

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Strategic Workplan Overview

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.

WHAT WE DO

We protect and restore surface water and groundwater, including sources of drinking water, by regulating discharges from industrial, commercial, municipal, agricultural, and other sources. We implement multiple water quality programs and policies aimed at achieving our mission and addressing complex issues, such as climate change adaptation, sea level rise, racial equity, and environmental justice. Our water quality programs are organized under four categories presented below. We also implement overarching organizational activities that cut across numerous programs and align with the State Water Board's and our Board's priorities.



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.



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 clean up activities based on laws, regulations, plans, and policies so sites are remediated to protect public health and the environment.



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.



ENFORCE

We enforce the pollution control and clean up requirements that are established for discharges and contaminated sites with the goal of achieving compliance with requirements to protect water quality. When warranted, we assess financial penalties.

By the Numbers

200	Creek, Wetland, & Bay Habitat Protection water quality certifications per year
83	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits
58	Recycled Water Programs and Projects
2,200	Permitted Industrial Facilities
1,500	Permitted Construction Sites
67	Regulated Landfills
829	Site Cleanup Cases
411	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.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY

We prioritize program activities to protect water quality and beneficial water uses in communities who have experienced historical racism and environmental injustices.



WORKFORCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Photo below: Our staff gathered at our annual field trip at the former naval air station in Alameda



COLLABORATION

We actively participate at the local, state, and national levels with regulatory agencies, publicly owned treatments works, professional organizations, cities, counties, and academic and other science institutions to protect water quality and San Francisco Bay.

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.

LEARN MORE

Our Strategic Workplan, available on our website, outlines our priorities and specific targets and milestones to measure our progress in advancing and achieving our mission. It is intended to provide an overview of what we do and to create transparency about our work to the public we serve. It also guides staff in setting priorities and allocating resources.

Visit our website:
waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay