

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region



Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer
Proposed Water Quality Program Priorities
Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Permitting Programs.....	1
NPDES Program.....	1
Waste Discharge Requirements Program.....	1
Water Quality Certifications Program.....	2
Stormwater Program	3
Planning, Monitoring and Assessment Programs.....	4
Planning Program, including the Delta Program and the TMDL Program.....	4
CV-SALTS	5
Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP).....	6
Nonpoint Source 319(H) Program	7
Administrative.....	8
Administrative Program.....	8
Special Permitting Programs.....	9
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program	9
Oil Fields Program.....	11
Title 27 Land Disposal Program.....	12
Confined Animals Program	13
Mines Program.....	14
Cannabis Program.....	15

Forest Activities.....	16
Enforcement and Cleanup.....	17
Compliance and Enforcement Program.....	17
Site Cleanup Program	17
Underground Storage Tanks Program	18

Permitting Programs

NPDES Program

Jim Marshall, Program Manager

Adam Laputz, Executive Sponsor

Permitting Efficiency and Quality

USEPA has been reducing permitting resources, so permitting efficiency has been a high priority. In FY 20/21, permitting efficiency will continue to be a priority along with an increased focus on permit quality. Board NPDES staff will continue to implement permit streamlining practices to ensure timely permit renewals, as well as procedures to develop quality permits that meet applicable requirements of the Clean Water Act and NPDES regulations.

Data Quality Assurance

Quality data is crucial for making sound permitting decisions. In FY 19/20, Board NPDES staff focused on implementing the USEPA's sufficiently sensitive methods rule and conducting mid-permit reviews in order to identify data quality issues early in the permit term. This effort to ensure quality data is submitted by dischargers will continue in FY 20/21.

CV-SALTS Implementation

In FY 19/20, the CV-SALTS basin plan amendments will become effective. In FY 20/21, NPDES Program staff will continue to coordinate with and support CV-SALTS Program staff to implement the salt and nitrate control programs in NPDES permits.

Waste Discharge Requirements Program

Scott Hatton, Program Manager

Clay Rodgers, Executive Sponsor

Incorporate CV-SALTS Language

Incorporate language into permits that reflects that changes to our basin plans. This includes coordinating development of the notification procedures for implementation of the salt and nitrate control programs once the CV-SALTS Amendments are approved by the Office of Administrative Law.

Continue Lean-6 Sigma Implementation and Tracking

Continue using the Lean-6 Sigma tools and continue to track progress in reducing the backlog of old individual permits that need to be updated.

Develop New Region-Wide General Orders

Staff have identified three groups of discharges that are similar in nature and that make up a significant number of backlogged permits. The three groups include: domestic wastewater treatment plants that treat more than 100,000 gpd, nut and seed drying operations, and food processors. Each of our offices will take the lead to develop a general order for these dischargers. The adoption of new general orders will not only result in increased regulatory consistency, but it will also significantly cut down on our permitting backlog.

GeoTracker Deployment to the WDR Program

The State Water Board has decided to expand the Los Angeles pilot project, which required dischargers to submit monitoring data through GeoTracker, throughout the state. This will require our staff to develop a means for dischargers to submit monitoring data and reports over the internet and provide a platform for easy public access.

Provide Input on State-Wide General Orders

As needed, the unit will provide input on the general orders that the state board is working on. The adoption of statewide general orders is expected to help with reducing our permitting backlog.

Water Quality Certifications Program

Bryan Smith, Program Manager

Clint Snyder, Executive Sponsor

Timely Issuance of Certifications

The water quality certifications program receives a high number of application and has concentrated efforts on reducing the time it takes to review an application, to ensure requirements are met, and to write the final certification. A target of reviewing 95% of water quality certification applications within 30 days of receipt and issuing 95% of water quality certifications within 60 days of receiving all necessary project information is proposed for FY 20/21. Efforts to improve on timely issuance of certifications includes:

Prioritizing Wetland and Water Quality Impact-Related Certifications: focusing staff time on projects that have the highest potential for wetland and water quality impacts, for example, large projects, and projects located in sensitive areas. Less rigorous and less time-intensive review of simple, small projects will still result in protection of wetland resources and water quality and allow more time to focus on higher priorities.

Workload Sharing: the timely issuance of certifications has been significantly improved through workload sharing across the region. Workload sharing distributes projects to available staff, regardless of which office the staff is based in.

Conduct Target Inspections and Compliance/Enforcement Actions

The statewide water quality certification program was the subject of a state audit. One of the audit recommendations was for an increase in compliance and enforcement activities, including field inspections. Efforts to continue to reduce staff time on issuance of certifications allows increased attention to this important program area. Coordination with the storm water program compliance/enforcement staff will be used to allow for multi-program field inspections where water quality certification compliance observations are made during a multi-program inspection conducted by storm water program staff. This will better leverage resources across the two programs for the benefit of both programs. A target to inspect 10% of water quality certifications projects is proposed for FY 20/21. The remaining resources would be allocated to other compliance and enforcement actions, as needed.

Implement Permit Processing Improvements for Caltrans Projects

Ab 1282 requires state agencies involved with permitting of Caltrans projects to identify and implement improvements to permitting and implementation of Caltrans projects. Improvements identified through this effort will be implemented by Board staff.

Implement New Dredge and Fill Procedures

The State Water Board adopted new procedures in April 2019 for regulation of dredge and fill projects in wetlands and other waters of the state. The new procedures specify which projects are required to be regulated, and what process Board staff must follow to review and permit projects. Staff training will be conducted to ensure the procedures are properly implemented.

Stormwater Program

Bryan Smith, Program Manager

Clint Snyder, Executive Sponsor

The storm water program is made up of 3 subprogram areas: municipal storm water, construction storm water (including Caltrans), and industrial storm water.

Municipal

Review/approve Regionwide Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Ms4 General Permit Work Products: significant staff time will be required to coordinate with the permittees during the storm water management plan development processes. The new general permit identifies specific items and timeframes for Board staff actions, including review and approval of assessment and prioritization proposals; review and approval of strategies and milestones proposals; review and approval of reasonable assurance analysis documents; and review and approval of draft storm water management plans.

Begin Work for Renewal of Regionwide Municipal General Permit: The current Regionwide MS4 General Permit will expire in September 2021. To renew the

permit prior to expiration, Board staff will begin working with permittees and interested persons to identify possible revisions to be made to the permit when it is renewed.

Construction/Caltrans

Conduct Targeted Inspections and Compliance/Enforcement Actions: a strong field presence has been successful at educating developers and contractors about the need for storm water pollution controls and in ensuring that they follow through with implementation of appropriate best management practices. A continued focus on field activities is proposed for the program. A target of 385 construction storm water field inspections is proposed. The remaining resources would be allocated to other compliance and enforcement actions, as needed.

Industrial

Conduct targeted inspections and enforcement actions. A process to identify cases for follow-up has been developed. Some factors warranting a higher priority ranking for follow-up include documented pollutant benchmark concentration exceedances, repeated failure to submit reports, and failure to collect water quality samples. A target of 195 industrial storm water field inspections is proposed. The remaining resources would be allocated to other compliance and enforcement actions, as needed.

Planning, Monitoring and Assessment Programs

Planning Program, including the Delta Program and the TMDL Program

Meredith Howard, Program Manager

Adam Laputz, Executive Sponsor

Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) provide the foundation for all central valley water board regulatory actions. Basin Plans designate beneficial uses of both surface waters and groundwater, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and programs of implementation to achieve the objectives. The Planning Program incorporates multiple basin planning efforts including region-wide basin planning efforts (CV-SALTS, Triennial Review Projects and the 2020 Integrated Report), Basin Plan amendments associated with TMDLs, and the Delta Strategic Plan. Note that CV-SALTS is denoted separately.

Basin Planning Program – Triennial Review Projects

The Development of 2018 Triennial Review projects will continue, including tribal beneficial uses designations, the evaluation of beneficial uses in the Pit River, and the evaluation of temperature criteria.

2020 Integrated Report

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires the identification of water bodies that do not meet, or are not expected to meet, water quality standards and further require the development of a total maximum daily load (TMDL). In FY 20/21, a region-wide integrated report will be developed.

TMDL Development and Implementation

The proposed focus for the TMDL program in FY 20/21 will be on implementation of current TMDLs and development of TMDLs and alternative control programs for mercury, pesticides, and/or other impairments prioritized in the triennial review process. Continued implementation of existing priority TMDL projects include the pyrethroid TMDL and control program, the mercury TMDL and control programs, including the statewide mercury TMDL for impaired reservoirs and the Delta and Clear Lake mercury control programs, and the dissolved oxygen TMDL in the San Joaquin River.

Delta Strategic Plan

The 2014 Delta Strategic Work Plan identifies priority projects that will improve water quality in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The FY 20/21 proposed priorities are to continue the Delta Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) monitoring efforts for pesticides/toxicity, mercury, nutrients, and constituents of emerging concern as well as continued implementation of the Delta Nutrient Research Plan.

CV-SALTS

Anne Walters, Program Manager

Adam Laputz, Executive Sponsor

Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) is a collaborative basin planning effort aimed at developing and implementing comprehensive salinity and nitrate management programs. CV-SALTS program priorities for FY 20/21 are as follows:

Revisions to The Salt and Nitrate Control Plans

In October 2019, the State Water Board approved proposed CV-SALTS Amendments. However, the approving resolution also directed the Central Valley Water Board to adopt an additional basin plan amendment within a year of the program effective date. These additional amendments include targeted revisions to several aspects of the longer-term implementation plan. During FY 20/21, staff will support efforts to move the new basin plan amendment through the planning process in order to meet an end of 2020 deadline.

Implementation Activities

Staff will begin issuing Notices to Comply to permittees in early 2020. Subsequent activities through FY 20/21 will include Notice of Intent submittal review, document tracking, permit updates, and enforcement actions as specified in the provisions of the control programs. A CV-SALTS implementation working group will continue to focus on developing processes and tools that can be applied across programs to ensure consistent and streamlined implementation.

Stakeholder Coordination and Public Outreach

Staff will continue to coordinate and participate with stakeholder activities, like management zone implementation meetings, prioritization and optimization study meetings, monthly CV-SALTS executive committee meetings, and public education and outreach committee meetings. Staff will also participate in public workshops and meetings to educate stakeholders on the requirements of the CV-SALTS amendments.

Contract Management

Staff will continue to support and manage a contract between the State Water Board and the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority which provides grant funds to support early management zone evaluations, salinity prioritization and optimization study work plan development and outreach activities.

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)

Anne Walters, Program Manager

Adam Laputz, Executive Sponsor

The SWAMP Program conducts water quality monitoring directly and through collaborative partnerships to support water resource management in California. Swamp priorities in the central valley for FY 20/21 include regional trend monitoring efforts as well as studies targeting specific constituents of concern. The proposed FY 20/21 priorities are as follows:

Support for Delta Monitoring Efforts

SWAMP will continue to fund a little over \$200,000 per year to support the Delta Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) efforts through statewide lab contracts that offer fish tissue, toxicity and chemistry analyses. Additional Central Valley Water Board SWAMP funding will support monitoring for the Delta Nutrient Research Plan.

Lower American River Recreational Beneficial Use Assessment

Central Valley Water Board SWAMP Program staff will continue to work in collaboration with various local stakeholder groups to investigate the elevated fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) levels in the Lower American River. The project objectives are to assess whether recreational beneficial uses are being

protected, characterize seasonal and spatial trends in FIB levels, identify potential sources of fecal contamination through the use of DNA source tracking technology, and collect data to help determine if a public health risk exists.

Sacramento Watershed Coordinated Monitoring

SWAMP has coordinated with the Department of Water Resource's Northern District since 2008 to monitor water quality trends in the Sacramento watershed and will be funding ~\$175,000 per year for the next 3 years. The program currently monitors 54 stations throughout the watershed on a quarterly basis for a variety of constituents.

CyanoHAB response

SWAMP staff will be working with Central Valley Water Board's cyanoHAB coordinator and the State Water Board to provide monitoring support for harmful algal bloom (HAB) responses in the region, as needed. This includes water sampling and in-house species identification and toxin testing.

Data management

Swamp staff will continue to work with State Water Board staff and Central Valley Water Board Program Managers to facilitate and improve the submittal process of ambient surface water quality data to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). Water quality data that support programs associated with climate change, CV-SALTS, nutrient management, basin planning, or the 303(d)/305(b) integrated report are of a high priority.

Nonpoint Source 319(H) Program

Jennifer LaBay, Program Manager

Adam Laputz, Executive Sponsor

USEPA provides funding from the Clean Water Act section 319(h) grant program to implement nonpoint source (NPS) control activities, with focus on impaired water bodies. Section 319(h) grant program funding is used in California to support grant projects and staff time to conduct NPS control activities. In recent years, Board staff time has focused on implementation of TMDLs, management of grant projects supported by section 319(h) funding, and a variety of erosion control and other watershed restoration efforts. Section 319(h) grant projects are conducted by a variety of federal and state agencies, resource conservation districts, and other groups to implement full-scale, on-the-ground management measures to address water quality problems resulting from NPS pollution.

Staff anticipates the section 319(h) grant program will fund ~3 PY Of Central Valley Water Board staff time for FY 20/21. Staff proposes the following priorities for Section 319(h)-funded activities.

TMDL Implementation

High priority TMDL implementation activities include continuing efforts to implement the:

- Clear Lake Nutrient TMDL
- TMDLs for selenium in the San Joaquin River, Mud Slough, and Grasslands Bypass
- TMDLs for chlorpyrifos and diazinon in the San Joaquin River, Delta, and Sacramento/Feather Rivers
- TMDL for pyrethroids

Grant Management

FY 19/20 Grant Management Activities are anticipated to include:

Managing 319(H) Grant Projects Continued from FY 19/20

Cyanobacteria Evaluation and Management

Development of this project is continued from FY 2019/2020 and will lay a foundation for identifying research needs and potential practices to reduce cyanoHAB frequency and extent. Board staff will also participate in the development and implementation of the freshwater HAB monitoring strategy.

Water Quality Impacts from Homelessness

Continue efforts associated with water quality impacts from homelessness. Staff will pursue opportunities to improve water quality in Steelhead Creek and the American River watershed.

Administrative

Administrative Program

Kelli Garver, Program Manager

Patrick Pulupa, Executive Sponsor

Records Retention

The Administrative Program is responsible for the oversight of the retention schedules for archiving state records at all three offices. All Board records are available for review to staff and the general public at any time, and reproduction is frequently requested by external parties. It is anticipated that the Office Of Chief Counsel's Master Retention Schedule will be available in the coming months, and administrative staff will need to develop and implement a roll-out plan to assist the region's technical staff with efficient management methods associated with the maintenance, retention, preservation, and disposal of state records.

Equipment Tracking

The administrative section procures equipment for all three offices, such as cameras, lab equipment, field equipment, safety equipment, etc. Some of the equipment we procure requires maintenance to ensure it is in proper safe working order and can be relied on for accurate information when used. We currently do not have a complete record of all the equipment at the Rancho Cordova office. In order to reduce equipment redundancy and ensure proper equipment safety/maintenance standards, administrative staff need to improve cataloging and tracking all the equipment in the Rancho Cordova office and develop procedures/requirements for sending in equipment for maintenance.

Data Management

In assessing projects to address data management needs for our region, two priorities rise to the top: 1) CIWQS support; and 2) continued web site accessibility.

CIWQS Support

Due to FY 18/19 changes in classification structure of information technology positions through CalHR and the Division of Information Technology (DIT), the regional board transitioned into our current CIWQS staffing structure. The support historically received through the DIT was phased out and the transition of CIWQS data management oversight was transferred to the administrative section in late 2018. Due to staffing changes and the implementation of web site accessibility requirements, staff will need to continue to develop a plan for the oversight and coordination of CIWQS related activities for the region.

Web Site Accessibility

Continue to improve and develop the implementation plan to create, remediate and maintain all electronic content in a manner that supports equal access to all and compliance with section 504 of the rehabilitation act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

Special Permitting Programs

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

Sue McConnell, Program Manager

Adam Laputz, Executive Sponsor

The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) regulates waste discharges from irrigated lands using seven geographic and one commodity-specific general orders for growers that are part of a third-party group (Coalitions). There are 14 Coalitions helping growers comply with the general orders. There is also a general order for growers who choose to be regulated individually. The following are the proposed FY 20/21 priorities:

Revisions to General Orders to Incorporate CV-SALTS

Revise all ILRP general orders to include provisions implementing a Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Control Program in accordance with CV-SALTS. Continue outreach and coordination with Coalitions and other interest parties, include Sustainable Groundwater Management Act staff.

Drinking Water Monitoring

Implement new drinking water well monitoring requirements and ensure users are appropriately notified when the nitrate drinking water standard is exceeded. Work with GeoTracker staff to identify ways to streamline follow-up outreach to Coalition members. Outreach to ELAP laboratories to ensure members have resources to complete this requirement. Coordinate with the East San Joaquin and Tulare Lake Basin Coalitions whose members are required to monitor drinking water wells on enrolled parcels beginning in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Low-Threat Alternative ILRP Framework

Work on an alternative ILRP framework regulating upper-watershed and other unique crop types including irrigated pasture, managed wetlands, and organic farms. Also evaluate potential ILRP exemptions for operations with very low water quality risk.

Groundwater Protection

Prioritize groundwater protection element of ILRP, especially in areas where groundwater is used for drinking and near disadvantaged communities. Closely oversee the coalitions' implementation of the Group Management Practices Evaluation Program, Individual Groundwater Quality Management Plans, and the Groundwater Trend Monitoring Plan.

Surface Water Protection

Continue to protect surface water quality by appropriately monitoring constituents of concern and addressing problems where they are found. Work with coalitions to address surface water quality problems and obtain approval for completion of management plans.

Compliance/Enforcement

Review and implement outreach/enforcement tools that are most effective at achieving ILRP compliance. Assess characteristics of non-enrollers to group by similar characteristics (size, location, etc.) To prioritize and focus compliance and outreach efforts. Utilize different compliance and enforcement tools and gauge their effectiveness. Prioritize compliance and enforcement for drinking water monitoring notification, non-enrollment and irrigation nitrogen management reporting.

Oil Fields Program

Dale Harvey, Program Manager

Clay Rodgers, Executive Sponsor

General Order Enrollment

In FY 20/21, enrolling dischargers, especially those currently operating under older waste discharge requirements, under one of the three general orders (GOs) for discharges of oil field produced wastewater to land will be a priority to ensure that discharges are properly regulated and protective of water quality.

Pond Closures

Staff have received many requests to close oil field produced water ponds. In FY 20/21, staff will concentrate on closing these ponds in a manner that is protective of water quality and human health and the environment.

Food Safety Expert Panel

The Food Safety Expert Panel was convened in the fall of 2015 to develop information that the Central Valley Water Board could use to regulate the irrigation of crops for human consumption with oil field produced water. In FY 20/21, Board staff will oversee the wind-down of the Food Safety Expert Panel and a presentation of its efforts in the form of a white paper and recommendations to the Board.

Enforcement

Staff will endeavor to pursue appropriate enforcement for oil field-related violations of the water code, including but not limited to violations of the Basin Plans, WDRs and GOs, and spills/leaks and other illicit discharges.

Inspections

As part of our compliance monitoring, staff will conduct at least 80 inspections of oil field facilities, spills, and complaints.

Underground Injection Control

Under certain conditions, aquifers within oil fields can be designated exempt from the protections of the federal safe drinking water act. This allows oil field operators to obtain project approval letters to inject fluids into these formations to enhance oil recovery and dispose of oil field wastes. The California Division Of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), State Water Board, and the Regional Boards work together to ensure the proposed exemptions are protective of water quality (i.e., that injected wastes will not migrate out of poor-quality aquifers and potentially impact aquifers that may provide a viable source of drinking water). USEPA provides final approval of exemption projects. DOGGR issues individual project approval letters to authorize injection. In FY 20/21, the Board's target will be to review, in a timely manner, and make

recommendations on aquifer exemption applications and underground injection control project approval letters, and to ensure that the exemptions and approvals are protective of water quality.

Well Stimulation Activities

Senate Bill 4 (SB 4) regarding well stimulation activities or “fracking” resulted in changes to the water code that requires operators to have a groundwater monitoring program, or an exclusion therefrom, in place prior to well stimulation activities. In conjunction with State Water Board, the Central Valley Water Board reviews requests for exclusions and proposed groundwater monitoring programs to ensure they meet the requirements of the water code. In FY 20/21 our target will be to review all proposed exclusions and all proposed groundwater monitoring programs in a timely manner.

Title 27 Land Disposal Program

Robert Busby, Program Manager

Andrew Altevogt, Executive Sponsor

Begin Lean 6 Sigma Implementation And Tracking

Begin using the Lean 6 Sigma tools and track progress in revising old individual WDRs, developing new WDRs and enrolling dischargers in the composting general orders.

Adopt 15 Individual WDRs And Enroll Dischargers In Composting General Order

Approximately 14 WDRs will be revised to prevent a backlog and ensure that older WDRs are brought up to current standards. One WDR will be completed for a new landfill facility. Any new composting facilities will be enrolled in the Composting General Order.

Conduct 32 Permitting And Construction Related Inspections

Permitting staff will conduct a total of 32 permitting and construction-related inspections of Title 27 facilities. At least two construction inspections will be conducted for any new or expanding waste management units.

Provide Input On Revision To Title 27 Regulations

Provide input on the State Water Board’s revisions to the Title 27 land disposal regulations.

Review PFOS/PFOA Investigative Reports

Staff will review the monitoring reports that describe the initial round of groundwater sampling for PFOS/PFOA compounds at the title 27 facilities that received State Water Board's 13267 Orders.

Confined Animals Program

Doug Patteson, Program Manager

Clay Rodgers, Executive Sponsor

Revise 2013 Dairy General Order

Incorporate appropriate best practicable treatment or control (BPTC) practices, pesticide and surface water monitoring, and provisions to implement CV-SALTS. Staff plans to revise the dairy general order to regulate dairies that are planned or were constructed or expanded after the original dairy general order's cutoff date for inclusion as an "existing facility." This action may require preparation of an environmental document pursuant to CEQA. Staff is considering the issuance of a revised monitoring and reporting program in the interim.

Compliance and Enforcement

The confined animal facilities program's current performance target is 275 inspections per fiscal year. Inspections will include dairies, poultry facilities, and feedlots. During inspections, staff will prioritize review of nitrogen management plans, mortality management plans, and groundwater monitoring, and will pursue enforcement when necessary. Staff will also prioritize enforcement against unpermitted off-site discharges of waste, as well as enforcement of the requirements for groundwater monitoring and nitrogen management planning at dairies, full-coverage poultry facilities, and full-coverage bovine feedlots.

Digesters

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is awarding another round of grant funding for dairy digesters, primarily in the Central Valley. The CDFA also has a grant program to fund alternative manure management technologies at dairies (such as mechanical solids separation or conversion to dry scrape rather than flush systems). Staff will continue to contribute to the evaluation process for both grant programs, as well as the California Air Resources Board's short-lived climate pollutant reduction strategy. Staff will work with stakeholders and other agencies to facilitate permitting of digesters and alternative manure management technologies.

Mines Program

Kate Burger, Program Manager

Clint Snyder, Executive Sponsor

Abandoned Mine Site Charter / Strategy

Board staff will continue preparing a charter/strategy for development of a conceptual management plan for abandoned mine discharges. This will include soliciting input from the Board subcommittee and other agencies. The plan will help to identify priority projects to which funding or other resources for remediation activities could be directed and will help guide basin planning efforts and/or legislative proposals.

Implement Updated Water Quality Threat Prioritization Scheme

Board staff will rank Central Valley Water Board mine sites using the updated water quality threat prioritization scheme. Staff will use the revised rankings to ensure that available resources are directed to mine sites posing the greatest water quality threat.

Review Financial Assurances for Mine Waste Management Units

Staff will review the financial assurances for active and closed mining waste management units to ensure each mine site has enough funds for closure and post-closure care and that appropriate financial assurance mechanisms are in place.

Assess Remaining Sites with Unknown Status on The Central Valley Mines Tracking List

For mines whose status remains unknown (approximately four sites expected to be listed as of July 2020), identify the current property owner, obtain access, conduct an inspection, characterize the quality of receiving waters, assess the site's potential water quality threat, and document the findings.

Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP) Searches

Identifying and locating parties that have responsibility for abandoned mine sites can be difficult. Board staff are planning to fund and develop a contract to support PRP searches for central valley mine sites.

Cannabis Program

[Vacant], Program Manager

Clint Snyder, Executive Sponsor

Enrollment Enforcement

Staff will continue to implement and prioritize enrollment enforcement efforts, under the guidance of the outreach and enrollment enforcement strategy that was developed in May of 2018.

Expand Program South

Since 2014, efforts to regulate cannabis cultivation sites have largely been focused in the northern portion of the Central Valley Region. With the expansion of the cannabis program statewide, staff have identified a need for an increased presence in the southern portion of the region. Staff will continue efforts started in FY 19/20 to expand the working footprint of the cannabis program to the southern portion of the region.

Monitoring and General Order Effectiveness

The Statewide Cannabis General Order was adopted in October of 2017 and amended, mostly to provide clarifications, in 2019. Now that the regulations and requirements have been in place, and the cultivation community is gaining knowledge on compliance, staff will focus on assessing effectiveness of the general order requirements on protection of water quality, using required monitoring and reporting information as an initial gauge.

Indoor Waste Discharge Requirements

Program staff have observed a steady increase in the amount of indoor cannabis cultivation facilities that may require individual WDRs. The Cannabis General Order does not cover discrete discharges to land or to septic systems, and therefore many indoor facilities that are not connected to sewer systems will require individual WDRs. As information is gathered regarding typical waste streams from these operations, program staff will be looking at streamlining this process by either using existing general orders as applicable or consider pursuing a specific indoor cannabis general order.

Local Case Development

Enforcement efforts, both in legal jurisdictions and illegal jurisdictions, is needed to ensure continued compliance with laws and regulatory requirements. Staff will be focusing efforts on working closer with local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to leverage the ability to use environmental crimes for criminal case development. These relationships will allow a greater number of cases to be brought forward, and allow each agency the ability to focus on their areas of expertise

Forest Activities

Angela Wilson, Program Manager

Clint Snyder, Executive Sponsor

Review/Compliance/Enforcement of Timber Projects on State, Private and USFS Lands

AB 1492 requires 100% review of non-federal timber harvest plans and increased inspections. This item will continue to be a high priority, with a target of 166 inspections.

Participation, Outreach and Coordination on Utility Corridor Vegetation Treatment

SB 901 (2018) resulted in new staffing resources in all three offices of the region. These staff will be responsible for participating in State Water Board's effort to permit the increased pace and scale of vegetation treatment to prevent electrical lines from causing or exacerbating fires in high risk areas. Outreach to the utilities within the Central Valley Region and coordination with the initial steps of best management practice development and implementation will be necessary.

Implementation of and Reporting on AB 1492 Requirements

Required AB 1492 annual reporting process will continue to be refined, especially as the program makes strides in data capture and ability to report details. A statewide online data system called CalTrees was initiated in October 2018 and Board staff are now able to glean project data from that system.

Watershed-Based Plan for Battle Creek

The watershed-based plan for Battle Creek was completed in May 2019. Staff anticipates finalizing a contract to develop a web-based, interactive presentation and display to advance the capability of stakeholders to access and utilize watershed data to support operational or institutional decision-making. Assuming an eligible entity bids and is selected in late 2019 the contract will be executed beginning in 2020.

Post-Fire Response

On an as-needed basis. In FY 19/20, program staff conducted inspections on the Mendocino, Carr, Delta, Hirz and Campfires and expect continued oversight will be necessary into FY 20/21.

Federal NPS Permit Development

The Central Valley and Lahontan Water Boards are jointly developing permits for nonpoint source activities for federally managed forest lands. Assuming tribal and stakeholder outreach, and responses to the project CEQA documentation do not cause delays, the final draft permit will be in front of the board for consideration in FY 20/21.

Forest Management Task Force and Regulations Work Group

Staff will continue to engage in efforts pertinent to regulatory mechanisms to ensure the increase in pace and scale of vegetation treatment activities across the region are protective of water quality.

Enforcement and Cleanup

Compliance and Enforcement Program

[Vacant], Program Manager

Andrew Altevogt, Executive Sponsor

Ensure Compliance with Salinity Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) Program

The CV-SALTS program provides a framework to regulate salt and nitrate throughout the Central Valley in a sustainable manner. Compliance and enforcement program staff will develop a strategy to issue, track, and enforce the required milestones.

Implement Business Rules Ensure More Accurate Tracking

Compliance and enforcement program staff will be working with Program Managers to review their program databases, identify any issues with data entry, and write business rules to clarify data entry processes where needed.

Site Cleanup Program

Stewart Black, Program Manager

Andrew Altevogt, Executive Sponsor

The Site Cleanup Program will work to improve sustainable local water use in high use areas. In FY 20/21 staff will continue to update the 1,2,3-trichloropropane (TCP) database and develop new maps that will be used to update and analyze the impact of TCP in the Central Valley Region. Staff will collaborate with other agencies and organizations (like the USGS) to develop new TCP maps that can be used to identify previously unidentified sources of TCP contamination and to gain a better idea of the non-point source impacts on groundwater in the central valley.

To support comprehensive efforts to address water quality and water quantity staff will develop additional GIS mapping tool and continue to work with the GAMA database and state board staff to update our GIS tools which can be used to identify previously unknown sources of contamination that are impacting groundwater and drinking water wells. This fiscal year we will continue to focus on mapping of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

To support beneficial use and protect groundwater site cleanup program staff will work with other state and local agencies and with water purveyors to evaluate and analyze issues related to hexavalent chromium and per- and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals (PFCs). We will also continue to work with responsible parties, water purveyors, cities and counties to identify sources and regional groundwater plumes that will qualify for SCAP and Proposition 1 resources.

Site cleanup program staff will strive to meet or exceed all performance measures with a focus on the Aerojet-Rocketdyne facility, the former McClellan Air Force Base, Sacramento Rail Yards and numerous brownfield projects that are currently moving forward throughout the region. Staff will also continue to develop and track environmental measures used to quantify the impact of our work on the environment.

Underground Storage Tanks Program

Bryan Newman, Program Manager

Andrew Altevogt, Executive Sponsor

Review Every Case for Possible Case Closure

Every case will be reviewed, and an evaluation made of whether it meets the Low-Threat UST Case Closure Policy. The results of this review will be recorded in GeoTracker and tracked by seniors and the Program Manager. Cases that meet the criteria will be directed to complete the necessary steps for formal case closure. Those failing the policy will be informed of the additional site work necessary.

Ensure Regular Contact with Responsible Parties

A review of stalled cases, including many recently turned over to us by local agencies, shows that in some instances directives have not been sent to the responsible parties in many years. To help ensure that site work progresses at an acceptable rate and to maintain good lines of communication it is important that staff contact the responsible parties on a regular basis. The goal is that every site receives at least one case review and the responsible parties receive a written directive/correspondence during the year. Using raw data taken from GeoTracker the Program Manager will run a monthly report and inform staff of cases that have not received a written directive in the past 12 months. Senior staff will then use this information when setting monthly priorities with their staff.

Prompt Responses to Correspondence

In providing good customer service we have a goal of responding to all correspondence within 60 days. The GeoTracker online database includes a report that tracks the time taken to respond to work plans and closure requests (but not the numerous other reports submitted). Senior staff will review this report at least weekly and follow through with line staff to ensure reports are reviewed in a timely fashion.