

# California State Water Resources Control Board Grazing Survey

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is developing a non-regulatory guidance document on livestock grazing in California. The purpose of the document is to promote effective grazing management practices through education and information and to describe the roles and requirements of the Water Boards in addressing water quality. The document will also serve to update the California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan (CRWQMP), which was written in 1995.

The State Water Board developed a survey to help develop the non-regulatory guidance document on grazing in California. As a stakeholder with experience and knowledge on grazing and the environment, your answers to the questions will help the State Water Board develop a meaningful document that will eventually assist landowners and land managers conduct grazing operations with less impact to water quality and better understand the Water Boards' role in grazing management. The survey contains nine questions, all of which are optional. Thank you for your valuable time to complete the survey!

**This survey closed on July 22, 2020.**

1. What information would you like included regarding grazing and water quality in the State Water Board guidance document?
2. How does grazing impact (positively or negatively) water quality, ground water supplies, and ecological health, and in what context? Please suggest some impacts that should be discussed, focusing on grazed lands in California. Where available, please include in your response reference to peer reviewed literature that supports your feedback.
3. Please list/describe best management practices or techniques that are effective at minimizing water quality impacts from grazing. Are there any grazing management practices that your experience suggests are ineffective at reducing impacts to water quality, and why?
4. What are the biggest challenges to implementing best management practices that protect water quality on grazed lands?
5. Please identify specific peer-reviewed journal studies that you are aware of that address the environmental benefits of water quality management practices in grazing operations and/or the economic impacts of water quality management practices on grazing.
6. Are there differences between grazing management practices on private rangelands and federal lands that should be considered or explained in the grazing guidance?

7. We would like to establish a California Grazing Water Quality Partnership with interested stakeholders to continue to develop contemporary, proactive statewide grazing lands water quality protection strategies. How could this partnership be structured, and how often should this partnership meet? What are potential discussion topics for partnership meetings?
8. How can the Water Boards best work with you? How can the guidance document best support you in working with the Water Boards?