

# Introduction

## About the California Water Boards

The Water Boards work to ensure the protection of water quality across a diverse range of topics, such as storm water, wastewater treatment, water quality monitoring, wetlands protection, ocean protection, contaminated sites cleanup, low-impact development, and enforcement.

The State Board also provides financial assistance to local governments and non-profit agencies to help build or rejuvenate wastewater treatment plants, protect, restore and monitor water quality, wetlands, and estuaries and help underground storage tank owners and operators pay for the costs of cleaning up leaking underground storage tanks.

The State Board oversees the allocation of the state's water resources to various entities and for diverse uses, from agricultural irrigation to hydro electrical power generation to municipal water supplies, to safeguarding the cleanliness of water for everything from bubble baths to trout streams to ocean beaches. The water rights program is administered to protect the public trust resources of the state and ensure that the public interest is served.

In order to protect water quality and allocate the rights to the use of California's water, the Boards must balance competing demands on the state's water resources, utilize the best available science, work with other agencies with intersecting responsibilities and be mindful of the impacts of its decisions on the public, including costs.

The State Board is located in Sacramento. There are nine Regional Water Boards, the boundaries of which are generally based on watersheds, also known as hydrologic areas. The nine Regional Water Boards are referred to by specific names, which are: (1) North Coast, (2) San Francisco Bay, (3) Central Coast, (4) Los Angeles, (5) Central Valley, (6) Lahontan, (7) Colorado River Basin, (8) Santa Ana, and (9) San Diego. Due to their size, the Central Valley Board has three offices and the Lahontan Board has two offices. Additional information, including maps and contact information is provided at page six and Appendix 14 of this Guide.

Together, the State Board and nine Regional Boards are referred to as the California Water Boards. The Water Boards are housed within state government and are part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

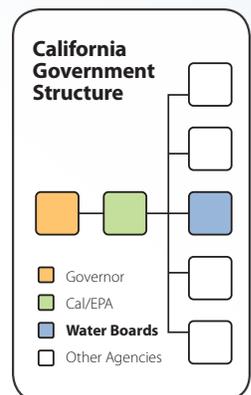


1.6 million acres of lakes

1.3 million acres of bays and estuaries

211,000 miles of rivers and streams

1,100 miles of coastline



...working together



## Composition

The State Board organization is governed by five individuals, each having special expertise and experience in water issues. These individuals are appointed by the Governor to four year terms and serve on a full-time basis. By law, these positions are filled by persons, one each of whom is:

- Qualified in the field of water quality
- Public Member
- Attorney qualified in the fields of water supply and water rights
- Civil Engineer qualified in the fields of water supply and water rights
- Sanitary Engineer qualified in water quality

Each Regional Water Board is governed by nine individuals, who serve on a part-time basis. The nine Board Members are also appointed by the Governor to four year terms. The law requires that six of the nine positions be filled by persons with specific expertise in one of the following six areas:

- Water supply
- Irrigated agriculture
- Industrial water use
- Municipal government
- County government
- Recreation, fish or wildlife

The remaining three positions do not have such a requirement, but two of these three members must have experience related to water quality problems.

Collectively, the Water Boards have approximately 1,600 staff members, comprised of engineers, environmental scientists, attorneys, administrative and clerical support. You may hear the Boards referred to as a "regulatory agency". This simply means that we implement laws passed by the Legislature and create and oversee rules that seek to prevent or cleanup pollution of California waterways.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Water Boards is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

## Strategic Plan

The Water Boards' 2008 Strategic Plan is a five year plan (2008-2012) that identifies key areas of focus for the Water Boards to consider in their planning for the future. The process of development included a series of forums to receive input from stakeholders and staff throughout the state. The Plan will be periodically updated and public input will be sought at that time as well. The Strategic Plan is guided by the Water Boards' vision, principles, and values.

## Vision

A sustainable California made possible by clean water and water availability for both human uses and environmental resource protection.

## Principles & Values

- Protection
- Sustainability
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Service
- Education/Outreach

# California Water Boards

## 1 North Coast Region

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

E-mail: [info1@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info1@waterboards.ca.gov)  
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
(707) 576-2220 TEL  
(707) 523-0135 FAX

## 2 San Francisco Bay Region

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

E-mail: [info2@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info2@waterboards.ca.gov)  
1515 Clay Street, #1400  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 622-2300 TEL  
(510) 622-2460 FAX

## 3 Central Coast Region

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

E-mail: [info3@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info3@waterboards.ca.gov)  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
(805) 549-3147 TEL  
(805) 543-0397 FAX

## 4 Los Angeles Region

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

E-mail: [info4@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info4@waterboards.ca.gov)  
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
(213) 576-6600 TEL  
(213) 576-6640 FAX

## 5 Central Valley Region

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

E-mail: [info5@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info5@waterboards.ca.gov)  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 464-3291 TEL  
(916) 464-4645 FAX

- **Fresno Office**  
1685 E Street, Suite 200  
Fresno, CA 93706  
(559) 445-5116 TEL  
(559) 445-5910 FAX
- **Redding Office**  
415 Knollcrest Drive  
Redding, CA 96002  
(530) 224-4845 TEL  
(530) 224-4857 FAX

## 6 Lahontan Region

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

E-mail: [info6@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info6@waterboards.ca.gov)  
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
(530) 542-5400 TEL  
(530) 544-2271 FAX

- **Victorville Office**  
14440 Civic Drive, Suite 200  
Victorville, CA 92392  
(760) 241-6583 TEL  
(760) 241-7308 FAX

## 7 Colorado River Basin Region

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

E-mail: [info7@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info7@waterboards.ca.gov)  
73-720 Fred Waring Dr., Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
(760) 346-7491 TEL  
(760) 341-6820 FAX

## 8 Santa Ana Region

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

E-mail: [info8@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info8@waterboards.ca.gov)  
3737 Main Street, Suite 500  
Riverside, CA 92501-3339  
(951) 782-4130 TEL  
(951) 781-6288 FAX

## 9 San Diego Region

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

E-mail: [info9@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info9@waterboards.ca.gov)  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 467-2952 TEL  
(858) 571-6972 FAX

## ★ State Water Board

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