

3.1 COUNTY WATERSHED ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

Watershed Management Division staff working within each of the county watershed management areas are responsible for certain core regulatory programs (water quality certifications, stormwater NPDES, non-chapter 15 Waste Discharge Requirements) and some nonpoint source program areas. In addition, Planning and TMDL Division staff implement nonpoint source activities (with a major focus on TMDL implementation), oversee 319(h) and some state bond-funded grants, provide technical guidance on specific watershed projects, and conduct public outreach and education efforts. Increasingly our focus is on developing general permits and waivers as appropriate, as well as seeking opportunities to coordinate permit reissuance on a watershed basis.

As noted in the Regional Activities Section 2.0 above, our Groundwater Protection and Toxics Cleanup Division staffs work on site cleanups of polluted groundwater, landfills, underground tank programs and cleanups at Department of Defense and Department of Energy sites. The NPDES Division addresses permit reissuance and compliance of large facilities in the Region.

The following sections describe the geography, land uses, and ecology of county watershed areas; discuss the significant water quality issues; describe existing watershed planning and stakeholder activities; and provide a general list for the next two years of the major activities in our staff workplans for each of the counties. These sections also include a list of some of the major unfunded activities of importance in each county and Water Board grant priorities for each county. Each section includes a regional map, based on the 1995 Basin Plan watershed boundaries, that includes the major watersheds and sub-watersheds discussed in the County section.