



Overview

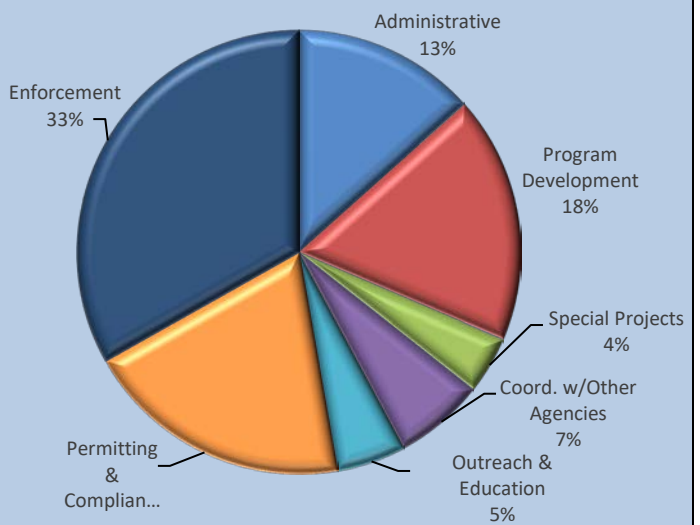
The Cannabis Cultivation Waste Discharge Regulatory Program was formed in 2014 when resources were allocated to both the Water Boards and the Department of Fish & Wildlife to address the environmental damage caused by cannabis cultivation. Since that time, cannabis cultivation, and the adverse environmental impacts associated with cannabis cultivation, has increased exponentially in many sensitive watersheds. In 2016, California passed Proposition 64, which created a legal avenue for both medical and recreational cannabis cultivation.

In 2017/18, the Cannabis Program expanded from a focus on Northern California to a statewide effort. Currently, the Central Valley Water Board has eleven positions assigned to the Redding office and four positions assigned to the Rancho Cordova office. As part of the statewide effort, the State Water Board adopted a Statewide General Order in October 2017.

Central Valley Water Board resources are currently focused on improving process efficiency, training new staff, transitioning from the Central Valley Region General Order to the Statewide General Order, 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



Program Goals

- 1) Continued development of the 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.

Accomplishments FY 2017-2018

| Performance Targets | Target | Accomplished |
|--|--------|--------------|
| Compliance and Enforcement Inspections | 20 | 33 |
| Enrollment Inspections | 32 | 16 |
| Outreach and Education Workshops | 18 | 14 |
| General Order Enrollments | 150 | 207 |

| Priority Projects | Status |
|--|---|
| Develop Program File Management/CIWQS/ECM procedures | Completed |
| Develop Enrollment Enforcement Strategy for EMG approval | Completed |
| Updates to the Strategic Plan | Ongoing, moved to FY 18/19 |
| Cannabis Identification & Prioritization System | Funded FY 17/18, implementing FY 18/19 |
| Anadromous Fisheries Restoration Program Study | Completed field study, final report in 2018 |

Priority Projects FY 2018-2019

Transition to Statewide General Order:

State Water Board staff have developed a Statewide General Order of WDR for cannabis cultivation that was adopted in October 2017. Central Valley Water Board staff have assisted the State Water Board in this effort. Central Valley Water Board staff will now need to transition existing permittees to the Statewide General Order; extensive outreach and education will be conducted during the transition period. Additionally, it is anticipated that the Central Valley Regional General Order will be rescinded by July 2019.

Outreach and Enrollment Enforcement Strategy Implementation:

In the spring of 2018, Central Valley Water Board staff developed an Outreach and Enrollment Enforcement Strategy (Strategy) which was approved for implementation in FY 18/19. Staff will work to identify key watersheds where enrollment in the Statewide General Order is below expected, and staff will implement the Strategy to increase enrollment and compliance with the Statewide General Order.

Training New Staff:

The Cannabis Program received numerous new staff positions in FY 17/18, which were filled by August 2018. Training new staff requires significant time commitments from both management and existing staff, and has therefore been identified as a priority project.

CIPS Buildout:

The Cannabis Program has received additional funding in FY 18/19 to enhance and expand the CIPS platform for statewide use. This task will include coordination with other regions with active cannabis programs, the State Water Board, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure needs are met. Therefore this task has been identified as a priority project.

Program Priorities FY 2018-2019:

- Transition to the Statewide General Order
- Training new staff
- CIPS Development
- Third party program research and development
- Coordination with State Water Board, other Regional Boards, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and statewide licensing agencies to ensure consistent implementation of statewide Cannabis regulations

Performance Targets FY 2018-2019

| | Target |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Enforcement Inspections | 40 |
| Enrollment and Compliance Inspections | 90 |
| Outreach and Education Workshops | 18 |
| Statewide General Order Enrollments | 300 |