) became effective. The statutes, which were last updated in 2001, include civil liabilities for water treatment and water distribution operators; the ability to issue a certificate by reciprocity to any person holding a valid, unexpired, comparable certification issued by other states, territories and tribal governments; and formalized the advisory committee members and their representations. In addition, the updates removed obsolete language and added a dual certificate discount for wastewater operators holding a current and valid drinking distribution or treatment certification.



Children at Muir Beach

Credit: State Water Board

North Coast Regional Water Board (Region 1)

Region Snapshot & 2018 Priorities

2018 Priorities

- Coordinate efforts to address water quality impacts due to low flows. Complete and distribute a report documenting results of Regional Water Board flow monitoring efforts in the Trinity River Watershed. Collaborate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on an analysis of the relationship of flow to dissolved oxygen in Russian River tributaries. Support Division of Water Rights efforts to implement the California Water Action Plan in the Shasta River, South Fork Eel River, and Mark West Creek.
- Increase focus on enforcement of non-compliant cannabis cultivation sites. Continue work with the State Watershed Enforcement Team on assessing individual cultivation sites from a multi-agency watershed perspective. Work with agency partners to identify and take appropriate action on cannabis cultivation facilities that fail to comply with water quality laws and regulations. Continue enrollment enforcement efforts associated with the Cannabis Regulatory Program.
- Consider the Action Plan for the Russian River Watershed Pathogen TMDL to protect contact and non-contact recreation beneficial uses.
- Revise the general permit for confined animal feeding operations/dairies in the Region.
- Consider a nutrient offset/water quality credit trading program for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed, a tributary to the Russian River.

Region 1 Accomplishments in this Report:

Pages 5, 10, 12 and 13

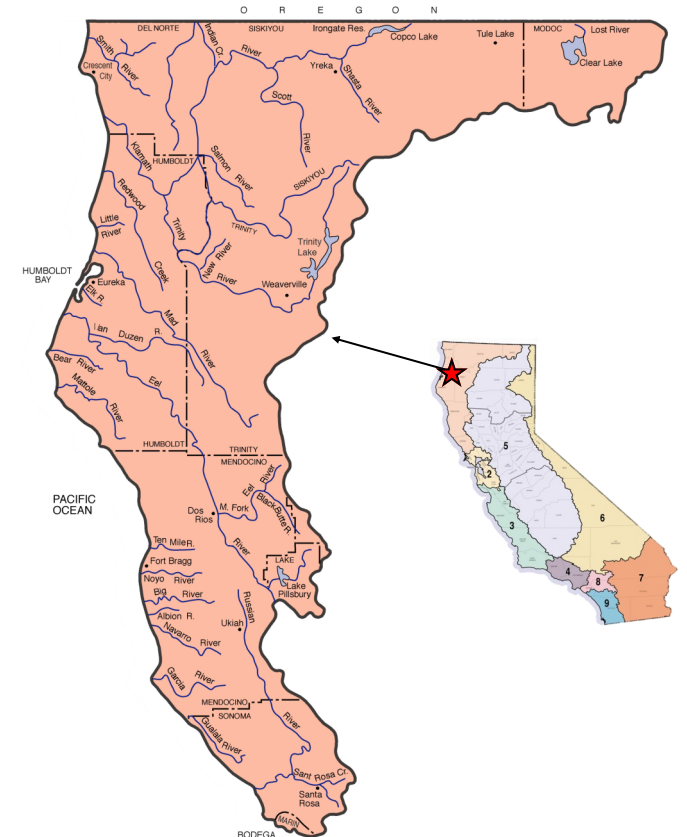
REGION SNAPSHOT

Approximately **20,000** square miles

340 miles of coastline

27,000 acres of lakes

16 urban water suppliers



Remote wilderness and towering redwoods characterize the North Coast Region, which stretches from the Oregon border to Marin County. A land of wet coastal mountains and drier inland valleys, it accounts for 12 percent of the state's land area, but 35 percent of its freshwater runoff. Its 340-mile-long coastline includes estuaries and environmentally-sensitive areas protected by state law.

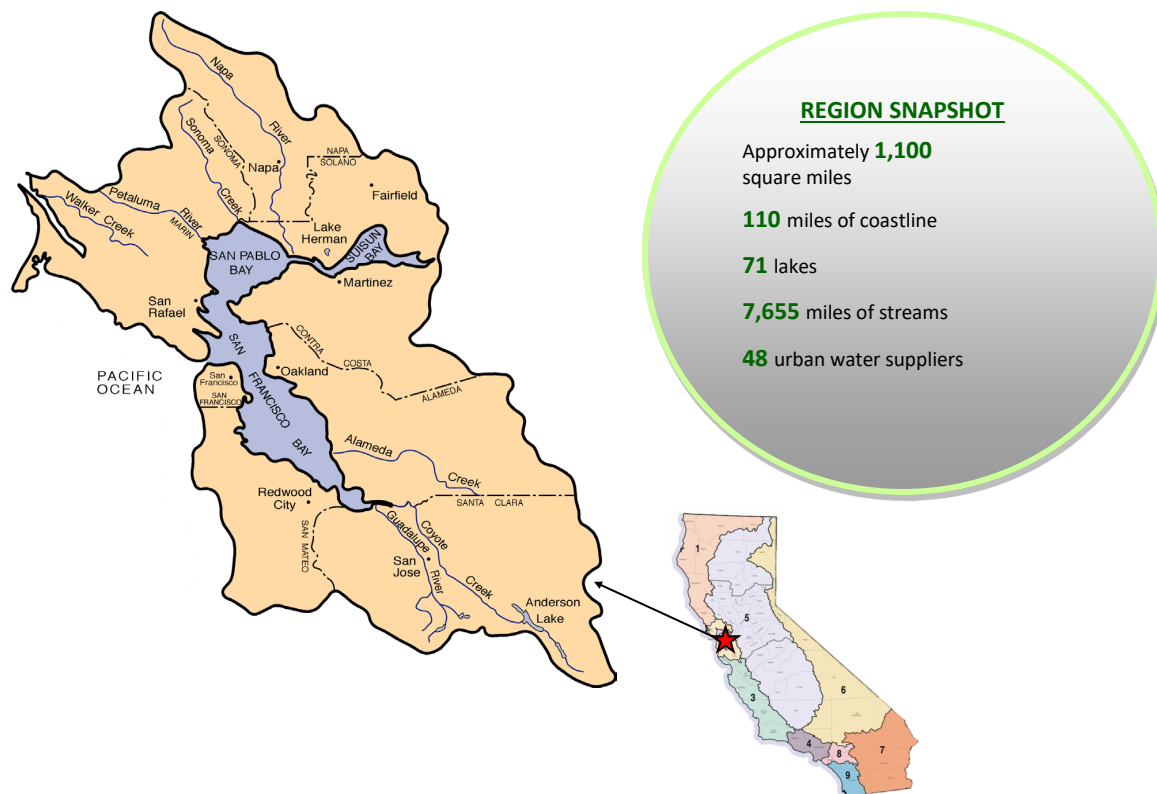
North Coast Regional Water Board

5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

707-576-2220 www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board (Region 2)

Region Snapshot & 2018 Priorities



San Francisco Bay lies at the heart of this area, home to more than 7 million people. Industries range from high-tech computer manufacturers in the Silicon Valley to oil refineries in Contra Costa County. The northern part of the Region supports agriculture, such as the wine industry and dairies. Despite the Region's heavy urbanization, the Bay and its watershed are home to diverse populations of fish and migratory birds.

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, CA 94612
510-622-2300 www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay

2018 Priorities

- Develop and adopt TMDLs for impaired waters, including Suisun Marsh, while implementing TMDLs by: implementing the vineyard regulatory program (adopted in 2017) to address sediment discharges in Napa and Sonoma valleys; enhancing creek restoration; and addressing cleanup and reducing the discharge of PCBs, pathogens, and pesticides in urban storm water runoff to watersheds in the Region.
- Continue to implement a nutrient management strategy for San Francisco Bay, focusing on the science to support nutrient objective development, monitoring, modeling, and load reductions. Better understand harmful algal blooms in the Bay and freshwater lakes, reservoirs, and creeks and how to minimize them.
- Identify, prioritize, and oversee cleanup of under-funded dry cleaner pollution sites, abandoned mine sites, and sites causing elevated vapor intrusion into buildings.
- Pursue aggressive enforcement efforts with an emphasis on wastewater and sewage spills, trash and debris discharges, illegal fill of wetlands and streams, and polluted storm water discharges.

Region 2 Accomplishments in this Report:

Pages 4, 5, 8, 10 and 18

Central Coast Regional Water Board (Region 3)

Region Snapshot & 2018 Priorities

2018 Priorities

- Work with individual small Central Coast communities to encourage water supply diversification and water recycling projects. Efforts include working with decision-makers, expediting permitting, and assisting in accessing funding opportunities.
- Implement Region-wide domestic drinking water well testing program, with testing expanded to Monterey, Santa Barbara, and other counties.
- Continue efforts with agriculture operations to reduce pollutant discharges to surface water and groundwater. Additionally, ensure replacement drinking water is provided as appropriate where drinking water sources are found to be impaired.
- Continue implementing actions to deal with effects and threats posed by climate change, including re-siting and appropriately upgrading wastewater facilities. Develop a climate change adaptation strategy that identifies existing and planned tasks, and efforts to combat threats from changing and more extreme weather patterns.

REGION SNAPSHOT

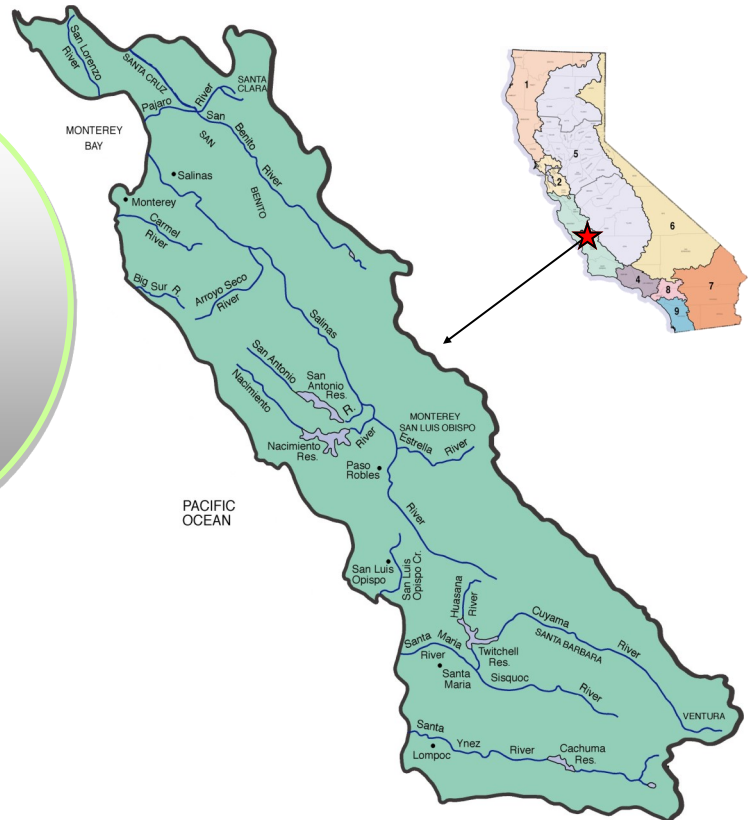
Approximately **11,274** square miles

378 miles of coastline

Over **25,000** acres of lakes

2,360 miles of streams

33 urban water suppliers



The Central Coast Region extends from Santa Clara County south to northern Ventura County. The Region includes the urbanized Monterey Peninsula, the agricultural Salinas and Santa Maria valleys, and the Santa Barbara coastal plain. Tourism, power and oil production, and agriculture and related food processing activities are the major industries.

Region 3 Accomplishments in this Report:

Pages 5, 10, 11, 15 and 17

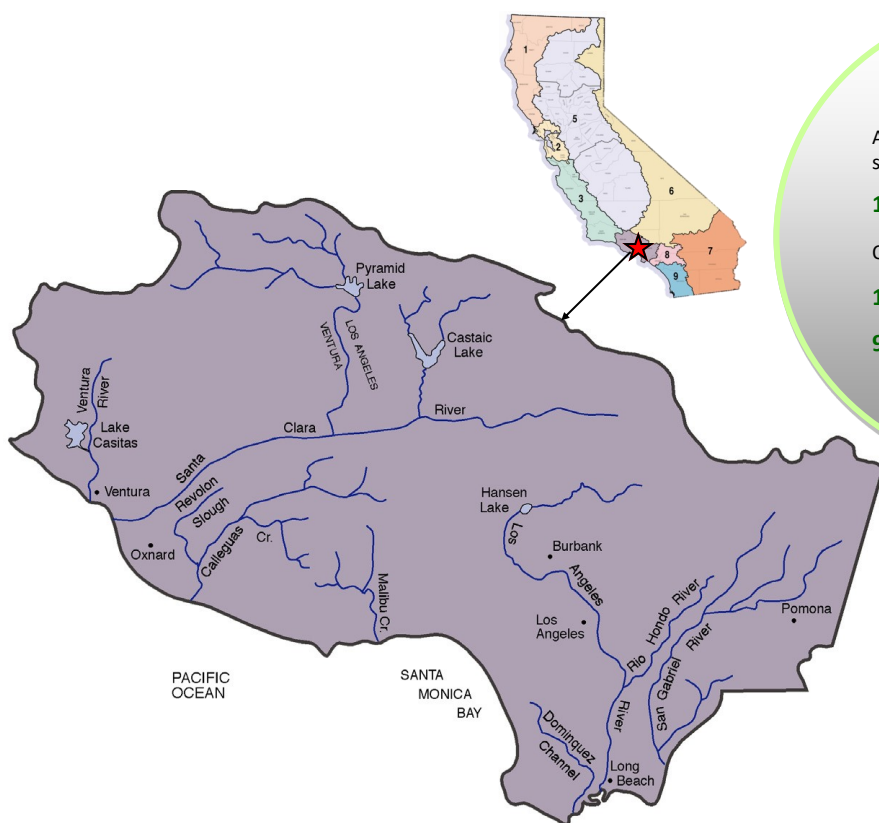
Central Coast Regional Water Board

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

805-549-3147 www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/

Los Angeles Regional Water Board (Region 4)

Region Snapshot & 2018 Priorities



REGION SNAPSHOT

Approximately **4,447** square miles

120 miles of coastline

Over **12,000** acres of lakes

1,115 miles of streams

92 urban water suppliers

2018 Priorities

- Issue a regional municipal storm water permit covering all municipal separate storm sewer systems (known as MS4s) in the Region to provide regional consistency, while allowing flexibility to customize storm water management programs on a watershed basis.
- Expand cleanup efforts under the Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program. Continue work with water purveyors in San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys and the Central Groundwater Basin on cleanup projects to address source contamination and water supply.
- Ensure compliance with the State Water Board's Industrial General Storm Water Permit by conducting inspections and enrolling non-filers in disadvantaged communities and Environmental Justice areas.
- Develop a climate change resolution outlining the Region's response to current and projected climate change impacts and present the resolution to the Regional Water Board for consideration.
- Consider four Local Agency Management Programs, prepared by Los Angeles and Ventura counties, and the cities of Malibu and Glendora.
- Continue the investigation of contaminated sites impacting water supply wells under the Site Cleanup Subaccount Program. Focus on sites within the San Gabriel and Central groundwater basins.

With 10 million residents, the Los Angeles Region is the most densely-populated Region. It encompasses all of the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, along with portions of Kern and Santa Barbara counties. In Ventura County, agriculture and open space exist alongside urban, residential, and commercial areas. In northern Los Angeles County, open space is steadily being transformed into residential communities.

Los Angeles Regional Water Board

320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013

213-576-6600 www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles

Region 4 Accomplishments in this Report:

Pages 4, 5, 10, 13, 14, 15 and 18

Central Valley Regional Water Board (Region 5)

Region Snapshot & 2018 Priorities

2018 Priorities

- Amend the Basin Plan to incorporate a salt and nitrate control program that prioritizes safe drinking water for users of groundwater contaminated by elevated nitrate.
- Accept and implement a Delta Nutrient Research Plan to determine if further nutrient management is needed to address harmful algal blooms, low dissolved oxygen, aquatic weeds, and healthy ecosystems in the Delta.
- Implement the State Water Board's Water Quality Order for Irrigated Lands in the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed, once adopted.
- Continue food safety panel activities regarding use of oilfield produced water on crops for human consumption. Continue to collect and analyze produce samples and complete literature reviews and toxicity analyses of chemicals in produced water.

Region 5 Accomplishments in this Report:

Pages 4, 7, 10, 14, 16 and 17

Central Valley Regional Water Board

Sacramento: 11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, 916-464-3297

Fresno: 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706, 559-445-5116

Redding: 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002, 530-224-4845

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/

REGION SNAPSHOT

Approximately **60,000** square miles

579,110 acres of lakes

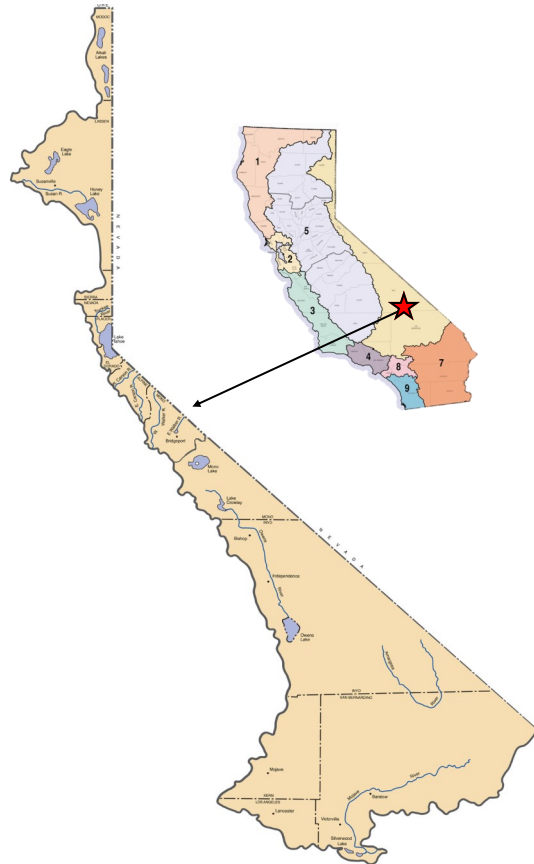
83,624 miles of streams

101 urban water suppliers



The Central Valley Region is the state's largest, encompassing 60,000 square miles; about 40 percent of the state's total area. Thirty-eight of California's 58 counties are either completely or partially within the region's boundaries, formed by the crests of the Sierra Nevada on the east, the Coast Range and Klamath Mountains on the west, the Oregon border on the north, and the Tehachapi Mountains on the south. The Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, along with their tributaries, drain the major part of this large area through an inland Delta, before emptying into San Francisco Bay. The Delta is the focal point of the state's two largest water conveyance projects, the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project. Together, the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and the Delta furnish over half of the state's water supply.

Region Snapshot & 2018 Priorities



REGION SNAPSHOT

Approximately **1,581** square miles

Over **700** lakes

3,100 miles of streams

21 urban water suppliers

Region 6 Accomplishments in this Report:

Pages 8, 9 and 10

The Lahontan Region is named for a prehistoric lake that once covered much of the Great Basin. The Region includes approximately 20 percent of California from the Oregon border south along the eastern crest of the Sierra Nevada through the northern Mojave Desert. Within this area are hundreds of lakes, streams, and wetlands, including the nationally-significant Lake Tahoe and Mono Lake. Tourism is the most important industry in the Region, which includes Death Valley National Park, the Mammoth Lakes area, and portions of the Mojave National Preserve.

Lahontan Regional Water Board

South Lake Tahoe: 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, 530-542-5400 (Annex: 971 Silver Dollar Avenue)

Victorville: 15095 Amargosa Road, Bldg. 2, Suite 210, Victorville, CA 92394, 760-241-6583

www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan

2018 Priorities

- Ensure compliance with an enforcement order to the former Lake Tahoe Laundry Works requiring the containment of chlorinated solvent contamination, and determine and address the resulting groundwater contamination.
- Adopt a general permit for confined animal feeding operations and provide replacement water for affected private domestic well users that have been impacted with nitrates due to past dairy practices.
- Implement groundwater cleanup using Site Cleanup Subaccount Program funds to address perchlorate contamination in the Barstow area from historic illegal perchlorate discharges. At least eight residences' private wells have been adversely affected and are receiving bottled water using Cleanup and Abatement Account funds. Staff are researching additional long-term funding sources.
- Adopt a general permit for small domestic wastewater treatment systems for up to 50,000 gallons per day of wastewater discharged to land. This permit would include commercial cannabis cultivation operations which do not discharge to wastewater systems.
- Address bacteria water quality impairments by re-assessing bacteria impairments by reviewing recently compiled water quality data, and seeking grazing improvements and watershed restoration in Bishop Creek and the West Fork Carson River.
- Complete review of Local Agency Management Plans and bring to the Regional Water Board for consideration. Work with local agencies to develop Water Quality Assessment Plans to assess impacts from onsite septic systems on groundwater over the next five years.
- Continue to oversee Pacific Gas and Electric's Hinkley Compressor Station hexavalent chromium cleanup and ensure the United States Geological Survey chromium background study continues to completion.
- Ensure compliance at military bases with California requirements. Regulatory oversight will be focused at George Air Force Base, Edwards Air Force Base, and China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station.
- Develop a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Adapt regulatory requirements and decisions to better protect floodplains, wetlands, stream environments, and recharge zones/riparian/drainage areas. Require improved infrastructure resilience for sewer conveyance, pump stations, and storm drainage.
- Continue to work with the Central Valley Regional Water Board, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop a nonpoint source permit to ensure regulatory compliance and water quality protection on USFS and BLM managed lands.

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board (Region 7)

Region Snapshot & 2018 Priorities

2018 Priorities

- Continue to assist and provide regulatory guidance to the Natural Resources Agency for its Salton Sea Management Program.
- Continue efforts regarding the New River Improvement Project.
- Update the Basin Plan regarding the latest developments with Salton Sea management and restoration efforts.
- Adopt general permits for irrigated agriculture in Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa.
- Complete the Region's Integrated Report pursuant to Clean Water Act Sections 303(d) and 305(b).
- Continue to address the threat from septic system discharges to groundwater in the Coachella Valley.

Region 7 Accomplishments in this Report:

Pages 6, 10 and 13

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, CA 92260

760-346-7491 www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradriver/

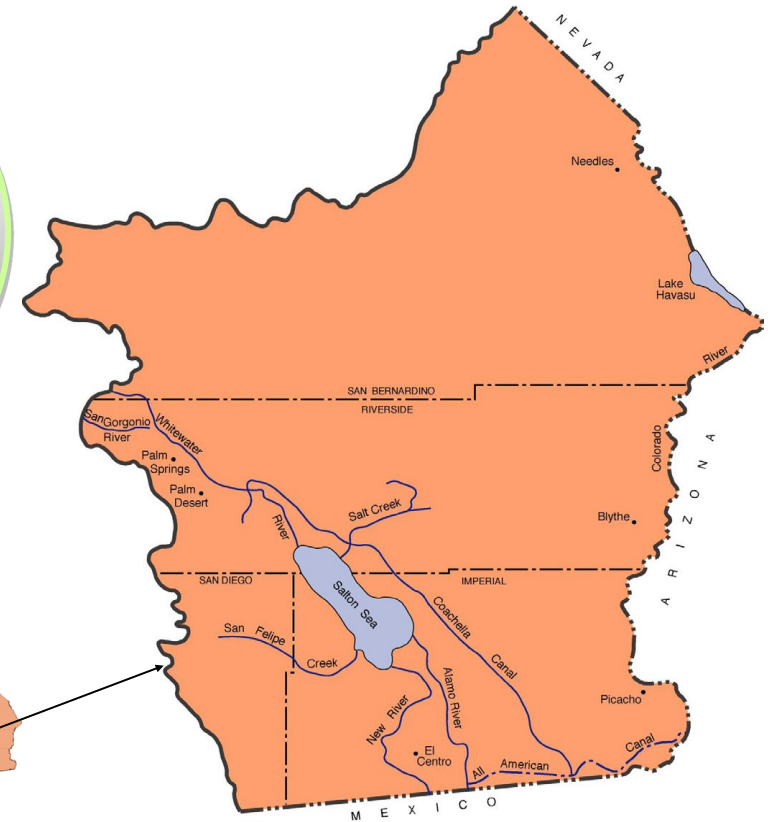
REGION SNAPSHOT

Approximately **20,000** square miles

250,000 acres of lakes

900 miles of streams

16 urban water suppliers



The Colorado River Basin Region covers California's most arid area. Despite its dry climate, the Region contains two water bodies of State and national significance: the Colorado River and the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea is California's largest inland lake, covering approximately 343 square miles. Water from the Colorado River irrigates more than 700,000 acres of productive farmland in the Imperial, Coachella, Bard, and Palo Verde valleys. The Colorado River also provides drinking water to several million people in California's southern coastal cities.

Santa Ana Regional Water Board (Region 8)

Region Snapshot & 2018 Priorities

REGION SNAPSHOT

Approximately **2,800**
square miles

24 miles of coastline

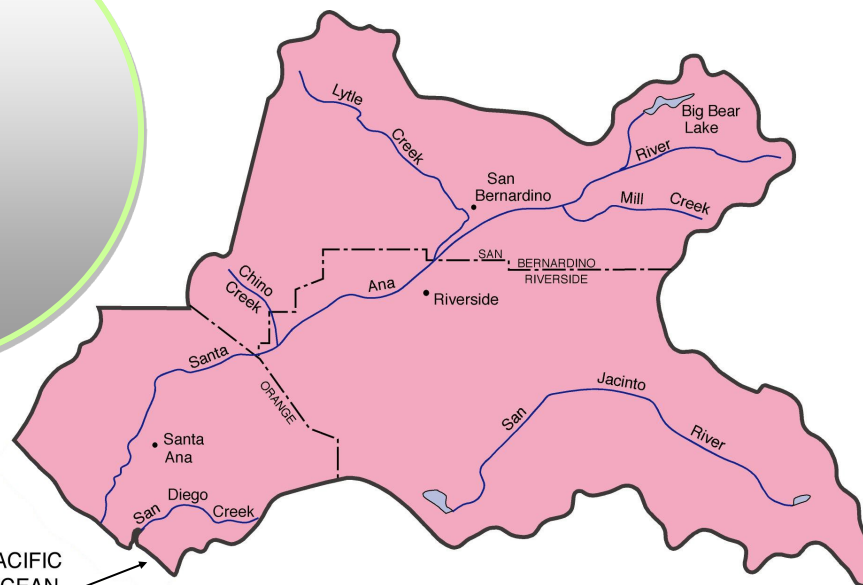
17 lakes

460 miles of streams

53 urban water suppliers



PACIFIC
OCEAN



2018 Priorities

- Renew Poseidon's Huntington Beach desalination plant permit. The existing permit for the facility operations expired in February 2017.
- Adopt copper TMDLs for Newport Bay. Copper from antifouling paints used on recreational boats is the largest source of copper to the Bay. Continue work with stakeholders to resolve legal, scientific, and technical issues. Adoption is expected in fall 2018.
- Continue to work with water supply and wastewater agencies to implement and refine the Salt Management Plan, specifically to update the salt and nitrogen waste load allocation for wastewater treatment plants that discharge to the Santa Ana River and its tributaries.
- Renew the Scrap Metal Storm Water General Permit, which expired in February 2017. Adoption is expected late-2018.
- Oversee the four public water agencies who received Proposition 1 groundwater sustainability program grant funds to implement six groundwater cleanup projects.
- Renew the General Dairy Permit, which expires in June 2018. Currently over 100 dairy-related concentrated animal feeding operations are enrolled under the Permit.
- Revise the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL. New information and modeling efforts have led stakeholders to recommend revisions to the TMDL.
- Amend the Basin Plan to revise the current prohibition on new septic systems in Quail Valley (City of Menifee). The revision will allow a limited number of new septic systems where the lithology and surrounding septic system density provide sufficient treatment capacity for the new systems.

The Santa Ana Region, which extends from the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountains in the north and Newport Bay along the coast, continues to be one of the most rapidly-growing areas of the state. While the Region is geographically the smallest at 2,800 square miles, it has one of the largest populations with almost 5 million people. This semi-arid Region is known for its temperate climate and relatively low rainfall - approximately 15 inches per year.

Santa Ana Regional Water Board

3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501
951-782-4130 www.waterboards.ca.gov/santana

Region 8 Accomplishments in this Report:

Pages 5, 9, 10 and 14

San Diego Regional Water Board (Region 9)

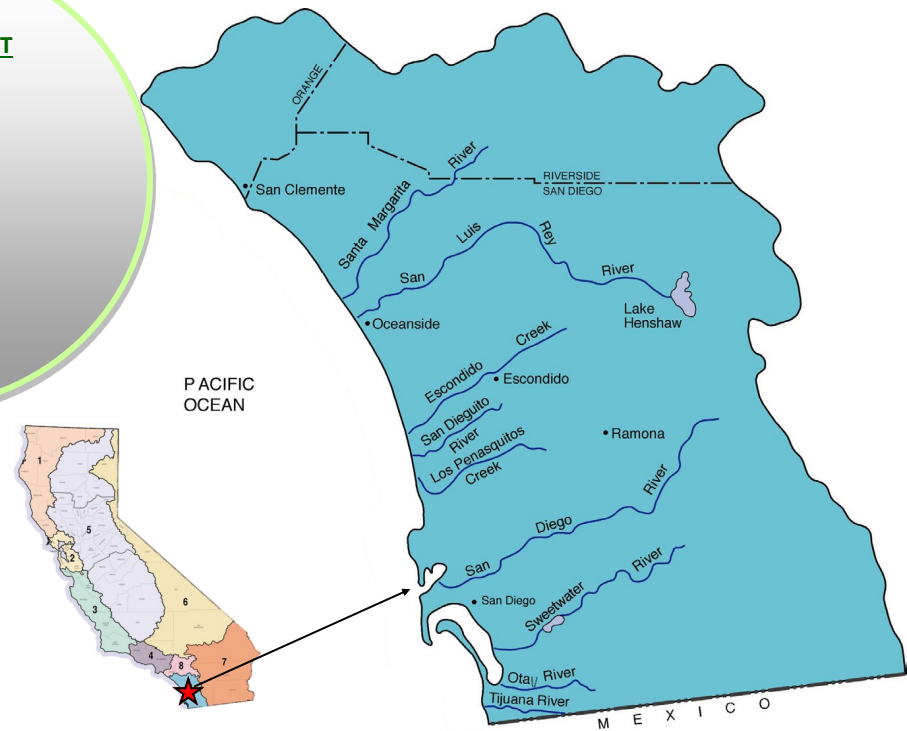
Region Snapshot & 2018 Priorities

2018 Priorities

- Adopt biological objectives for the attainment of ecosystem-related beneficial uses.
- Regulate transboundary river flows of pathogens and solid waste and completing a feasibility study of a Tijuana River border pollution control project in San Ysidro.
- Advance Indirect Potable Reuse Project(s) for the Miramar Reservoir (City of San Diego) and Lake Jennings (Padre Dam Municipal Water District, Helix Water District, City of El Cajon and San Diego County).
- Enroll at least 1,500 commercial agricultural operations in the Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program.
- Develop a Next Generation Monitoring Technology Project to enhance water quality investigation and protection measures in permitting, enforcement, and planning actions.
- Reissue the San Diego Regional Municipal Storm Water Permit, and improve implementation of human source fecal control Best Management Practices by co-permittees, particularly in the San Diego River Watershed.
- Adopt a TMDL or TMDL-alternative for eutrophication to restore Santa Margarita River Estuary and Famosa Slough.
- Adopt a Climate Change Action Plan to restore and protect water quality from climate change impacts.
- Reissue the Poseidon Claude “Bud” Lewis Desalination Facility permit.
- Issue a permit for Sycamore Landfill, one of the largest landfills in the Region.
- Approve a feasibility study and remediation plan for, and have dischargers cleanup contaminated sediments in the Tow Basin site and Lockheed Martin’s marine terminal railway site in San Diego Bay.
- Adopt an amendment to the Sewage Collection System Permit.
- Reissue permits for discharges to San Elijo Ocean and Encina Ocean outfalls that include significantly improved ocean outfall monitoring programs.
- Implement the Environmental Justice (EJ) Action Plan to improve wetlands, water quality protection, and participation by residents of economically disadvantaged and EJ communities.
- Designate the Marine Corps Recruit Depot as a Phase II Storm Water Permit co-permittee.
- Develop a remediation plan with the U.S. Navy for the “Fiery Marsh” site on Coronado’s North Island, known as Site 9. Reissue Master Recycling Permits for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.
- Issue the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project permit.

REGION SNAPSHOT

Approximately **3,900** square miles
85 miles of coastline
19,220 acres of lakes
910 miles of streams
29 urban water suppliers



The San Diego Region is divided into a coastal plain area, a central mountain-valley area, and an eastern mountain valley area. The Region enjoys a climate and location that supports many agricultural and industrial uses of water. Having a mild coastal climate, the Region's growing population enjoys many water-related activities; however, little precipitation falls within this semi-arid Region. Approximately 90 percent of the Region's water supply is imported from northern California and the Colorado River.

Region 9 Accomplishments in this Report:

Pages 5, 9, 10, 13, 16 and 18

San Diego Regional Water Board

2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108

619-516-1990 www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/

State Water Resources Control Board

2018 Priorities

Drinking Water Priorities

- Achieve 100 percent testing of California public K-12 schools for lead.
- Release a new hexavalent chromium drinking water standard for public comment.
- Complete approval process for the Surface Water Augmentation regulations and begin permitting and implementing recycling projects under the regulations.
- Complete an online web portal to allow water systems to report their lead service line inventory investigations and timelines to replace those service lines.
- Establish a framework for the regulation of potable water reuse projects.
- Obtain Board approval to lower the detection limit for purposes of reporting for perchlorate for public water source sampling.
- Eliminate the lab assessment backlog in the Environmental Lab Assessment Program.
- Complete sanitary surveys for 85 percent of the public water systems that need an inspection.

Water Rights Priorities

- Adopt the Phase I changes to the Bay-Delta Plan related to San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity.
- Release the Staff Report and draft Phase II changes to the Bay-Delta Plan focused on Sacramento River and Eastside Delta in-flows, Delta outflows, cold water habitat, and interior flows for public comment.
- Complete Part 2 of the hearing on the California WaterFix Project water right changes petition focusing on fish and wildlife and appropriate Delta flow criteria for the project.
- Eliminate backlog of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower projects with pending water quality certification applications. Water quality certifications establish conditions to protect water quality and become requirements of the FERC license, once issued.
- Release a draft water quality certification and environmental impact report for the Lower Klamath Project, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation's proposed project to decommission four dams on the Klamath River in accordance with the Amended Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement.

Financial Assistance Priorities

- Develop and implement an updated system for prioritizing and selecting projects that will receive Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing, and continue to implement streamlining measures in the CWSRF program.
- Facilitate and fund the consolidation of small drinking water systems serving disadvantaged communities through coordination with the Division of Drinking Water, funding partners, and stakeholders.
- Reduce the surplus in the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (USTCF) by increasing the number of reimbursements.
- Resolve the backlog of approximately 200 USTCF reimbursement appeals.
- Execute funding agreements for projects awarded Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program grants in the first funding round, and solicit and award projects in the second funding round.

State Water Board Accomplishments in this Report:

Pages 4-8, 10-15, 18 and 19



State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

916-341-5254

www.waterboards.ca.gov

*State Water Board Headquarters
Credit: State Water Board*

State Water Resources Control Board

2018 Priorities



Water Quality Priorities

- Adopt and establish statewide provisions for aquatic toxicity in the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California (ISWEBE).
- Adopt and establish statewide Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State (proposed Procedures), for inclusion in the ISWEBE and Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California.
- Release the public review draft of the amendment to the 2013 Policy for Water Quality Control for Recycled Water.

Statewide Water Management Priorities

- Adopt water conservation regulations permanently prohibiting wasteful uses of water.
- Develop water loss performance standards for urban retail water suppliers.
- Complete the Low Income Rate Assistance Report for the Legislature.
- Continue to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act by providing technical support, requiring groundwater extraction reporting, assessing fees, and exercising probationary designation authorities where necessary.
- Evaluate and score project applications associated with the Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program overseen by the California Water Commission.
- Coordinate implementation of the State Water Board's Climate Change Resolution, track and report progress, and prepare for any Water Board participation in the 2018 Global Climate Action Summit.

Information Management and Analysis Priorities

- Conduct strategic planning, research, and monitoring to advance the Water Board's ability to detect and respond to freshwater harmful algal blooms across California.
- Provide avenues for increasing agency-wide data literacy through the Annual Watershed Health Indicator and Data Science Symposium, and other events, trainings, and workgroups. Promote data visualization tool applications, availability, and ability.
- Develop and make available resources and tools to support consistent, science-based watershed health assessments by the Water Boards, stakeholders, and partner agencies.
- Conduct an external business review of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) through review of existing projects, business practices, and the needs of SWAMP partners, including non-governmental organizations, academia and all potential consumers of this data. Develop a SWAMP strategic plan and business plan to implement recommendations of the review.
- Educate and train Water Board staff on our quality management system, which is the whole system we use to govern the quality of our work and includes the organization's Quality Management Plan, Quality Assurance Program Plans and associated project plans. Develop requirements, tools, and processes for monitoring and data acquisition to ensure quality data to make defensible Water Board decisions.

State Water Resources Control Board

2018 Priorities

Enforcement Priorities

- Promote enforcement and compliance assistance in disadvantaged communities and communities with financial hardship.
- Focus on a method for prioritizing and prosecuting enforcement cases for discharge violations of the industrial and construction general storm water permits.
- Focus on using all available regulatory tools, including enforcement tools, to compel responsible parties to provide replacement water to those whose drinking water supply is contaminated by nitrate.

Public Participation Priorities

- Work with all Water Board organizations to implement the California Human Right to Water law.
- Build partnerships with Environmental Justice and tribal communities regarding Water Board programs.
- Develop tailored outreach approaches and messaging to communities facing water quality impacts and site clean-up.
- Develop easy-to-read and understand informational materials in appropriate languages.
- Conduct Meeting Facilitation and Risk Communication staff trainings.
- Assist staff with tribal consultations.





STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

2017

accomplishments

CALIFORNIA STATE AND REGIONAL WATER BOARDS

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