



San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Strategic Workplan

May 2024

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Strategic Workplan

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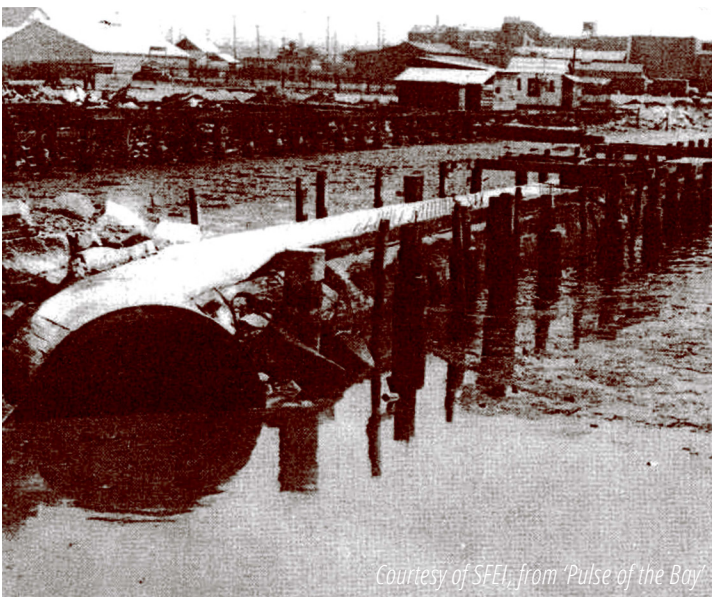


LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board protects and restores waterways and groundwater for the benefit of the people of California. We do this by regulating discharges from industrial, commercial, municipal, agricultural, and other sources and by developing and overseeing water quality programs and policies. We implement a regulatory program that is collaborative, that has a strong scientific basis, and is appropriately flexible in achieving beneficial water quality outcomes.

In 2022, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, which provides the legal and regulatory framework for protecting water quality. Before the Clean Water Act was passed in 1972, industrial pollutants and sewage were being dumped into waterways throughout the nation, resulting in significant impacts to human and environmental health, including epidemic disease and fish kills, and in notable cases causing rivers to catch fire. The Clean Water Act established the structure for regulating pollution in surface waters throughout the United States and initiated a greater understanding of our collective role as environmental stewards.

In 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court's Sackett decision significantly reduced the scope of the surface waters protected by the Clean Water Act and diminished the federal government's ability to protect rivers, streams, creeks, and wetlands throughout California, including the Bay Area. Although we are extremely disappointed in the decision and the adverse impacts it will have nationally, it does not weaken California's more stringent protections of surface waters, including wetlands. Under the state's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the State Water Board retains regulatory authority for protecting the water quality of California's nearly 1.6 million acres of lakes, 1.3 million acres of bays and estuaries, 211,000 miles of rivers and streams, 1,100 miles of coastline, and groundwater.



Courtesy of SFEI, from "Pulse of the Bay"



Courtesy of Shira Bezalel

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



Courtesy of SFEI, from 'Pulse of the Bay'
Courtesy of Shira Bezalet
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 were a reminder that our work is not complete. As the largest estuary on the west coast, San Francisco Bay, one of the country's iconic water bodies, provides habitat for vibrant populations of fish and wildlife and recreation for over seven million people living in the Bay Area. The Bay faces new and ongoing water quality challenges from climate change, contaminants of emerging concern, urban and agricultural runoff pollution, and runoff from contaminated sites. We address those 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.

The Strategic Workplan is a roadmap that guides the Water Board in achieving its 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 advance environmental justice, racial equity, and climate change resilience. While the work of the Water Board and our partners has 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



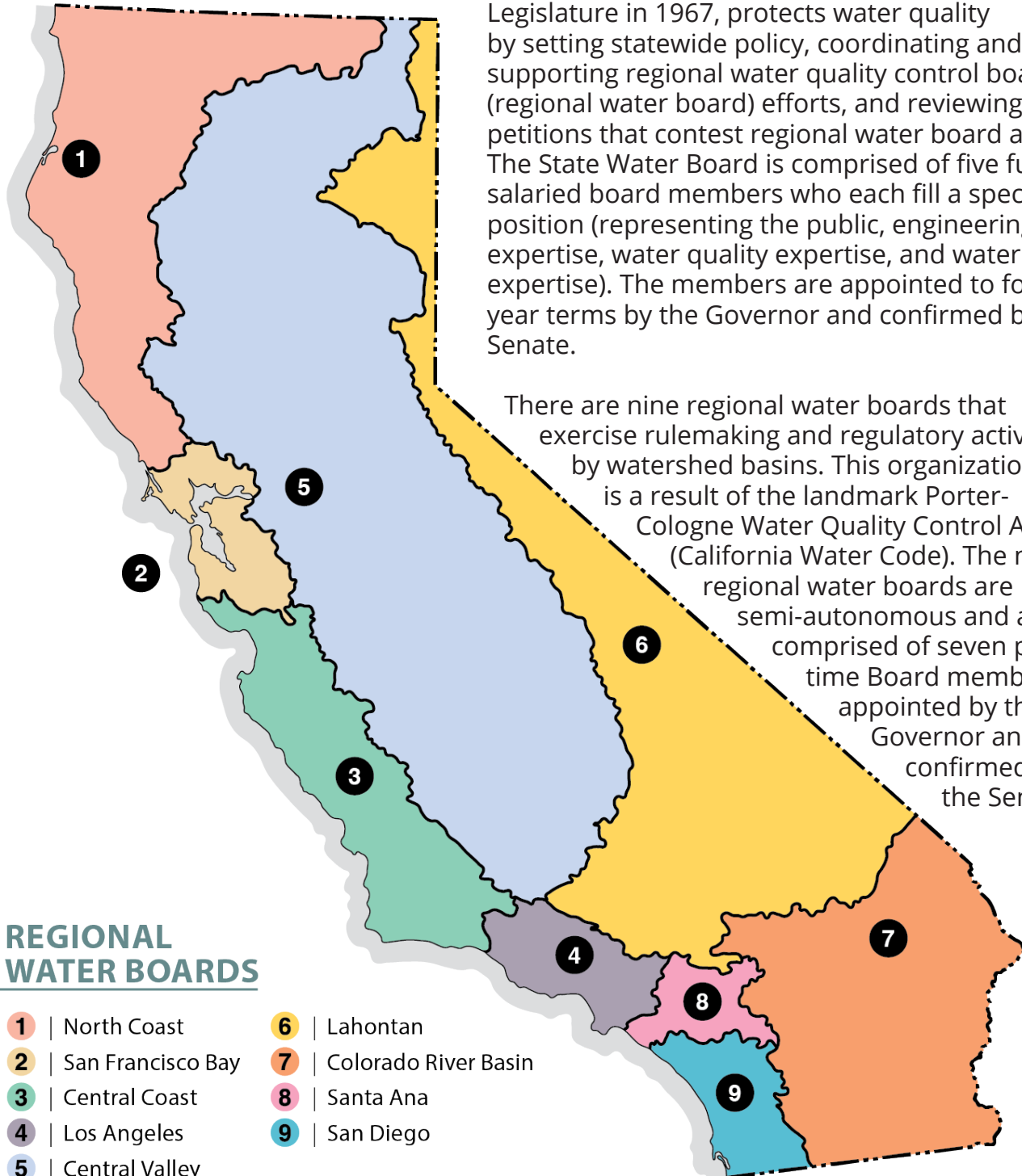
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WATER BOARDS OVERVIEW

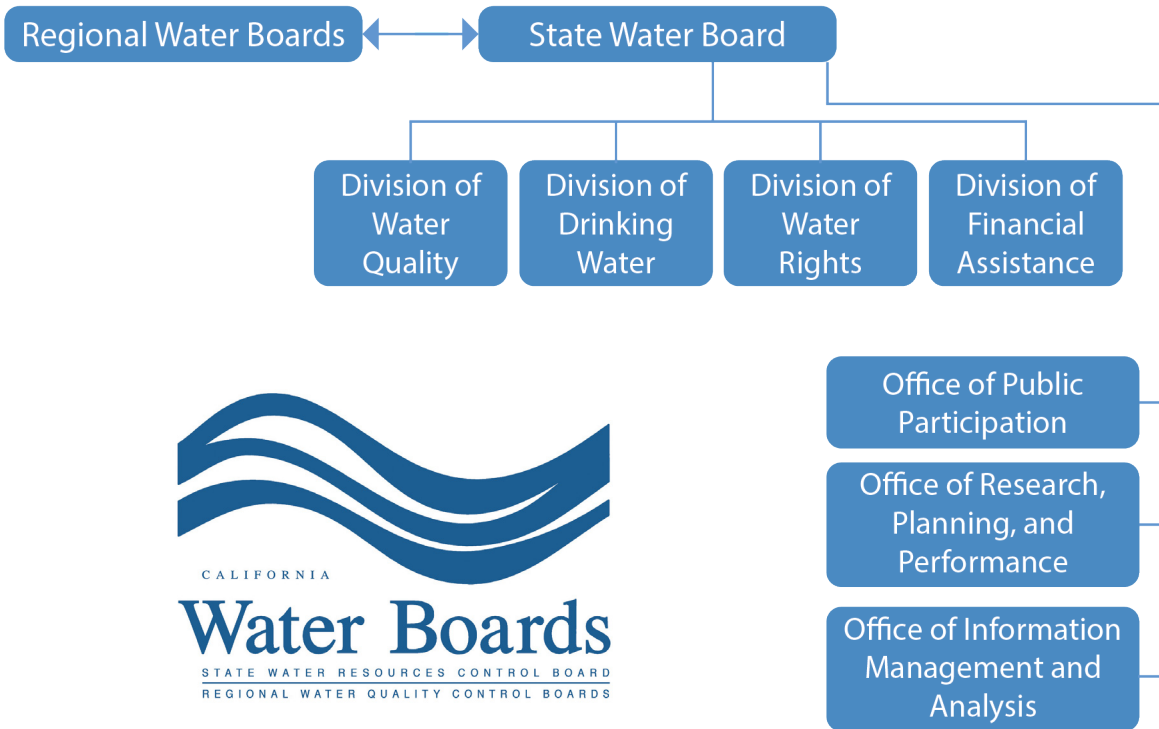
The California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), created by the State Legislature in 1967, protects water quality by setting statewide policy, coordinating and supporting regional water quality control board (regional water board) efforts, and reviewing petitions that contest regional 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 (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.





California Environmental Protection Agency



The State Water Board and the regional water boards (collectively the Water Boards) are housed within State government and are part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

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



STRATEGIC WORKPLAN OVERVIEW

The Strategic Workplan outlines our priorities and specific targets and milestones to measure our progress in advancing and achieving our priorities. 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.

The Workplan reaffirms our mission and describes our overarching organizational priorities that we strive to incorporate into all our work. It outlines what we do and the programs we implement to serve the public and protect water quality (pages 12-25). It presents our performance measures and targets, as well as our priorities by program and associated targets or milestones for each priority (pages 26-41).

The Strategic Workplan is dynamic, enabling us to respond to future challenges and changing priorities. It will be reviewed annually to incorporate the next fiscal year’s performance targets and updated on a bi-annual basis. It will also be used to report out on annual achievements.

COLLABORATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE

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.



Photo above: 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 collaborate with the local cities and counties, wastewater agencies, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, Bay Area Municipal Stormwater Collaborative, San Francisco Estuary Institute, San Francisco Baykeeper, Save the Bay, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Bay Planning Coalition, the Bay Area Regional Collaborative, the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, the Bay Area One Water Network, and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership.

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, California Environmental Protection Agency and its

Departments, such as the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Department of Pesticide Regulation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, and many other state and national organizations.

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.

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



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 Board's initiatives. Our highest priority organizational activities include implementing climate actions, advancing racial equity and addressing environmental justice, and advancing our workforce planning and development efforts.

Our water quality programs are organized under four categories presented below: 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).



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.

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
69	Regulated Landfills
630	Site Cleanup Cases
205	Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Cases
300	Military Cleanup Sites



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.



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.



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. We focus on protecting and restoring groundwater for drinking water and other beneficial uses.



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 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. This is the Triennial Review, occurring in 2024.

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 24 TMDLs.



*Photo to right:
Seagulls at Venice Beach,
covered by the Pillar Point
Harbor and Venice Beach
Bacterial TMDL*

Courtesy of Jay Davis



*Photo to left:
Staff from Surface
Water Ambient
Monitoring Program
measure water
temperature in
Coyote Creek*

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; (3) supporting TMDL development; and (4) providing background information for permits. 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.

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.



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 stakeholders. 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 stakeholders.



Photo to right: Gallinas Creek, inundated during a king tide, one of the many wetlands that will be monitored by the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program



*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

As many wastewater collection and treatment systems and flood management systems are aging beyond their intended lifetimes, significant investments in infrastructure renewal are needed to maintain existing performance. To improve wastewater treatment, we encourage infrastructure renewal that includes "green" solutions such as nature-based solutions (e.g., wetlands) and wastewater recycling. This type of infrastructure renewal can provide multiple benefits (e.g., nutrient removal, protection against sea level rise, 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.



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 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.



*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*



General NPDES Permits

We issued six general NPDES permits that cover roughly 100 facilities. These permits cover discharges of groundwater treated to remove fuels and volatile organic compounds, and brackish extracted groundwater, filter backwash water from potable water treatment systems; and discharges from public fireworks displays, dry docks, aggregate mining, sand washing, and sand offloading facilities.

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

We oversee compliance with general WDRs the State Water Board has issued for sanitary sewer collection systems.

Pretreatment Program

The Clean Water Act requires municipal wastewater treatment facilities with discharges above 5 million gallons per day 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, comment on U.S. EPA pesticide registration activities that could affect water quality, and sponsor a pharmaceutical take-back bin in the lobby of the State Office Building at 1515 Clay Street in Oakland.



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 have delegated oversight of most OWTS to counties under memoranda of understanding, but must update 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 below: Wastewater pond at Olema campground





*Photo to left:
SIMS Metal Management
Redwood City, a scrap
metal shredding facility
covered under the Industrial
Stormwater Program*

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. 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 1,200-1,500 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.



REGULATE

CREEK, WETLAND, & 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 permits 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.



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 landfills (such as those found at refineries and chemical manufacturing plants). We oversee 11 active landfills and 58 closed landfills.

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 base liners, covers, environmental monitoring, and cleanup when necessary. We prepare WDRs and include provisions that require dischargers 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.



*Photos from left to right:
Potrero Hills Landfill
in Fairfield, covered
under the Land Disposal
Program*

*A dairy cow from Drake's
View, covered under
the Agricultural Lands
Program*

AGRICULTURAL LANDS PROGRAMS

Our Agricultural Lands Programs (ALPs) consist of five programs, Non-point Source (NPS) and Grants, Vineyards, Grazing, Cannabis, and Confined Animal Facilities. We currently manage over 12 federal NPS grants to address NPS pollution and implement TMDLs. The Vineyard Program implements the Napa River and Sonoma

Creek sediment TMDLs. Through 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 the Conditional Waivers of WDRs in the Tomales Bay, Napa River, and Sonoma Creek 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. It implements the general WDRs for all types of confined animal facilities.

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.



CLEAN UP

The discharge of pollutants can contaminate the 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 act as long-term continuing sources of groundwater pollution, leaching into the groundwater for years where it is not feasible to excavate. 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 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 from 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.

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.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP PROGRAM

Petroleum underground storage tanks (USTs) can leak petroleum and other hazardous substances into soil and groundwater, posing a risk to drinking water quality and human health. We oversee the investigation and cleanup of UST cases and support various local agencies that also oversee UST cases. We currently oversee 205 UST cases.

Photo below: Excavation at the Phillips 66 Line 200 site, a Site Cleanup Program site



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



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND ENERGY PROGRAM

We oversee cleanup at 16 former and active Department of Defense (DoD) facilities consisting of about 300 individual cleanup sites and 60 privatized sites that have been transferred from the military to State or other local entities for redevelopment or reuse. 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. Our regulatory focus includes soil and groundwater contamination, stormwater and surface water discharges, and contaminated sediments. 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. 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.



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 and actions (page 26)

Priorities by program and the associated targets or milestones (pages 27-40)

Performance measures and targets, tracked by the State Water Board (page 41)

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY

Priority Action

CLIMATE ACTION

Participate in multi-agency and stakeholder 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 sites to conduct climate vulnerability assessments and prepare adaption plans

Coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other stakeholders 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	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
BASIN PLANNING		
Implement the Climate Change and Wetland Policy Basin Plan amendment	<p>Secure Office of Administrative Law approval</p> <p>Implement outreach strategy to inform regulated community</p>	<p>Assess potential future regulatory Basin Plan Amendment to further address climate change impacts on wetlands</p>
Designate Tribal Tradition and Culture and Tribal Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses in the Basin Plan	<p>Draft Staff Report and Basin Plan Amendment for designating Tribal Tradition and Culture Beneficial Use</p> <p>Conduct formal AB 52 consultation with tribes</p>	<p>Bring Basin Plan Amendment designating Tribal Tradition and Culture Beneficial Use to Board for adoption</p> <p>Initiate development of subsistence fishing survey to inform Tribal Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Use</p>
Develop Climate Change and Riparian Area Protection Policy	<p>Review and document the science pertaining to climate change effects on riparian and creek ecosystems</p> <p>Assess regulatory options for protecting riparian and creek beneficial uses</p> <p>Participate in technical advisory group for EPA-funded Sediment Solutions Project assessing current and future hydrologic and geomorphic conditions in the Petaluma River watershed</p> <p>Manage contract with San Francisco Estuary Institute to assess current and future riparian conditions in the Petaluma River watershed</p>	<p>Issue and manage contract with San Francisco Estuary Institute to identify potential climate adaptation measures to protect beneficial uses in the Petaluma River watershed</p> <p>Issue and manage contract to map riparian areas in the San Francisco Bay region</p>
Support tools to understand Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Use	<p>Finish development subsistence fishing survey</p>	<p>Pilot test the newly developed subsistence fishing consumption survey with one community group</p>
Triennial Review	<p>Review the Basin Plan</p> <p>Prepare and recommend a prioritized list of amendments to the Basin Plan to address water quality policy needs</p> <p>Solicit input from stakeholders on Proposed list of Basin Plan amendments</p> <p>Bring Triennial Review before the Board for approval</p>	

PLAN AND ASSESS

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
INTEGRATED REPORT AND TMDLS		
Develop high priority TMDLs	<p>Complete monitoring for the San Mateo Bay Beaches TMDL</p> <p>Develop and begin implementing monitoring strategy for Lake Merritt low dissolved oxygen TMDL alternative</p>	<p>Bring San Mateo Bay Beaches TMDL to Board for adoption</p> <p>Issue and manage contract for a Technical Advisory Committee and monitoring to support Lake Merritt low dissolved oxygen TMDL alternative</p>
Develop Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) TMDL revision strategy	Oversee data collection, modeling, and analysis for PCBs TMDL reopening/revision	Oversee data collection, modeling, and analysis for PCBs TMDL reopening/revision
Communicate TMDL water quality outcomes to the public	Publish TMDL water quality report cards, update TMDL websites for current projects	Publish TMDL water quality report cards, update TMDL websites for current projects

PLAN AND ASSESS

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM		
Monitor in support of the TMDL Program	<p>Collect data to support impairment assessment for low dissolved oxygen in Suisun Creek</p> <p>Collect nutrient and dissolved oxygen data to support Lake Merritt low dissolved oxygen TMDL alternative.</p>	Support future TMDL projects
Collect Nutrient data to inform the Statewide Biostimulatory Policy	Continue to collect nutrient samples across non-impacted streams to support realistic expectation for nutrient levels in Bay Area streams. Participate in Statewide biostimulatory policy meetings	Participate in Statewide biostimulatory policy meetings
Strengthen relationships with underrepresented communities	Continue key monitoring and education outreach with underrepresented communities	Continue key monitoring and education outreach with underrepresented communities
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	<p>Participate in forums to encourage infrastructure renewal that provides multiple benefits</p> <p>Facilitate infrastructure renewal through other permit-related tasks</p>	<p>Participate in forums to encourage infrastructure renewal that provides multiple benefits</p> <p>Facilitate infrastructure renewal through other permit-related tasks</p>
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 and work to develop load allocations for municipal wastewater treatment plants that are protective of San Francisco Bay	Coordinate with the Nutrient Management Strategy to study the Bay's response to nutrient loads under different scenarios and work to develop load allocations for municipal wastewater treatment plants that are protective of San Francisco Bay
Understand and control potential water quality impacts of contaminants of emerging concern	Work through the Regional Monitoring Program's Emerging Contaminants Workgroup to identify potential impacts of constituents of emerging concern on water quality	Work through 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	

REGULATE

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
WASTEWATER DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATERS		
Reissue NPDES permits every five years and maintain our backlog of expired permits below 17 percent	Reissue 14 permits	Reissue 14 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	
Understand and control effects of nutrients discharges	Track each discharger's progress and regional coordination to comply with Nutrients Watershed Permit requirements as soon as possible	Track each discharger's progress and regional coordination to comply with Nutrients Watershed Permit requirements as soon as possible
	Identify how further reductions can be achieved, particularly through water recycling and nature-based solutions, including long-term multi-benefit solutions	Identify how further reductions can be achieved, particularly through water recycling and nature-based solutions, including long-term multi-benefit solutions
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	Enroll at least 10 wineries under the Winery General Order	Enroll at least 10 wineries under the Winery General Order
	Conduct follow-up with wineries that failed to enroll in 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	Transition at least 2 individual WDRs to general WDRs (or update individual WDRs as appropriate); include conditions in updated permits to address potential effects of climate change on wastewater systems as appropriate	Transition at least 2 individual WDRs to general WDRs (or update individual WDRs as appropriate); include conditions in updated permits to address potential effects of climate change on wastewater systems as appropriate
	Inspect 12 facilities and conduct appropriate follow-up actions	Inspect 12 facilities and conduct appropriate follow-up actions

REGULATE

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PROGRAM		
Reduce trash discharges	<p>Conduct inspections to verify trash control effectiveness, including both trash capture devices and on-land cleanup</p> <p>Continue to work with Permittees to address discharges of trash associated with unsheltered homelessness</p>	<p>Report to Board on Permittee attainment of required 100 percent trash load reduction</p> <p>Continue to work with Permittees to address discharges of trash associated with unsheltered homelessness</p>
Continue to reduce discharges of pollutants that impair receiving waters, including discharges of PCBs to San Francisco Bay	Review Permittee progress on implementation of PCBs control measures	Review long-term implementation Plan and Schedule to achieve TMDL Wasteload Allocations
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	Meet with Permittees regarding long-term green infrastructure planning and development of optional tree-based stormwater treatment system proposal	<p>Review Asset Management Plans and Climate Change Adaptation Reports</p> <p>Evaluate Tree-Based Stormwater Treatment System proposal</p>
Municipal Regional NPDES Stormwater Permit (MRP) Reissuance		Begin discussions with MRP Permittees and stakeholders regarding Permit reissuance, including key issues and approaches
Work with Caltrans to support its achievement of trash reduction in the 2019 Cease and Desist Order (CDO) issued by the Board	Work with Caltrans on progress towards CDO-required control of trash discharges from 6,000 acres of right-of-way and report to Board on status	Work with Caltrans on progress towards CDO-required control of trash discharges from 8,800 acres of right-of-way 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 implementation	Complete project-specific and programmatic coordination consistent with CDO implementation
Coordinate with State Water Board staff and Phase II Permittees on permit reissuance of the Small and Non-Traditional Municipal Stormwater Permit	<p>Continue to provide input at requested intervals along with other Regional Boards to State Board staff</p> <p>Respond to comments on San Francisco Bay Region's region-specific TMDL implementation language</p>	

REGULATE

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
INDUSTRIAL AND CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER PROGRAM		
Prioritize cases and coordinate with municipal inspectors to maximize our effectiveness in protecting water quality	<p>Determine how to utilize climate risk data in our facility/site inspection and review prioritization framework, including sea level rise and groundwater rise data</p> <p>Participate in countywide clean water program trainings and workshops to build and maintain relationships with municipal stormwater inspectors</p>	<p>Continue to utilize inspection and review prioritization framework and update to include consideration of climate risks as appropriate; update ArcGIS Online Map with best available data as needed</p> <p>Participate in countywide clean water program trainings and workshops to build and maintain relationships with municipal stormwater inspectors</p>
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 Board staff for permit reissuance	Provide regional input to State Board staff for permit reissuance
CREEK, WETLAND, AND BAY HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM		
Review and process applications in a timely and consistent manner	<p>Issue 401 certifications in under 60 days for small projects and under one year for large, complex projects</p> <p>Participate on the mitigation banking interagency review team to approve mitigation banks that will provide mitigation credits for project impacts.</p> <p>Approve Ducks Unlimited's In-Lieu Fee Instrument to provide wetland mitigation credit for project impacts</p> <p>Reissue East Bay Regional Park District's Maintenance WDRs</p>	Issue 401 certifications in under 60 days for small projects and under 1 year for large, complex projects
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

REGULATE

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
CREEK, WETLAND, AND BAY HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM		
Implement and update existing stream maintenance authorizations for Bay Area flood management agencies	Update programmatic stream maintenance authorization for Marin County	Update programmatic stream maintenance authorization for Livermore
Participate in the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) to improve alignment among regulatory agencies for permit-driven monitoring requirements	<p>Participate in multi-agency meetings to inform the WRMP's monitoring scope to improve alignment on permit monitoring requirements</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Assist the WRMP with data collection</p> <p>Incorporate WRMP monitoring into Water Board dredge and fill permits</p>
Participate on the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) team to facilitate timely issuance of Certifications for Measure AA-funded projects geared toward sea level rise adaptation	<p>Continue to participate in BRRIT to support timely issuance of authorizations for Bay restoration projects</p> <p>Complete grant agreement with the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority for continued funding of the Board's BRRIT position</p>	Continue to participate in BRRIT to support timely issuance of authorizations for Bay restoration projects
DREDGING PROGRAM		
Promote the beneficial reuse of dredged sediment	<p>Complete CEQA/NEPA process for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2025-2029 maintenance dredging 401 Certification/WDRs</p> <p>Adopt 401 Certification/WDRs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2025-2029 maintenance dredging that incorporates strategic placement and other innovative approaches to increase beneficial reuse of dredged sediment</p> <p>Issue 401 Certifications for mid-sized and small dredgers</p>	Issue 401 Certifications for mid-sized and small dredgers

REGULATE

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM		
Update landfill and land disposal Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) as necessary, including to address PFAS	<p>Issue or update at least 3 WDRs; consider developing new general WDRs for closed landfills to replace individual WDRs to streamline regulation of these facilities</p> <p>Require PFAS monitoring at landfills and other land disposal facilities, including sites not covered by the Statewide PFAS landfill order</p> <p>Require additional PFAS investigations as needed as follow up to State Board PFAS Order</p>	<p>Issue or update at least 3 WDRs</p> <p>Require additional PFAS investigations as needed as follow up to State Board PFAS Order</p>
Oversee redevelopment of closed landfills for commercial and recreational purposes	<p>Review and comment on documents that pertain to aspects of development with the potential to impact groundwater and surface water quality</p>	<p>Review and comment on documents that pertain to aspects of development with the potential to impact groundwater and surface water quality</p>
Regulate bayfront land disposal facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise	<p>Review 27 Long-Term Flood Protection Plans to ensure compliance with Order R2-2024-0002, Amending Waste Discharge Requirements for Oceanfront and Bayfront Landfills and Industrial Facilities</p> <p>Require long-term flood protection planning at sites not subject to WDRs as needed</p>	<p>Work with land disposal sites to ensure acceptable long-term flood protection plans are prepared</p> <p>Require long-term flood protection planning at sites not subject to WDRs as needed</p>
AGRICULTURAL LANDS PROGRAMS		
Enroll facilities in Confined Animal Facilities (CAF) WDRs	<p>Support development of Ranch Plans and Monitoring Plans for new and existing enrollees</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Support development of Ranch Plans and Monitoring Plans for new and existing enrollees</p> <p>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</p>
Increase inspection presence for all programs	<p>Inspect at least 10 grazing operations and 5 CAF operations</p> <p>Inspect 1 high-risk outdoor cannabis operation</p>	<p>Inspect at least 10 grazing operations and 5 CAF operations</p> <p>Inspect 1 high-risk outdoor cannabis operation</p>

REGULATE

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
AGRICULTURAL LANDS PROGRAMS		
Manage Grazing Waiver	Reissue/Revise Grazing Waiver	Enroll grazing operations in Petaluma River watershed and west side of Point Reyes National Seashore.
Manage existing grants	Manage 8 Nonpoint Source Program grants, facilitate new grant proposals, and participate in statewide grant selection process	Manage 8 Nonpoint Source Program grants, facilitate new grant proposals, and participate in statewide grant selection process
RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM		
Review new recycled water applications and authorize projects in coordination with the Division of Drinking Water	Continue to support permitting for Valley Water Purified Water Project Enroll onsite recycled water projects in the statewide general order for small domestic wastewater systems	Continue to support permitting for Valley Water Purified Water Project Enroll onsite recycled water projects in the statewide general order for small domestic wastewater systems
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 four recycled water facilities and/or use areas and conduct appropriate follow-up actions	Review annual reports and follow up on any deficiencies Inspect four 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	Begin to develop strategy on where to prioritize Water Board recycled water efforts to enable increases in water recycling Engage with recycled water stakeholders to share resources, reduce barriers, and support the broader use of recycled water	Continue strategy development/ implementation on where to prioritize Water Board recycled water efforts to enable increases in water recycling Engage with recycled water stakeholders to share resources, reduce barriers, and support the broader use of recycled water
Identify opportunities to standardize and streamline recycled water permitting	Engage with State Water Board 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 Division of Drinking Water and the Recycled Water Roundtable to provide input on the development of new and updated recycled water regulations

CLEAN UP

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
SITE CLEANUP AND UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAMS		
<p>Ensure cleanup cases are prioritized and that regulatory actions are taken to control vapor intrusion, contaminant migration, and other exposures and discharges as quickly as reasonably feasible to protect water quality, human health, and the environment</p>	<p>Prioritize cleanup cases based on risk, threat, and environmental justice factors</p> <p>Take regulatory action to control contaminant exposure, migration, and discharge</p> <p>Identify and prioritize enforcement actions necessary to achieve regulatory compliance</p>	<p>Continue case management to prioritize and implement regulatory and enforcement actions to move cases forward</p>
<p>Address potential adverse impacts from sea level rise and groundwater rise</p>	<p>Require sea level rise and groundwater rise vulnerability assessments at shoreline cleanup sites when evaluating remedial action plans, monitoring program changes, and during 5-year reviews</p> <p>Assess potential sea level rise and groundwater rise adverse impacts when considering low-threat case closure</p> <p>Track cleanup sites that have assessed sea level rise and groundwater rise vulnerability</p> <p>Continue to engage and inform communities and other stakeholders about our actions</p> <p>Incorporate research findings and guidance from other State agencies into our case management strategy for evaluating sea level and groundwater rise</p>	<p>Evaluate the effectiveness of our implementation actions and consider improvements and adjustments</p> <p>Continue tracking cleanup sites (including USTs) where vulnerability assessments have been required</p> <p>Align with State Water Board cleanup program prioritization recommendations</p>
<p>Update the Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) to be consistent with the latest science (e.g., toxicity criteria)</p>	<p>Begin update, consisting primarily of revisions to the human health toxicity criteria hierarchy and the additional of PFAS into the ESL workbook and user's guide</p>	<p>Publish the update</p>

CLEAN UP

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
SITE CLEANUP AND UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAMS		
<p>Apply Environmental Justice lens to inform cleanup priorities</p>	<p>Identify and implement regulatory actions for active cases in EJ communities to reduce pollution risks and threats</p> <p>Prioritize backlogged (i.e., inactive) cases in EJ communities based on risks and threats for regulatory action</p> <p>Track regulatory actions for cases in EJ communities</p> <p>Review our existing guidance for public participation and identify ways to enhance outreach and engagement activities for cleanup sites in EJ communities and tribal lands</p> <p>Keep EJ advocates, organizations, and tribes informed about our regulatory actions at cleanup sites in their communities and historical lands</p> <p>Coordinate with the State Board, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to distribute fact sheets and information about grants and resources available for site investigation and cleanup</p> <p>Seek feedback from communities and tribes to improve our outreach and engagement actions</p>	<p>Identify and implement regulatory actions for active cases in EJ communities to reduce pollution risks and threats</p> <p>Prioritize backlogged (i.e., inactive) cases in EJ communities based on risks and threats for regulatory action</p> <p>Track regulatory actions for cases in EJ communities</p> <p>Review our existing guidance for public participation and identify ways to enhance outreach and engagement activities for cleanup sites in EJ communities and tribal lands</p> <p>Keep EJ advocates, organizations, and tribes informed about our regulatory actions at cleanup sites in their communities and historical lands</p> <p>Coordinate with the State Board, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to distribute fact sheets and information about grants and resources available for site investigation and cleanup</p> <p>Implement changes to community engagement based on feedback from community groups and tribal representatives</p>

CLEAN UP

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY24/25 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY25/26 TARGETS & MILESTONES
SITE CLEANUP AND UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAMS		
<p>Assess and investigate potential PFAS discharges</p>	<p>Ensure compliance with State Board PFAS Order requirements</p> <p>Identify facilities where PFAS were likely used, stored, or discharged</p> <p>Prioritize PFAS investigations at fire stations and other suspect discharge facilities in the vicinity of drinking water supply wells and surface water</p> <p>Coordinate findings with the Division of Drinking Water and local water agencies</p>	<p>Prioritize enforcement actions for cleanup sites in violation of State Board PFAS Order requirements</p> <p>Continue to identify and prioritize investigation of suspect PFAS discharge facilities</p> <p>Issue investigation orders to fire stations and other suspect facilities in the vicinity of drinking water supply wells where PFAS have been detected</p> <p>Require cleanup to abate ongoing discharges</p> <p>Coordinate actions with the Division of Drinking Water and local water agencies</p>
<p>Assess, investigate, and cleanup PCBs discharges at upland source sites, in and creek/Bay sediments, and in known TMDL hotspots</p>	<p>Map available sediment sample data from municipal storm drains to identify potential upland source properties</p> <p>Require potential upland source properties to sample soil and sediment that could indicate a PCBs discharge</p> <p>Require investigation and cleanup of upland source properties where evidence of PCBs discharge is found</p> <p>Coordinate with municipalities and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other state and federal agencies to follow up on investigation progress</p> <p>Coordinate with internal stormwater and TMDL program staff to effectively implement the PCBs TMDL</p>	<p>Evaluate the hydrodynamic connection of potential upland source properties to PCBs impacts in downstream creek and Bay sediments</p> <p>Continue to require investigation and cleanup of upland source properties</p> <p>Consider options to require cleanup of contaminated sediment in creeks and San Francisco Bay where there is evidence of a discharge connection</p> <p>Continue coordinating with state and local agencies to conduct additional source tracing sampling in storm drains, catch basins, and in-Bay sediment</p> <p>Evaluate effectiveness of activities in support of the PCBs TMDL</p>

CLEAN UP

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY22/23 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY23/24 TARGETS & MILESTONES
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND ENERGY PROGRAM		
Ensure the investigation and clean up 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 are protective	Advocate for the evaluation of climate change effects to ensure remedies are 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:

- 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; and
- Violation 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.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS

Our Region’s performance measures and targets, tracked by the State Water Board, are presented in the table below. These measures and targets are annual indicators of progress and completion of our routine program activities to protect water quality and beneficial uses. This table may be updated once the fiscal year 24/25 targets have been finalized.

	PROGRAM Performance Measure	FY24/25 TARGET
PLAN & ASSESS	TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD AND BASIN PLANNING	
	Basin Plan Amendments Adopted	0
	Pollutant/Waterbody Combinations Addressed	0
	TMDLs Adopted/Reconsidered	0
REGULATE	NPDES WASTEWATER	
	Major Individual Facilities Inspected	23
	Major Individual Permits Issued or Reissued	9
	Minor General Facilities Inspected	2
	Minor Individual Facilities Inspected	5
	Minor Individual Permits Issued or Reissued	5
	WASTE DISCHARGE TO LAND — WASTEWATER	
	Individual Waste Discharge Requirements Updated	0
	Waste Discharge to Land Inspections	12
	NPDES STORMWATER	
	Stormwater Municipal Inspections	12
	Stormwater Industrial Inspections	120
	Stormwater Construction Inspections	125
	LAND DISPOSAL	
	Landfill Individual Permits Updated	2
	Landfill Facilities Inspections	40
	All Other Inspections - Land Disposal	15
All Other Individual Permits Updated - Land Disposal	1	
CONFINED ANIMAL FACILITIES		
Confined Animal Facilities Inspections	5	
CLEAN UP	CLEAN UP	
	Underground Storage Tank Sites into Active Remediation	5
	Cleanup Sites Into Active Remediation	15
	Department of Defense Sites into Active Remediation	0
	Underground Storage Tank Sites Closed	20
	Cleanup Sites Closed	25
ENFORCE	ENFORCEMENT	
	Respond to serious priority violations with formal enforcement or investigative order within 18 months	80%
	Assess mandatory minimum penalties within 18 months	80%



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The logo for the California Water Boards, featuring a stylized wave graphic above the text "CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS" and "San Francisco Bay".

CALIFORNIA
WATER BOARDS
San Francisco Bay

