

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND PERFORMANCE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

INFORMATIONAL ITEM: INITIAL RELEASE OF WATER BOARDS' ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (FISCAL YEAR 2008-09)

DISCUSSION

This informational item presents the Water Boards' first Annual Performance Report, which addresses what the Water Boards are doing to protect water quality. This item supplements this Board Meeting's item on the water quality information web portal.

With the adoption of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, the Water Boards continued the transition to becoming performance-based organizations where clear and measurable goals, objectives, and targets for improved performance are established and reported. Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan establishes that the Water Boards will improve transparency and accountability by ensuring that our goals and actions are clear and accessible; by demonstrating and explaining results achieved; and by enhancing and improving accessibility to data and information.

In accordance with the Strategic Plan, the web pages for the Annual Performance Report were created to provide a report card that will communicate to the public the quality of California's waters (with links to the water quality information web portal), the performance of the Water Boards in protecting those waters, and other Water Board-related issues that affect the public. Executive leadership of the State and Regional Water Boards identified numerous performance measures for specific outputs that are currently tracked through Water Board data systems. Initially, we are providing performance information for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009). The FY 2008-09 Annual Performance Report presents information on output measures under selected key functional categories of Water Board work. Over time, additional information (such as inputs and outcomes) and time periods will be provided to better illustrate the work and effectiveness of the Water Boards, and the quality of our State's waters.

A web version of the FY 2008-09 Annual Performance Report will be available on the State Water Board's Internet site for the September 1 Board Meeting. The report's web pages will solicit public comments for continual improvement of the information presented. In addition, improvements in the Water Boards' data systems will enhance routine reporting of performance. As those systems are enhanced, this report will evolve to describe the water environment outcomes of our efforts.

Making this information available in a publicly-accessible manner is expected to build public confidence in the decision-makers, enhance the delivery of government services, and lead to greater public interest and involvement. Establishing and using measures of environmental and Water Board performance, along with adequate data and data systems, to track and report progress in meeting our goals and targets helps us to better manage and evaluate our programs, activities, and priorities, and improve efficiencies in our work processes. Thus, this

first Annual Performance Report is a management tool and an instrument to communicate to the public our efforts and achievements during FY 2008-09.

POLICY ISSUE

None. The Annual Performance Report does not set any specific policy.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. At the present time, the Water Boards should be working within their given resource levels to provide the data and information needed for the Annual Performance Report.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

No additional impact at this time. The Regional Water Boards will be expected to continue maintaining current data and information in various databases that form the basis for periodic reporting of the performance measures in the Annual Performance Report.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None (informational item only).

This information item assists the Water Boards in reaching Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to improve transparency and accountability. In particular, this item assists in fulfilling Objective 5.4 to “create ... a web-based water quality report card that will communicate to the public the quality of the State’s waters, the performance of the Water Boards in protecting those waters, and other Water Board-related issues that affect the public.” More specifically, Action 5.4.1. directs the development of “annual web-based reports on the effectiveness of Water Board programs, ... which track performance measures ... and allow the Water Boards to adjust priorities and strategies for the coming year.” [Full text for the goal, objective, and action are provided below.]

Goal 5. *Improve transparency and accountability by ensuring that Water Board goals and actions are clear and accessible, by demonstrating and explaining results achieved with respect to the goals and resources available, by enhancing and improving accessibility of data and information, and by encouraging the creation of organizations or cooperative agreements that advance this goal, such as establishment of a statewide water data institute.*

Objective 5.4. *Create a portal by July 2009 for the public on the State Water Board's home page to access web-based water quality information for surface, ground, and coastal waters, and a web-based water quality report card, that will communicate to the public the quality of the State’s waters, the performance of the Water Boards in protecting those waters, and other Water Board-related issues that affect the public.*

Action 5.4.1. *Considering stakeholder input, develop annual web-based reports on the effectiveness of Water Board programs, beginning with a report on compliance and enforcement activities by January 2009, which track performance measures that are established in performance plans, and allows the Water Boards to adjust priorities and strategies for the coming year.*