



# California Water Boards 2016 Accomplishments Report

January - December 2016



The California 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.

This report summarizes significant accomplishments achieved by the California Water Boards from January through December 2016.

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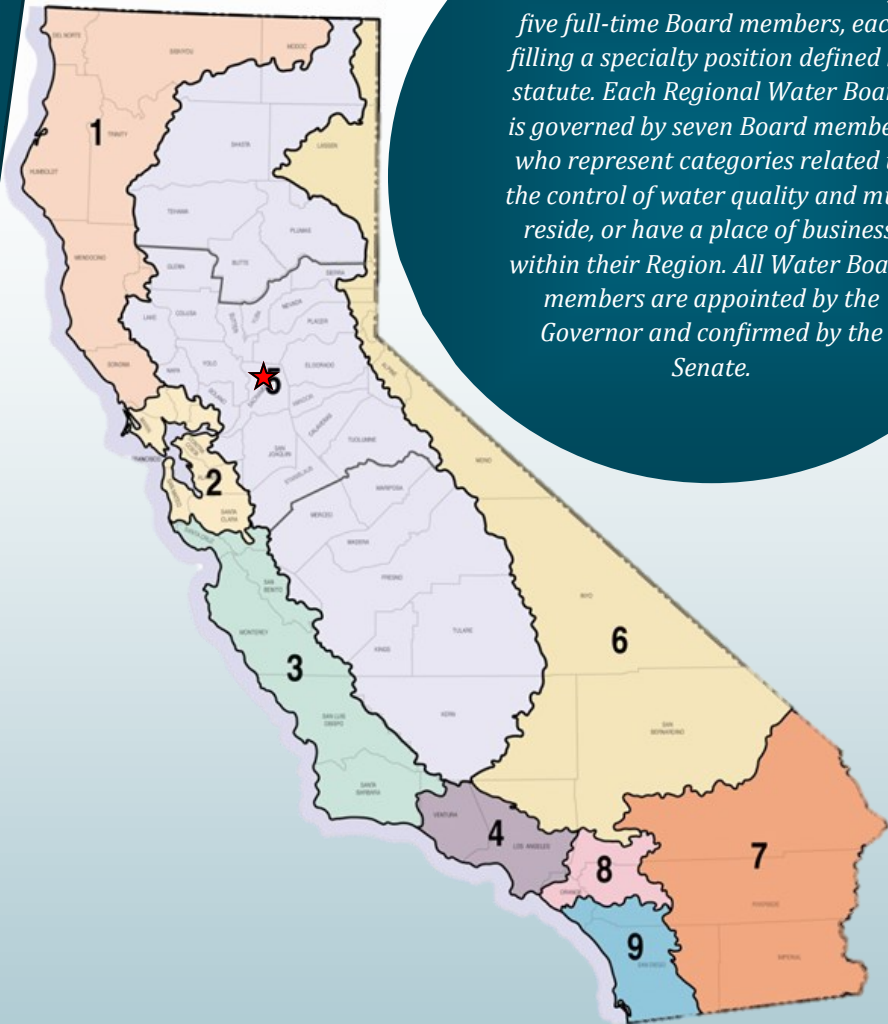
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CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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*This report contains active hyperlinks embedded in the accomplishment titles, text, and graphics. The website links should contain more current information on the items described in this report. Some items may still be under review. This report can be accessed online at*

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications\\_forms/publications/general/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/publications/general/)



*The State Water Board consists of five full-time Board members, each filling a specialty position defined by statute. Each Regional Water Board is governed by seven Board members who represent categories related to the control of water quality and must reside, or have a place of business, within their Region. All Water Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.*

**California Water Board Locations**

- 1 = Region 1 (North Coast)
- 2 = Region 2 (San Francisco Bay)
- 3 = Region 3 (Central Coast)
- 4 = Region 4 (Los Angeles)
- 5 = Region 5 (Central Valley)
- 6 = Region 6 (Lahontan)
- 7 = Region 7 (Colorado River Basin)
- 8 = Region 8 (Santa Ana)
- 9 = Region 9 (San Diego)
- ★ = State Water Board

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## ABOUT THE WATER BOARDS

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The Water Boards monitor and report on the quality of surface water and groundwater, develop and implement plans to restore impaired waters, and fund restoration and capital improvement projects aimed at protecting public health and the environment. The complexity of California's statewide and regional water issues is reflected in the large number of Water Board programs and activities throughout the State. The Water Boards are part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

The State Water Board develops statewide policy and regulations for the protection of water quality, regulates drinking water, administers California's water rights system, and supports Regional Water Board efforts. In addition, the State Water Board provides financial assistance in the form of grants and loans for projects that clean up and protect water quality, drinking water supplies, and that otherwise protect water resources. The nine semi-autonomous Regional Water Boards implement policy and regulations, develop long-range plans, issue permits, evaluate permit compliance, and take enforcement actions. Together with the Regional Water Boards, the State Water Board is authorized to implement the federal Clean Water Act, and the State and federal Safe Drinking Water acts in California.

The California Water Boards are comprised of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), located in Sacramento, and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), located in specific watersheds throughout California.

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## FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016 FAST FACTS

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- **Almost 42,000** facilities regulated
- **Almost 7,000** inspections conducted
- **Almost 4,500** permitting actions
- **Nearly 31,000** water rights holders regulated
- **Over \$1 billion** in Clean Water State Revolving Funds allocated
- **Almost 5,000** enforcement actions

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East Porterville Community Meeting. Credit: State Water Board



East Porterville Community. Credit: State Water Board

## 2016 Drought & Conservation Accomplishments

While water supply improved in 2016 relative to the three preceding years, ongoing **drought conditions** and lingering reliability concerns continued to affect the State. Continued curtailments, mandatory urban water supply conservation requirements, dry wells, and ecosystem concerns resulted in continued Water Board actions during 2016.

### **Updated Conservation Regulations Adopted**

The State Water Board adopted two sets of emergency urban conservation regulations in 2016. In February 2016, the Board amended and extended existing regulations to better account for local climate, population, and supply considerations. In May 2016, in response to improved supply conditions, the Board adopted regulations allowing suppliers to self-certify their conservation standards based on a three-year stress test. The stress test asked suppliers to demonstrate whether adequate local supply existed assuming the drought continued for three additional years. The majority of suppliers indicated they could pass their stress test.

### Emergency Regulations for the Protection of Fish Re-Adopted

In March 2016, the State Water Board readopted emergency regulations, originally adopted in [2015](#), to protect threatened fish species in Dutch Bill, Green Valley, Mark West, and Mill creeks (tributaries to the Russian River). The Board chose to renew only the information order authority provisions of the 2015 emergency regulation. The readopted regulation renewed the Board's authority to continue collecting information from water users in the four watersheds. This information can be used to inform potential actions under future dry or drought conditions.

### Safe & Reliable Drinking Water Secured for the Community of East Porterville

In the predominantly Spanish-speaking agricultural community of East Porterville (Tulare County), hundreds of households lost access to clean, running water as a result of dry wells due to the drought. This community of approximately 7,500 people also faces deteriorating water quality from nitrate contamination. The State has been delivering bottled drinking water and temporary water tanks to the community since January 2015 at a cost of \$650,000 per month. As a solution, State, local, and non-government organizations collaborated to develop the East Porterville Water Supply Project (EPWSP). The \$45 million project will install water distribution lines to connect homes to the City of Porterville's water distribution system and create new city wells. The State Water Board developed an outreach plan that successfully established trust and communication between the community and the organizations involved. Approximately 50 homes in the community were connected to a new, permanent, sustainable source of water through the EPWSP during 2016. An additional 1,100 water connections are anticipated by late-2018.

### \$136 Million Provided for Water Supply & Wastewater Infrastructure in 109 Small, Disadvantaged Communities

The State Water Board executed 109 grant agreements for small, disadvantaged communities in 2016, totaling \$136 million. This funding included: \$32 million for wastewater; \$53 million for drinking water; and \$51 million to communities for technical assistance to plan and construct much-needed water and wastewater treatment, storage, and distribution facilities. Of the drinking water funding, \$44 million was provided to help school children obtain safe, reliable drinking water through treatment and consolidation with nearby water systems. The Board also worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to co-fund water and wastewater improvement projects, including a project in the severely-disadvantaged [City of Tulelake](#) community. This project includes rehabilitating the existing wastewater treatment plant, and constructing a new recycled water storage and reuse system.

### "Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life" Draft Plan Released

In November 2016, five State agencies, including the State Water Board, released to the public a draft plan for making water conservation a California way of life. The plan builds on the success of mandatory water restrictions during California's severe drought and proposes long-term water conservation measures that include development of water use efficiency standards, strengthened water shortage contingency planning, and additional requirements for agricultural management planning.



Crissy Field Beach. Credit: San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board



McNears Beach.  
Credit: San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board

## 2016 Policy & Planning Accomplishments

### Plan Adopted to Control Sediment in Upper Elk River

In May 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Board adopted a water quality restoration strategy, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), to control sediment in the Upper Elk River Watershed. The TMDL will address high levels of fine sediment deposited into the river over the past 20 years, largely as a result of past logging activities. In November 2016, the Board adopted a [new permit for Humboldt Redwood Company \(HRC\), the largest landowner in the Watershed](#), which includes water quality protection measures such as expanded riparian protection zones, road management measures, landslide prevention, harvest rate limits, and wet weather prescriptions to prevent sediment discharges into the watershed.

### Plan Adopted to Address Bacteria at San Francisco Bay Beaches

In April 2016, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board adopted a TMDL, to address high bacteria levels at San Francisco Bay beaches, including Crissy Field, Aquatic Park, and Candlestick Point State Recreation Area beaches in San Francisco, as well as two San Mateo Lagoon beaches. These beaches, located in urban watersheds, are highly-frequented by waders, swimmers, wind surfers, and others. The TMDL addresses bacteria sources at these beaches, including sanitary sewer overflows, urban runoff, and controllable wildlife, such as geese.

### Phase I Update of Bay-Delta Plan Continues

In September 2016, the State Water Board released for public comment a draft revised Substitute Environmental Document for a proposed update to the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary Water Quality Control Plan (Bay-Delta Plan). The proposed update includes new and revised flow objectives for the San Joaquin River to protect fish and wildlife, a revised salinity water quality objective to protect southern Delta agriculture, and the respective programs of implementation.

### Scientific Basis Report in Support of Phase II Update of Bay-Delta Plan Released

In October 2016, the State Water Board released a draft report that provides the scientific basis for the comprehensive Phase II update of the Bay-Delta Plan. Phase II is focused on changes to the Bay-Delta Plan to protect fish and wildlife, including Delta outflows, interior Delta flows, Sacramento River and Delta tributary inflows, and coldwater habitat.

### Central Valley Salt & Nitrate Management Plan Finalized

After a 10-year stakeholder-led effort with active involvement of the Central Valley Regional Water Board, the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Solutions (CV-SALTS) Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) was finalized in December 2016. The completion of the Central Valley SNMP will address the slow and steady accumulation of salts and nitrates that threatens not only the long-term viability of agriculture and industry in the Central Valley, but also water supplies for millions of people in the State.

### Plan Adopted to Increase Water Supplies & Protect Endangered Species in Malibu Creek Watershed

In December 2016, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board adopted a plan to implement two USEPA-established TMDLs, for nutrients and sedimentation, in Malibu Creek and its tributaries. The plan will ensure effective implementation of the TMDLs to restore Malibu Creek and protect endangered species, including the southern steelhead trout and tidewater goby. The plan allows for flexible and creative implementation projects, including the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority's "Pure Water Project". The project will treat recycled water and store it at the Las Virgenes Reservoir for use as drinking water, providing up to 5,000 acre-feet per year of local water supply, reducing the Region's reliance on imported water, and improving water quality and restoring habitat.

### Water Right Hearing Commences to Consider California WaterFix Project

The water right change petition hearing for the California WaterFix Project began in July 2016. With the project, the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior (petitioners) are proposing to add points of diversion or re-diversion of water on the Sacramento River for the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project. The public hearing is being held in two parts. During 2016, the State Water Board completed Part 1 of the hearing with the exception of rebuttal. Testimony was presented during Part 1 regarding potential injury to other legal users of water. Rebuttal and Part 2 of the hearing will be held in 2017. Part 2 will address potential effects on fish and wildlife, public interest, and appropriate Delta flow criteria.

Sampling Bullhead Catfish in The San Diego River With The CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife.  
Credit: San Diego Regional Water Board



## 2016 Surface Water Quality Accomplishments



Installing Turbidity Monitoring Equipment in Battle Creek.  
Credit: Central Valley Regional Water Board

### **Emerald Fire Response Minimized Impact to Lake Tahoe Basin**

During late-2016, the Lahontan Regional Water Board coordinated with Lake Tahoe Basin agencies and affected landowners to assess damage and identify mitigation to minimize impacts to human health and safety, and water quality, in the aftermath of the mid-October 2016 Emerald Fire, which occurred adjacent to Lake Tahoe. A significant storm quenched the fire and limited the burn footprint to 176 acres; however, the storm triggered significant erosion of the burned area and deposited over 250 tons of sediment on State Highway 89. The Board expeditiously developed mitigation strategies and provided permit coverage that resulted in the Highway being accessible prior to the 2016 winter season, and also prevented sediment discharges to surface waters.

### **First-Ever Fish Consumption Advisories Issued for the New & Alamo Rivers**

Coordinating with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board conducted the Region's first comprehensive fish tissue study, from 2012 to 2014, which identified program needs and gaps in fish tissue data. In 2016, those efforts culminated into the first-ever fish consumption advisories being issued for the [New](#) and [Alamo rivers](#). A third fish consumption advisory for Lake Havasu will be developed in early 2017, and advisories for the Region's remaining lakes are pending data review.

### **Status Sheets Convey Health of San Diego Waters**

During 2016, the San Diego Regional Water Board released water body status sheets to provide information to the public regarding ecosystem health for [San Mateo Creek](#) and the [San Diego River](#), and levels of contaminants in fish in the [San Diego River](#). These status sheets improve communication on ecosystem health, and if fish and shellfish are safe to consume. By disseminating high-level information to the public about significant issues, with an emphasis on environmental conditions and water quality assessments.

### **Colorado River Basin Surface Water Quality Assessment Report Released**

In July 2016, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board published a surface water quality data assessment. Information in the assessment focuses on data collected from 2009 to 2013.

Surface waters assessed included the Lower Colorado, Alamo, and New rivers, the Salton Sea, and the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel.

The data are critical to developing and implementing pollution control regulations to protect water resources in the Region.



## Cleanup of San Francisco Gun Club Completed

Cleanup of the Pacific Rod and Gun Club in San Francisco was completed in 2016. From 1928 to 2015, the gun club operated a skeet and trapshooting range at a 10-acre site at Lake Merced. Lead shotgun pellets were discharged toward the Lake, but steel shot was used after the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board issued cleanup requirements in 1994. Targets containing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) were used prior to 2000, at which time they were replaced with non-PAH biodegradable targets. By 2016, 88,000 tons of contaminated soil had been excavated and removed, and sampling showed cleanup goals were met. The site is now suitable for residential or recreational use. In addition, assessments confirmed the lake sediments pose no risk to benthic organisms and wildlife, and there is no evidence that waterfowl have been ingesting the lead pellets.

## Salinas River Maintenance Program Approved to Reduce Flood Risk & Improve Habitat

In 2016, the Central Coast Regional Water Board issued a water quality certification for the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program, the most comprehensive riparian management program ever conducted in the Region. The program will increase the flow capacity of the Salinas River to reduce flood risk to surrounding lands, while maintaining critical riparian habitat. The program involves removing the non-native plant species *Arundo donax* (giant reed), and implementing sediment management activities over a 10-year period covering 92 miles of the Salinas River and several tributaries. Development of the program integrated efforts and support from environmental, governmental, and private landowner groups.

## Impaired Waters List Adopted for Central Coast, Central Valley, & San Diego Regions

In 2016, the [Central Coast](#), [Central Valley](#), and [San Diego](#) regional water boards adopted their respective 2014 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) lists, which is the list of waters not meeting water quality standards. These three regional 2014 303(d) lists will be combined with the 2016 regional 303(d) lists being developed by the [San Francisco Bay](#), [Los Angeles](#), and [Santa Ana](#) regional water boards to create the California 2014/2016 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List, which will be presented for approval to the State Water Board in late-2017.

## Sediment Control Initiated in Central Valley's Battle Creek Watershed

In 2012, the Ponderosa Fire burned roughly 27,000 acres of timberlands in the Battle Creek Watershed. Since the fire, the watershed has experienced multiple large storm events and, in some areas, those events resulted in significant erosion, resulting in impacts to surface waters, infrastructure, and in-stream fish spawning and rearing habitat. To address the increase in sediment in the watershed, during 2016, the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy, in coordination with the Central Valley Regional Water Board, began implementing the initial phases of a multi-phased watershed-based plan that will make recommendations for how to manage water quality concerns that are attributed to controllable sources of fine sediment.

## President Obama Gives Keynote Address at Lake Tahoe Summit as Pollutant Reduction Milestones Are Achieved

In August 2016, [President Barack Obama and Governor Jerry Brown spoke at the 20th Anniversary of the annual Lake Tahoe Summit](#) regarding the importance of partnerships and innovation in tackling climate and water conservation challenges. This annual event has been a significant gathering of federal, State, and local leaders, scientists, and advocates interested in improving and protecting environmental conditions at Lake Tahoe. The first summit initiated a multi-decade partnership to restore Lake Tahoe's clarity. Federal investment has supported a bi-state effort to develop the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL, led by the Lahontan Regional Water Board and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, provides a roadmap for reducing the pollutants causing clarity decline and restoring historical clarity conditions. In 2016, local government successfully achieved fine sediment reductions to meet the Regional Water Board's first five-year pollutant reduction milestone. This was accomplished by implementing effective runoff treatment projects, sweeping streets, and maintaining storm water infrastructure.

## Agricultural Management Practices Improve Central Valley Water Quality

During 2016, the Central Valley Regional Water Board approved requests for the successful implementation and completion of 29 agricultural management plans. Management plans are developed by irrigated agriculture coalition groups. These plans detail the practices a coalitions' member-growers will implement to address surface water quality problems caused by agricultural discharges. The implementation of these 29 plans addressed 12 water bodies that were previously not meeting water quality objectives due to pesticides, toxicity, metals, and pH. These plans successfully eliminated water quality problems in these water bodies caused by the discharge of agricultural pollutants.



Walnut Oilfield Sampling. Credit: Los Angeles Regional Water Board



Kem River Oilfield Steam Generator. Credit: State Water Board

### Crude Oil Cleanup at Carousel Neighborhood Underway

After years of investigations, the former Shell Oil Company oil storage reservoir facility and existing City of Carson Carousel neighborhood (285 homes, which were built in the 1960s) is undergoing cleanup to remove contaminated soil where petroleum hydrocarbons had not been fully removed from the shallow soils. The contamination, discovered nine years ago, and has been a priority for the Los Angeles Regional Water Board. In 2016, the Board oversaw remediation at Cluster #1 (9 homes) and Cluster #2 (10 homes), completing shallow soil cleanup. There are 25 remaining clusters to be cleaned up. The Board continues to actively address community concerns during the cleanup process through ongoing updates and outreach to residents.

## 2016 Groundwater Quality Accomplishments

### Efforts Ongoing to Protect Water Resources from Oil & Gas Field Activities

In 2016, the Water Boards continued efforts to protect California's water resources from oil and gas field discharges. The [State Water Board](#), in conjunction with the [Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources \(DOGGR\)](#), evaluated 6,157 oilfield underground injection control (UIC) wells identified by DOGGR to be potentially injecting into aquifers that are sources of drinking water. Reviews of those wells in 2016 were conducted, in cooperation with the Central Coast, [Los Angeles](#), and [Central Valley](#) regional water boards, which resulted in the Water Boards issuing enforcement orders to operators of 256 wells, and subsequently reviewing information provided by those operators to assess whether those UIC wells posed an immediate threat to drinking water supply wells. In July 2015, the State Water Board adopted [Model Criteria](#) for groundwater monitoring in areas of oil and gas well stimulation activities (including hydraulic fracturing). As part of the adoption, staff were directed to develop performance measures with stakeholders to evaluate the Model Criteria. Those [performance measures](#) were developed and presented to the State Water Board in 2016.

During 2016, the State Water Board, in coordination with the Regional Water Boards, provided comments to DOGGR on 30 proposed aquifer exemptions located in 44 oilfields; reviewed 21 new oilfield-related UIC well projects; prepared annual reports regarding the fiscal status and performance of the USEPA Underground Injection Control Program; provided comments to DOGGR regarding proposed changes to the "Notice to Operators" regarding water sampling protocols; consulted with DOGGR on its revised draft UIC regulations; and worked with DOGGR to update the Memorandum of Agreement between the State Water Board and DOGGR related to oilfield regulatory activities. The Regional Water Boards conducted inspections, witnessed water sampling activities, and took enforcement action when needed. The Central Coast Regional Water Board coordinated a tour of the Chevron San Ardo Oil Field (Monterey County) for staff and Regional Water Board members. The Los Angeles Regional Water Board participated in a multi-agency task force that responded to the massive natural gas leak at Southern California Gas Company's (SCGC) Aliso Canyon facility (Los Angeles County), and required the SCGC to determine impacts to surface water and groundwater quality. The Central Valley Regional Water Board circulated for public comment three proposed general orders for discharges of oilfield produced water (a by-product of oil production) to land (primarily ponds) and held a public hearing in August 2016. At the hearing, consideration of the general orders was continued to the April 2017 Board meeting. The Central Valley Board also coordinated well stimulation-related activities with the State Water Board, and reviewed eight proposed groundwater monitoring programs and eight well stimulation application packages. Additionally, the Central Valley Board's expert panel, established to review food safety issues when using recycled oilfield produced water for agriculture, met five times, and provided input on a study for sampling citrus for oilfield pollutants and made recommendations on long-term studies to examine this practice.

## Groundwater Protection Measures Adopted for Los Angeles Region

The Los Angeles Regional Water Board adopted groundwater quality management measures for salts and nutrients for the Malibu Valley, Upper Santa Clara River, Raymond, and Main San Gabriel basins in the Los Angeles Region. These management measures were part of basin-specific Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMPs) developed by stakeholders in compliance with the State's Recycled Water Policy. SNMPs are an effective tool for managing recycled water projects and overall long-term groundwater quality, and present a holistic view of water quality conditions within a basin, allowing an assessment of the cumulative impacts of various salt- and nutrient-related activities, as well as the effectiveness of management measures. Basin-specific data contained in the SNMPs, along with the management measures, have been used to inform permit development for wastewater discharges and recycled water projects in the Region.

## Long-Term Solid Waste Containment Ensured in San Diego Region

During 2016, the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted a closure and post-closure permit for the Forster Canyon Landfill to allow for the adjacent property to be re-developed. The Board amended the permit for the Sycamore Landfill to increase solid waste disposal capacity by 1.6 million cubic yards. In addition, the Board approved the design report to expand solid waste disposal capacity at the Prima Deshecha Landfill by 13 million cubic yards and extend the landfill service life by 21 years. These permits ensure the safe, long-term containment of municipal solid wastes, while also being protective of water quality.

## Efforts to Address Septic Systems in Colorado River Basin Region Progress

In March 2016, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board [amended](#) its septic systems prohibition for the [Town of Yucca Valley](#). The amendment, and a \$142 million loan from the State Water Board, cleared the way for the Hi-Desert Water District to begin construction of Phase 1 of a centralized sewage collection and wastewater reclamation facility (WWRF) for Yucca Valley, which will eliminate approximately 4,000 septic systems in the town. Phase 1 is expected to be completed by June 2021, and Phases 2 and 3 are expected to be completed by December 2025. Up to 1 million gallons per day of treated wastewater from Phase 1 of the WWRF will be used to recharge the local aquifer. Additionally, in June and November 2016, the Board approved the Local Agency Management Programs for [Imperial and Riverside counties](#). These programs are locally-enforceable programs that protect water quality, as well as public health, from discharges associated with septic systems.

## Vapor Intrusion Addressed to Protect Public Health in San Francisco Bay Region

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board took steps in 2016 to improve its capability to protect public health by addressing the vapor intrusion of subsurface contaminants at several groundwater cleanup sites, including participating in a CalEPA workgroup to promote consistency between the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Water Boards in addressing vapor intrusion. In May 2016, this improved capability was demonstrated at a site in the City of San Leandro, where the solvent trichloroethene (TCE) was detected in indoor air at concentrations exceeding USEPA's Urgent Response Level. After the responsible party was not successful in mitigating the elevated indoor TCE concentrations, the Board required the temporary relocation of the affected building tenants and, in October 2016, required the activation of a sub-slab depressurization system that successfully reduced indoor TCE concentrations to health-protective levels.

## Additional Central Valley Groundwater Protection Efforts Underway

During 2016, the Central Valley Regional Water Board approved 11 groundwater assessment reports, which consider existing groundwater data throughout the Central Valley, identify vulnerable areas, and establish priorities for groundwater protection. In December 2016, the Board adopted a general permit for poultry facilities, which includes requirements for managing nutrients. In addition, during 2016, the Board assisted local agencies in the review of Local Agency Management Plans, which were developed to minimize impacts to groundwater quality, as well as public health, from discharges associated with septic systems.

Stock Photo

Environmental Justice Coalition (EJCW) for Water Providing Safe Drinking Water to Those In Need. Credit: EJCW



## 2016 Drinking Water Quality Accomplishments



Stock Photo

### First in Nation - Perchlorate Treatment Plant Starts Operation

In October 2016, the West Valley Water District (City of Rialto) began operating a wellhead treatment plant to remove perchlorate from contaminated groundwater that is used as a drinking water source. Groundwater in the area is impacted by perchlorate contamination from former munitions and fireworks manufacturing. The treatment plant, the first of its kind in the nation, uses a biological treatment process that relies on naturally-occurring bacteria to break down the perchlorate. The Santa Ana Regional Water Board obtained [\\$3 million from the State's Cleanup and Abatement Account](#) to partially fund construction of the plant.

In May 2016, the State Water Board issued a [water supply permit](#) for operation of the plant. The plant will return service to contaminated wells that had been shut down, improve the availability of local groundwater for drinking water supply, and clean up perchlorate contamination in the area.

### Interim Safe Drinking Water Continues to Be Provided to Central Coast Region Disadvantaged Communities

As part of the Central Coast Regional Water Board's Safe Drinking Water Grant Project, the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) continued to provide bottled water to 39 economically-disadvantaged households, with 133 adults and 71 children, in the Royal Oaks/Los Lomas Community of North Monterey County whose drinking water wells are affected by nitrate contamination. The EJCW is also working with the community to grow community leadership to identify long-term drinking water solutions. In addition, the Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship provided assistance, including bottled water delivery, to farmers and disadvantaged community members. In 2016, over 27,000 gallons of interim safe drinking water was provided to those in need.

*The accomplishment titles and underlined text in the descriptions are hyperlinked.*

### State Water Board Adopted Human Right to Water as Core Value

In February 2016, the State Water Board adopted a resolution declaring HRTW as a core value and a top priority for the Water Boards, affirming the State Water Board's commitment to consider how its activities impact and advance the human right to safe, affordable, and clean water to support basic human needs. In 2012, California became the first state to enact a Human Right to Water (HRTW) law, declaring, "Every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." Impetus for the law stems from the large number of communities in the Central Valley without a reliable and safe source of drinking water.

### Mojave Salt & Nutrient Management Plan Accepted by Lahontan Regional Water Board

In compliance with the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy, in February 2016, the Lahontan Regional Water Board accepted the Mojave Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) from the Mojave Water Agency. The Policy encourages the use of recycled water as a safe, local, drought-proof, and reliable water supply, and requires local water and wastewater entities to develop an SNMP for each groundwater basin in California to manage salts, nutrients, and other significant chemical compounds. The Mojave SNMP will promote reliance on local sustainable water sources, such as recycled water and storm water, and manage salts and nutrients from all sources to ensure attainment of water quality objectives and the protection of beneficial uses.

### Cleanup of Contaminated Orange County South Basin Plume Ongoing

The Santa Ana Regional Water Board made significant progress with investigation and cleanup efforts to address the contaminated Orange County South Basin groundwater plume. During 2016, testing confirmed that the soil at one site had been successfully remediated, and an investigation at another site was completed. This multi-year project is a cooperative effort with the Department of Toxic Substances Control and Orange County Water District. This area of groundwater contamination is a comingled plume originating from sources of historical and current industrial activities that threaten to impact this major drinking water supply basin.

### Cleanup of Contaminated Ontario Groundwater Progresses

In September 2016, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board approved a Stipulated Order and Settlement Agreement regarding the "South Archibald Plume" of contaminated groundwater located in the City of Ontario. The plume is contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE), an industrial solvent that has caused the shutdown of numerous private water supply wells in the area. Since 2007, responsible parties (RPs) have provided replacement water to residences with contaminated wells. The 2016 Order requires the RPs to continue to provide replacement water and to clean up the plume. The contaminated groundwater will be treated to remove TCE, as well as salt and nitrates, and the treated groundwater will be provided to local communities to augment drinking water supplies.

Recycled Water Fill Station. Credit: Olivenhain Municipal Water District

West Basin Water Recycling Tour.  
Credit: State Water Board

## 2016 Recycled Water Accomplishments

### **New Statewide General Permit Encourages Recycled Water Use**

In June 2016, the State Water Board adopted a general permit to simplify the permitting process for recycled water projects, advancing the State's goal of increasing recycled water use statewide.

More recycled water projects will be encouraged by providing a single permit that can be used across Regional Water Board boundaries. The permit will be administered by the Regional Water Boards, and applies to non-potable uses of treated municipal wastewater, including irrigating landscapes and crops, dust control, industrial and commercial cooling, and decorative fountains.

### **Feasibility of Direct Potable Reuse of Recycled Water Reported to Legislature**

In September 2016, the State Water Board delivered a report to the State Legislature on the feasibility of developing regulations for the direct potable reuse (DPR) of recycled water, which is the addition of recycled water directly into a drinking water system or into a raw water supply immediately upstream of a drinking water treatment plant. No state has yet developed regulations specifically for DPR. The State Water Board concluded it is feasible to begin developing DPR regulations provided certain research and key knowledge gaps are addressed to ensure the protection of public health.

### **Recycled Water Resources Expanded in San Diego Region**

In 2016, the San Diego Regional Water Board convened two public workshops on recycled water and adopted three revised permits that allow the use of treated wastewater, from the North City Water Reclamation Plant (City of San Diego), Woods Valley Ranch Water Reclamation Facility (Town of Valley Center), and the Santa Maria Wastewater Treatment Plant (City of Santa Maria).

In addition, the Board permitted the use of recycled water that is provided by recycled water fill stations for 10 recycled water agencies in the Region. The fill stations will provide treated recycled water for non-potable uses, including street sweeping, fire protection, and residential landscape irrigation.

*New River at International Border with Mexico.  
Credit: Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board*



## 2016 Wastewater Management Accomplishments

### Permits Adopted for North Coast Region Discharges of Wine, Beverage, & Food Processor Waste

In January 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Board adopted two general permits for discharges of wine, beverage, and food processor waste to land. By adopting the two permits, the Board addressed the need to update a 14-year old general permit for winery waste discharges, addressed the backlog of applications from smaller wineries, and extended permit eligibility coverage to other food and beverage processors.

### Permit Adopted for Protection of Humboldt Bay

In June 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Board reissued a permit for the City of Eureka's Elk River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for discharges to Humboldt Bay. Humboldt Bay is California's second largest enclosed bay and is one of the most productive ecosystems in the State. Since 1981, discharge from the WWTP to the Bay was permitted on the outgoing tide, and it was believed the tide was conveying the effluent to the Pacific Ocean, in compliance with the [Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Policy](#) (Policy). Based on new information, it was determined the effluent is never completely conveyed to the ocean. Therefore, this permit prohibits discharges to Humboldt Bay unless done in a manner that complies with the Policy. In addition, a Cease and Desist Order was adopted in concert with the permit that incorporates planning and implementation milestones to attain compliance. The permit is a new milestone of protection that will either result in enhancement of beneficial uses and water quality, or eliminate Elk River WWTP discharges to Humboldt Bay.

### Phase I of New River Improvement Project for Calexico Progresses

The New River is polluted by bacteria, sediment, nutrients (e.g., nitrate and phosphate), pesticides, and trash. During 2016, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board continued to address New River pollution originating from Mexico. Working with the Governor's Office, Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, CalEPA, and others, the Regional Water Board successfully secured \$1.4 million to implement Phase 1 of the New River Improvement Project (NRIP) for the Calexico area. The NRIP for Calexico has two phases. Phase 1 consists of completing the environmental documentation and design of projects needed to address pollution in Calexico. Phase 2 will consist of the construction of these projects. The projects include the installation of a trash screen for the New River at the border with Mexico, a conveyance system, and a booster pumping station at the Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant.

*The accomplishment titles and underlined text in the descriptions are hyperlinked.*

Volunteers & Interns Planting a Wetland in Moro Cojo Slough.  
Credit: Ross Clark, Central Coast Wetlands Group



Cannabis Grow Site. Credit: Water Boards &  
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

## 2016 Nonpoint Source Control Accomplishments

### Permit Adopted for Commercial Agricultural Operations in San Diego Region

In November 2016, the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted a general permit for discharges from commercial agricultural operations in the San Diego Region. The permit requires an estimated 6,000 commercial agricultural operations, located on 70,000 acres of land in the Region, to enroll under the permit by August 7, 2017, and to implement effective management practices that are protective of water quality.

### Innovative Pollutant Reduction Projects Improve Central Coast Water Quality

Water quality significantly improved in three high-priority watersheds in the Central Coast Region: the Pajaro, Salinas, and Santa Maria due to the completion of state-of-the-art water treatment projects during 2016. The projects were funded by agricultural water quality grants, totaling \$3 million, that were awarded by the Central Coast Regional Water Board in 2008. The projects have reduced nutrients to Watsonville, Moro Cojo, and Elkhorn sloughs; reduced phosphorus to Pinto Lake to address blue-green algae pollution; reduced agricultural runoff in the Quail Creek Watershed; improved irrigation efficiency for thousands of acres of crops; installed an 18-acre treatment wetland to filter polluted runoff in the Moro Cojo Watershed; and protected the City of Santa Maria's drinking water supply from polluted agricultural runoff.



## Actions Taken to Address Water Quality Impacts From Cannabis Cultivation

During 2016, the Water Boards took actions to address environmental damage caused by cannabis cultivation on private and State-owned lands.

[The North Coast Regional Water Board](#) enrolled over 900 cultivators under its permit that regulates discharges from cannabis cultivation sites; hosted permit enrollment clinics; provided assistance to cultivators regarding best management practices (BMPs) and plans to protect and restore sites; and initiated enforcement actions in eight watersheds with the [State Water Board](#), the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other State and local law enforcement agencies. The [Central Valley Regional Water Board](#) attended and coordinated numerous outreach events; provided assistance on BMPs to employ at cultivation sites; enrolled approximately 550 cultivators under its regulatory permit; pursued enforcement actions and; continued to develop a mapping platform to geographically reference and track sites. The State Water Board provided legal and technical support for all of these Regional Water Board efforts, conducted outreach, and participated in stakeholder meetings.

## Permit Adopted for Agricultural Operations in San Jacinto River Watershed

The San Jacinto River Watershed in Riverside County is impaired for nutrients, due primarily to nonpoint source agricultural discharges. The watershed drains 782 square-miles that terminate into Lake Elsinore, a heavily-used recreational water body. In July 2016, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board adopted a permit for agricultural operations in the watershed, which requires agricultural owners and operators to monitor for nutrients and other pollutants in surface water and groundwater. Approximately 59,000 acres of agricultural land, and up to 185 potential enrollees, will be covered under the permit. Board staff also reached out to the local dischargers by facilitating and participating in stakeholder meetings, and held an informational workshop in June 2016 that provided agricultural representatives opportunities to present how they are addressing water quality issues.



Stock Photo

## 2016 Storm Water Management Accomplishments



Storm Water Bio-Retention, Ventura County. Credit: Los Angeles Regional Water Board

### Storm Water Permittee Plans Address San Diego County Water Quality

In 2016, the San Diego Regional Water Board accepted seven Water Quality Improvement Plans that were developed by regional municipal storm water permit co-permittees. The plans include descriptions of the highest priority pollutants or water quality conditions in watersheds in San Diego County, the goals and strategies to address those pollutants or conditions, and associated time schedules. These plans provide permittees the flexibility to focus their resources on the highest priority water quality issues in the County.

### Innovative Watershed Management Programs Implemented for Los Angeles Region Storm Water

The Los Angeles Regional Water Board approved 12 Enhanced Watershed Management Programs developed by 55 municipal storm water permittees in Los Angeles County. Through these unique programs, permittees will implement their municipal storm water permit requirements on a watershed scale, with a focus on multi-benefit projects that maximize storm water capture, and achieve water quality and other benefits, including flood control, recreation, and groundwater replenishment. It is estimated that tens of thousands of acre-feet of storm water will be captured annually. In addition, the Board approved all watershed-based monitoring programs under the Los Angeles County municipal storm water permit, which greatly expands monitoring efforts.

### Adopted Statewide Strategy Promotes Storm Water as a Valuable Resource

In January 2016, the State Water Board adopted an innovative statewide [Storm Water Strategy](#) that advances the management of storm water in California as a resource for present and future water needs. Historically, unmanaged storm water runoff has been viewed as a threat to human life and property, and as a significant source of water quality pollution. The Storm Water Strategy promotes the value of storm water for multiple benefits, such as groundwater replenishment and habitat improvement.

## 2016 Enforcement Accomplishments

### Cleanup Fund Fraud Enforcement Continues

In 2016, the State Water Board completed 15 enforcement actions that resulted in the disqualification of two businesses and four individuals from the [Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund](#) (Cleanup Fund). The enforcement actions resulted in \$550,000 in penalties being paid to the Cleanup Fund, and \$869,000 in savings from waived claims and appeals. A [State Water Board web page](#) was launched in May 2016 to track disqualified businesses and persons to the Cleanup Fund.



Underground Storage Tank Removal. Credit: State Water Board

### Penalty Assessed Against San Altos, LLC for Violating Construction Storm Water Permit

The San Diego Regional Water Board adopted a civil liability of \$595,367 against developer San Altos-Lemon Grove, LLC, in August 2016, for violations of the statewide construction storm water permit due to construction activities at their 18-acre Valencia Hills residential development in the City of Lemon Grove. Sediment runoff from construction sites can damage private property, and impact aquatic life and ecosystems. The penalty will be paid into the statewide [Cleanup and Abatement Account](#).



Suisun Marsh. Stock Photo

### State Water Board Bans 100 Underground Storage Tank Sites from Cleanup Fund

The State Water Board permanently disqualified 100 underground storage tank (UST) claims from receiving monies from the [Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund](#) (Cleanup Fund) as part of a whistleblower action under the False Claims Act. These claims are related to sites owned by the oil company, Shell (Equilon), that requested reimbursement through false or misleading statements. Disqualification of these 100 claims could save the Cleanup Fund up to \$150 million. In addition, the settlement resulted in the oil company paying \$20 million; \$11.4 million to the State Water Board, and \$8.6 million to the Office of the Attorney General and the whistleblower.

### Enforcement Taken on Unauthorized Levee Construction at Point Buckler Island

In 2016, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board issued a \$2.82 million liability to John Sweeney and Point Buckler Club, LLC, one of the largest penalties in the Board's history. The violations resulted from the unauthorized diking and filling of wetlands, and construction of a nearly one-mile-long levee around Point Buckler Island to set up facilities for Silicon Valley executives to helicopter to the Bay-Delta for kiteboarding. Point Buckler Island, located in Suisun Marsh at the western edge of the San Francisco Bay-Delta, provides feeding and refuge habitat for young Chinook salmon, spawning habitat for longfin smelt, and serves as a food production source for surrounding waters that are critical habitat for Delta smelt. The liability is intended to deter future unlawful action and capture the economic benefit that the discharger accrued as a result of their unauthorized activities.

*The accomplishment titles and underlined text in the descriptions are hyperlinked.*



Stock Photo

## 2016 Financial Assistance Accomplishments



Klamath Estuary. Credit: State Water Board

### More Than \$430 Million in Water Recycling Projects Funded

During 2016, the State Water Board funded over \$430 million for the construction of water recycling projects using low-interest Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan and Proposition 1 grant funds. The funded projects will provide 132,810 acre-feet of recycled water per year to California water supplies through the development of water recycling treatment and distribution facilities.

### California Drinking Water Program Returned to Full Compliance

The State Drinking Water Program transferred from the CA Department of Public Health to the State Water Board in July 2014. Prior to the transfer, the USEPA determined that the program was out of compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and requirements of the [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\)](#). After the 2014 transfer, the State Water Board became the agency responsible for bringing the program into compliance. In 2016, the USEPA acknowledged that the Board had brought the Program into compliance ahead of schedule. Furthermore, the USEPA commended California for improving the financial management of its DWSRF Program, and for reducing the amount of unspent federal funds from \$455 million in October 2012 to approximately \$84 million by June 30, 2016.

### More Than \$1.2 Billion in Water Quality & Public Health Protection Projects Funded

The State Water Board's [Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\) Program](#) had its most productive year ever in 2016. The program provided affordable financing for 35 projects worth more than \$1.2 billion, including the construction of sewage treatment plants, and recycled wastewater production and delivery infrastructure; the use of recycled wastewater to recharge groundwater; the elimination of storm water pollution; the protection of the Bay-Delta; and the elimination of septic tank discharges. The CWSRF Program has protected and promoted the health, safety, and welfare of Californians since 1989.

### Over \$113 Million Awarded for Storm Water Planning, Capture, & Use

During 2016, the State Water Board provided over \$113 million in grants to promote storm water resource planning, capture, and use. The storm water grants are focused on treating storm water as a resource, and providing funding to augment water supplies, recharge groundwater basins, and to prevent pollution from reaching rivers and the Pacific Ocean. Twenty-two planning projects will evaluate watersheds for new opportunities to capture storm water, and 27 construction projects will help public agencies adapt to climate change and implement the [Governor's California Water Action Plan](#).

## 2016 Process Improvements & Data Accessibility Accomplishments

### New Online Tool Provides Information on Harmful Algal Blooms

During 2016, the State Water Board built a Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) incident reporting and communication system. A key component of the system is the [California HABs Web Portal](#), an online tool that presents information on the effects of HABs in California's lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and marine waters. HABs can have negative impacts on the environment, people, pets, and livestock, as well as the economy. The goals of the Portal are to provide timely information on current HAB incidents for the public, environmental organizations, and water resource and public health professionals; and to provide resources for people responding to HAB incidents, as well as addressing the long-term issues surrounding HABs. The vast majority of the content on the California HABs Web Portal was developed over the past few years in partnership with the California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom Network, a workgroup of the [California Water Quality Monitoring Council](#), and the Water Boards' [Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program \(SWAMP\)](#).



Algal Bloom in Copco Reservoir. Credit: Thomas B. Dunklin



San Francisco Bay.  
Credit: State Water Board

### State Water Board Co-Sponsors California Water Data Challenge

The State Water Board co-sponsored the 2016 [California Water Data Challenge](#) with the White House Council on Environmental Quality and other State agencies. The Data Challenge culminated in a judging event in December 2016, where eight finalists presented their open-source entries to a panel of data science and water policy judges. The Sustainable Floodplain Habitat Finder application developed by FlowWest won the Data Challenge. The application provides insights into where (and when) to target the best floodplain habitat for juvenile salmon. The Data Challenge highlighted the importance of publically-available and open data, and represented the final component to a State Water Board year-long initiative on open data.

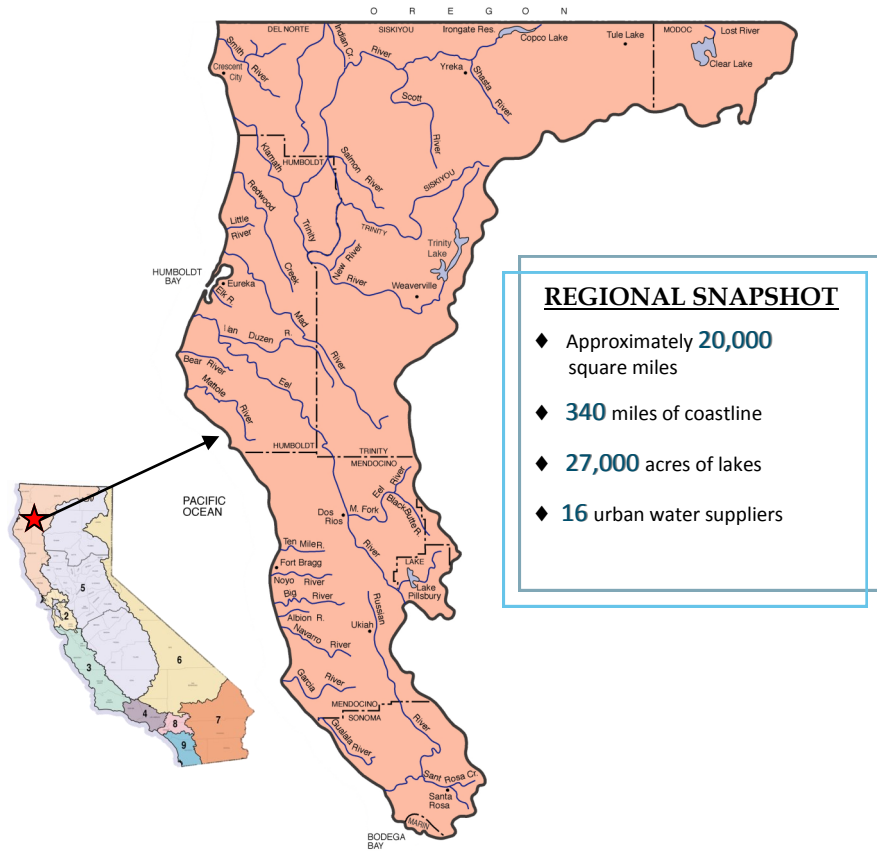
### Regulations Adopted to Require Water Diversion Reporting

In January 2016, the State Water Board adopted regulations requiring all surface water right holders and claimants to report annually on their water diversions. The regulations apply to approximately 12,000 water right holders and claimants, and require measurement for diversions in excess of 10 acre-feet of water per year. The largest diverters, those diverting or storing more than 1,000 acre-feet per year, are required to start measuring diversions by January 1, 2017. Medium-size and smaller diverters must commence measurement in mid-2017 and early-2018, respectively.

### Central Valley Region Permitting Efficiency Improved

As a result of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz), and the Government Operations Agency's (Gov/Ops) Lean 6-Sigma training aimed to increase efficiency and transparency, the Central Valley Regional Water Board has successfully increased permit development efficiency through changes to staff processing of permit applications, improved internal tracking, and improved internal communication with staff and management. Staff has observed a 65 percent reduction in the time it takes to process permits. The Board will focus on enrolling permittees under general permits, when possible to reduce permit backlog and reduce the time it takes to process individualized permits.

*The accomplishment titles and underlined text in the descriptions are hyperlinked.*



Remote wilderness and towering redwoods characterize the North Coast Region, which stretches from the Oregon border to Marin County. A land of wet coastal mountains and drier inland valleys, it accounts for 12 percent of the State's land area, but 35 percent of its freshwater runoff.

Its 340-mile-long coastline includes estuaries and environmentally-sensitive areas protected by State law.

## North Coast Regional Water Board Priorities for 2017

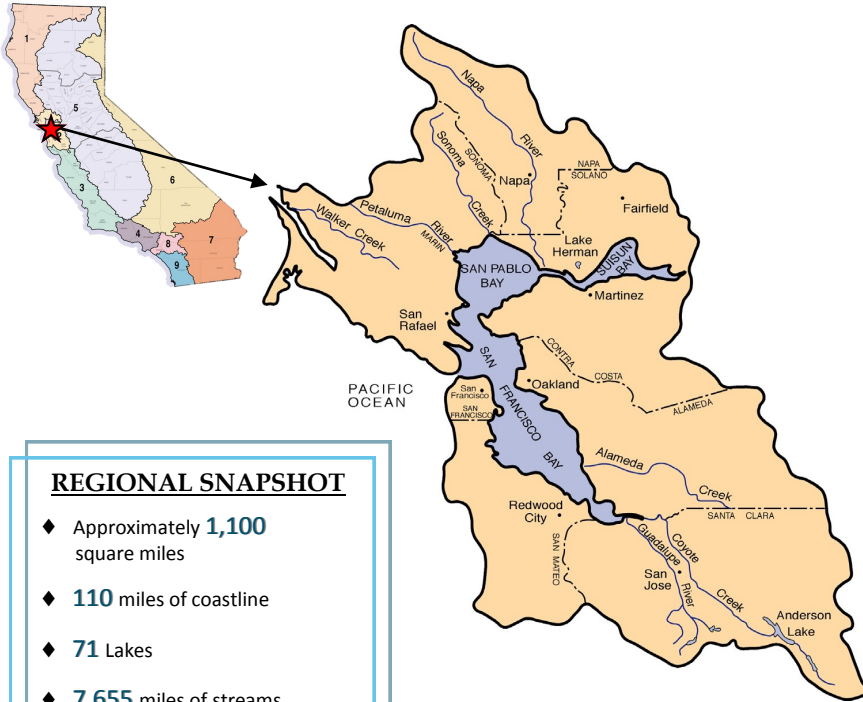
- Regional Water Board consideration of the Russian River Watershed Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL Action Plan.
- Implement the Klamath Basin TMDL, including: renewal of the Shasta River and Scott River TMDL waivers; renewal of the Klamath River TMDL Implementation MOU with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and USEPA Regions 9 & 10; support development of a long-term Integrated Fisheries Restoration Plan for the Basin; and support to the State Water Board on development of the water quality certification for the Lower Klamath Project.
- Develop WDRs or conditional Waiver of WDRs for management activities associated with operation of vineyards and orchards.
- Develop revised general WDRs or conditional Waiver of WDRs for dairies and possibly other animal facilities in the Region.
- Regional Water Board consideration of a nutrient offset/water quality credit trading program for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed, tributary to the Russian River.
- Regional Water Board approval of Local Area Management Plans for the counties of Sonoma, Humboldt, and Mendocino.
- Regional Water Board consideration of Fortuna and McKinleyville WWTP permits. McKinleyville is in the process of upgrading their facility, and Fortuna is assessing long-term compliance options.

### North Coast Regional Water Board

5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

707-576-2220

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast)



**REGIONAL SNAPSHOT**

- ◆ Approximately **1,100** square miles
- ◆ **110** miles of coastline
- ◆ **71** Lakes
- ◆ **7,655** miles of streams
- ◆ **48** urban water suppliers

San Francisco Bay lies at the heart of this area, home to more than 7 million people. Industries range from high-tech computer manufacturers in the Silicon Valley to oil refineries in Contra Costa County. The northern part of the Region supports agriculture, such as the wine industry and dairies. Despite the Region's heavy urbanization, the Bay and its watershed are home to diverse populations of fish and migratory birds.

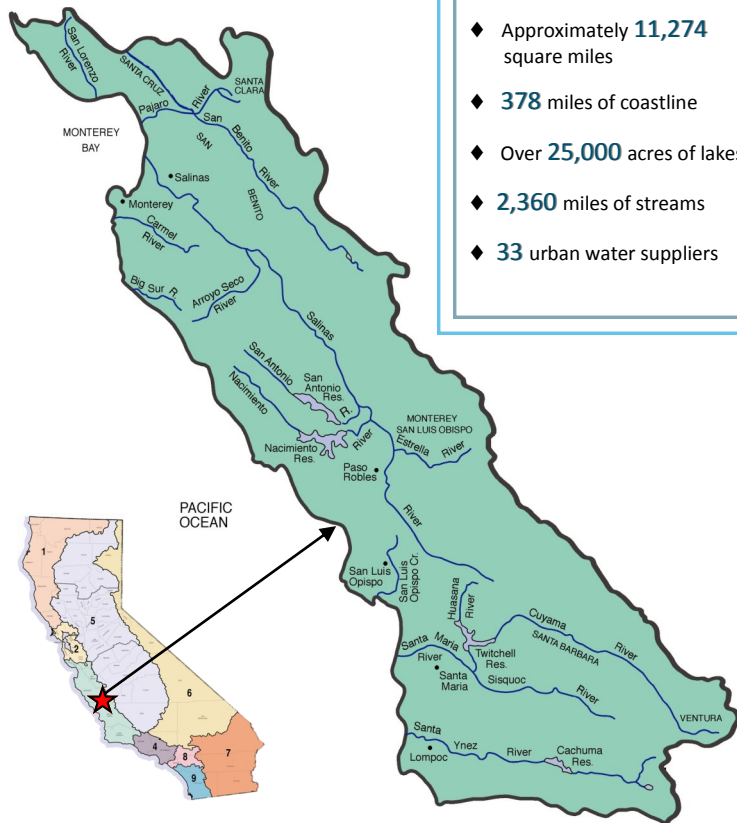
## San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board

### Priorities for 2017

- Develop TMDLs for impaired waters while continuing to implement TMDLs by: completing development of a vineyard regulatory program to address sediment discharges in Napa and Sonoma valleys; working to enhance restoration of creeks; and working to address cleanup and reductions of contaminants in our watersheds to reduce the discharge of PCBs, pathogens, and pesticides in urban runoff.
- Continue to implement a nutrient management strategy for San Francisco Bay, focusing on the science to support nutrient objective development, monitoring, modeling, and load reductions. Build a better understanding of harmful algal blooms in the Bay, and our freshwater lakes, reservoirs, and creeks, and how to minimize them.
- Identify, prioritize, and oversee cleanup of under-funded dry cleaner pollution sites and abandoned mine sites.
- Pursue aggressive enforcement with emphasis on sewage spills, trash and debris discharges, illegal fill of wetlands and streams, and polluted storm water discharges.

**San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board**

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, CA 94612  
510-622-2300  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay)



### REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

- ◆ Approximately **11,274** square miles
- ◆ **378** miles of coastline
- ◆ Over **25,000** acres of lakes
- ◆ **2,360** miles of streams
- ◆ **33** urban water suppliers

The Central Coast Region extends from Santa Clara County south to northern Ventura County. The Region includes the urbanized Monterey Peninsula, the agricultural Salinas and Santa Maria valleys, and the Santa Barbara coastal plain. Tourism, power and oil production, and agriculture and related food processing activities are the major industries.

### Central Coast Regional Water Board Priorities for 2017

- Develop a plan to implement Sustainable Water Resource Management to ensure drinking water and aquatic habitat protection through integration of surface water and groundwater quality conditions, coordination between water supply and water quality, and collaboration with water managers and stakeholders.
- Build relationships with local agencies developing sustainable groundwater plans such that we can offer assistance (i.e., information, funding, etc.) toward the successful development and implementation of those plans.
- Continue to implement the Regional Water Board's post-construction standards to maximize storm water retention and infiltration.
- Coordinate with local agencies to increase testing of domestic wells for nitrate and other priority constituents of concern, with data upload to GeoTracker.
- Adopt new general waiver for irrigated lands before current order expires in March 2017.
- Continue to prioritize groundwater cleanup, drinking water replacement, and the protection of drinking water from nitrate in agricultural runoff, including preventing nitrate from agricultural runoff being discharged to groundwater.
- Encourage water recycling projects by expediting permitting and assisting with funding.
- Improve the quality and quantity of in-stream flows and groundwater through use of management practice (MP) tracking and pollution reduction tool for permitted municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).
- Release of online Central Coast Healthy Watershed Report Card with displays and scoring for Healthy Aquatic Habitat, and develop Groundwater Health Report Card.

#### Central Coast Regional Water Board

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

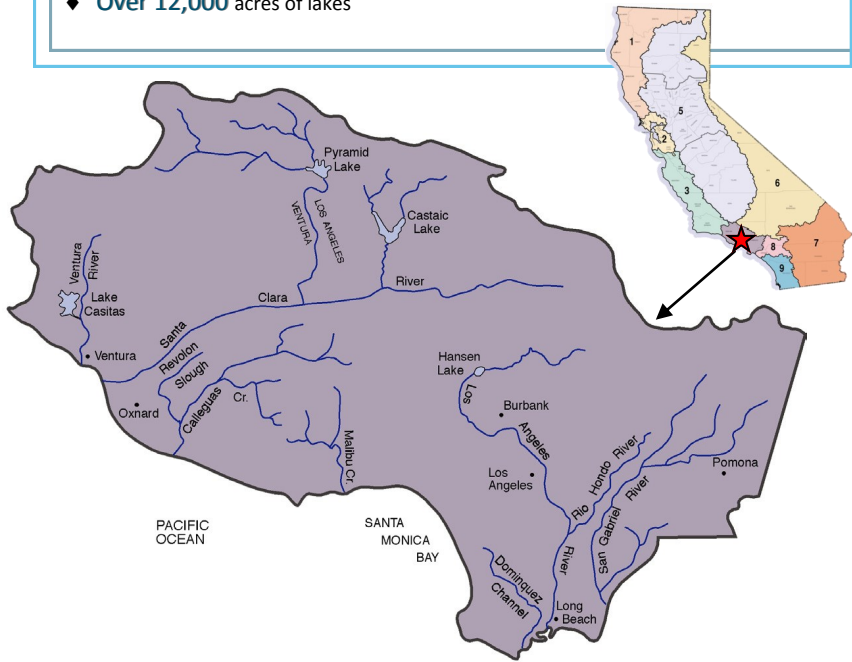
805-549-3147

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/>



**REGIONAL SNAPSHOT**

- ◆ Approximately **4,447** square miles
- ◆ **120** miles of coastline
- ◆ **Over 12,000** acres of lakes
- ◆ **1,115** miles of streams
- ◆ **92** urban water suppliers



With 10 million residents, the Los Angeles Region is the most densely-populated Region . It encompasses all of the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, along with portions of Kern and Santa Barbara counties. In Ventura County, agriculture and open space exist alongside urban, residential, and commercial areas. In northern Los Angeles County, open space is steadily being transformed into residential communities. In southern Los Angeles County, land uses include urban, residential, commercial, and industrial.

*Los Angeles Regional Water Board Priorities for 2017*

- Evaluate MS4 permittees' compliance with permit requirements as well as approved and Enhanced Watershed Management Programs.
- Expedite permits for the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project proposed by the Water Replenishment District, and for the Indirect Reuse Replenishment Project proposed by the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, to provide a local, sustainable replenishment source for the Montebello Forebay and Santa Fe spreading grounds.
- Implement the regional strategy to address water quality effects of climate change by overseeing studies, continuing discussions with Water Board programs, gathering stakeholder input, & preparing a Board resolution.
- Enhance Storm Water Industrial General Permit inspections and enforcement in the San Jose Creek Watershed via a pilot study.
- Conduct technical reviews of Prop. 1 funded groundwater and storm water projects. For groundwater, continue investigations and expedite assessment and cleanup of sites posing the highest threat to human health. For storm water, support implementation of the Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Storm Water and MS4 permits.
- Educate staff regarding Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities to better integrate these communities across all Board projects and programs.
- Develop effective enforcement practices for all Board programs to provide a framework so that appropriate enforcement can be initiated and implemented throughout the Region.
- Investigate, in collaboration with local agencies, the nature and scope of water quality impacts associated with homelessness, and develop measures to mitigate water quality impacts that are protective of water quality and the homeless.

**Los Angeles Regional Water Board**

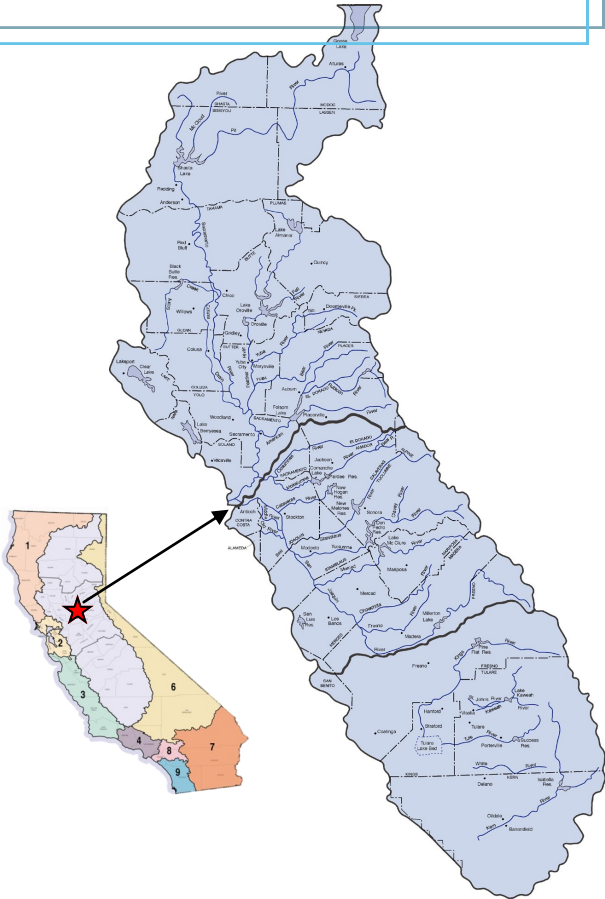
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013

213-576-6600

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles)

**REGIONAL SNAPSHOT**

- ◆ Approximately **60,000** square miles
- ◆ **83,624** miles of streams
- ◆ **579,110** acres of lakes
- ◆ **101** urban water suppliers

**Central Valley Regional Water Board Priorities for 2017**

- Adopt an NPDES permit for wastewater treatment plants that discharge high quality effluent to maximize flexibility for recycling and reuse of treated wastewater using existing surface water conveyance structures.
- Continue to implement the Delta Strategic Workplan. Priority projects include: implementing the Mercury Control Program, developing a draft Nutrient Research Plan for the Delta, adopting Basin Plan amendments for pyrethroid insecticide control, continue implementing the Delta Regional Monitoring Program, and evaluating actions to address chronic low oxygen concentrations in the Old and Middle rivers.
- Begin implementing the CV-SALTS Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP), which includes drafting a Basin Plan amendment to implement the SNMP.
- Continue to enhance the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program enforcement efforts related to dischargers without regulatory coverage and those who have not submitted required reports.
- Update the Region's 1,2,3-TCP database with new data. An analysis of the data will assess basin-wide long-term trends, and a Regional TCP map will determine potential responsible parties (RP) in areas with elevated TCP concentrations and no known RP. Efforts will be linked to the ongoing development of the 1,2,3-TCP Maximum Contaminant Level.
- Continue implementation of the oil fields program, including enrolling dischargers into regulatory permits, pursuing enforcement, inspecting at least 80 sites, and responding to spills and complaints. Continue the progress of the Food Safety Expert Panel.

**Central Valley Regional Water Board**

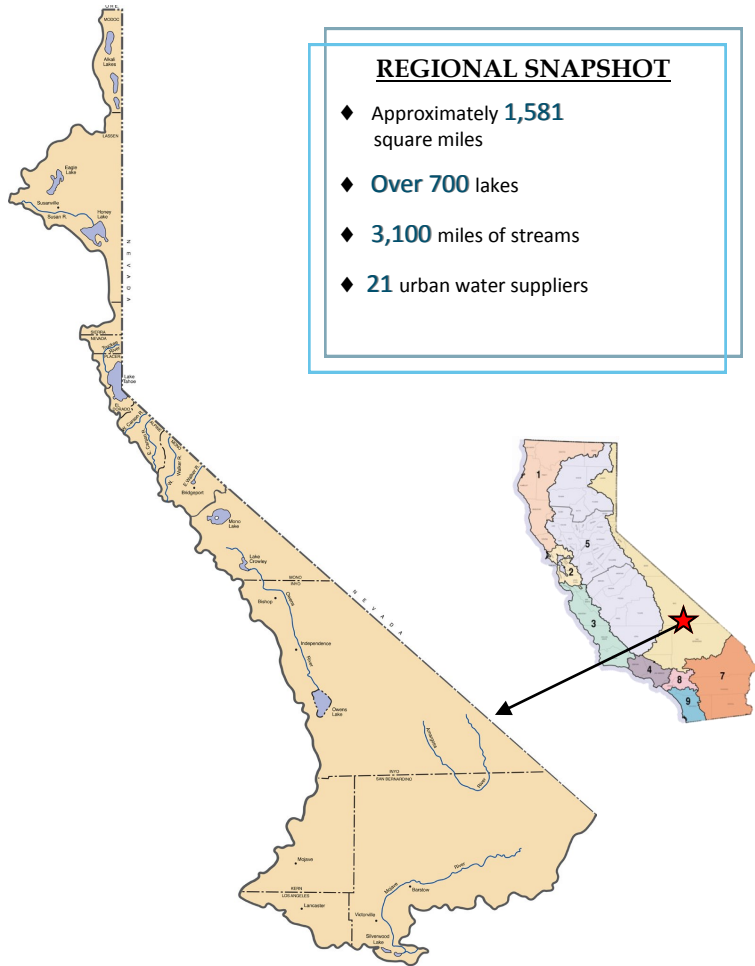
Sacramento: 11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 - 916-464-3291

Fresno: 1685 "E" Street, Fresno, CA 93706 - 559-445-5116

Redding: 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002 - 530-224-4845

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>

The Central Valley Region is the State's largest, encompassing 60,000 square miles, or about 40 percent of the State's total area. Thirty-eight of California's 58 counties are either completely or partially within the Region's boundaries, formed by the crests of the Sierra Nevada on the east, the Coast Range and Klamath Mountains on the west, the Oregon border on the north, and the Tehachapi Mountains on the south. The Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, along with their tributaries, drain the major part of this large area through an inland Delta, before emptying into San Francisco Bay. The Delta is the focal point of the State's two largest water conveyance projects, the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project. Together, the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and the Delta furnish over half of the State's water supply. The southern third of the Central Valley contains the Tulare Lake Basin, a closed hydrographic unit except during extremely wet years.



**REGIONAL SNAPSHOT**

- ◆ Approximately **1,581** square miles
- ◆ **Over 700** lakes
- ◆ **3,100** miles of streams
- ◆ **21** urban water suppliers

### Lahontan Regional Water Board Priorities for 2017

- Renew the Municipal NPDES Storm Water Permit for runoff discharges at Lake Tahoe. The renewed permit includes the second five-year pollutant reduction milestone established by the Lake Tahoe TMDL, and continues previous Storm Water Management Plan, field inspection, and water quality monitoring requirements.
- Adopt a general order for waste discharges for approximately 12 existing confined animal feeding operations. This order will focus on reducing nitrate and salt delivery to groundwater in locations where existing nitrate and salt pollution has resulted from over application of manure and dairy wash water to unlined ponds and agricultural fields.

**Lahontan Regional Water Board**

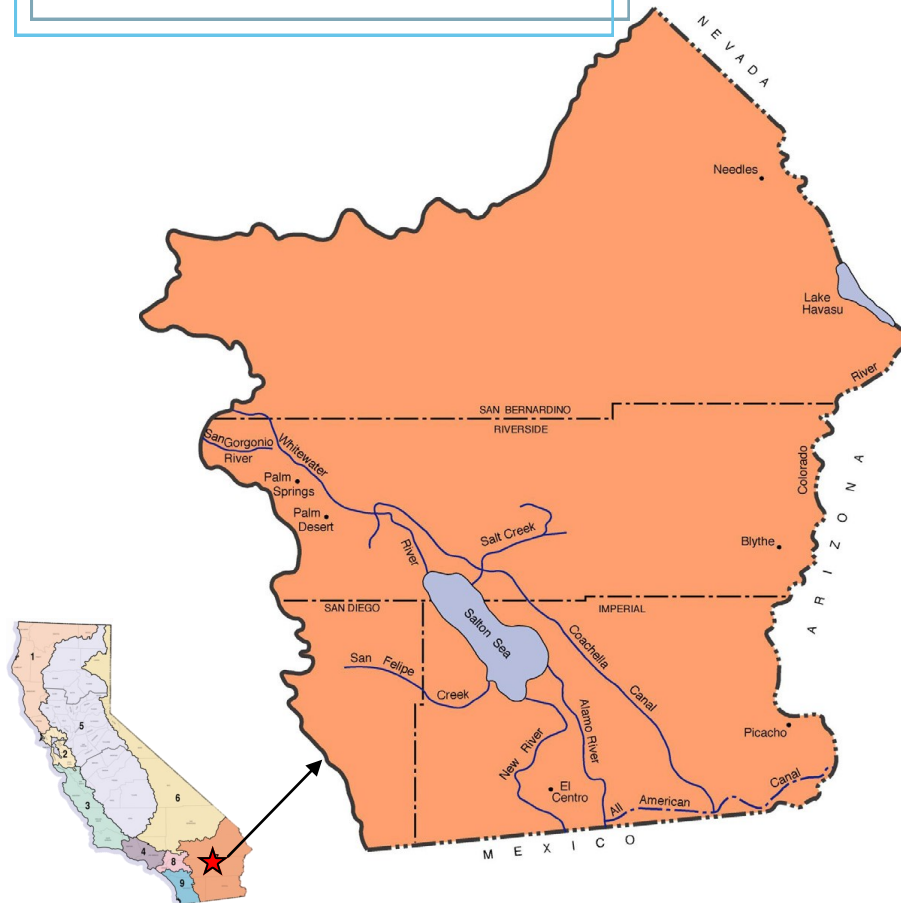
South Lake Tahoe: 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 - 530-542-5400  
 South Lake Tahoe Annex: 971 Silver Dollar Avenue, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 - 530-542-5400  
 Victorville: 15095 Amargosa Road, Bldg. 2, Suite 210, Victorville, CA 92394 - 760-241-6583

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan)

The Lahontan Region is named for a prehistoric lake that once covered much of the Great Basin. The Region includes approximately 20 percent of California from the Oregon border south along the eastern crest of the Sierra Nevada through the northern Mojave Desert. Within this area are hundreds of lakes, streams, and wetlands, including the nationally-significant Lake Tahoe and Mono Lake. Tourism is the most important industry in the Region, which also includes Death Valley National Park, the Mammoth Lakes area, and portions of the Mojave National Preserve. The Region's southern cities are experiencing rapid population increases, ranking them within the top ten nationally.

**REGIONAL SNAPSHOT**

- ◆ Approximately **20,000** square miles
- ◆ **900** miles of streams
- ◆ **250,000** acres of lakes
- ◆ **16** urban water suppliers



## Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board

## Priorities for 2017

- Continue addressing New River pollution from Mexico and assist with the implementation of Phase 1 of the New River Improvement Project for the Calexico area.
- Continue to assist and provide regulatory guidance to the Natural Resources Agency for its Salton Sea Management Program.
- Address the threat of septic systems in the Coachella Valley.
- Adopt General WDR orders for irrigated agriculture in Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa, Bard Valley, and Coachella Valley.
- Adopt a general order that allows for debris management during a State of Emergency declared by the Governor's Office (requested by the Office of Emergency Services).
- Facilitate recycled water use by enrolling existing and new dischargers into the State Water Board's general order for Recycled Water.

## Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, CA 92260

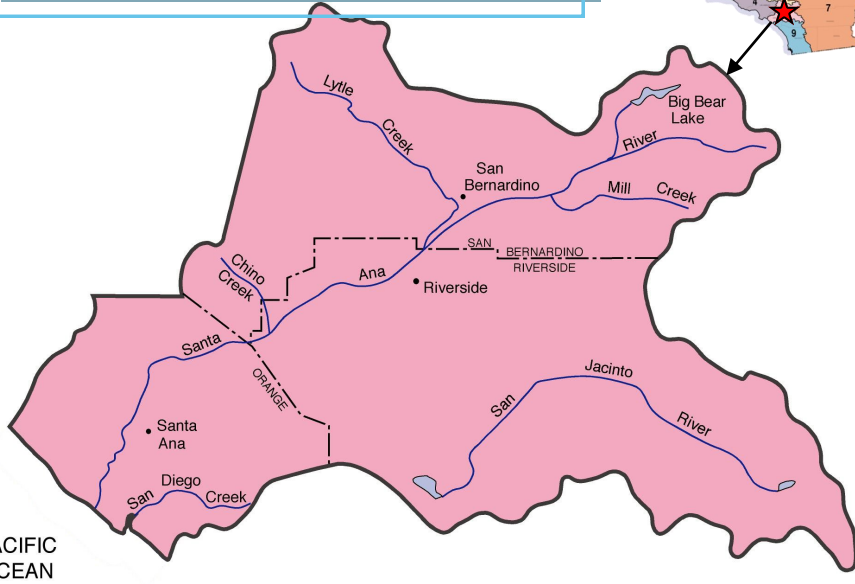
760-346-7491

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/>

The Colorado River Basin Region covers California's most arid area. Despite its dry climate, the Region contains two water bodies of State and national significance: the Colorado River and the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea is California's largest inland lake, covering approximately 343 square miles. Water from the Colorado River irrigates more than 700,000 acres of productive farmland in the Imperial, Coachella, Bard, and Palo Verde valleys. The Colorado River also provides drinking water to several million people in California's southern coastal cities.

### REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

- ◆ Approximately **2,800** square miles
- ◆ **460** miles of streams
- ◆ **17** lakes
- ◆ **53** urban water suppliers
- ◆ **24** miles of coastline



### Santa Ana Regional Water Board Priorities for 2017

- Adopt Metals TMDLs for Newport Bay. Copper from anti-fouling paints used on recreational boats is the key pollutant being addressed in the TMDLs. Working with stakeholders to resolve areas of scientific and technical disagreement. Adoption of these TMDLs is expected in late spring/summer of 2017.
- Update the Salt Management Plan by working with water supply and wastewater agencies to implement and refine the Plan, including re-computation of groundwater ambient total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrate water quality objectives, revision and establishment of groundwater water quality objectives, and update of the TDS and nitrogen waste load allocation for wastewater treatment plants that discharge to the Santa Ana River and its tributaries.
- Adopt Selenium TMDLs for the Newport Bay Watershed. Peer and public review are anticipated in early-2017, with Regional Water Board adoption of the TMDLs expected in spring/summer of 2017.
- Renew Poseidon Resources Proposed Huntington Beach Desalination Permit, as the existing NPDES permit for the intake and discharge operations associated with the proposed desalination facility expires in February 2017. NPDES permit renewal will be initiated in 2017.
- Renew the Scrap Metal Storm Water General Permit, which expired in February 2014. In 2012, the Regional Water Board adopted the first in the nation sector-specific storm water general permit for scrap metal facilities. Permit adoption is expected in late-2017.
- Approve Local Area Management Plans (LAMPs) for the unincorporated areas of Orange County, and the cities of Rancho Cucamonga and Yucaipa.

The Santa Ana Region, which extends from the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountains in the north and Newport Bay along the coast, continues to be one of the most rapidly-growing areas of the State. While the Region is geographically the smallest at 2,800 square miles, it has one of the largest populations with almost 5 million people. This semi-arid Region is known for its temperate climate and relatively low rainfall - approximately 15 inches per year.

#### Santa Ana Regional Water Board

3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501

951-782-4130

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana)

**REGIONAL SNAPSHOT**

- ◆ Approximately **3,900** square miles
- ◆ **85** miles of coastline
- ◆ **19,220** acres of lakes
- ◆ **910** miles of streams
- ◆ **29** urban water suppliers

**San Diego Regional Water Board Priorities for 2017**

- Continue to remove contaminants from sediment and water in San Diego Bay, including the refinement of sediment quality objectives and development of alternative cleanup levels.
- Enroll at least 25 percent of the Region's commercial agricultural operations under the general waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for discharges from commercial agricultural operations.
- Reissue the NPDES permits for the City of San Diego's E. W. Blom Point Loma Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Poseidon, LLC's Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Facility.
- Develop biological objectives for the attainment of ecosystem-related beneficial uses.
- Expand permitted production and reuse options for recycled water.
- Increase compliance assessment and enforcement at industrial storm water sites, including identification of sites violating numeric action levels in the Statewide General Industrial Storm Water Permit.
- Expand permitted capacity to keep up with demand for disposal of solid wastes at operating landfills.
- Approve the Former Naval Training Center Site 12 Record of Decision, which will enable the Department of the Navy to clean up contaminated sediment in the Former Naval Training Center Boat Channel portion of San Diego Bay Center Boat Channel portion of San Diego Bay.

**San Diego Regional Water Board**

2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108

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The San Diego Region is divided into a coastal plain area, a central mountain-valley area, and an eastern mountain valley area. The Region enjoys a climate and location that supports many agricultural and industrial uses of water. Having a mild coastal climate, the Region's growing population enjoys many water-related activities; however, little precipitation falls within this semi-arid Region.

Approximately 90 percent of the Region's water supply is imported from northern California and the Colorado River.

# State Water Board Priorities for 2017

## Drinking Water

- Adopt regulations for (1) laboratory accreditation; (2) surface water augmentation with recycled water; and (3) revision of the Total Coliform Rule.
- Establish a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for 1,2,3-Trichloropropane.
- Electronically submit lead and copper monitoring data to the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS).
- Complete water system sanitary surveys and system inspections required by USEPA.
- Initiate direct potable reuse research objectives.
- Reduce the number of public water systems in violation of the Arsenic MCL.

## Water Quality

- Adopt tribal and subsistence fishing beneficial uses and mercury water quality objectives (WQOs) to protect human health and wildlife.
- Adopt a wetland definition and procedures for regulating discharges of dredged or fill materials to all waters of the State.
- Adopt statewide bacteria WQOs and a control program to protect human health in waters designated for water contact recreation.
- Adopt a statewide general permit to protect water quality from discharges from cannabis cultivation on private lands.
- Adopt a statewide general permit to regulate discharges from construction, hydrostatic testing, operations, and maintenance of natural gas pipelines and related facilities.
- Adopt the 2014-2016 California Clean Water Act Section 305(b) Integrated Report and 303(d) List.

### State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

916-341-5254

[www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

## State Water Board Priorities for 2017 Continued

### Water Rights

- Adopt the Bay-Delta Plan update for San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Salinity (Phase 1) and release the draft Bay-Delta Plan comprehensive update (Phase 2).
- Complete Part 1 of the water right hearing to consider the CA WaterFix Project, focusing on impacts to other users of water, and commence Part 2, focusing on fish and wildlife.
- Provide water right holders with access to online water diversion reporting.
- Adopt a Policy for Water Quality Control governing diversions and discharges associated with cannabis cultivation.
- Provide cannabis cultivators with online access to file small irrigation use registrations for storage of water.

### Information Management & Analysis

- Communicate the Water Board's organization performance using open government and open data principles.
- Improve the availability and accessibility of data, or information and knowledge derived from data using open data techniques and tools.
- Protect public health by improving harmful algal bloom incident communication and mapping on the Harmful Algal Blooms Portal.
- Lead and adapt the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) network of partners to improve the use of limited monitoring resources to gather data, and to transform data into information and knowledge and communicate this to decision-makers and the public.

### Financial Assistance

- Execute over \$150 million in new grant agreements with Prop. 1 and SB 445 funding to prevent and clean up contamination of groundwater aquifers used as sources of drinking water.
- Develop funding guidelines and provide technical assistance for a new \$9.5 million grant program that will provide access to clean drinking water for students at schools in disadvantaged communities (DACs).
- Facilitate and fund the consolidation of small drinking water systems serving DACs.
- Expediently complete planning projects for DACs and develop construction-ready wastewater and drinking water projects.
- Develop a "debt management" policy and an improved application prioritization system for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program.



# State Water Board Priorities for 2017 Continued

## Statewide Water Management

- Adopt permanent water conservation regulations for urban water use reporting and prohibitions of wasteful water practices.
- Adopt fee regulations to support the Board's Sustainable Groundwater Management Program and require reporting from groundwater users in areas that are not managed by an authorized Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
- Begin conducting evaluations of water quality benefits associated with applications for funding through the CA Water Commission's Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program.

## Public Participation & Outreach

- Increase outreach to Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities and further implement the State's Human Right to Water statute in communities such as East Porterville and the Salinas Valley.
- Increase outreach to Californian Native American Tribes and conduct AB52 and other tribal consultations associated with Water Board actions and projects having the potential to affect Native American Tribes.

## Enforcement

- Update the State Water Board's Water Quality Enforcement Policy.
- Further implement the State's Human Right to Water statute through negotiating and issuing orders for replacement water for nitrate-impacted sources of water in the Salinas and Central valleys.
- Work with the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and local governments to identify and take appropriate action on cannabis cultivation facilities that cannot or will not comply with applicable water quality and water supply laws and standards.



# California Water Boards 2016 Accomplishments Report

January - December 2016

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