

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
JULY 18, 2023**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

INFORMATIONAL ITEM ON THE STATUS OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES BY THE WATER BOARDS.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this informational item is to update the State Water Board on the status of livestock grazing management activities in California including actions completed or in development by the State and Regional Water Boards since 2015. In 2015, the State Water Board (Board) issued [Resolution No. 2015-0062](#), which directed a change in approach to regulating discharges from livestock grazing management activities. Previously, state and regional boards staffs had held a series of public meetings to assess whether there could be improvements in efficiency and consistency by developing statewide standards for livestock grazing management, while recognizing regional differences. In the 2015 Resolution, the Board directed that “discussions regarding a statewide approach be discontinued”. Instead, the resolution included direction for the regional boards regarding how to address grazing activities. This included direction that “the regional boards should work collaboratively with individual property owners, livestock grazing operators, and other interested stakeholders to determine which actions, including regulatory actions and effective non-regulatory efforts for BMP implementation, are best suited to protect water quality and the beneficial uses of waters from pollution”. Finally, in direction provided from the dais (not reflected in the resolution) the Board instructed staff to engage with the University of California to update tools and documents related to grazing best management practices and water quality.

POLICY ISSUE

This is an informational item and does not propose adoption of regulation or a change in policy.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None.