

Cannabis Regulatory Program Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year (FY) 19/20

Overview of the Cannabis Regulatory Program

The Central Valley Water Board's Cannabis Regulatory Program regulates waste discharges associated with cannabis cultivation and associated ground disturbance activities. The Program is implemented through the statewide Cannabis Cultivation Policy, the statewide General Order for permitting actions, compliance inspections, and targeted enforcement actions against cultivators who fail to comply with permitting requirements. The Cannabis Regulatory Program coordinates heavily with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, state cannabis licensing agencies, local regulatory agencies, and state and local law enforcement agencies.

Program Goals

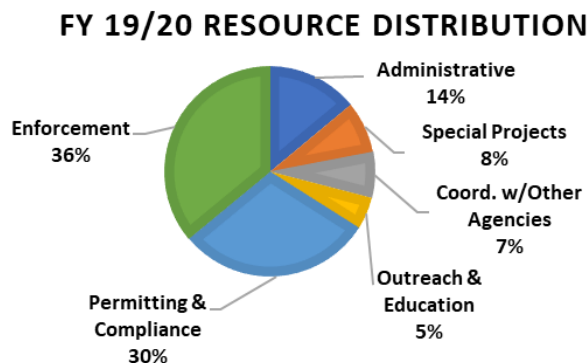
The Cannabis Regulatory Program focuses on four core objectives:

- Continued development of the regulatory program;
- Targeted enforcement in high value watersheds;
- Education and outreach to cultivators;
- Multi-agency coordination at the state and local level

Through implementation of these objectives, the Program strives to prevent cultivation activities from negatively impacting water quality. Impacts stem from: erosion and sediment discharge associated with ground disturbing activities, including cultivation pads, access roads, and dam construction; use and improper storage of fertilizers, pesticides, and fuels; improper septage disposal, and poor housekeeping. Through implementation of the statewide Cannabis Cultivation Policy and General Order and the Program's core objectives and proper best management practices, impacts to water quality can be prevented.

Resources

The Central Valley Water Board's Cannabis Regulatory Program is supported by 13 Personnel Years (PYs) technical staff and 2.5 PYs managerial staff. Program activities and percentage of time allocated to each activity are summarized in the pie chart to the right.



FY 18/19 Accomplishments

Throughout Fiscal Year 18/19, the Cannabis Regulatory Program was successful in meeting its numerous goals and objectives. These include:

- Transition of cultivators from the Central Valley's General Order to the Statewide General Order following the rescission of the Regional Order on 30 June 2019;
- Development and implementation of an Outreach and Enrollment Enforcement Strategy;
- Completion of field work and data analysis for an Anadromous Fisheries Restoration Program study to assess in-stream impacts associated with illegal cannabis cultivation sites;
- Completion of an MOU with the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force;
- Enrollment of 390 cultivators under the statewide General Order, 15 outreach events, 76 permit compliance inspections, 50 enforcement inspections, and two Administrative Civil Liability Orders.

Priority Projects FY 19/20

Fiscal Year 19/20 will mark the Program's sixth year anniversary and the second full year implementing statewide cannabis regulations.

Program staff will focus on the following goals and objectives during Fiscal Year 19/20:

- Continuing enrollment enforcement efforts in priority watersheds;
- Expansion of the program footprint into the southern portion of the Central Valley Region;
- Compel compliance of cultivators who failed to properly terminate coverage under the Regional Board's General Order or transition to the Statewide General Order by 1 July 2019;
- Increased coordination with statewide licensing agencies and local jurisdictions;
- Initiation of a water quality study focused on permitted cultivation sites;
- Target completion of 300 Statewide General Order enrollments, 18 outreach events, 90 permit compliance inspections, and 40 enforcement inspections.