San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Strategic Plan

April 2026

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
Strategic Plan

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CALIFORNIA
WATER BOARDS
San Francisco Bay

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board is dedicated to protecting and restoring waterways and groundwater for the benefit of all Californians. We carry out our mission by regulating discharges from industrial, commercial, municipal, agricultural, and other sources and by developing and overseeing water quality programs and policies. We strive to implement a regulatory program that is collaborative, has a strong scientific basis, and is appropriately flexible in achieving beneficial water quality outcomes.

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, enacted in California in 1969, was pioneering legislation that served as a model for the federal Clean Water Act. This landmark legislation profoundly influenced water quality management not only in California, but also across the United States. Implementing the Act's comprehensive framework for monitoring, regulating, and enforcing water quality standards has been instrumental in reversing the detrimental effects of industrial pollution, urban runoff, and habitat degradation that once plagued San Francisco Bay.

One of the pillars of our work is a shared, evidence-based understanding created by collaborative engagement with others. A key example is our work with Bay Area dischargers to initiate a cooperative regional monitoring program, resulting in the establishment of the San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) in 1993. The RMP involves a diverse coalition of interested parties, including regulatory agencies, industry representatives, environmental groups, engineers, and scientists. The program's primary objective is to provide sustained, scientifically robust data on the water quality and ecological health of San Francisco Bay, allowing for increased transparency and accountability and better-informed decision making. We are building on that effort with the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program, launched in 2016. This program is intended to provide more cost-effective data on Bay wetland restoration efforts, improving our ability to adapt to rising tides.

Photo above, left: A pre-Clean Water Act sewage discharge point
Photo above, right: The tidal flat at Strawberry Creek in 2022, which previously received municipal sewage and now provides habitat and recreation

Photo above, left: A view of the Golden Gate Bridge taken from the Marin Headlands, pre-Clean Water Act
Photo above, right: The same view, as seen in 2022

While there has been significant progress to improve water quality since the enactment of Porter-Cologne and the Clean Water Act, the harmful algal bloom and massive fish kills in San Francisco Bay during the summer of 2022 and the regular flooding from king tides and sea level rise are a reminder that our work is not complete. As the largest estuary on the West Coast, San Francisco Bay provides habitat for vibrant populations of fish and wildlife, recreation for over seven million people living in the Bay Area, and is one of the nation's most picturesque, iconic water bodies. The Bay faces new and ongoing water quality challenges from climate change, urban and agricultural runoff pollution, and discharges from contaminated sites. We address these challenges within the context of a growing Bay Area population and the need to support multi-benefit solutions that recognize the key role San Francisco Bay plays in the Bay Area quality of life.

In particular, climate change presents escalating challenges, including increased temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and rising sea levels. We incorporate climate change into all our programs and use our authority to advance climate adaptation planning, coordination, technical assistance, and permitting. We participate in multi-agency and interested party groups, such as the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team, the Bay Area Regional Collaborative, and Bay Adapt, to develop long-range planning efforts and support specific projects to facilitate San Francisco Bay shoreline resilience and adaptation to projected sea level rise.

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Strategic Plan is a roadmap that guides us in achieving our mission to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of the Bay Area's water resources. This mission is strengthened by our commitment to racial equity and environmental justice. In all our work, we strive to recognize the challenges created by past injustices and to advance environmental justice, racial equity, and climate change resilience. While the work of the Water Board and our partners have resulted in many successes, notably cleaning up wastewater discharges to the Bay in the 1970s and supporting Bay wetland restoration, our work continues as we collaborate with our partners to address new challenges.

Eileen M. White
Executive Officer

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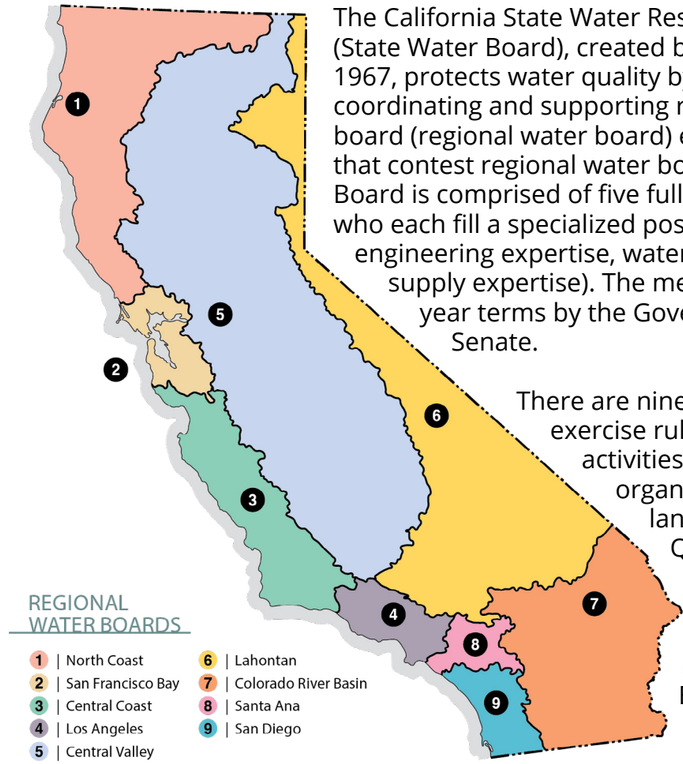
WATER BOARDS OVERVIEW



The California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), created by the State Legislature in 1967, protects water quality by setting statewide policy, coordinating and supporting regional water quality control board (regional water board) efforts, and reviewing petitions that contest regional water board actions. The State Water Board is comprised of five full-time salaried board members who each fill a specialized position (representing the public, engineering expertise, water quality expertise, and water supply expertise). The members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

There are nine regional water boards that exercise rulemaking and regulatory activities by watershed basins. This organization is a result of the landmark Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, codified in the California Water Code. The nine regional water boards are semi-autonomous and are comprised of seven part-time Board members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

STATE WATER BOARD

The State Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board protects and restores surface and groundwater, including sources of drinking water, by regulating discharges from industrial, commercial, municipal, agricultural, and other sources, and by developing and overseeing programs and policies. Our programs, regulations, and policies also address other complex issues, such as climate change adaptation, sea level rise, racial equity, and environmental justice.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of the San Francisco Bay Region's water resources for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial water uses.

We work across the nine Bay Area counties – Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Solano counties – to protect water quality and the environment for the region's over seven million residents.

Photo below: Our staff gathered at our annual field trip at Lake Merritt, Oakland

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

The Strategic Plan defines our priorities and establishes clear targets and milestones to measure our progress in advancing them. It provides a transparent overview of our work for the public we serve, while also guiding staff in setting priorities and allocating resources effectively.

The Strategic Plan reaffirms our mission and outlines the overarching organizational priorities that we strive to incorporate into all of our work. It describes what we do and the programs we implement to protect water quality and serve the public (pages 10-27), and presents our program-specific priorities and the associated targets and milestones used to track progress (pages 28-44).

The Strategic Plan is designed to be a dynamic tool, allowing us to adapt to emerging challenges and evolving priorities. It is updated biennially and used to report on our progress and key accomplishments each year.

COLLABORATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE

COLLABORATION

We actively collaborate at the local, tribal, state, and national levels with regulatory agencies, publicly owned treatment works, professional organizations, cities, counties, and academic and scientific institutions to protect water quality and the San Francisco Bay. Across all levels, we engage with community-based organizations to ensure that the diverse communities of the region are informed about and have opportunities to provide input on work that directly affects their communities.

Photo below: A meeting of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), which works with State, federal, and non-governmental organizations to enhance the San Francisco Bay environment

At the local level, we partner with cities, counties, special districts, community groups, the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, San Francisco Estuary Institute, the Bay Area One Water Network, Bay Area Regional Collaborative, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Baykeeper, Save the Bay, the Bay Planning Coalition, wastewater agencies and the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, the Bay Area Municipal Stormwater Collaborative, and the Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association.

We also consult directly with tribal governments on a government-to-government basis, recognizing tribal sovereignty and the importance of incorporating tribal knowledge, priorities, and cultural resources into our work.

At the state and national levels, we collaborate with the State Water Board, the California Department of Transportation, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Environmental Protection Agency and its agencies (including the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Department of Pesticide Regulation), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Geological Survey, and many other state and national partners.

Photo below: Water Board staff provide a training on creek surveying in collaboration with Urban Tilth, a Richmond-based community group

PUBLIC SERVICE

We are dedicated to serving the public as we work towards our mission. We serve the public by building trust and long-term relationships through service excellence, proactive communication, education, and collaboration. We strive to consistently provide professional, high-quality, timely service to the public.

WHAT WE DO

To achieve our mission, we conduct and implement multiple water quality programs and initiatives, as well as overarching organizational activities that cut across numerous programs and align with the State Water Board's and our Regional Water Board's initiatives. Our highest organizational priorities include implementing climate actions, advancing racial equity and addressing environmental justice, and advancing our workforce planning and development efforts.

Our water quality program categories are: Plan and Assess, Regulate, Clean Up, and Enforce. The programs implement legal mandates, direction, and funding appropriations made by the State Water Board, the State Legislature, the Governor, and/or the federal government (most commonly, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

By the Numbers

83	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits
58	Recycled Water Programs and Projects
126	Municipal Stormwater Permittees
2,200	Permitted Industrial Facilities
1,000	Permitted Construction Sites
200	Creek, Wetland, & Bay Habitat Protection water quality certifications per year
69	Regulated Landfills
630	Site Cleanup Cases
205	Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Cases
250	Military Cleanup Sites

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

CLIMATE ACTION

We incorporate climate actions into all of our program activities and utilize our authority to advance climate adaptation planning, coordination, technical assistance, and permitting. We recognize that addressing climate change is critical for the long-term protection of water quality.

RACIAL EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

We prioritize program activities to protect water quality and beneficial water uses in communities who have experienced historical racism and environmental injustices. These communities are currently faced with complex water quality challenges such as the potential mobilization of contamination from sea level rise and groundwater rise.

WORKFORCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

We create an environment that attracts, retains, and engages a talented, diverse, and inclusive workforce in support of our mission.

WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

PLAN AND ASSESS

We adopt plans and policies to carry out federal and State water quality protection laws. The plans and policies contain water quality standards and regulations, which form the basis of our regulatory actions for protecting the quality of the State's waters. We monitor and assess the condition of the waters to determine if they are supporting their uses, detect long-term trends, and focus and evaluate regulatory efforts.

REGULATE

We identify the discharges of pollutants that threaten the quality of the State's waters and regulate those discharges by imposing requirements to control the pollutants, based on laws, regulations, plans, and policies designed to protect water quality.

CLEAN UP

We direct and oversee clean up of contaminated sites throughout the Bay Area from former industrial activities, leaking underground petroleum tanks, and other chemical spills or leaks. We regulate and oversee cleanup activities based on laws, regulations, plans, and policies so sites are remediated to protect public health and the environment. We focus on protecting and restoring groundwater for drinking water and other beneficial uses.

ENFORCE

We enforce the pollution control and cleanup requirements that are established for discharges and contaminated sites with the goal of acheiving compliance with requirements to protect water quality. When we identify violations of regulatory requirements, we may take enforcement actions of varying types and levels of stringency. When warranted, we assess financial penalties. We also collaborate with federal, State, and local law enforcement, as well as other environmental agencies, to address violations.

PLAN AND ASSESS

BASIN PLANNING PROGRAM

We develop, adopt (after public hearing), and implement the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan is the master policy document that contains descriptions of the legal, technical, and programmatic bases of water quality regulation in the San Francisco Bay Region. Every three years, with public input, we review the Basin Plan and consider what updates are needed to address new or changing water quality issues. The next Triennial Review will occur in 2027.

INTEGRATED REPORT AND TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD PROGRAM

We assess the condition of our region's water bodies and report that information to U.S. EPA as part of an Integrated Report. The Integrated Report identifies impaired waters and the pollutants causing those impairments. The list of impaired water bodies is referred to as the 303(d) List, referencing the identification requirement in section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. We establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address water body impairments. TMDLs are water body and pollutant specific plans to restore water quality. We develop a problem statement, identify sources of pollutants, and specify actions to restore water quality. We have developed and are implementing 22 TMDLs.

SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM

The purpose of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) is to monitor the ambient condition of waters throughout the State. SWAMP data support many regional and State Water Board activities, including: 1) providing data used for the 303(d) List and water quality assessments; 2) determining regional reference conditions; and 3) supporting TMDL development. SWAMP also monitors water quality in Bay Area watersheds and contaminants in fish from lakes to support fish consumption advisories issued by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The program focuses on monitoring inland waters, while the Regional Monitoring Program monitors San Francisco Bay.

Photo to right: Staff from Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program measure water temperature in Coyote Creek, Santa Clara County

Photo to left: Staff studying sediment deposition in Pescadero Creek

SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM

We require monitoring of San Francisco Bay through the San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program (RMP). The RMP collects data and communicates information about water quality in the Bay in support of management decisions. The RMP was created in 1993 to replace individual receiving water monitoring requirements for dischargers with a comprehensive Regional Monitoring Program.

The Water Board established and continues a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) to oversee and implement the RMP. The RMP is funded by fees paid by participating dischargers. The RMP provides an open forum for a wide range of participant groups and other interested parties to discuss contaminant issues (including contaminants of emerging concern), prioritize science needs, and monitor potential impacts of discharges on the Bay.

SPOTLIGHT
REDUCING EXCESS SEDIMENT IN THE NAPA RIVER

The Napa River and its tributaries have been impacted by excessive deposition of sand and fine gravel in the streambed, which has degraded habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead, contributing to their population declines. More than half of the sediment deposits are human-caused: from roads, channel incision, vineyards, and intensive historical grazing.

To address the excessive sedimentation, the Water Board prepared a sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Napa River watershed in 2009. The TMDL has been implemented through a cooperative program of habitat enhancement along 14 miles of the River and pollution control of sediment discharges from unpaved roads, vineyards, and rangelands.

Ranchers and vintners who manage 10,000 acres of grazing lands and 78,000 acres of vineyard properties, respectively, have committed to reducing sediment discharges from their operations through enrolling in Water Board permitting programs that implement the TMDL.

The TMDL calls for a 50 percent reduction in human-caused sediment discharges by 2029. Streambed monitoring in 2022 and 2023 indicates that the amount of sand and fine gravel in the streambed is approaching desired conditions. In addition, habitat enhancement and sediment reduction projects have been completed throughout the 14 miles of the River's main stem.

PLAN AND ASSESS

WETLAND REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM

We participate on the Steering Committee and lead the Technical Advisory Committee for the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP). The WRMP is a collaborative effort of scientific organizations, regulatory agencies, land managers, restoration funders, tribes, and other interested parties. The WRMP supports effective wetland restoration projects by providing regional scientific data to improve project designs, evaluate project performance, identify regional restoration needs, and reduce data redundancy and monitoring pressure on individual restoration projects.

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

In 2014, the State enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requiring local agencies to develop thresholds and criteria for the priority groundwater basins to avoid degradation of water quality and surface water depletions. We evaluate groundwater conditions in our region and recommend alternatives to address adverse impacts. This includes: 1) engaging local groundwater agencies and reviewing their groundwater management plans;
2) comparing current conditions to baseline, including assessing beneficial uses, supply well impacts, localized salt and nutrient areas of concern, and other water quality/habitat threats; and 3) documenting and sharing findings amongst our programs and with interested parties.

Photo to right:
Phoenix Lake, Marin

Photo to left:
The San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility, the largest facility in the Bay Area, is planning major improvements, including upgrades to treatment performance and flood management

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

We evaluate and identify groundwater basins where salts and/or nutrients are a threat to water quality and require management plans that quantify salt and nutrient sources and evaluate the basin's capacity to assimilate them. We conduct salt and nutrient assessments of groundwater quality in basins with significant groundwater reliance.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

We evaluate data to understand impacts to drinking water supply wells in our region, with a current focus on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we work to identify and clean up pollutant sources affecting the public supply wells. We also coordinate with the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and local well owners and operators to ensure that drinking water is safe and public health is protected.

WASTEWATER AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

Significant investments in infrastructure renewal are needed to maintain existing performance for systems that manage Bay Area wastewater and storm flows. Many wastewater collection and treatment systems, storm drains, and flood management systems are aging beyond their intended lifetimes, and are subject to changing conditions as the result of climate change, including rising tides and more-significant storms and droughts. These investments offer an opportunity to incorporate nature-based solutions such as wastewater treatment wetlands, stream floodplain restoration, green stormwater infrastructure, and wastewater recycling. This type of infrastructure renewal can provide multiple benefits (e.g., nutrient removal, protection against sea level rise while protecting and enhancing habitat, and removal of contaminants of emerging concern).

REGULATE

Pollutant discharges come in various forms and amounts, and from a variety of sources. A permit is required for a pollutant discharge to a water body, whether a surface water body or groundwater. Such permits are called waste discharge requirements (WDRs). We regulate waste discharges to both surface waters, such as rivers and estuaries, and groundwaters (via discharge to land). The type of permits we issue to control these pollutant sources depends on the type of waste, where the waste is discharged, and State and federal laws and regulations.

Photo to left:
Secondary clarifier at Novato Sanitary District's wastewater treatment plant, covered under a NPDES permit

Photo below:
Dry docks at Mare Island, covered under the Dry Docks NPDES general permit

WASTEWATER PROGRAMS

DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATERS

Under the federal Clean Water Act, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits control water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into the surface waters of the United States. Water Board-issued WDRs for discharges to surface waters serve as NPDES permits required under the Clean Water Act. Typically, NPDES permits are issued for five-year terms.

Individual NPDES Permits

We have issued about 75 individual NPDES permits covering more than 80 facilities. 55 of these permits cover municipal wastewater facilities, and 20 cover industrial and other types of facilities.

Regional Watershed NPDES Permits

We issued two watershed NPDES permits that cover numerous dischargers. The Mercury and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Watershed Permit implements the TMDLs for mercury and PCBs in San Francisco Bay. The Nutrient Watershed Permit addresses municipal wastewater discharges of nutrients to San Francisco Bay and is funding studies to inform nutrient control levels and management actions to protect San Francisco Bay's beneficial uses.

General NPDES Permits

We issued five general NPDES permits that cover roughly 100 facilities. These permits cover discharges of groundwater treated to remove fuels, volatile organic compounds, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); filter backwash water from potable water treatment systems; and pollutants from public fireworks displays, dry docks, aggregate mining, sand washing, and sand offloading facilities.

We also oversee compliance with general NPDES permits the State Water Board issues, including permits for discharges from community drinking water systems, pesticide applications, natural gas facilities, and utility vaults.

Additionally, we oversee compliance with general WDRs the State Water Board issues for sanitary sewer collection systems.

Pretreatment Program

The Clean Water Act requires municipal wastewater treatment facilities with influent flows above 5 million gallons per day and that receive wastewater from significant industrial users to implement pretreatment programs to control discharges from industrial facilities within their service areas. These pretreatment programs are well-established and our NPDES permits provide a backstop to ensure surface water quality is protected.

Pollution Prevention Program

The Pollution Prevention Program seeks to minimize pollutant discharges from residential and commercial sources within municipal wastewater treatment facility service areas. Controlling pollutant sources can be more effective than providing end-of-pipe treatment. We participate in Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group meetings and comment on U.S. EPA pesticide registration activities that could affect water quality.

REGULATE

DISCHARGES TO LAND

Under this program, we permit discharges of waste to land that have the potential to affect surface or groundwater quality. This category of discharges is diverse and includes domestic, industrial, commercial, and other wastewaters and wastes.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), commonly known as septic systems, are useful and necessary systems that allow habitation at locations that are removed from centralized wastewater treatment systems. We delegated oversight of most OWTS to counties and are updating these delegations consistent with the State Water Board's OWTS Policy. The mechanism laid out in the OWTS Policy for this delegation is the development, by each county, and approval, by each regional water board, of a Local Agency Management Program (LAMP). We have approved LAMPs for Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

We coordinated with the Central Valley Region on its review and approval of Solano County's LAMP. We are continuing to work with Contra Costa, Marin, and Napa county staff, and are coordinating with the North Coast Regional Board, which has responsibility for approval of Sonoma County's LAMP.

Waste Discharge Requirement Permits

We have issued about 65 individual WDR permits. 40 of these permits cover domestic wastewater facilities, and 25 cover industrial and other types of facilities. We utilize statewide general WDRs when appropriate for new discharges, and we are transitioning individual WDRs to general WDRs to improve consistency and to streamline permitting. We began enrolling wineries in the statewide Winery General Order in early 2022 and estimate up to 800 wineries in our region will enroll.

Photo above: Recycled water infrastructure (courtesy of U.S. EPA)

Photo above: Collecting a harmful algal bloom sample, Lake Merritt, Oakland

RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM

We support water supply resilience by permitting recycled water projects and programs in close coordination with the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and also by overseeing permit compliance. We implement the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy and encourage the safe use of recycled water to protect public health and the environment.

We have permitted about 58 recycled water programs and projects, of which 27 programs are covered under the statewide recycled water general permit.

SPOTLIGHT
REDUCING NUTRIENTS IN THE BAY

San Francisco Bay, one of the nation's most picturesque and iconic waterbodies, is a nutrient-enriched estuary with among the highest nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations in the world. The Bay's main source of nitrogen and phosphorous is treated municipal wastewater.

Too much nitrogen and phosphorus can result in excessive algal growth, which can lead to harmful algal blooms and low dissolved oxygen levels. In the Bay, nitrogen has more influence on algal growth than phosphorous. In July and August 2022, the Bay experienced a significant harmful algal bloom that resulted in nuisance odors and thousands of dead fish, including sturgeon, a protected species. While the causes of the harmful algal bloom are not well understood, high levels of nutrients in the Bay enabled its extensive propagation by providing fuel for the algae to consume.

In 2024, we reissued the Nutrient Watershed Permit, which requires 40 wastewater agencies to reduce nitrogen loads to the Bay by 40 percent regionwide compared to 2022 levels. The Permit also requires these agencies to continue funding studies to address the potential impacts of nutrients on the Bay's beneficial uses. The Bay Area wastewater agencies have contributed over $15 million over the past decade on water quality monitoring, modeling, and studies to further the understanding of the impacts of nutrients in the Bay.

REGULATE

STORMWATER PROGRAMS

We, in coordination with Municipal Stormwater Programs, prevent adverse water quality impacts from discharges from our region's municipal storm drain systems, industrial facilities, and construction sites.

MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PROGRAM

We oversee municipal storm drain system discharges via three permits. The Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (MRP), which our Board reissued in May 2022, covers municipal storm drain discharges from 79 cities, counties, and flood control districts. The Caltrans Statewide Stormwater NPDES permit, issued by the State Water Board, covers discharges from 24,000 acres of Caltrans right-of-way within our region. The Statewide Small and Non-traditional Municipal Stormwater NPDES Permit, issued by the State Water Board, regulates storm drain discharges from 47 permittees in our region, including smaller towns and non-traditional dischargers like the Port of San Francisco, BART, universities, and prisons.

INDUSTRIAL AND CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER PROGRAM

Our region has over 2,200 industrial facilities and between 1,000-1,500 construction sites each year covered under two statewide NPDES stormwater general permits. The Industrial Stormwater General Permit regulates stormwater discharges from industrial facilities including manufacturers, landfills, mines, hazardous waste facilities, transportation facilities, and recycling facilities. The Construction Stormwater General Permit regulates construction projects that disturb one or more acres of soil.

Photo to left: Chicken Ranch Beach restoration project, Inverness

Photo above: Installation of an underground trash collection device, Oakland

CREEK, WETLAND, AND BAY HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM

Our Creek, Wetland, and Bay Habitat Protection Program reviews and authorizes discharges of dredge and fill material to creeks, wetlands, other waters, and the Bay. Typical projects include Bay navigational dredging, stream maintenance for flood management, Bay shoreline wetland restoration for climate change adaptation, and fill for new development and redevelopment or infrastructure projects. We develop several general permits, participate in coordinated multi-agency review efforts, and develop the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program. We issue about 200 individual authorizations each year.

In addition, we work with our federal, state, and local partners in the Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region to manage dredging and disposal activities in the Bay Area, with emphasis on beneficial reuse of dredged sediment. We also manage WDRs for two large scale dredged material beneficial reuse sites, sand and oyster shell mining, and several small dredge disposal areas associated with marinas.

SPOTLIGHT

SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION REGULATORY INTEGRATION TEAM

The Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) is a collaborative team comprised of staff from state and federal regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over permitting habitat restoration projects in and around the San Francisco Bay. The BRRIT was formed to improve the permitting process for multi-benefit habitat restoration projects and associated flood management and public access infrastructure in the San Francisco Bay and along the shoreline.

The BRRIT's primary tool to facilitate permitting is by engaging with applicants as early and as often as needed during planning and design, providing coordinated feedback from all agencies. This helps to identify and address regulatory challenges that can delay permitting and construction.

Below are examples of projects that the BRRIT has assisted with recently:

- Construction of High Tide Refuge Islands by the Invasive Spartina Project throughout the San Francisco Estuary
- Beneficial Reuse of BART Silicon Valley Tunnel excavated material in marsh restoration
- Solano Land Trust's Goat Island Tidal Marsh Restoration and Public Access Improvement Project
- East Bay Regional Park District's Restore Hayward Marsh Project

REGULATE

LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM

We oversee the treatment, storage, and disposal of non-hazardous wastes within waste management units (WMUs) to address discharge of waste to land. WMUs include active and closed municipal landfills, waste piles associated with mining operations, and industrial surface ponds or land disposal areas (such as those found at refineries and chemical manufacturing plants). We oversee 11 active landfills, 58 closed landfills, and numerous other WMUs.

Our objective is to ensure wastes are properly contained and do not degrade surface water or groundwater quality. We enforce regulations that consist of design standards for WMU liners, covers, environmental monitoring, and cleanup when necessary. We prepare WDRs and include provisions that require landfill operators to review and update their long-term flood protection plans to ensure that climate change impacts are considered when designing and maintaining disposal areas for waste containment.

Photo below: Kirby Canyon Landfill, Morgan Hill

Photo above: A dairy cow from Drake's View

Photo above: A vineyard in Napa enrolled in the vineyards program

AGRICULTURAL LANDS PROGRAMS

Our Agricultural Lands Programs (ALPs) consist of five programs: Grants, Vineyards, Grazing, Cannabis, and Confined Animal Facilities. We manage federal grants to address pollution and implement TMDLs. The Vineyard Program implements the Napa River and Sonoma Creek sediment TMDLs through general WDRs. Under the general WDRs, permittees assess and document the erosion potential of their farmed areas, and install and maintain best management practices to reduce surface erosion and fine sediment discharges to receiving waters.

The Grazing Program implements pathogen and sediment TMDLs through Conditional Waivers of WDRs in the Napa River, Sonoma Creek, Petaluma River, Walker Creek, and Tomales Bay watersheds. The Cannabis Program implements State Water Board's Cannabis Policy and related statewide WDRs to ensure the diversion of water and discharge of waste associated with legal cannabis cultivation does not have a negative impact on water quality, aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, wetlands, and springs. The Confined Animal Facilities program regulates operations where animals are confined including dairies, horse facilities, egg, chicken, and/or turkey production facilities through general WDRs. These WDRs require all types of confined animal facilities to develop and implement ranch management plans that contain animal wastes to prevent discharges to adjacent surface waters.

CLEAN UP

The discharge of pollutants can contaminate soil and underlying groundwater. Volatile organic compounds, common in industrial solvents, can pose a threat to human health by volatilizing from the soil into indoor air spaces, such as living or workspaces. Contaminants in soil can leach into groundwater and contaminated groundwater may migrate to supply wells or discharge to surface waters, contributing to surface water impairment and risks to human and ecological receptors. Stormwater running over and/or eroding contaminated soil can also be a significant source of surface water pollution.

We work to restore groundwater and surface water quality and abate adverse impacts from contaminated groundwater, soil, soil vapor, and sediment where releases may affect public health or the environment at contaminated sites.

SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM

Our Site Cleanup Program manages contaminated sites from all sources except petroleum underground storage tanks, which are managed in a separate program. Contaminants such as solvents and metals may be released due to spills and current and former industrial and commercial facility operations, such as dry cleaners, manufacturing, refineries, pipelines, and bulk storage terminals. We oversee the investigation and cleanup of these sites. We use our authorities, e.g., Water Code sections 13267 (investigate and report) and 13304 (cleanup and abate), to compel parties to investigate and clean up sites, and we prioritize sites in disadvantaged communities. We currently oversee 630 Site Cleanup Program cases.

Photo below: Underground storage tank excavation, Bay Point

Photo above: Sediment excavation at Pier 39, San Francisco

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP PROGRAM

Petroleum underground storage tanks (USTs) can leak petroleum and other hazardous substances into soil and groundwater, creating threats to water quality, human health, and the environment. Under our authority in the Health and Safety Code, we oversee the investigation and cleanup of UST cases and support various local agencies that also implement the UST program. We currently oversee 205 UST cases.

SPOTLIGHT
SITE CLEANUP SUBACCOUNT PROGRAM (SCAP)

The Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP) is a funding program established in 2014 that issues grants for projects that investigate and/or remediate groundwater contamination. The program has provided $34 million annually statewide from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund to cleanup projects, resulting in funding for 102 sites across the state including 22 in the San Francisco Bay Region. Grants are prioritized based on risk to human health and the environment and based on if the site is located in an economically disadvantaged area or if there are environmental justice factors.

Below are two examples of sites in our region that have received SCAP funding:

The ABC Dry Cleaners site in Oakland received a $1.7 million grant to clean up contaminated groundwater and soil vapor and install vapor mitigation measures. The mitigation efforts have eliminated exposure to residents on the second floor.

The Tower Cleaners site in Berkeley received a $1.5 million grant to excavate contaminated soil under the building, clean up soil vapor, and install vapor mitigation measures to protect residents from vapor intrusion. The cleanup reduced contamination in indoor air, allowing seven residential apartments and one commercial space to be safely occupied.

CLEAN UP

Photo below:
Remedial injections at Mare Island

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND ENERGY PROGRAM

Through facility-specific and other agreements with the Department of Defense (DoD), we currently oversee cleanup at 17 former and active DoD facilities consisting of about 250 individual cleanup sites and 31 privatized sites that have been transferred from the military to State or other local entities for redevelopment or reuse. Our regulatory focus includes providing technical and regulatory input on investigation and cleanup of soil, sediment, and groundwater contamination and management of stormwater. We work cooperatively with other State and federal agencies in both lead and support roles.

Historically, our region had over 50 DoD facilities consisting of over 1,000 individual cleanup sites and over 300 privatized cleanup sites. Most are former bases that were closed under the Base Realignment and Closure Program first instituted in 1991, including the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. Four military facilities in the region continue to operate today. Some facilities are Formerly Used Defense Sites, which were owned, operated, or leased by the DoD for various uses such as missile silos, gun batteries, listening posts, and radar stations.

We also oversee cleanup at 4 operating federal Department of Energy (DoE) laboratories: Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Sandia National Lab, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. While long-term cleanup is the goal, the near-term focus is on containment with monitored attenuation since there are no immediate plans to transfer or redevelop these properties and there is no exposure. DoE conducts pilot studies and implements remedial actions when warranted or when opportunities arise to add complementary work to other ongoing projects.

SPILL RESPONSE

We track complaints and spills of sewage, potable water, petroleum products, other hazardous materials, and serve as a resource for emergency responders. We notify appropriate staff of significant incidents to ensure that we properly assess impacts and follow up to ensure cleanup and, if warranted, enforcement.

Photo above:
Removal of mercury from soil at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, a DoE site

SPOTLIGHT
MARE ISLAND REMEDIATION

Mare Island was the nation's first naval station on the West Coast, commencing operations in 1854 and closing in 1996. The Navy began environmental restoration at the former base in the early 1990s, and in 2002 carved out the 675-acre Eastern Early Transfer Parcel for transfer to the City of Vallejo, while the Navy continued environmental restoration of the remaining 4,500 acres. The Eastern Early Transfer Parcel was then transferred to Lennar Mare Island, LLC through a fee title purchase. Lennar Mare Island, LLC assumed the environmental liability and has diligently remediated the 240 petroleum hydrocarbon sites and over 600 other sites where soil, groundwater, soil vapor, and indoor air had been impacted by volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls, metals, pesticides, and radiological contamination.

On October 15, 2025, we issued the final petroleum case closure to Lennar Mare Island, LLC for petroleum cleanup at the 675-acre Eastern Early Transfer Parcel. This was the last of approximately 240 petroleum cleanups at 14 investigation areas that have been open for over two decades. The remedial actions completed at the Eastern Early Transfer Parcel will enable the City of Vallejo to redevelop and create a vibrant mixed-use community with new housing, diverse commercial and industrial businesses, and expanded public spaces ensuring the maximum benefit to the environment and the people of Vallejo.

ENFORCE

Our approach to enforcement for water quality protection is outlined in the State Water Board's Water Quality Enforcement Policy. This policy describes the framework for identifying and investigating noncompliance, for taking enforcement actions that are appropriate to the nature and severity of the violation, and for prioritizing enforcement resources to achieve maximum environmental benefit.

Each program assesses compliance with waste discharge and other requirements and tracks violations. We take both informal and formal enforcement actions utilizing a progressive enforcement approach as outlined in the Enforcement Policy.

We pursue formal enforcement for violations that significantly threaten beneficial uses or harm human health or the environment, or involve recalcitrant parties who deliberately avoid compliance. We also seek mandatory minimum penalties for certain NPDES permit violations.

PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

The following sections present our:

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY Priority Action
CLIMATE ACTION
Participate in multi-agency and interested party groups to develop long-range planning efforts and specific projects to facilitate San Francisco Bay shoreline adaption to projected sea level rise, e.g., wetland restoration
Use regulatory tools to require wastewater plants, landfills, biosolids land application sites, refineries, and industrial cleanup facilities to conduct climate vulnerablity assessments and prepare adaption plans
Coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other interested parties to increase beneficial reuse of dredged sediment to restore Bay tidal wetlands and adapt to a rising Bay
Promote, plan, and permit complex and large projects that use nature-based solutions and green infrastructure for shoreline adaptation, wastewater treatment, and stormwater management
RACIAL EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Prioritize assessing the impacts of water quality programs on affected communities, particularly Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color (BIPOC) communities with a goal of promoting environmental equity
Engage with communities who have experienced historical racism and environmental injustices and prioritize program activities in these communities
Provide technical, planning, and permitting assistance in communities planning and implementing climate adaptation projects, such as wetland restoration, horizontal levees, and other nature-based solutions
Ensure that regulated facilities in and near BIPOC communities are appropriately prioritized for oversight and regulatory action relative to their environmental and public health threat
Require sea level rise and groundwater rise vulnerability assessments for cleanup cases in areas most vulnerable to flooding and mobilization of contamination from sea level and groundwater rise
WORKFORCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
Include racial equity, diversity, and inclusion practices to support our hiring, promotion, and retention goals
Create a welcoming and engaging environment through onboarding activities and by providing career and professional development
Engage employees in continuous improvement initiatives
Create a shared and collaborative learning organization by staff attending trainings and presenting and participating in conferences and symposiums

PLAN AND ASSESS

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
BASIN PLANNING		
Implement the Climate Change and Wetland Policy Basin Plan Amendment	Continue implementing outreach strategy to provide technical and regulatory support to shoreline communities	Continue implementing outreach strategy to provide technical and regulatory support to shoreline communities
Develop Phase II of the Climate Change and Wetland Policy	Develop Project Plan for a regulatory Basin Plan Amendment to facilitate permitting nature-based shoreline adaptation projects Engage with interested parties on regulatory measures to facilitate permitting nature-based shoreline adaptation projects Draft guidelines for permitting nature-based shoreline adaptation projects	Engage with interested parties on regulatory measures to facilitate permitting nature-based shoreline adaptation projects Complete guidelines for permitting nature-based shoreline adaptation projects
Develop Climate Change and Riparian Area Protection Policy	Review and document the science pertaining to climate change effects on riparian and creek ecosystems Assess regulatory options for protecting riparian and creek beneficial uses Develop project plan for a Basin Plan Amendment to protect riparian and creek beneficial uses in the face of climate change Engage with flood management agencies and municipalities on potential policy actions to protect riparian and creek beneficial uses in the face of climate change	Engage with flood management agencies and municipalities on potential policy actions to protect riparian and creek beneficial uses in the face of climate change Prepare Staff Report
Prepare basin plan amendment to support nutrient reductions from wastewater treatment plants	Conduct tribal and public outreach, and CEQA scoping meetings Release draft Basin Plan Amendment text and Staff Report for public review Bring Basin Plan Amendment to Board for adoption	Bring Basin Plan Amendment to State Water Board for adoption Secure Office of Administrative Law (OAL) Approval

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
BASIN PLANNING		
Promote soil and sediment beneficial reuse	Draft beneficial reuse guidelines for soil in shoreline restoration projects and solicit feedback from interested parties Revise the Draft Staff Report, Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Materials: Sediment Screening and Testing Guidelines (2000) to update it with the latest science Participate in the Bay RMP sediment workgroup to guide studies, such as the Sediment Conceptual Models for San Pablo and Suisun Bays, that will inform a Basin Plan Amendment to revise the dredging implementation policies in the Basin Plan Engage with other San Francisco Bay Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) agencies and dredging community to explore opportunities to increase beneficial reuse of dredge material	Complete beneficial use guidelines for soil in shoreline restoration projects Complete updates to Draft Staff Report, Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Materials: Sediment Screening and Testing Guidelines (2000) Participate in the Bay RMP sediment work group to guide studies that will inform a Basin Plan Amendment to revise the dredging implementation policies in the Basin Plan Engage with other LTMS agencies and dredging community to explore opportunities to increase beneficial reuse of dredge material Scope Basin Plan Amendment to revise the dredging implementation policies in the Basin Plan
Designate Tribal Tradition and Culture and Tribal Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses in the Basin Plan	Consult with tribes to confirm Tribal Tradition and Culture Beneficial Use Conduct California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meetings for designating Tribal Tradition and Culture Beneficial Use to water bodies in the San Francisco Bay Region	Prepare Staff Report and Basin Plan Amendment for designating Tribal Tradition and Culture Beneficial Use to water bodies in the San Francisco Bay Region Develop tribal subsistence fishing survey to inform Tribal Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Use
Support tools to understand the Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Use	Complete survey of 200 anglers to analyze subsistence fishing and consumption in the Bay Begin analyzing data from fish consumption survey	Complete analysis of fish consumption survey data

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
BASIN PLANNING		
Designate Commercial and Sport Fishing Beneficial Use to lakes and reservoirs in the Basin Plan	Complete CEQA scoping of project to designate Commercial and Sport Fishing Beneficial Use to lakes and reservoirs Engage with reservoir owners and operators on designating Commercial and Sport Fishing Beneficial Use to lakes and reservoirs Prepare Staff Report and Basin Plan Amendment for designating Commercial and Sport Fishing Beneficial Use to lakes and reservoirs	Bring Basin Plan Amendment designating Commercial and Sport Fishing Beneficial Use to lakes and reservoirs to Board for adoption
Complete Triennial Review	Review the Basin Plan and prepare a memo of the results	Prepare and recommend a prioritized list of amendments to the Basin Plan to address water quality policy needs Solicit input from interested parties on proposed list of Basin Plan Amendments Bring Triennial Review before the Board for approval

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
INTEGRATED REPORT AND TMDLs		
Develop Lake Merritt Advanced Restoration Plan	Manage contract for a Technical Advisory Committee and monitoring to support Advanced Restoration Plan to address low dissolved oxygen in Lake Merritt	Manage contract for a Technical Advisory Committee and monitoring to support Advanced Restoration Plan to address low dissolved oxygen in Lake Merritt
Develop Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) TMDL Revision Strategy	Oversee data collection, modeling, and analysis for PCBs TMDL Revision	Oversee data collection, modeling, and analysis for PCBs TMDL Revision
Develop Mercury TMDL Revision Strategy	Complete CEQA scoping for Mercury TMDL Revision Conduct outreach for Mercury TMDL Revision Project Prepare Staff Report for Mercury TMDL Revision	Complete outreach for Mercury TMDL Revision Complete Staff Report for Mercury TMDL Revision Bring Mercury TMDL Revision to Board for consideration
Implement TMDLs	Prepare orders, review monitoring reports, track implementation measures, and assess progress towards attainment of water quality objectives	Prepare orders, review monitoring reports, track implementation measures, and assess progress towards attainment of water quality objectives
Communicate TMDL water quality outcomes to the public	Publish TMDL water quality report cards and update TMDL websites for current projects	Publish TMDL water quality report cards and update TMDL websites for current projects
Develop Integrated Report (IR)	Start the 2030 IR listing cycle with data solicitation, data organization, quality assurance, and data review	Evaluate and assess data to determine if water quality standards are being met to develop 303d listings

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM		
Monitor in support of the TMDL Program	Collect data to support impairment assessment for low dissolved oxygen in Suisun Creek Collect pathogen data to support impairment assessment for the Sonoma Creek and Napa River Pathogen TMDLs Collect pathogen data to support impairment assessment for the Richardson Bay Pathogen TMDL Conduct nutrient samples in Petaluma River to assess impairment conditions Continue to collect nutrient data to support Lake Merritt low dissolved oxygen TMDL alternative	Collect crab and fish tissue samples in Tomales Bay to support impairment assessment of Walker Creek and Tomales Bay Mercury TMDL Support future TMDL projects
Inform the Statewide Biostimulatory Policy	Participate in Statewide biostimulatory policy meetings	Participate in Statewide biostimulatory policy meetings
WASTEWATER AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL		
Ensure climate change resiliency (e.g., related to sea level rise, groundwater rise, and wildfires) in wastewater infrastructure renewal projects	Participate in forums to encourage infrastructure renewal that provides multiple benefits Facilitate infrastructure renewal through other permit-related tasks	Participate in forums to encourage infrastructure renewal that provides multiple benefits Facilitate infrastructure renewal through other permit-related tasks
Understand and control potential water quality impacts of nutrients	Coordinate with the Nutrient Management Strategy to study the Bay's response to nutrient loads under different scenarios	Coordinate with the Nutrient Management Strategy to study the Bay's response to nutrient loads under different scenarios
Understand and control potential water quality impacts of contaminants of emerging concern	Participate in the Regional Monitoring Program's Emerging Contaminants Workgroup to identify potential impacts of constituents of emerging concern on water quality	Participate in the Regional Monitoring Program's Emerging Contaminants Workgroup to identify potential impacts of constituents of emerging concern on water quality
Reduce sanitary sewer overflows	Inspect facilities and review Sewer System Management Plans	Inspect facilities and review Sewer System Management Plans

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
WASTEWATER DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATERS		
Reissue NPDES permits every five years and maintain our backlog of expired permits below 17 percent	Reissue 12 permits	Reissue 12 permits
Inspect major facilities at least every other year and minor facilities at least once every five years	Inspect 28 facilities	Inspect 28 facilities
Support the Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) and development of dissolved oxygen assessment framework	Work with NMS to develop assessment framework 2.0 to support next nutrient watershed permit	Work with NMS to develop assessment framework 2.0 to support next nutrient watershed permit
Understand and control effects of nutrients discharges	Track each discharger's progress and regional coordination to comply with Nutrients Watershed Permit requirements	Track each discharger's progress and regional coordination to comply with Nutrients Watershed Permit requirements
Oversee compliance with both regional and statewide general NPDES wastewater permits	Issue and rescind authorizations to discharge Inspect at least 2 facilities	Issue and rescind authorizations to discharge Inspect at least 2 facilities
WASTEWATER DISCHARGES TO LAND		
Implement the statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Winery Process Water	Continue to enroll wineries under the Winery General Order Conduct follow-up with wineries that failed to enroll in the Winery General Order	Continue to enroll wineries under the Winery General Order Conduct follow-up with wineries that failed to enroll in the Winery General Order
Implement the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Policy	Work with counties on revised Local Agency Management Programs (LAMPs) for approval and implementation; ensure that potential effects of climate change on OWTS are addressed in LAMPs	Work with counties on revised Local Agency Management Programs (LAMPs) for approval and implementation; ensure that potential effects of climate change on OWTS are addressed in LAMPs
Manage new and existing waste discharges to land	Complete permitting action for at least 2 facilities: enroll new or unpermitted facilities in general WDRs and/or transition individual WDRs to general WDRs (or issue or update individual WDRs as appropriate); include conditions in permits to address potential effects of climate change on wastewater systems as appropriate Inspect 12 facilities and conduct appropriate follow-up actions	Complete permitting action for at least 2 facilities: enroll new or unpermitted facilities in general WDRs and/or transition individual WDRs to general WDRs (or issue or update individual WDRs as appropriate); include conditions in permits to address potential effects of climate change on wastewater systems as appropriate Inspect 12 facilities and conduct appropriate follow-up actions

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM		
Review new recycled water applications and authorize projects in coordination with the Division of Drinking Water	Enroll new recycled water projects in the statewide general order for recycled water use or the statewide general order for small domestic wastewater systems as appropriate Continue to support permitting for Valley Water Purified Water Project	Enroll new recycled water projects in the statewide general order for recycled water use or the statewide general order for small domestic wastewater systems as appropriate Continue to support permitting for Valley Water Purified Water Project
Update existing recycled water permits as needed in alignment with the Recycled Water Policy	Transition individual or regional recycled water orders to the statewide general order for recycled water use, or update individual orders as appropriate; include conditions in updated permits to address potential effects of climate change on recycled water systems as appropriate	Transition individual or regional recycled water orders to the statewide general order for recycled water use, or update individual orders as appropriate; include conditions in updated permits to address potential effects of climate change on recycled water systems as appropriate
Ensure Recycled Water Program compliance through targeted inspections and annual report reviews	Review annual reports and follow up on any deficiencies Inspect 4 recycled water facilities and/or use areas and conduct appropriate follow-up actions	Review annual reports and follow up on any deficiencies Inspect 4 recycled water facilities and/or use areas and conduct appropriate follow-up actions
Engage in collaborative efforts that promote increases in recycled water in the region	Engage with recycled water interested parties to share resources, reduce barriers, and support the broader use of recycled water Prioritize Water Board recycled water efforts to enable increases in water recycling	Engage with recycled water interested parties to share resources, reduce barriers, and support the broader use of recycled water Prioritize Water Board recycled water efforts to enable increases in water recycling
Identify opportunities to standardize and streamline recycled water permitting	Engage with State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and the Recycled Water Roundtable to provide input on the development of new and updated recycled water regulations	Engage with State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and the Recycled Water Roundtable to provide input on the development of new and updated recycled water regulations

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PROGRAM		
Reissue Municipal Regional NPDES Stormwater Permit (MRP)	Continue reissuance process with MRP Permittees and interested parties	Bring MRP before the Board for reissuance
Continue to reduce discharges of pollutants that impair receiving waters, including discharges of PCBs to San Francisco Bay	Review long-term implementation Plan and Schedule to achieve TMDL Wasteload Allocations Review Permittees' ongoing implementation of trash control measures to inform adaptive management	Review Permittee progress on implementation of PCBs control measures Review Permittees' ongoing implementation of trash control measures to inform adaptive management Initiate regional program to control direct discharges of trash to receiving waters and update existing direct discharge requirements
Continue to reduce discharges of pollutants associated with unsheltered homelessness	Continue to coordinate with municipal stormwater permittees and other interested parties to address discharges	Continue to coordinate with municipal stormwater permittees and other interested parties to address discharges
Support municipal implementation of multi-benefit green stormwater infrastructure designs that address polluted runoff and achieve co-benefits such as climate change resilience and water supply resilience	Coordinate with Permittees regarding long-term green infrastructure planning and development Review Permittees' Climate Change Adaptation Report Inspect constructed facilities to inform continued improvement	Coordinate with Permittees regarding long-term green infrastructure planning and development Inspect constructed facilities to inform continued improvement
Work with Caltrans to support its achievement of trash reduction required by the 2019 Cease and Desist Order (CDO) issued by the Board	Work with Caltrans on progress towards CDO-required control of trash discharges from any remaining significant trash generating areas, beyond the CDO's benchmark of 8,800 acres by June 30, 2026, on right-of-way by December 2, 2030, and report to Board on status	Work with Caltrans on progress towards CDO-required control of trash discharges from any remaining significant trash generating areas on right-of-way by December 2, 2030, and report to Board on status
Coordinate with Caltrans and Bay Area municipalities to support implementation of projects to reduce discharges of trash and other impairing pollutants	Complete project-specific and programmatic coordination consistent with CDO and TMDL implementation	Complete project-specific and programmatic coordination consistent with CDO and TMDL implementation

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PROGRAM		
Coordinate with State Water Board staff and Phase II Permittees on reissuance of the Statewide Small and Non-Traditional Municipal Stormwater Permit	Continue to provide input at requested intervals, along with other Regional Water Boards, to State Water Board staff Respond to comments on San Francisco Bay Region's region-specific TMDL implementation language	
Coordinate with State Water Board staff, Caltrans, and Region 2 interested parties on reissuance of Caltrans Statewide Municipal Stormwater Permit	Provide regional input to State Water Board staff for permit reissuance at requested intervals Coordinate on San Francisco Bay Region's region-specific TMDL implementation language	Provide regional input to State Water Board staff for permit reissuance at requested intervals Coordinate on San Francisco Bay Region's region-specific TMDL implementation language
INDUSTRIAL AND CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER PROGRAM		
Prioritize cases and coordinate with municipal inspectors to maximize our effectiveness in protecting water quality	Continue to utilize and refine our inspection prioritiazation framework, which integrates environmental justice considerations, threats to water quality, and other site-specific factors; update ArcGIS Online Map with best available data as needed Participate in countywide clean water program trainings and workshops to build and maintain relationships with municipal stormwater inspectors	Continue to utilize and refine our inspection prioritiazation framework, which integrates environmental justice considerations, threats to water quality, and other site-specific factors; update ArcGIS Online Map with best available data as needed Participate in countywide clean water program trainings and workshops to build and maintain relationships with municipal stormwater inspectors
Ensure permit compliance through targeted inspections and in-office desktop reviews	Inspect 10% of permitted facilities/ sites	Inspect 10% of permitted facilities/ sites
Process permittee submittals in a timely and consistent manner	Review requests for changes of information and notices of termination within two weeks; upon receipt of complete applications, process changes of information and notices of termination in accordance with processing guidelines	Review requests for changes of information and notices of termination within two weeks; upon receipt of complete applications, process changes of information and notices of termination in accordance with processing guidelines
Support efforts to continuously improve the program	Provide regional input to State Water Board staff for permit reissuance	Provide regional input to State Water Board staff for permit reissuance

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
CREEK, WETLAND, AND BAY HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM		
Review and process applications in a timely and consistent manner	Issue 401 Certifications in under 60 days for small projects and under one year for large, complex projects Participate on the mitigation banking interagency review team to review mitigation banks that will provide mitigation credits for project impacts Enroll projects under the SF Bay In-Lieu Fee Program to provide wetland and waters mitigation credits for project impacts Issue maintenance WDRs to the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency for its Habitat Plan	Issue 401 Certifications in under 60 days for small projects and under one year for large, complex projects Participate on the mitigation banking interagency review team to review mitigation banks that will provide mitigation credits for project impacts Enroll projects under the SF Bay In-Lieu Fee Program to provide wetland and waters mitigation credits for project impacts Review Overwater Structures General Order and update as needed
Provide support to projects that involve significant climate change risks	Participate in multi-agency meetings to inform the San Francisco Waterfront Resilience Program and the draft San Francisco Waterfront Flood Study	Participate in multi-agency meetings to inform the San Francisco Waterfront Resilience Program and the draft San Francisco Waterfront Flood Study
Implement and update existing stream maintenance authorizations for Bay Area flood management agencies	Update programmatic stream maintenance authorization for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	Update programmatic stream maintenance authorization for Marin County Reissue programmatic stream maintenance authorization for the Santa Clara Valley Water District
Participate in the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) to improve alignment among regulatory agencies for permit-driven monitoring requirements	Participate in multi-agency meetings to inform the WRMP's goals to improve alignment on permit monitoring requirements Work with San Francisco Estuary Partnership and San Francisco Estuary Institute to draft a proposal to incorporate the WRMP into U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Water Board, and Bay Conservation and Development Commission permits	Incorporate WRMP monitoring into Water Board dredge and fill permits Present proposal to incorporate the WRMP into dredge and fill permits to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bay Conservation and Development Commission Assist WRMP with data collection
Participate on the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) team to facilitate timely issuance of Certifications and permits for multi-benefit habitat restoration projects and flood management projects funded by Measure AA	Continue to participate in BRRIT to support timely issuance of authorizations for Bay restoration projects	Continue to participate in BRRIT to support timely issuance of authorizations for Bay restoration projects

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
DREDGING PROGRAM		
Promote the beneficial reuse of dredged sediment	Partner with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to implement maintenance dredging in a manner that maximizes beneficial reuse of dredged sediment in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations Partner with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to scope, plan, and implement a second nearshore strategic placement project to study the efficacy of beneficially reusing dredged sediment to increase shoreline resiliency Issue 401 Certifications for mid-sized and small dredgers	Issue 401 Certifications for second U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nearshore strategic placement project and beneficial reuse pilot projects anticipated from Army Corps or other dredgers Issue 401 Certifications for mid-sized and small dredgers
LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM		
Update Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) as necessary, including to address PFAS	Issue or update WDRs to meet State Water Board performance metrics Require additional PFAS investigations as needed as follow up to State Water Board PFAS Order	Issue or update WDRs to meet State Water Board performance metrics Issue general WDRs for closed landfills, if appropriate Require additional PFAS investigations as needed as follow up to State Water Board PFAS Order
Oversee redevelopment of closed landfills for commercial and recreational purposes	Review and comment on documents that pertain to aspects of development to ensure the protection of water quality, human health, and the environment	Review and comment on documents that pertain to aspects of development to ensure the protection of water quality, human health, and the environment
Require facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise to plan for expected flooding and inundation due to climate change	Review and comment on five-year updates to long-term flood protection plans to ensure adequate long-term planning and compliance with applicable requirements	Review and comment on five-year updates to long-term flood protection plans to ensure adequate long-term planning and compliance with applicable requirements

REGULATE

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
AGRICULTURAL LANDS PROGRAMS		
Enroll and support permittee compliance under Confined Animal Facilities (CAF) Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)	Update the program website and develop educational fact sheets and guidance materials for new enrollees Manage CAF program for all dairies and other CAFs in impaired watershed via report review, non-filer follow-up, interagency coordination, compliance assistance, and enforcement	Enhance GIS data and analyses for the CAF Program by updating GIS layers for future spatial analyses, including prioritizing water quality threats, targeting inspections, and documenting improvements Manage CAF program for all dairies and other CAFs in impaired watershed via report review, non-filer follow-up, interagency coordination, compliance assistance, and enforcement
Maintain inspection presence for all programs	Inspect at least 10 grazing operations and 6 CAF operations Inspect 1 high-risk outdoor cannabis operation and participate in multi-agency illegal grow abatement efforts	Inspect at least 10 grazing operations and 6 CAF operations Inspect 1 high-risk outdoor cannabis operation and participate in multi-agency illegal grow abatement efforts
Enroll and support permittee compliance under Grazing Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)	Continue new enrollee outreach and support for Ranch Water Quality Plan (RWQP) development, including at least one educational workshop	Enhance GIS data and analyses for the Grazing Program by updating GIS layers for future spatial analyses, including prioritizing water quality threats, targeting inspections, and documenting improvements
Manage existing grants	Manage 4-5 Nonpoint Source Program grants, facilitate new grant proposals, and participate in statewide grant selection process	Manage 5-6 Nonpoint Source Program grants, facilitate new grant proposals, and participate in statewide grant selection process

CLEAN UP

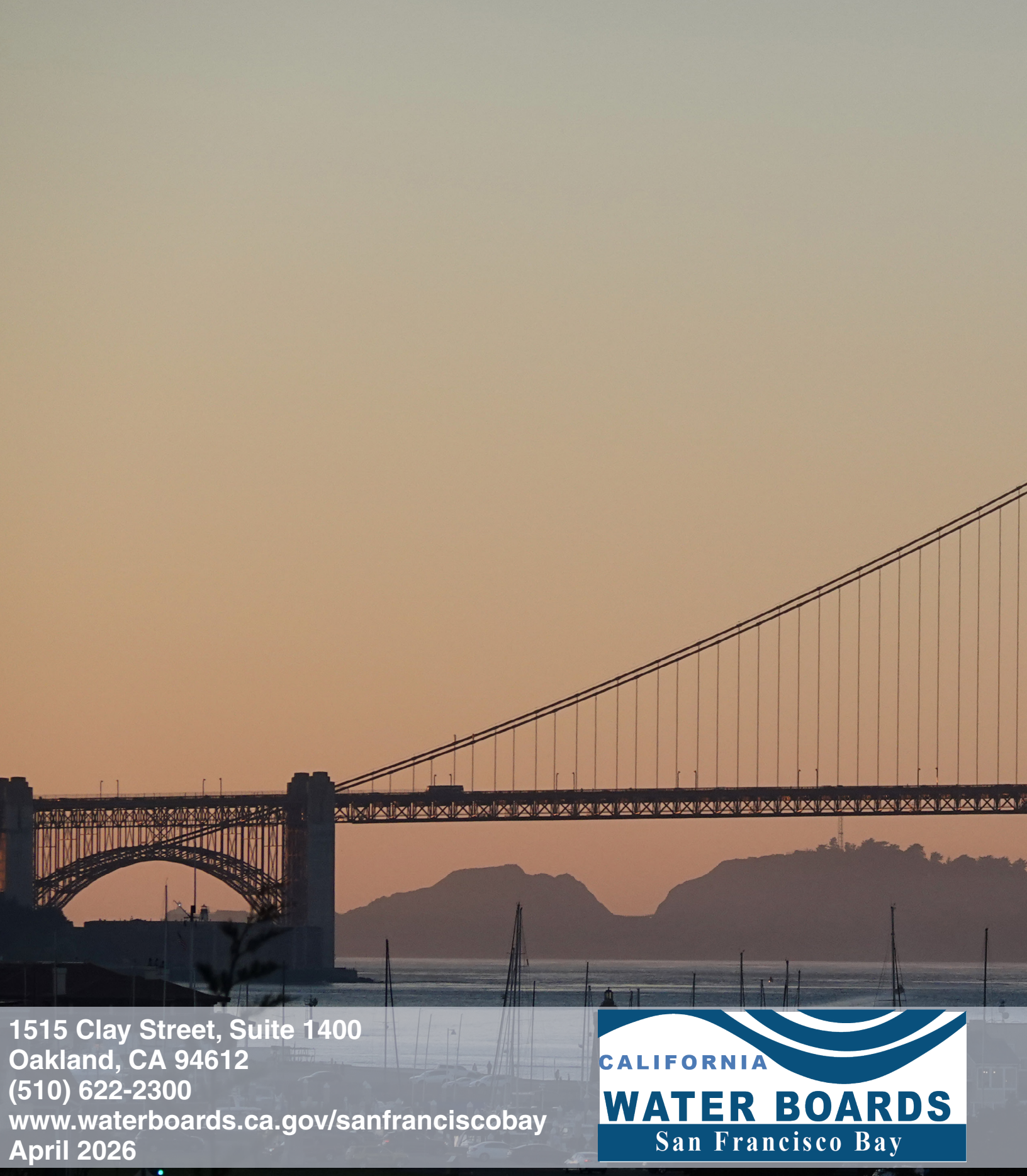
PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
SITE CLEANUP AND UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAMS		
Prioritize cleanup cases and undertake regulatory actions to promptly address contaminant sources, migration, and exposures (e.g., vapor intrusion, supply well impacts, discharges to surface water) to protect water quality, human health, and the environment	Continue prioritizing cases based on threat and environmental justice factors to control sources, migration, and exposures Prioritize enforcement actions for cleanup sites in violation of order requirements or where a significant source, migration, or exposure is uncontrolled	Continue prioritizing cases based on threat and environmental justice factors to control sources, migration, and exposures Continue prioritizing enforcement actions for cleanup sites in violation of order requirements or where a significant source, migration, or exposure is uncontrolled
Ensure potential adverse impacts from sea level rise and groundwater rise are evaluated and addressed at cleanup sites	Continue requiring sea level rise and groundwater rise vulnerability assessments at potentially vulnerable sites during the lifecycle of a case and at the time of closure to ensure remedies remain protective Continue tracking cleanup sites where vulnerability assessments have been required and performed Continue to coordinate with State Board regarding statewide efforts	Continue requiring sea level rise and groundwater rise vulnerability assessments at potentially vulnerable sites during the lifecycle of a case and at the time of closure to ensure remedies remain protective Continue tracking cleanup sites where vulnerability assessments have been required and performed Continue to coordinate with State Board regarding statewide efforts
Assess, investigate, and clean up PCBs discharges at upland source properties, in downstream creeks, and in-Bay sediment hotspots	Coordinate with stormwater program staff to evaluate available data to identify potential upland source properties Require potential upland source properties to sample soil and sediment that could indicate a PCBs discharge Require investigation and cleanup of upland source properties where evidence of PCBs discharge is found Coordinate with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, municipalities, and other state agencies to improve cleanup progress Evaluate effectiveness of cleanup activities in support of the PCBs TMDL update	Require investigation and cleanup of upland source properties where evidence of PCBs discharge is found Evaluate connection between upland source properties and contaminated sediment in downstream creeks and in-Bay hotspots Consider options to require cleanup of contaminated sediment in creeks and in-Bay hotspots Continue coordinating with state and local agencies to conduct additional source tracing sampling in storm drains, catch basins, and in-Bay sediment

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
SITE CLEANUP AND UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAMS		
Apply environmental justice (EJ) lens to inform cleanup priorities	Identify and implement regulatory actions for active cases in EJ communities to reduce pollution risks and threats Prioritize backlogged (i.e., inactive) cases in EJ communities based on risks and threats for regulatory action Track regulatory actions for cases in EJ communities Respond to questions and feedback from interested EJ advocates, organizations, and tribes about our regulatory actions at cleanup sites in their communities and historical lands Continue to coordinate with the State Board, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to distribute information about grants and resources available for site investigation and cleanup	Identify and implement regulatory actions for active cases in EJ communities to reduce pollution risks and threats Prioritize backlogged (i.e., inactive) cases in EJ communities based on risks and threats for regulatory action Track regulatory actions for cases in EJ communities Respond to questions and feedback from interested EJ advocates, organizations, and tribes about our regulatory actions at cleanup sites in their communities and historical lands Continue to coordinate with the State Board, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to distribute information about grants and resources available for site investigation and cleanup
Assess potential PFAS discharges and initiate cleanup	Continue to identify and prioritize investigation of suspect PFAS discharge facilities and require cleanup and abatement Prioritize enforcement actions for sites in violation of order requirements Coordinate actions with the Division of Drinking Water and local water supply agencies	Continue to identify and prioritize investigation of suspect PFAS discharge facilities and require cleanup and abatement Prioritize enforcement actions for sites in violation of order requirements Coordinate actions with the Division of Drinking Water and local water supply agencies

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY26/27 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY27/28 TARGETS & MILESTONES
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND ENERGY PROGRAM		
Ensure the investigation and cleanup of the Region's former and active Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Energy (DoE) facilities to protect water quality, human health, and the environment prior to property transfer	Facilitate timely site investigation and cleanup by reviewing and commenting on draft, draft final, and final documents in accordance with federal schedules Actively participate in resolving formal disputes to expedite site cleanups	Facilitate timely site investigation and cleanup by reviewing and commenting on draft, draft final, and final documents in accordance with federal schedules Actively participate in resolving formal disputes to expedite site cleanups
Apply environmental justice lens to inform priorities	Commit staff and management resources to attend community meetings in the Hunters Point neighborhood in San Francisco and at other facilities	Commit staff and management resources to attend community meetings in the Hunters Point neighborhood in San Francisco and at other facilities
Address potential adverse impacts from climate change, such as sea level rise and groundwater rise	Advocate for the evaluation of climate change effects to ensure remedies remain protective	Advocate for the evaluation of climate change effects to ensure remedies remain protective

ENFORCE

PROGRAM Priority Action
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
Our enforcement priority is to prosecute violations that cause significant harm to water quality or program integrity, targeting particularly culpable or recalcitrant parties. Cases may include the following: • Unauthorized discharges • Discharges that result in fish kills or other acute aquatic impacts • Illegal fill of streams or wetlands, including violation at permitted stream or wetland projects • Violations of site cleanup requirements • Violations of construction, industrial, and municipal stormwater permits We will also continue to maintain a near-zero backlog of mandatory minimum penalty assessments and will assist emergency response and recovery efforts associated with spills, wildfires, and vessels.



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