



National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year (FY) 19/20

Overview of the NPDES Program

The Clean Water Act's NPDES program is a federal program United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has delegated to the State of California. This program protects beneficial uses by regulating point source discharges of pollutants to surface waters. Point sources are discrete conveyances, such as pipes, and include wastewater treatment facilities, fish hatcheries, and industrial facilities. "Major" or "minor" NPDES permits are issued to individual facilities depending on a facility's threat to water quality (e.g., the flow rate and/or the threat and complexity of the discharge). General NPDES permits can regulate numerous facilities with similar types of discharges. NPDES permits are updated every five years.

Program Goals

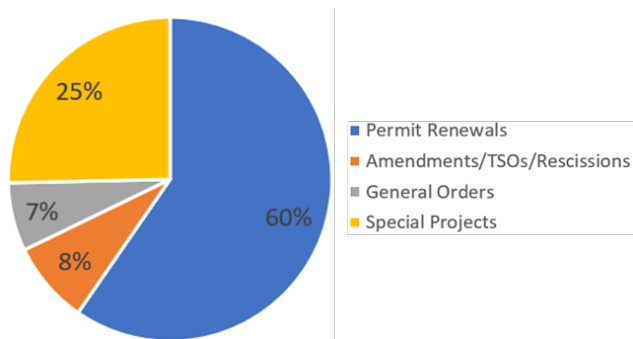
- Regulate all point source discharges to ensure protection of beneficial uses;
- Permits are renewed every five years; and
- Where appropriate, the cost of compliance is considered when developing permit conditions.

The additional goals of the NPDES Compliance and Enforcement program are:

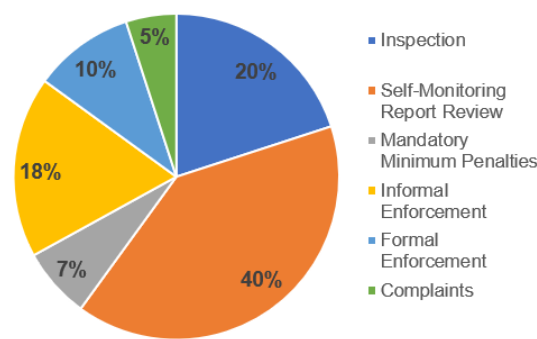
- To foster consistency for all staff working in compliance and enforcement;
- Provide guidance for all staff tasked with enforcement actions; and,
- Generate a fair and respected enforcement presence within the regulated community.

Resources

Permitting Activities



Compliance and Enforcement Activities



FY 18/19 Accomplishments

- *Permitting Efficiencies* – NPDES Program Manual Tool developed to compile permitting tools and templates.
- *Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC)* – Quality Assurance Project Plan and Sampling and Analysis Plan developed to implement CEC monitoring in FY 19/20.
- *Municipal General Order* – Notices of Applicabilities issued to five Publicly-Owned Treatment Works, streamlining the permit process.
- *Ammonia Planning Effort* – Central Valley Clean Water Association completed toxicity testing and developed draft criteria recalculation study in support of region-specific ammonia criteria. Final study recalculating the US EPA criteria expected in FY 19/20. Board staff to consider for implementation in NPDES permits in FY 19/20.
- *Data Quality Assurance* – Board staff developed procedures to efficiently implement US EPA's Sufficiently Sensitive Methods Rule, so quality data is provided by permittees.

Priority Projects FY 19/20

- *Permitting Efficiencies* – Continue developing and implementing streamlining measures to reduce time needed to develop permits. Board staff to focus on tools to improve efficiency and consistency.
- *CV-SALTS Implementation* – Board NPDES staff to develop program fact sheet and FAQs, as well as assist Basin Planning staff with workshops to inform permittees of new salinity and nitrate requirements for the CV-SALTS Basin Plan amendment.
- *Data Quality Assurance* – Board staff to roll out Sufficiently Sensitive Methods Rule procedures by working with discharger groups and commercial laboratory organizations to ensure sufficiently sensitive methods are used to analyze water quality data.

Permit Renewals / Inspections	Target FY18/19	Achieved FY 18/19	Planned for FY 19/20
Major Permit Renewals	8	7	9
Minor Permit Renewals	12	10	6
Major Inspections	24	27	29
Minor Inspections	17	16	9