

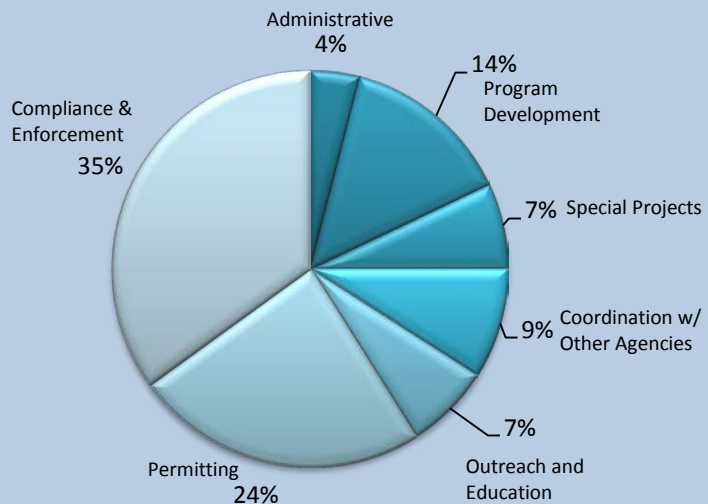
Cannabis Cultivation Waste Discharge Regulatory Program

Overview

California residents passed Proposition 215, the California Compassionate Use Act, in 1996. Since that time, cannabis cultivation has increased exponentially straining law enforcement, local governments, wildlife, and water resources. In response, the California Budget Act of 2014 appropriated resources for both the Department of Fish & Wildlife (Department) (7 PY) and the Water Boards (11 PY collectively) to reduce environmental damage caused by cannabis cultivation. These resources were used to create a multi-disciplinary Marijuana Task Force (Pilot Program), and to implement a priority-driven approach to address the natural resources damages resulting from marijuana cultivation on private lands and state owned lands of high conservation value in northern California.

In July 2016, the Program expanded when the Department and the Water Boards each received an additional 35 positions. Currently the Central Valley Water Board has five positions assigned to the Redding office and one to the Rancho Cordova office. Program resources are currently focused on improving process efficiency; enrolling cultivators in the Board's *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste Associated with Medicinal Cannabis Cultivation Activities* (WDRs); and pursuing enforcement actions where necessary. Primary concerns associated with cannabis cultivation include illicit grading activity, illegal water diversion, and chemical/nutrient transport to waters of the state.

Current Resource Distribution



Goals

- 1) Development of a regulatory program;
- 2) Targeted enforcement in high value watersheds;
- 3) Education and outreach to cultivators about best management practices; and
- 4) Multi-agency coordination at the state and local level.

Performance Targets and Priorities for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The Program's 2016/2017 Work Plan (Work Plan) identifies the following priority projects:

CIWQS & ECM Business Rules:

Staffs will develop California Integrated Water Quality Management System (CIWQS) and Electronic Content Management (ECM) business rules for the Pilot Program. The business rules, once approved, allow for consistent application of permittee correspondence and permitting across the Program and provide accurate accounting of Program outputs for internal and external (stakeholder) interests.

Enrollment Enforcement Strategy:

Cannabis cultivators are required to obtain coverage under the Board's WDRs where local jurisdictions allow cannabis cultivation and where the grower meets minimum thresholds in the WDRs. The Enrollment Enforcement Strategy will outline procedures for identifying those growers who fail to enroll in the Board's WDRs, outreach to those growers, and enforcement actions against those growers failing to respond.

Hiring/Training New Staffs and Senior:

The Board will hire and train one new staff environmental scientist and one new senior engineering geologist in the fall 2016.

Updates to the Strategic Plan:

In July 2014, the Water Boards and the Department developed a joint agency Strategic Plan to facilitate the implementation of the Pilot Program. The agencies endeavor to update that Strategic Plan in 2016/2017 by adding procedures to address illegal dams and illegal stream crossings.

Cannabis Identification and Prioritization System (CIPS):

The Budget Act of 2014 allocated \$200,000 to develop CIPS, which was completed in April 2016. CIPS identifies, quantifies, and classifies grow sites based on threats to water quality and permit tier criterion within specific geographic areas. The Work Plan identifies the expansion of the CIPS platform to cover North Coast, Central Valley and Central Coast Regions as a priority project.

Anadromous Fisheries Restoration Program (AFRP) Study:

The Department received funds from the AFRP to conduct a study that would evaluate water quality impacts to anadromous fisheries resulting from cannabis cultivation in northern California. Water Board staffs will assist the Department with field work, data analyses, and the final report preparations. Information obtained from the study may help to identify additional mitigation measures that can be implemented to prevent the impacts of associated pollutants to the environment.

Statewide General Order:

The State Water Board will begin development of a Statewide General Order for cannabis cultivation in FY 2016/2017 (completion goal of August 2017). Central Valley Water Board staffs will assist State Board in this effort.

Fiscal Year 16/17 Performance Targets

	Target
Compliance and Enforcement Inspections	32
Enrollment Inspections	32
Outreach and Education Workshops	18
General Order Enrollments	150