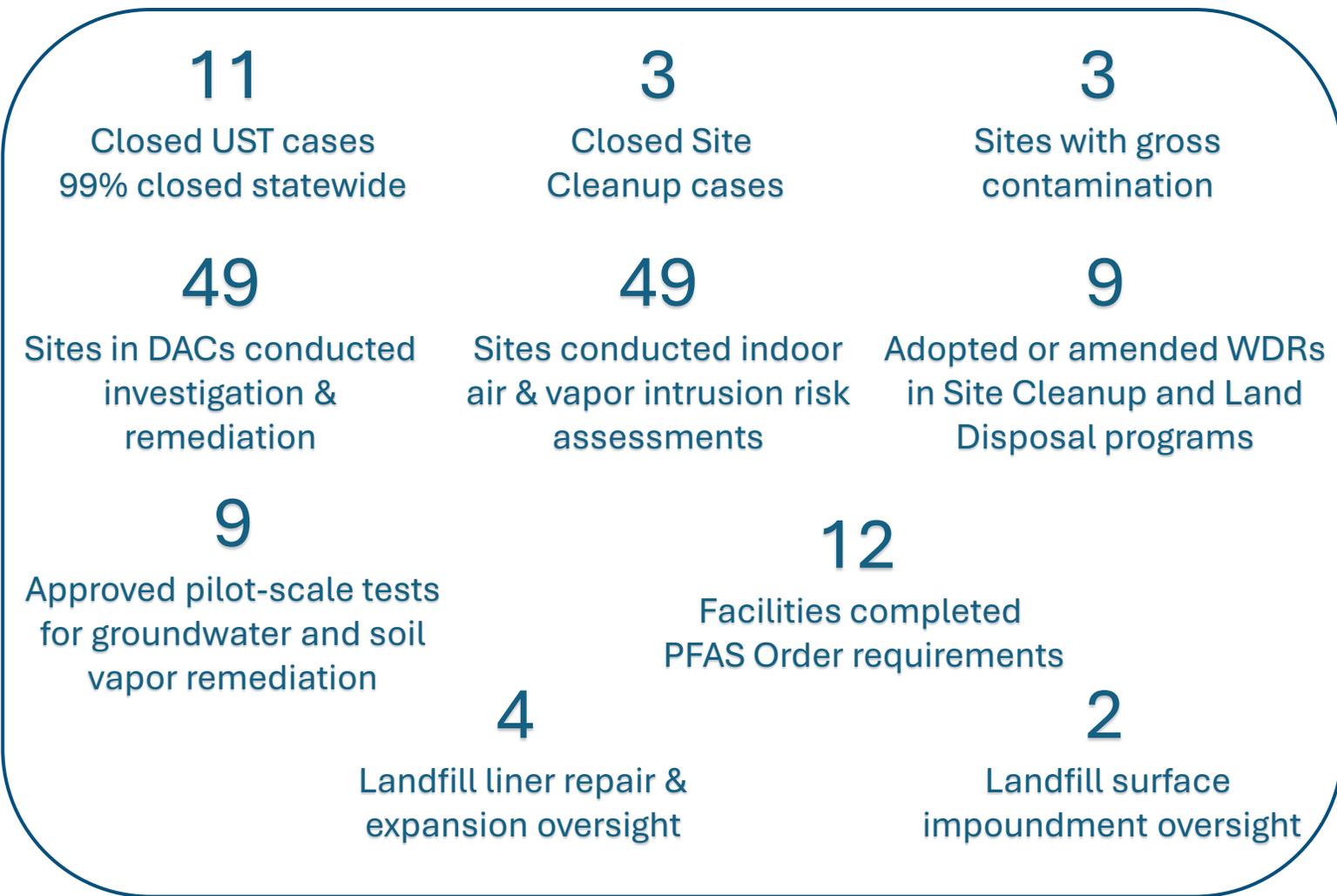




Groundwater Protection Branch – The Groundwater Protection Branch achieved major progress in 2025 across its Site Cleanup, Underground Storage Tank (UST), Land Disposal, and Department of Defense (DoD) programs. Key accomplishments include closing contaminated sites, advancing cleanup and vapor intrusion mitigation in disadvantaged communities (DACs), expanding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) investigations, strengthening regulatory oversight through new Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) and pilot tests, accelerating underground storage tank cleanup and environmental justice initiatives, overseeing critical landfill infrastructure improvements, and completing key PFAS and vapor treatment upgrades at DoD facilities.





CALIFORNIA

WATER BOARDS

2025

Santa Ana - R8

Accomplishments

Surface Water and Agriculture Branch – The Surface Water and Agriculture Branch includes the Region’s Wastewater, Recycled Water, General Stormwater (SW), and Agriculture (ILRP) & Cannabis programs. Programs in the Surface Water and Agriculture Branch have the most interaction with public agencies and private property owners, with issuing discharge permits and non-compliance penalties as their top activities. In 2025, programs such as General Stormwater and Cannabis were among the leaders in the state for the number of inspections conducted by staff and the number of enforcement actions taken per capita. The following is a snapshot of accomplishments for staff in different programs during the past year.

\$1,147,506	686	2,720	2,737
In SW enforcement penalties	SW inspections	SW violations identified	SW enforcement actions taken

\$438,271	59	33	34
In cannabis enforcement penalties	Cannabis inspections	New cannabis enrollments	Cannabis enforcement actions taken

48	7	9	2
Wastewater & Recycled Water inspections	Wastewater Notices of Applicability issued	OWTS approval letters issued	Sanitary Sewer Overflow enforcement actions

100	4
New acres enrolled in the ILRP	ILRP inspections

9	15
Dairy Program inspections	Dairy Program enforcement actions



Regional Planning, Permitting, and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development and Implementation Branch (Planning) –

Across all sections, the Planning Branch integrates planning, permitting, restoration target development, and compliance enforcement to protect beneficial uses, improve watershed health, and support resilient water management throughout the Santa Ana Region. Key accomplishments in 2025 include adopting two TMDLs and securing funding for invasive species control in Newport Bay.

\$750,000	78	29	11
In funding secured for Newport Bay Caulerpa control	Water Quality Certification Applications processed	Water Quality Certifications/WDR Orders Issued	Notices of Applicability Issued

ADOPTED

Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL

ADOPTED

Newport Bay Copper TMDL (State Board)

MONITORING

Freshwater harmful algal blooms & ambient river monitoring

TMDL Implementation

- Selenium Best Management Practice Strategic Plan conditionally accepted.
- Approved alternative Waste Load Allocation compliance methodology.
- Completed Phase II MS4 waiver reviews.