

DISCLAIMER: THE FOLLOWING FY 2023-24 WORKPLAN, INCLUDING PROPOSED PRIORITIES, GOALS AND ACTIONS, IS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER BOARD AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS COMMITMENTS OR POLICY STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED IN THIS DOCUMENT. ANY PRIORITIES, GOALS AND ACTIONS HEREIN ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ALSO NOTE THAT THE WORKPLAN IS NOT INTENDED TO, AND DOES NOT, LIST ALL LOS ANGELES WATER BOARD'S ACTIVITIES.

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2023-24 WORKPLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER BOARD

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Los Angeles Water Board) mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, including those used for drinking water, for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, for the benefit of present and future generations. The Los Angeles Water Board implements its mission within its jurisdiction, which includes the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

To this end, the Los Angeles Water Board develops regulations, policies, and permits to protect surface and ground water quality; oversees cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater; and enforces its regulatory requirements. In addition, the Los Angeles Water Board works with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to develop and implement statewide regulations, policies, and permits and to provide financial assistance in the form of grants and loans for projects that clean up and protect water quality and drinking water supplies, and that otherwise protect water resources.

In all it does, the Los Angeles Water Board works to advance several core values, including good governance, water resilience, environmental justice¹, and racial equity².

PROPOSED OVERARCHING AGENCY PRIORITIES FOR FY 2023-24

The proposed overarching priorities for the coming fiscal year are driven by the Los Angeles Water Board's mission, its commitment to advancing racial equity and environmental justice, its existing and ongoing program mandates, and the [Water Resilience Portfolio](#) and [California Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future](#). The following are proposed as overarching regional priorities:

- To protect public health by ensuring reliable access to safe, clean water and sanitation, with a strong focus on Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities and communities disproportionately burdened by pollution;
- To protect and restore watersheds, marine waters, and ecosystems;
- To increase regional water resiliency in the face of climate change and other threats by expanding and integrating the region's water supply portfolio by facilitating wastewater recycling, incentivizing stormwater capture and low impact building development, participating in implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and remediating impacted aquifers; and
- To strengthen internal capacity and external partnerships to accomplish the Los Angeles Water Board's mission strategically, transparently, equitably, and efficiently.

These are closely aligned with and support the State Water Board's current thematic priorities as well as the overarching priorities that have been guiding us for the last three years, which have been to protect

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and restore water quality, public health and the environment; increase water resiliency, including access to safe and affordable drinking water; and expand collaboration and partnerships.

Below, for each proposed overarching priority, goals are proposed and, for each goal, some of the highest priority actions in applicable programs are identified to help achieve the goal. Specific commitments for actions referenced in this work plan are located on the State Water Board's Performance Report website: [Annual Performance Report | California State Water Resources Control Board](#). Regional Board staff will provide the board with periodic updates on meeting priorities proposed in this workplan.

¹ California Public Resources Code section 30107.3 defines environmental justice as, "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Similarly, the United States Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as, "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work." Reference to environmental justice (EJ) communities means communities that have historically received disparate treatment in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies based on the race, culture, income, or national origin of the people living within those communities.

² Racial equity means race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved. (See, "Information and Resources" on the Water Boards Racial Equity webpage at [Racial Equity | California State Water Resources Control Board](#).)

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Proposed Overarching Priority: To protect public health by ensuring reliable access to safe, clean water and sanitation, focusing in particular on BIPOC communities and communities disproportionately burdened by pollution

Proposed Goal: Through its actions, the Los Angeles Water Board ensures groundwater quality is protected and restored to meet or exceed objectives.

1. Oversee per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) source investigations³ through ongoing oversight and enforcement of the State Water Board's PFAS Investigative Orders and coordination with DFA and local water agencies on funding for wellhead treatment for PFAS-impacted wells
2. Continue to aggressively seek funding for site investigation and cleanup and wellhead treatment through the Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP), Prop 1, Prop 68, and other funding such as DTSC's Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG) Program, and continue to work with local agency partners and focus the funding to address the most impacted BIPOC communities (e.g., LADWP, WQA, WRD)
3. Continue participating in, at a minimum, quarterly meetings and collaborate with USEPA and WQA on site investigation and remediation at Superfund sites in the San Fernando Valley and San Gabriel Valley among others, including identification of sources and potentially responsible parties and enrolling responsible parties under waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for discharges associated with groundwater treatment that are approved as part of remedial actions overseen by the Site Cleanup and Underground Storage Tank Programs, DTSC and USEPA
4. Work with CalGEM on project-by-project reviews for oil production facilities as well as requests for aquifer exemptions as they arise
5. Update requirements for discharges from irrigated lands to ensure groundwater protection
6. Address facility-specific and regional salinity issues through individual permitting actions for the Fillmore, Piru, Oxnard, and Tapia wastewater treatment plants, regional salinity management strategies such as the Malibu Civic Center Wastewater Treatment Facility, and salt and nutrient management plans (SNMPs)
7. Meet State Board's Performance Targets of bringing ten sites in the Site Cleanup Program (SCP) into active remediation; closing an additional seven SCP sites; bringing four new sites in the Underground Storage Tank Program (UST) into active remediation; and closing an additional fifty six UST sites while prioritizing and enhancing work on cases in BIPOC communities and communities disproportionately burdened by pollution
8. Maintain oversight of facilities discharging to land including wastewater treatment facilities, landfills and other land disposal operations through inspections and review of required monitoring and reporting for 50 sites
9. Review and update out-of-date WDRs for waste and land disposal facilities, focusing first on BIPOC communities and communities disproportionately burdened by pollution
10. Collaborate across programs and with other responsible agencies on oversight of closed, abandoned and inactive (CAI) landfills

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11. Continue to include permit requirements for the submittal of Climate Change Action Plans to prevent discharges and spills resulting from extreme weather events and to include NOV requirements to prevent future discharges

Proposed Goal: Through its actions, the Los Angeles Water Board reduces the risk of water quality and public health impacts from domestic and municipal wastewater.

12. Reduce sewage spills from municipal wastewater facilities and their collection systems through three targeted audits and inspections with follow-up enforcement, as needed, of sanitary sewer collection systems. Conduct local pretreatment program compliance inspections and audits of three facilities
13. Prioritize increased wastewater recycling to comply with water quality objectives for the protection of public health
14. Prioritize and help facilitate local projects to replace community use of failing onsite sewage treatment systems with community connections to sanitary sewers from a list of 16 disadvantaged communities with over 4000 service connections, to remove these sources of bacteria and nitrate to surface and groundwaters that serve as drinking water sources

Proposed Goal: The Los Angeles Water Board takes strong enforcement action on unauthorized discharges and permit violations that significantly impact public health.

15. Continue work on significant public health related enforcement actions, including but not limited to: Hyperion 2021 spill and aftermath; Fall 2021 Dominguez Channel hydrogen sulfide odor emergency; December 2021 Carson sewage spill; and former Buy Rite Gasoline Facility UST case
16. Assist the State Water Board's Cannabis Cultivation Regulatory Program with enforcement related to potential water quality and public health impacts from illegal outdoor cannabis cultivation
17. Increase enforcement of the Regional Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) Permit
18. Continue aggressive communication and coordination with the responsible dischargers and local, state and federal agencies in response to significant sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and other water quality-related emergencies. Undertake formal actions for significant SSOs, including any over 50,000 gallons
19. Hold an information item at a Board meeting on the issuance of time schedule orders

Proposed Goal: The Los Angeles Water Board supports multi-benefit stormwater projects to help address the disproportionate stormwater pollution in Black and Hispanic communities.

20. Track and increase timely compliance with stormwater project milestones in MS4 permittees' Watershed Management Programs and corresponding water quality based effluent limits and refer non-compliant permittees for enforcement
21. Facilitate, track, and ensure compliance by inspecting 542 facilities enrolled in the NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities (IGP's), including facilities using the IGP's optional On-Site Compliance Option to implement on-site best management practices (BMPs) for capture and use, infiltration, and/or evapotranspiration of stormwater

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associated with industrial activities and authorized non-storm water discharges (NSWDs) to reduce stormwater runoff and comply with TMDL numeric effluent limits

22. Update enrollment database, create enrollment documents, and conduct outreach in anticipation of upcoming (FY 24-25) enrollment of approximately 600 facilities in stormwater permit for commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) facilities in the Dominguez Channel and Los Cerritos Channel watersheds that incentivizes increased local partnerships on multi-benefit stormwater projects

Proposed Overarching Priority: To protect and restore watersheds, marine waters, and ecosystems

Proposed Goal: Through its actions, the Los Angeles Water Board ensures discharges are adequately regulated so that surface water quality protects fish, wildlife, recreation, and other beneficial uses in addition to public health.

23. When updating discharge permits per existing program mandates, include requirements to adapt to climate change and mitigate climate change impacts, promote water resilience, and implement total maximum daily loads (TMDLs)
24. Take actions to reduce water quality impacts from municipal, industrial, agricultural and other waste discharges to surface water, including mandated program inspections, and enforcement, focusing on facilities with repeated or egregious violations and NPDES facilities in significant non-compliance in communities overburdened by environmental pollution using the Office Of Health Hazzard Assessments [CalEnviroScreen](#) tool
25. Take actions to reduce water quality impacts from stormwater by overseeing permit enrollment and implementation, and enforcing on violations of permit requirements, including requiring responses to enforcement actions that will prevent future violations
26. Take enforcement action, as necessary, partnering with USEPA and/or local enforcement agencies, to address unauthorized discharges and other violations of Board requirements in all program areas

Proposed Goal: Through its actions, the Los Angeles Water Board protects and restores aquatic and marine habitats.

27. Where appropriate and necessary, support non-regulatory efforts to restore surface water bodies and implement TMDLs (e.g., obtain funding for McGrath Lake restoration)
28. Impose conditions to ensure protection of aquatic habitats through Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 certifications and maintain oversight of dredge and fill projects, including implementation of required compensatory mitigation and restoration of areas temporarily impacted
29. Solicit and oversee CWA Section 319 grants for nonpoint source pollution to restore riparian and lakeshore ecosystems focusing on projects to address nutrients and pesticides in agricultural runoff
30. Consider water quality protection and restoration when evaluating requests for TMDL deadline extensions

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Proposed Overarching Priority: To increase regional water resiliency in the face of climate change and other threats by expanding and integrating the region's water supply portfolio

Proposed Goal: Through its actions, the Los Angeles Water Board supports greater beneficial use of stormwater to provide multiple benefits, including to augment local supplies in BIPOC communities disproportionately impacted by pollution.

23. Participate and provide input on proposed multi-benefit stormwater projects as part of the Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Program Regional Oversight Committee

See, also, "Proposed Goal: The Los Angeles Water Board supports multi-benefit stormwater projects to help address the disproportionate stormwater pollution in Black and Hispanic communities," and related actions #20-#22, above.

Proposed Goal: Through its actions, the Los Angeles Water Board contributes to diversifying the region's water supply portfolio and increasing the resilience of local and regional supplies.

24. Participate in regional recycled water working groups such as Hyperion 2035, Pure Water Southern California, Ventura Water, and Calleguas Salinity Management Pipeline

25. Participate in State Water Board workgroups on ocean desalination and streamlining permitting of recycled water projects per the California Water Supply Strategy

26. Participate in the review of projects for potential funding under Los Angeles County's safe Clean Water Program

27. Acknowledge new reality of wastewater recycling in permits for municipal wastewater treatment facilities

28. Expediently develop and update water recycling requirements (WRRs) in coordination with the Division of Drinking Water for indirect potable reuse and direct potable reuse as projects are ready

29. Increase pretreatment compliance audits and inspections for local pretreatment programs that are developing advanced wastewater treatment facilities and expanding production of recycled water

30. Aggressively support infrastructure funding for groundwater cleanup, advanced wastewater treatment/water recycling, stormwater capture, and drinking water in the region including working with the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance to identify competitive projects for grant and loan funding

See, also, "Proposed Goal: Through its actions, the Los Angeles Water Board ensures groundwater quality is protected and restored to meet or exceed objectives," and related actions, above.

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Proposed Overarching Priority: To strengthen internal capacity and external partnerships to accomplish the Los Angeles Water Board's mission strategically, transparently, equitably, and efficiently

Proposed Goal: The Los Angeles Water Board continues to take steps to enhance community and tribal engagement in its decision-making and support effective partnerships.

31. Update Rose Foundation List of Eligible supplemental environmental projects (SEPs), focusing on expanding the geographic coverage of the list of eligible projects and increasing the number of lower cost SEPs to expand the potential for including SEPs in settlements with smaller penalty amounts.
32. Continue to support and collaborate with local tribes to identify tribal beneficial uses of the region's water bodies and document these through the Basin Plan amendment process, including seeking funding and leveraging resources to support tribal engagement
33. Increase outreach to external stakeholders using existing relationships and building new ones for site specific and regionwide projects such as the Triennial Review

Proposed Goal: Through its hiring practices and internal staff development, the Los Angeles Water Board supports continued evolution of organizational structures, processes, and culture.

34. Continue to work with the Division of Administrative Services, Human Resources (HR) Branch on recruitment, hiring, and retention practices to support and increase diversity and equity within the Los Angeles Water Board
35. Continue to work with the Office of Research, Planning and Performance (ORPP) on ongoing education and training for staff on diversity, equity, and inclusion

³ The acronyms in brackets refer to the programs and/or sections within the Los Angeles Regional Water Board as follows:

- SCP: Site Cleanup Program (Remediation & Remediation II Sections)
- GWP/LDP/CII: Groundwater, Land Disposal, and Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Stormwater Permitting Programs (Groundwater Permitting and Land Disposal Section)
- UST/O&G: Underground Storage Tanks and Oil Gas Programs (Underground Tanks Section)
- C&E: Compliance & Enforcement Section
- RP: Regional Programs Section
- NPDES: NPDES Wastewater Permitting Program (Municipal, Industrial and General) (Watershed Regulatory Section)
- Admin: Administrative Support Section (including HR)