

Region 1

2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Priorities

2014 Accomplishments:

- Adoption of the Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature, and TMDL Action Plans to Address Temperature Impairments in the Mattole, Navarro, and Eel River Watersheds, which establishes riparian shade is a "controllable factor" that must be maintained to achieve temperature standards.
- Enrollment in and implementation of a Waiver of WDRs and general 401 Certification for the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C), addressing road maintenance and stream protections associated with county roads in Siskiyou, Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino Counties.
- Adoption of a Waiver of WDRs and general 401 Certification as part of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District's Permit Coordination Program promoting high-quality conservation and restoration projects on farms, ranches, and forestland throughout Mendocino County to support recovery of threatened and endangered salmonids.
- Continued implementation of Klamath Basin TMDLs, including adoption of revised waivers of WDRs for Scott and Shasta Rivers, development of the Klamath Tracking and Accounting Program, and coordination with partners to implement diffuse source treatment wetland projects in the upper Klamath Basin.
- Completion of the 2012 Integrated Report and adoption of the 2012 303(d) List, including several key de-listings and reduced geographic extent of listings, as well as new impairment listings.
- Held a joint public meeting between the North Coast Regional Water Board and the Board of Forestry, identifying opportunities for enhanced coordination between our Boards including coordinated monitoring and assessment for meaningful adaptive management and regulation adaptation.

2015 Priorities:

- Development of a sediment TMDL and WDR for timber operations in the Elk River watershed.
- Development of an Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Policy.
- Development of Cannabis Cultivation Regulatory and Enforcement Program, including a Waiver of WDRs for discharges associated with these operations.
- Development of a pathogens indicator bacteria TMDL for the Russian River, which will include load allocations and requirements associated with septic systems in the lower watershed.
- Development of a Basin Plan amendment for chemical constituent's objectives and a groundwater toxicity objective.
- Regional Water Board workshop on climate change and identification of Regional Water Board actions to promote adaptation and mitigation for climate change.

Region 2

2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Priorities

2014 Accomplishments:

- Developed a region-wide permit for nutrients in SF Bay. Evolving changes in Bay chemistry combined with existing discharges may impair the Bay, requiring expensive POTW upgrades.
- Adopted multi-year stream maintenance permits for priority flood management agencies to streamline permitting and Board oversight.
- Developed several new TMDLs, including: Lagunitas Creek sediment, Napa River and Sonoma Creek sediment and pathogens, and San Mateo coastal beach pathogens. Also delisted Napa River and Sonoma Creek for nutrients and Muir Beach for pathogens.
- Updated Region 2 Environmental Screening Levels, which streamline the investigation and cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater. The update has increased the speed of site cleanups and Brownfield site restoration.
- Reduced the impacts of abandoned ships and vessels on the Bay by requiring the federal government to clean up the Suisun Bay mothball fleet, developing best practices for cleaning and removing vessels, and helping to secure grants for removal of abandoned vessels.
- Decreased the amount of SSO's by increasing audits of and enforcement against sewage collection agencies. Also required planning for infrastructure investment, collection system management, and private sewer lateral ordinances.
- Celebrated the opening of the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project to Bay tidal action. This was the result of Water Board oversight of the cleanup of the former airbase and the placement of 6 million cubic yards of dredged material to restore the site's 640 acres.

2015 Priorities:

- Implement TMDLs by developing a vineyard regulatory program largely based on third-party certifications to address sediment discharges in Napa and Sonoma; updating permits for dairies; developing general permits for wineries no longer covered under county regulations pursuant to State Water Board policy; and diverting more stormwater to treatment plants to reduce the discharge of PCBs, pathogens, etc., in urban runoff.
- Reissue the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (covering 76 permittees) with a "100% reduction by 2022" goal for trash, and streamlined requirements for LID.
- Streamline restoration of creeks, wetlands, and animal stock ponds by developing general permits, streamlining monitoring requirements, and assisting in grant acquisition.
- Address climate change impacts by requiring dischargers to address their vulnerability to storm surge and sea level rise, encouraging reuse of dredged material and sediment to protect shorelines and infrastructure, and implementing the recommendations of the upcoming Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Update.
- Address the water quality impacts of homeless encampments and landfill redevelopments.
- Develop a program to efficiently address cleanup of unfunded dry cleaner pollution sites.
- Develop salt and nutrient management plans for priority groundwater basins.
- Support water recycling, infrastructure upgrades, and other water sustainability/water conservation projects by streamlining permitting and assisting in grant acquisition.

Region 3

2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Priorities

2014 Accomplishments

- **Agriculture Coalition:** Worked to support formation of the first Central Coast Agriculture Coalition for groundwater. Data from the Coalition and other sources are being used to map groundwater quality across the region to identify nitrate risk areas.
- **Grants to Disadvantage Communities:** Allocated \$748,000 toward services to disadvantaged communities and low-income farmers.
- **Drought Support to Local Communities:** Prioritized drought related actions to support local municipalities, such as the Paso Robles groundwater management district, and the Cities of Cambria and Santa Barbara to develop emergency water supplies.
- **Salinas River Management Plan:** Assisting the Monterey County Water Resource Agency, The Nature Conservancy, and other stakeholders to develop a pilot program for a long-term Salinas River management plan. The Salinas River watershed is the fourth largest in California.
- **Healthy Watersheds Assessments:** Assessed all watersheds in the Central Coast Region and developed web-based report cards and a public information web-portal.

Challenges That Lay Ahead

- **Drought Crisis:** The drought and the resulting emergency water supply conditions in many communities are a growing, major challenge.
- **Groundwater Overdrafting:** Groundwater overdrafting, regardless of the drought, has been a severe and growing problem for decades.
- **Salt-Water Intrusion of Coastal Aquifers:** Related to both overdraft and the drought is the worsening saltwater intrusion of coastal aquifers. Almost all of the Central Coast Regions are hydraulically connected to the ocean and all have worsening salt-water intrusion; some severe!
- **Drinking Water Contamination and Public Health:** Extensive contamination of regional drinking water supplies due to nitrate is an increasing public health risk to rural home owners and small disadvantaged communities.
- **Regulation of Irrigated Agriculture:** Most of the impaired water bodies in the Central Coast Region are listed because of irrigated agriculture discharges. Effective implementation of the program requires significant increases in staff over the next several years.
- **Regulatory Streamlining:** The historical Water Board approach of managing individual discharge cases is no longer possible due to the number of dischargers. The Water Boards must streamline and fully automate its permitting and regulatory processes with on-line enrollment and reporting systems.

Region 4

2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Priorities

2014 Accomplishments:

- **Drought** – Adopted three NPDES permits to allow the use of treated wastewater for indirect potable water use and for sea water intrusion barriers. The total water conserved by these permits meets the demands of approximately 187 households per year.
- **Marina del Rey Copper TMDL** – Adopted a revision to the Marina del Rey toxic pollutants to include copper dissolved in the water column that is leached from copper based paints on boat hulls moored in the Marina. The TMDL provides a time schedule for special studies to develop site-specific copper objectives for Marina del Rey. The Los Angeles Board worked with the State Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) on implementation of DPR recommendations for use of copper based paints and the TMDL can serve as a model for restoring harbor waters throughout the State.
- **MOU with LADWP** – Entered into an Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Department of Water and Power to cooperate on investigation and cleanup of chromium contamination in the San Fernando Valley aquifers. These aquifers serve a significant portion of drinking water to the City of Los Angeles and cleanup of the groundwater is a high priority for reducing imported water and water sustainability for the Los Angeles Region.

2015 Priorities

- Increase water reuse through NPDES permits for municipal wastewater treatment plants.
- Work to implement watershed-based multi-benefit projects through the Los Angeles County MS4 permits.
- Partner with Water Purveyors to accelerate cleanup of critical drinking water aquifers.
- Reissue the Ventura County MS4 permit.

Region 5

2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Priorities

2014 Accomplishments

- Groundwater Protection – Irrigated Lands Program, Oil Field Discharges, Dairy Monitoring
- The Delta – Drinking Water Policy, Sac Regional
- Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon Pesticide Basin Plan Amendment
- CV-SALTS – Region wide Salt and Nitrate Management Plan
- Marijuana – program development
- Disadvantaged Communities Supplemental Environmental Project Program
- Portfolio Management development and roll-out

2015 Priorities

- Oil Field Regulatory Program – injection and sumps
- The Delta – implement Delta Regional Monitoring Program
- Groundwater Protection Strategy – WDR update efficiency/backlog reduction
- Stormwater – region-wide MS4 Permit
- Selenium – update WDRs for Grasslands discharges
- Dairies – management practices protective of water quality
- Marijuana – program implementation
- US Forest Service MOU and Waiver
- CV-SALTS
- Portfolio Management implementation/Lean 6 Sigma

Region 6

2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Priorities

2014 Accomplishments

- **Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) Policy** – Adopted a new SEP policy that creates partnerships with third parties to identify water quality improvement projects and develop lists of eligible projects that can be funded by SEPs.
- **Lake Tahoe Nearshore Water Quality Protection Plan** – Completed the Lake Tahoe Nearshore Water Quality Protection Plan which dedicated funding, expanded monitoring efforts, and initiated investigations to improve Lake Tahoe nearshore pollution conditions.
- **Regional Timber Waiver (Waiver)** – Adopted a streamlined Waiver for vegetation management activities on public and private lands. The Waiver replaces prescriptive stream zone requirements with outcome-based standards for heavy equipment operations, slash piling, and burning.
- **Mojave Basin and Antelope Valley Salt/Nutrient Management Plans (SNMP)** – In November, the Mojave Water Agency (Mojave River Groundwater Basin) and Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Antelope Valley Basin) will present their SNMPs to the Regional Water Board. These two SNMPs cover a significant portion of the groundwater resources affected by salts and nutrients in the south region.
- **Leviathan Mine Litigation Settlement** – A litigation settlement between the Atlantic Richfield Company, State Water Board, and Regional Water Board is expected in late 2014. The settlement will result in the Water Board taking over cleanup activities at this federal Superfund site, with Atlantic Richfield Company paying for the majority of the cleanup costs.
- **Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAO) to Hinkley Dairies** – This winter, six CAOs will be issued to dairies that have caused groundwater pollution (salts and nutrients) in the Mojave River Groundwater Basin. The CAOs will require replacement drinking water, wash water source reduction, monitoring, and stormwater BMPs.

2015 Priorities

- **Managing Natural Attenuation (MNA)** – By February, the Water Board will produce a report on procedures for using MNA in groundwater cleanups tailored for the Region. A workshop was held September 2014.
- **Climate Change** – By March, the Water Board will produce a report on climate changes actions and adaptations strategies tailored for the region. Workshops will begin in November 2014.
- **CAO for Pacific Gas and Electric** – By summer, the Water Board will adopt a CAO to set cleanup deadlines, plume capture, and monitoring requirements to clean up the hexavalent chromium groundwater pollution in Hinkley. Workshops on the draft CAO began in September 2014.
- **Grazing Regulatory Action Project** – The Water Board will lead statewide policy development efforts with other Regional Water Boards. Listening sessions will begin in November 2014.

Region 7

2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Priorities

2014 Accomplishments:

- Adopted Coachella Valley Irrigated Ag Waiver. Coalition will be run by non-profit specifically formed for implementation of Waiver. Approximately 70,000 acres.
- Adopted WDRs for Geothermal exploration wells near south east end of Salton Sea and San Andreas Fault. RB7 has a large geothermal industry with three Known Geothermal Resource Areas (KGRAs).
- Audited all 31 CAFOs in Imperial County. Fifteen out of thirty one were found in noncompliance with their General NPDES Order. Adopted STIP Enforcement Order for one CAFO and all others were brought into compliance with informal and formal enforcement as well.
- Adopted Reclamation Facility Order which doubled capacity for production and distribution of recycled water by DWA utilizing Palm Springs POTW effluent.

2015 Priorities:

- Septic Tank Prohibitions: Implementation of RB7 Yucca Valley Septic Tank Prohibition Basin Plan Amendment including progress towards development of HDWD Wastewater Reclamation Plant; and Mission Springs/Desert Hot Springs septic tank prohibition under Porter-Cologne Section 13281 (b) (1).
- Consideration of adoption of Imperial County Irrigated Ag Waiver. Approximately 500K acres.
- Consideration of adoption of CVWD WRP 10 (Wastewater Reclamation Plant) Order. Goal is to hookup many of our golf courses by increasing plant size and connections.
- IRWMPs/SNMPs for Mojave (jointly with RB6), Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley and Borrego Springs.
- Implementation of OWTS Policy including development of LAMPS (jointly with RB6 and RB9).
- Triennial Review.
- New River Strategic Plan and Border Issues.

Region 8

2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Priorities

014 Accomplishments

- **Basin Plan Amendment updating the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan** - revised the Maximum Benefit Plan for the groundwater management zones in the Beaumont area, allowing for increased use of recycled water to reduce the need for imported water.
- **Renewal of Orange County MS4 permit** – existing permit expired in April, draft permit released in May, Board workshop in June, and adoption expected in December.

2015 Priorities

- **Renewal of Riverside and San Bernardino County MS4 permits** – Existing permits expire in January 2015. The Regional Water Board will begin the process to renew the Riverside and San Bernardino County permits in early 2015.
- **Adoption of selenium TMDL for the Newport Bay watershed** – Conducted a number of workshops related to the TMDL (most recently in June 2014), and adoption of a TMDL is expected in early 2015.
- **Adoption of copper TMDL for Newport Bay** – Expected to be controversial since the primary source of copper in the bay is anti-fouling paints used on boats. Currently working on a draft TMDL, with workshops and adoption of the TMDL expected in 2015.
- **Adoption of a conditional waiver for agricultural discharges in the San Jacinto watershed** – Working with stakeholders to develop a conditional waiver to address these discharges. Release of a draft conditional waiver is expected in early 2015, with Board workshops and adoption expected later in 2015.
- **Orange County North Basin Task Force** – Participating in a multi-agency group (including Orange County Water District, USEPA and DTSC) that is working to develop a cleanup strategy for a regional groundwater contamination plume.

Region 9

2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Priorities

2014 Accomplishments

- **Practical Vision:** Adoption of the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision, a 7-year strategic plan to achieve Healthy Waters through collaboration and stakeholder efforts in the San Diego Region.
- **International Boundary and Water Commission Litigation and Permit:** After 18 years of enforcement actions, permitting, and litigation, the IBWC International Wastewater Treatment Facility is attaining secondary treatment standards which resulted in the successful conclusion of federal litigation and the first ever reissuance of the 16 year old NPDES Permit for the facility. The new permit includes significant new requirements to address cross border flows of polluted waters.
- **Tijuana River Valley Recovery:** Since 2012, the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (TRVRT) has focused on working with Mexico to address sources of trash and sediment. As a result, in March 2014, the Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA) and IBWC working with the TRVRT drafted a Treaty Minute to the 1944 *Treaty for the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande*. When approved by both federal governments, it will establish a framework for Mexico and the United States to address trans-border sediment and trash issues in the Tijuana River Valley.

2015 Priorities

- **Biological Objectives:** Initiate development of Environmental Outcomes Performance Measures for the Water Board beginning with the development of Biological Water Quality Objectives for rivers and streams in the San Diego Region. Developing measures of the attainment of the WARM and COLD Beneficial Uses is critical to achieving the objectives of the Clean Water Act and the goals of the Practical Vision to use environmental outcomes measures to priorities and measure the effectiveness of Water Board regulatory efforts. (Healthy Waters).
- **Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay:** Complete the San Diego Bay Strategy to fully implement the Bays and Estuaries Policy and address long standing legacy contamination and water quality impairments, identify environmental outcomes performance measures, and complete all 33 clean ups and address 3 Bay-wide listings through strategic stakeholder partnerships by 2030 (Healthy Waters).
- **Tijuana River Valley Recovery Action Plan:** Update the TRVRT Strategy and adopt a Five Year Action Plan in 2014 of specific projects to restore the Tijuana River Valley waters, wetlands, and coastal water quality. (Healthy Waters).
- **Irrigated Lands General Waste Discharge Requirements:** Building on work started through a Waiver of WDRs in 2007, the Water Board will adopt a far reaching General WDR to protect water quality and beneficial uses from pollutants coming from irrigated lands. (Monitoring and Assessment).

State Water Board

2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Priorities

State Water Board 2014 Accomplishments

- Consolidated the State's drinking water program with surface water and groundwater quality protection programs to achieve broader efficiencies and synergies.
- Directed a comprehensive response to the drought emergency to address insufficient water supplies by curtailing water diversions where necessary, modifying water right conditions to preserve storage and transfer water to areas in need, securing alternative sources of drinking water for areas in need, and imposing mandatory conservation in urban areas.
- Adopted a General Permit for low-risk recycled water projects.
- Adopted and implemented a statewide Industrial General Storm Water Permit.
- Drafted a new Policy Handbook for the Drinking Water SRF Program to improve the delivery of financial assistance to drinking water systems in California.
- Assisted with the adoption of legislation that both secures the next ten years of the UST Program and includes a funding component for non-petroleum groundwater contamination.
- Reviewed 316 UST cases funded by the UST Cleanup Fund, out of a total of about 2,400 active UST claims (or about 13 percent), under the Low-Threat UST Case Closure Policy, and proposed closure for 105 of those cases (about 4 percent of the active UST claims).
- Negotiated replacement water orders and/or agreements for disadvantaged and other communities whose water supply is impacted by nitrate contamination.
- Created a cannabis enforcement program to address water quality and related flow issues in collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

State Water Board 2015 Priorities

- Ensure safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities by maximizing the use of the SRF, and providing technical, managerial, and financial assistance to resolve problems that small public water systems have in providing safe, reliable drinking water to their customers.
- Complete the integration of the drinking water program, including the development of fee regulations for drinking water systems.
- Begin implementation of groundwater regulation legislation and develop an approach to managing groundwater-surface water interactions related to surface flow objectives.
- Assess effectiveness of 2014 drought action implementation and implement near-term recommendations in preparation for a possible dry 2015 (includes both water rights and conservation).
- Identify drought-vulnerable public water systems, and monitor the status of these systems to help prevent or mitigate any anticipated shortfalls in supply and to secure alternative sources of water for the communities when needed. Work with other systems to ensure that they prepare for continued and future drought.
- Adopt uniform water recycling criteria for indirect potable reuse of recycled water and develop criteria for direct potable use.
- Adopt a General permit for low-risk drinking water discharges.
- Continue outreach on development and implementation of monitoring/oversight provisions for well stimulation (hydraulic fracturing) activities and regulations.
- Implement the groundwater program for well stimulation activities under SB 4.
- Develop strategies to address groundwater contamination in the Los Angeles region.
- Amend the Industrial Storm Water Permit to include TMDLs.
- Develop a storm water strategic initiative to improve program effectiveness by incentivizing watershed management, multiple-benefit projects, storm water capture, and source control.
- Adopt a general permit for Trash in Waterways.
- Adopt an Ocean Desalination Policy.
- Complete the proposal for Comprehensive Update of Bay Delta Plan (Phases 1 and 2).
- Develop and start implementing administrative actions for enhancing flows statewide in at least five stream systems that support critical habitat for anadromous fish.