CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

November 3, 2016

Interested Parties:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF WATER QUALITY DATA AND INFORMATION FOR 2018 CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED REPORT – CLEAN WATER ACT SECTIONS 305(b) AND 303(d)

Summary of Notice

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), by way of this Notice, initiates the solicitation period for interested parties to submit data and information regarding water quality conditions in surface waters of California (*please note - groundwater data should not be submitted*). Information submitted will be used for assessing overall surface water quality conditions and identifying impaired waters (waters not meeting water quality standards), for the development of the 2018 California Integrated Report. This Notice contains the contact information for the State Water Board staff, and instructions to follow when submitting data and information to the State Water Board.

Data submissions will be accepted on a continuing basis through the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). Data and information submitted should not be limited to only those datasets that show water quality standards that **are not** being met. Data that show that standards **are** being met should also be submitted, as they will contribute to a complete understanding of the quality of the state's surface waters.

The 2018 Integrated Report will address the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 1), Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 6), and Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 7). The boundaries of all Regional Water Boards are provided in Enclosure 4.

For the 2018 California Integrated Report update, data and information must be successfully submitted to the State Water Board via CEDEN, except as noted in Enclosure 1. As discussed in more detail below, "successful" submittals will have passed CEDENs Regional Data Center review. All successful submittals to be used for the 2018 Integrated Report must be received by the State Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m., May 3, 2017.

The review process could take several weeks. Data submittals should be done as soon as possible to ensure that the Regional Data Centers are able to review and input them into CEDEN by the deadline. While data for other Regional Water Boards will be accepted into CEDEN, they will not be assessed until the applicable Integrated Report cycle. Regional Water Boards do have the discretion to assess data and information while "off-cycle" if they determine the data will result in a Clean Water Act section 303(d) listing or de-listing.

Background Information
States are required to develop a report on overall surface water quality and a list of impaired surface waters or water quality limited segments (distinct portions of rivers, streams, lakes, or ocean waters, etc.) identifying relevant pollutants/stressors and to submit the information to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) every two years. These requirements are contained in the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) sections 305(b) and 303(d).

CWA section 305(b) requires that states provide an overall water quality condition assessment of surface waters of the state to serve as part of the U.S. EPA National Water Quality Inventory Report to Congress and is used to inform water quality management decisions. This report is referred to as the "Section 305(b) Report on Water Quality," the "Section 305(b) Report," or the "Surface Water Quality Assessment."

CWA section 303(d) requires that states provide lists of water bodies not meeting water quality standards (beneficial uses, water quality objectives/criteria and the state's anti-degradation policy) and waters that are not expected to meet water quality standards with the implementation of technology-based controls. This list is commonly referred to as the "Section 303(d) List" or the "List of Impaired Waters."

All readily available data and information submitted via CEDEN pursuant to this solicitation will be reviewed and assessed using the Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List (Listing Policy). Requirements for data and information specified in the Listing Policy — including those for quality control and assurance, temporal and spatial characteristics, and minimum sample sizes — will be followed when the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards review the data and information. The Listing Policy may be viewed at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2015/020315_8_amendment_clean_version.pdf

U.S. EPA has final approval authority for what is listed on the Section 303(d) List. As required by federal law, water bodies included on the Section 303(d) List will be scheduled for development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). A TMDL describes the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still ensure the attainment of applicable water quality standards. More information about California's TMDL program is available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/.

Integrated Report
The State Water Board and Regional Water Boards will be developing a California Integrated Report which contains the Section 305(b) Report and Section 303(d) List for California. Data and information submitted to the State Water Board during the solicitation period will be used in development of the 2018 Regional Integrated Reports.

Initially, Regions 1, 6, and 7 will develop individual Regional Integrated Reports. Regional Water Boards will provide public notice when the proposed 2018 Regional Integrated Reports are completed and available for public comment. Once adopted by the Regional Water Boards the three individual Regional Integrated Reports will be combined at the State Water Board to create the proposed 2018 California Integrated Report. The State Water Board will provide public notice when the proposed 2018 California Integrated Report is available for public comment. Upon approval by the Executive Director or the State Water Board, the statewide Section 303(d) List shall be submitted to U.S. EPA for approval as required by the CWA.

Data Submittal Procedures and Requirements

1. All new available data and information successfully submitted into CEDEN will be considered. A complete set of any new data that has become available since the end of the previous data solicitation period (January 14, 2010 – August 30, 2010) should be

submitted into CEDEN. Data previously submitted as part of the 2012, 2014, and 2016 Integrated Reports or data that has already submitted into CEDEN need **not** be resubmitted.

a) **All submittals, except as noted below must be submitted in an electronic format to the CEDEN database located at www.ceden.org** (the Web site details the submittal process and should be coordinated with the applicable Regional Data Centers).

b) Successful submittals will have passed the Regional Data Center review. This process could take several weeks and data submittals should be done as soon as possible to ensure that the Regional Data Centers can have them reviewed and available for input into CEDEN by the submittal deadline. The CEDEN website http://www.ceden.org/ceden_datatemplates.shtml contains the applicable data templates as well as guidance documents that detail the minimum requirements for successful submittals into CEDEN.

c) Section 6.1.4 of the Listing policy requires data to be accompanied by specific quality assurance documents. CEDEN cannot accept these documents; therefore, these documents must be submitted to the State Water Board staff referencing the project code obtained from the Regional Data Centers during successful submittal of data into CEDEN. If data is not accompanied by the requisite quality assurance documents, it will not be used for developing the CWA section 303(d) list. Quality assurance documents must be submitted to the following email: WQAssessment@waterboards.ca.gov .

2. Data that is generated as a requirement of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit should **not** be submitted into CEDEN in response to this solicitation. NPDES data should be submitted via the CIWQS/eSMR system and applicable data will be transferred into CEDEN automatically. Only receiving water monitoring data collected at receiving water (R-1 and R-2) sample sites are applicable for assessment purposes.

3. Certain data types cannot be accepted by CEDEN at this time (See Enclosure 1). If you have data on this list you may submit them to the State Water Board assessment staff for inclusion in the 2018 Integrated Report as long as they fit the format detailed in Enclosure 2. Data types not accepted by CEDEN must be submitted to the following email: WQAssessment@waterboards.ca.gov.

4. For purposes of this solicitation, "information" includes any documentation that a water body is or is not meeting, or is or is not likely to meet, existing water quality standards (i.e., beneficial uses of water and water quality objectives/criteria as listed in the Regional Water Quality Control Plans [Basin Plans], statewide water quality control plans [e.g., the California Ocean Plan], the California Code of Regulations, and pertinent federal laws and regulations).

5. "Data" are considered to be numeric information (i.e., measurements of specific physical, chemical, or biological characteristics in aquatic environments).

6. Data and information submitted may pertain to individual water body segments, entire water bodies, or whole watersheds in California.

7. The Section 303(d) List and the Section 305(b) Report update efforts are not designed, intended, or able to revise existing water quality standards. Persons interested in

recommending changes to existing water quality standards should contact the appropriate Regional Water Board.

Continuous Submission of Data and Solicitation Deadlines
The continuous submittal of data into CEDEN is encouraged for all nine Regional Water Boards regardless of Listing Cycle, providing stakeholders a repository for data as it is generated. A notice similar to this will alert persons and entities of upcoming solicitation cutoff dates for data acceptance for future Integrated Reports. The notice will also inform which Regional Water Boards will constitute the report for the specified Integrated Report cycle. The Regional Data Centers will be alerted to prioritize the inclusion of data for the Regional Water Boards targeted for the specified Integrated Report cycle.

There are four enclosures to this Notice which contain the following information:

- **Enclosure 1** Lists the data that cannot be accepted by CEDEN at this time.
- **Enclosure 2** Contains detailed information about the requirements for submitting water quality data and information that is outside the current capabilities of CEDEN.
- **Enclosure 3** Is the "2018 Integrated Report Data Submittal Information Form." To facilitate processing, a completed copy of this form should accompany each data submittal that is outside the capabilities of CEDEN.
- **Enclosure 4** Is a map of California showing the locations of each of the nine Regional Water Boards and some of the major water bodies within each Region.

For the 2018 California Integrated Report update, data and information must be successfully submitted to the State Water Board via CEDEN, except as noted in Enclosure 1. All successful submittals to be used for the 2018 Integrated Report must be received by the State Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m., May 3, 2017.

Questions regarding data or information submittals, or about other information included in this Notice, should be directed to either of the following:
State Water Board Surface Water Quality Assessment Unit
WQAssessment@waterboards.ca.gov or Mr. Nick Martorano at (916) 341-5290
(Nicholas.martorano@waterboards.ca.gov)

Please bring this Notice to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

Sincerely,

Karen Larsen, Deputy Director
Division of Water Quality

Enclosures (4)

cc: Mr. Tomas Torres, Director
Water Division (WTR-1)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Data types that can or cannot be accepted by CEDEN

What Types of data can be accepted into CEDEN?

- Water Chemistry data,
- Sediment Chemistry data,
- Toxicity data,
- Tissue data,
- Bioassessment data including algal species.

What types of data cannot be accepted into CEDEN?

- Time series data (continuous interval data),
- Photographic evidence,
- Flow data,
- Qualitative data,
- Narrative data.

If you feel believe your data is not represented above please contact the Surface water Quality Assessment Unit (WQAssessment@waterboards.ca.gov) or CEDEN staff (ceden@waterboards.ca.gov) to determine if your data type is CEDEN compatible.

Data Submittal Requirements for data that cannot be submitted via CEDEN:

1. **All submittals shall be in electronic format that is PC compatible, preferably in Microsoft Office 2010.** References to Web sites will not be accepted in lieu of actual data submitted. PDF files will also not be accepted, the data must be in a form that can be manipulated by Water Board staff for assessment purposes.

2. To expedite processing, all data and information to be submitted should include a completed 2018 Integrated Report Data Submittal Information Form (see Enclosure 3) with the following:

    a. Name of person or organization submitting data and information or certifying the completeness and accuracy of the data and information;
    b. Contact information of the person or organization;
    c. Date at which data and information is being submitted to the State Water Board;
    d. Which Regional Water Board the data and information is to be assessed for (see Map in Enclosure 4);
    e. Whether Geographical Information System (GIS) data files (ArcGIS *mxd* or ArcView *shapefiles*) are included;
    f. Pollutant categories the submitted data and information pertain to;
    g. Starting and ending dates of when data was collected, or time period which the submitted information represents;
    h. Brief summary of submittal or list of submittal contents and any instructions required for assessment, which may include:
        i. Definitions for codes or abbreviations used; and
        ii. Whether additional summaries or instructions are attached to the cover sheet or where they are included in the submittal;

3. To be considered of sufficient quality to be used as a primary line of evidence in assessing water quality attainment, per Listing Policy sections 6.1.2 and 6.1.4, solicited data being submitted should contain the following:

    a. All data should be submitted in a compatible digital format i.e. in a SWAMP comparable format http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/data_management_resources/index.shtml and ready for assessment;
    b. The name and exact area of the water body and monitoring sites as described in requirement 4.b below;
    c. Metadata for the field and lab data, such as:
        i. Data and time of measurements;
        ii. Location of measurements (unique site code, latitude and longitude, and water body name);
        iii. Number of samples;
        iv. Analytes;
        v. Units of measurement;
        vi. Methods, detection and reporting limits, and
        vii. Other relevant factors;
    d. Supporting or associated analytical data (e.g. hardness data with dissolved metals samples, temperature, and pH data with ammonia measurements);
    e. A signed copy of the quality assurance procedures including a signed copy of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) or equivalent document **must be submitted**. The signature must be from the person who is responsible for quality of the data submitted for this water quality assessment. A QAPP or equivalent document must contain, at a minimum, the following:
        i. Objectives of the study, project, or monitoring program;

ii. Methods used for sample collection and handling;
iii. Field and laboratory measurement and analysis;
iv. Data management, validation, and recordkeeping (including proper chain of custody) procedures;
v. Quality assurance and quality control requirements;
vi. A statement certifying the adequacy of the QAPP (plus name of person certifying the document); and
vii. A description of personnel training.

f. For narrative and qualitative submittals, the submission must:
   i. Describe events or conditions that indicate impacts on water quality;
   ii. Provide linkage between the measurement endpoint (e.g., a study that may have been performed for some other purpose) and the water quality standard of interest;
   iii. Be scientifically defensible;
   iv. Provide analyst's credentials and training;
   v. Be verifiable by the State Water Board or Regional Water Board; and
   vi. Identify the name and exact area of the water body and monitoring sites with details (as described under number 3).

g. For photographic documentation, the submission must:
   i. Identify the date and time;
   ii. Identify the name and exact area of the water body and monitoring sites with details (as described in number 3);
   iii. Provide a thorough description of photograph(s);
   iv. Describe the spatial and temporal representation of the photographs;
   v. Provide linkage between photograph-represented condition and condition that indicates impacts on water quality;
   vi. Provide photographer's rationale for area photographed and camera settings used; and
   vii. Be verifiable by the State Water Board or Regional Water Board.

h. For data from citizen volunteer water quality monitoring efforts, the submission should include:
   i. The name of the group; and
   ii. An indication of any training in water quality assessment completed by members of the group;

i. Site-specific or project-specific sampling and analysis plan for numeric data should also be available containing the following:
   i. Data quality objectives or requirements of the project;
   ii. A statement that data quality objectives or requirements were achieved;
   iii. Rationale for the selection of sampling sites, water quality parameters, sampling frequency and methods that assure the samples are spatially and temporally representative of the surface water and representative of conditions within the targeted sampling timeframe; and documentation to support the conclusion that the results are reproducible.

4. GIS data files should include:

   a. GIS metadata with detail of all parameters of the projection including datum.
   b. The name and exact area of the water body and monitoring sites the information concerns, including either:
      i. Very clear electronic copy of maps indicating the area the information concerns; (e.g., mark sample location on a USGS 7.5 minute topographic quad map along with the quad sheet name) or the latitude/longitude of the location.

5. If the data meets the requirements of 1 – 4 above, it must be submitted to the State Water Board staff at WQAssessment@waterboards.ca.gov no later than 5:00 p.m., May 3, 2017.

2018 Integrated Report Data Submittal Information Form

Contact Information

First Name:	First Name	**Last Name:**	Last Name
Organization:	Organization name		
Mailing Address:	Street Address City, State, ZIP Code		
E-mail:	example@example.com	**Preferred Contact Method:**	
Phone:	(000) 000-0000	☐ *E-mail*	☐ *Phone*

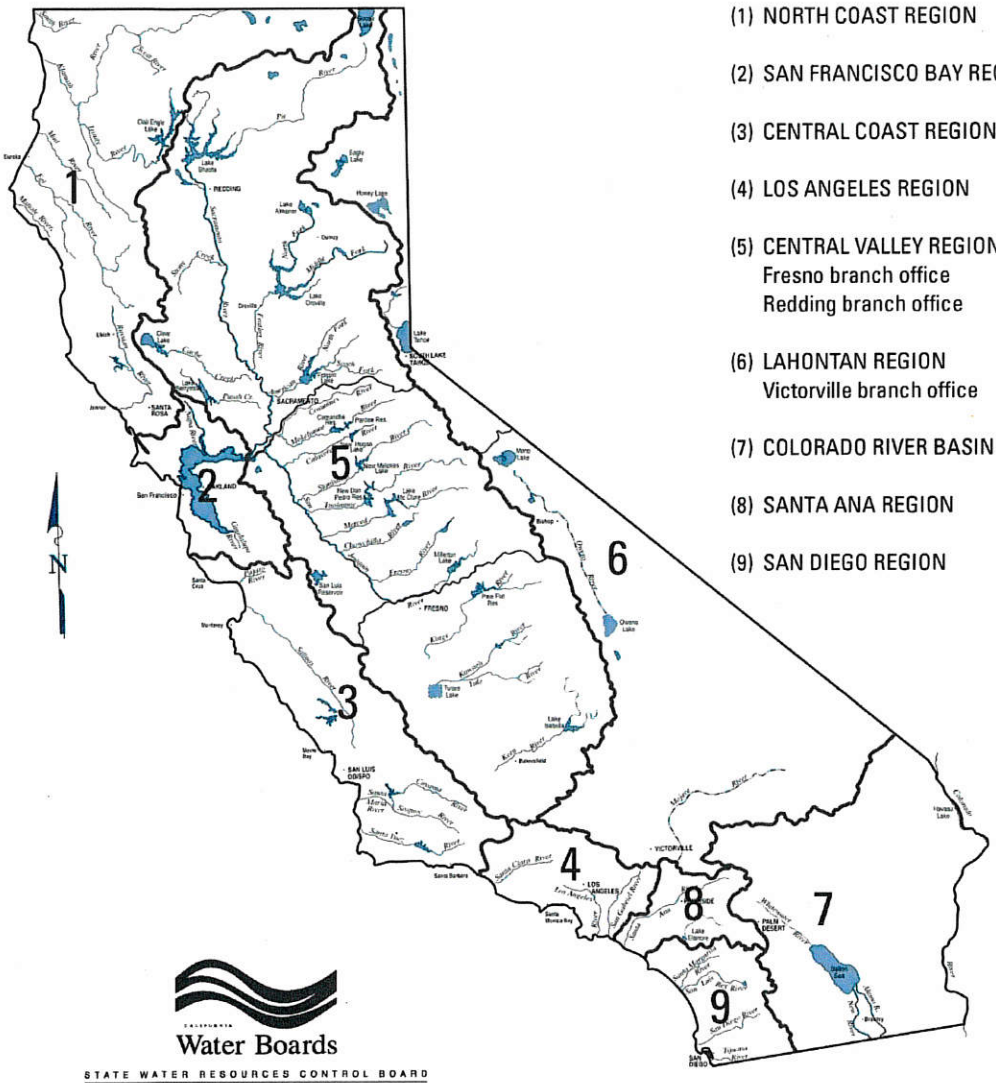
Submittal Information

Submittal Date:			
Region data intended for: (Check all that apply.)	☐ *(1) North Coast*	☐ *(2) San Francisco*	☐ *(3) Central Coast*
	☐ *(4) Los Angeles*	☐ *(5) Central Valley*	☐ *(6) Lahontan*
	☐ *(7) Colorado River*	☐ *(8) Santa Ana*	☐ *(9) San Diego*
GIS map layers included:	☐ Yes		
Pollutant Categories: (Check all that apply.)	☐ *Hydromodification*	☐ *Other Organics*	☐ *Toxicity*
	☐ *Metals/Metalloids*	☐ *Pathogens*	☐ *Trash*
	☐ *Nuisance*	☐ *Pesticides*	☐ *Miscellaneous*
	☐ *Nutrients*	☐ *Salinity*	
	☐ *Other Inorganics*	☐ *Sediment*	
Time Period Data Collected:	–		
Summary of Data:			
Explanation of data included in submission or instructions on using data.			
Submittal Format:	☐ *Electronic*		

Internal Use Only (by Water Boards)

Reviewer:	First Last	**Date Reviewed:**	
Status:	☐ Returned	☐ Flagged	☐ Forwarded
Comments:	Enter status comment here.		
Reviewer:	First Last	**Date Reviewed:**	
Status:	☐ Returned	☐ Flagged	☐ Forwarded
Comments:	Enter status comment here.		
Control #:	Enter number	**Date Received:**	
Reference #:	ref#### (use semicolons to separate additional reference numbers)	**QC Complete:**	☐ Yes

California Regional Water Quality Control Boards



(1) NORTH COAST REGION

(2) SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

(3) CENTRAL COAST REGION

(4) LOS ANGELES REGION

(5) CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
Fresno branch office
Redding branch office

(6) LAHONTAN REGION
Victorville branch office

(7) COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

(8) SANTA ANA REGION

(9) SAN DIEGO REGION

Water Boards

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS