

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26-27, 2026

Prepared on February 9, 2026

ITEM NUMBER: 14

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

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ACTION: Information/Discussion

KEY INFORMATION: This item presents a brief overview of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any item.

**CENTRAL COAST AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM (CCAMP)
COLLABORATION WITH APPLIED MARINE SCIENCES TO CONDUCT FLOW-
PROPORTIONED PESTICIDE SAMPLING ON THE PAJARO AND SALINAS RIVERS**

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As the central coast's regionally scaled surface water monitoring program, the [Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program](#)¹ (CCAMP) conducts continuous monitoring at coastal confluence sites and seasonal monitoring for harmful algal blooms (HAB) at inland surface waterbodies. Since 1998, CCAMP has collected data on the status of central coast surface water quality, with a particular focus on characterizing the status and trends in freshwater rivers and streams.² In an ongoing effort to fill data gaps throughout the region, CCAMP seeks opportunities to collaborate on projects using shared resources.³

From 2019 through 2023, CCAMP collaborated with [Applied Marine Sciences](#)⁴ (AMS) to conduct flow-proportioned pesticide sampling on the Pajaro and Salinas River watersheds, which flow into Monterey Bay. Different than grab sampling, flow-

¹ www.ccamp.org

² Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Meeting February 2025 Item No.15 Field Trip – Morro Bay National Estuary Program
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2025/feb/item15_stfrpt.pdf

³ Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Strategic Plan – Fiscal Plan Year 25 – 26, pg 36
Priority No. 6. https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2025/oct/Item10_SP.pdf

⁴ <https://amarine.com/>

proportioned sampling are composites taken over time in proportion to the stream flow during their collection. This composite sampling allows for the estimation of the load of a given pesticide (e.g., DDT, dieldrin, neonicotinoids, pyrethroids, fipronils, etc.) rather than an instantaneous concentration-based measurement. This method ensures higher stream flows are accurately represented, reducing underestimation of contaminant loads. The data generated from this sampling allows for a better understanding of the loads of both legacy and current-use pesticides and other contaminants entering the ocean from the Pajaro and Salinas Rivers.

The collaboration between CCAMP and AMS resulted in the collection and analysis of water samples taken biannually from 2019-2023, alternating wet and dry seasons. The primary goal of this study was to evaluate the presence and impact of both legacy and current-use pesticides on water quality and ecosystem health. Data collected through this collaboration demonstrated that both legacy and current-use pesticides were detected in the Pajaro and Salinas Rivers during each sampling event and exceeded water quality thresholds in almost every season sampled. During all seasons when legacy pesticides were sampled, legacy pesticides were detected more frequently than current-use pesticides. Due to their chemical properties, legacy pesticides persist in the environment over long periods of time. Though more degradable, current-use pesticides also enter water systems through processes like erosion, drift, and permeation. The presence of both legacy and current-use pesticides contributes to environmental harm. The results from this study emphasize the need for continued monitoring and implementation of best management practices to mitigate pesticide pollution in the Pajaro and Salinas Rivers to protect the ecosystem health of Monterey Bay.

The findings of this study are described in a series of three fact sheets that are available online at the links below. For further details, visit www.ccamp.org, email ccamp@ccamp.org or call (805) 594-6184. Data from the study is available through the California Environmental Data Exchange Network at www.ceden.org.

- [Fact Sheet #1](#) – Flow-Proportioned Sampling Design for Pesticides in the Pajaro and Salinas River.⁵
- [Fact Sheet #2](#) – Flow-Proportioned Sampling Results for Pesticides in the Pajaro River 2019 – 2023.⁶
- [Fact Sheet #3](#) – Flow-Proportioned Sampling Results for Pesticides in the Salinas River 2019 – 2023.⁷

⁵http://rdc-omega.mlml.calstate.edu/Publications-Reports/Flow-ProportionedPesticidesSampling/Design_Pajaro-Salinas_Winter2025.pdf

⁶ http://rdc-omega.mlml.calstate.edu/Publications-Reports/Flow-ProportionedPesticidesSampling/Results_Pajaro_Winter2025.pdf

⁷ http://rdc-omega.mlml.calstate.edu/Publications-Reports/Flow-ProportionedPesticidesSampling/Results_Salinas_Winter2025.pdf

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD FUNDING INFORMATION

The State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) administers a number of funding programs supporting wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects in addition to other water quality protection and restoration projects. See the [DFA website](#)⁸ for information regarding available loan and grant programs administered by the State Water Board.

State Water Board DFA maintains the following online dashboards tracking project funding applications and funded projects:

[Application Status Search Tool](#),⁹ allows users to search for the status of State Water Board drinking water and clean water State Revolving Fund (SRF) project applications that have been submitted for funding consideration and are currently under review (this portal does not include approved projects).

[Program funding dashboard](#),¹⁰ documents funded projects and descriptions via pull down menu options and graphics by funding program and geographic area for the most recent fiscal year for which the funding cycle has ended.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Please see attachments 1 through 5 for performance measure information.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Table 1 - 401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received
2. Table 2 - 401 Water Quality Certifications Issued
3. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
4. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
5. Table 5 - Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers

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⁸ DFA website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans

⁹ Application Search Tool: <https://public.waterboards.ca.gov/dfaAppSTAT/>

¹⁰ State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance project funding dashboard: [2023-24 Performance Report | California State Water Resources Control Board](#)