

Water Quality Certifications Program Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year (FY) 19/20

Overview of the Water Quality Certifications Program

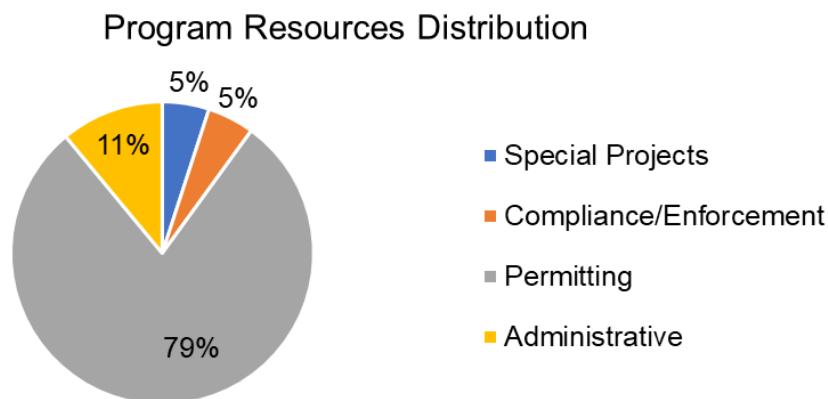
The Water Quality Certifications program regulates removal or placement of materials in wetlands and waterways in the State. Examples of such projects include navigational dredging, flood control channelization, levee construction, channel clearing, fill of wetlands for development, bridge piers, docks, etc. These types of projects generally require a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The State's Water Quality Certification is issued pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act to certify that the project approved by the Corps will also meet State water quality requirements.

Program Goals

The goal of the Central Valley Water Board's Water Quality Certifications Program (Program) is to protect the integrity of all waters, but has special responsibility for wetlands, riparian areas, and headwaters because these waterbodies have high resource value, are vulnerable to filling, and are not systematically protected by other programs. The program is involved with protection of special-status species and regulation of hydromodification impacts. The program implements the State and Federal Wetlands No Net Loss Policies, which seek to avoid, reduce, and mitigate impacts. The program seeks to first avoid project impacts, and then minimize and compensate for unavoidable impacts.

Resources

The Central Valley Water Board has 9 personnel years to implement the program. These resources are allocated as shown below.



FY 18/19 Accomplishments

- Reviewed applications for 286 projects, issued 282 actions, and conducted 22 inspections.
- Participated on the Inter-Agency Review Team for the the Central Valley In-Lieu Fee Program.
- Implemented the first elements of the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Participated on a multi-agency transportation task force implementing AB1282 to streamline permitting for Caltrans projects.
- Executed an MOU agreement with the United State Army Corps of Engineers for routine dredging activities.
- Worked with Caltrans and the Department of Water Resources on priority projects including post wildfire activities and rebuilding the Oroville Dam spillway.

Priority Projects FY 19/20

- Implement the new Dredge/Fill Procedures adopted by the State Water Board.
- Review applications, issue certification actions, and conduct targeted inspections on a projected 300 projects.
- Continue implementation of the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Revise general orders for maintenance dredging.
- Provide opportunities for staff training and development, especially for new program staff.
- Continue to participated on a multi-agency transportation task force implementing AB1282 to streamline permitting for Caltrans projects.
- Prepare for and implement permitting actions for projects under SB 901.