

## **Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy June 2013 – 2015 Workplan Summary**

This document has been prepared to provide a brief summary of work completed as outlined in the June 2013-2015 Workplan for the August 2010 Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy (2013 Workplan). The 2013 Workplan can be found on the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) website

at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/groundwater\\_quality/gwq\\_strategy2\\_workplan\\_2013-2015.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/groundwater_quality/gwq_strategy2_workplan_2013-2015.pdf)

### **Introduction**

The Central Valley Water Board adopted Resolution R5-2008-0181 in support of developing a Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy for the Central Valley Region through an active stakeholder process. To develop the Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy for the Central Valley Region, a Roadmap, public workshops were held to solicit information from stakeholders on groundwater quality protection concerns. Workshops were attended by stakeholders representing a variety of interests including: food processors, water purveyors, irrigation districts, conservation districts, rural communities, agricultural interests, federal and state agencies, cities, counties, elected officials, environmental groups, non-profit organizations, and other interested parties.

At the Central Valley Water Board September 2010 meeting, Resolution R5-2010-0095 was adopted approving the August 2010 Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy for the Central Valley (GWQ Strategy)<sup>1</sup> recognizing that all high priority actions cannot be fully implemented with existing resources. The resolution directed staff to develop workplan(s) for the highest priorities, and continue to pursue new, and improve existing, partnering opportunities to leverage existing resources and avoid duplication of efforts.

Table 1 below lists the future actions (action) identified in the GWQ Strategy. Each action identified was either underway or would be taken to improve or restore groundwater quality and was prioritized as high, medium, or low. For the high priority actions the Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy June 2011-2013 Workplan was developed. The following sections provide a summary of work completed from that workplan.

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<sup>1</sup> Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy for the Central Valley available for review at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/groundwater\\_quality/2010aug\\_gwq\\_protect\\_strat\\_approved.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/groundwater_quality/2010aug_gwq_protect_strat_approved.pdf)

Table 1

Future Action #	2010 Future Action	Priority		
		High	Medium	Low
6.4.1	CV-SALTS – Develop a Salt and Nitrate Management Plan – <b>On going</b>	X		
6.4.2	Implement Consistent and Scientifically Sound Groundwater Monitoring Programs – <b>On hold</b>	X		
6.4.3	Implement Groundwater Quality Protection Programs through the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Groups – <b>On going</b>		X	
6.4.4	Broaden public participation through enhanced communication, education, and outreach – <b>Continuous through all Board functions</b>	X		
6.4.5	Improve local implementation of Well Design and Destruction Programs – <b>Estimated Completion February 2016</b>		X	
6.4.6	Groundwater database – <b>Transferred to State Water Board January 2013</b>	X		
6.5.1(a)	Alternative Dairy Waste Disposal – Dairy Manure Digester and Dairy Manure Co-Digester Facilities - <b>Completed June 2011</b>	X		
6.5.1(b)	Develop Individual and General Orders for Poultry, Cattle Feedlot, other types of CAFO Facilities – <b>Estimated Completion Spring 2016</b>		X	
6.5.2(a)	Implementation of Long-Term ILRP – <b>Completed 2015</b>	X		
6.5.2(b)	Coordinate with CDFA to identify methods to enhance fertilizer research and education program – <b>On going</b>		X	
6.5.3	Reduce site cleanup backlog – <b>On going</b>		X	
6.5.4(a)	Draft Waiver once new regulations adopted based on AB 885 – <b>Completed January 2015</b>		X	
6.5.4(b)	Update Guidelines for Waste Disposal from Land Developments - <b>Completed June 2012</b>	X		
6.5.4(c)	Develop methods to reduce backlog and increase facilities regulated – <b>On going</b>	X		
6.5.4(d)	Actively coordinate with State Water Board on development of statewide ASR policy guidance - <b>Completed September 2012</b>		X	

## GROUNDWATER QUALITY PROTECTION WORKPLAN(S)

The GWQ Strategy is considered an evolving document and as actions are completed or new information is gathered, revisions will be made. A summary of the work completed based on the 2011-2013 Workplan was provided in a summary to the Board at their December 2013 meeting and is available

at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/groundwater\\_quality/gwq\\_strategy1\\_summary\\_2011-2013.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/groundwater_quality/gwq_strategy1_summary_2011-2013.pdf)

The following sections provide a summary of work completed based on the 2013-2015 Workplan.

### **Action #6.4.1 CV-SALTS Develop a Salt and Nitrate Management Plan**

Project Sponsor: Pamela Creedon

Project Manager: Jeanne Chilcott, [jchilcott@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jchilcott@waterboards.ca.gov)

Stakeholder Group Sponsor: CV-SALTS Executive Management Committee

Stakeholder Group Project Manager: Daniel Cozad, [dcozad@cvsalinity.org](mailto:dcozad@cvsalinity.org)

**Description:** Through the CV-SALTS initiative, a collaborative stakeholder effort, to develop a comprehensive Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) for the entire Central Valley Region and basin plan amendment recommendations to support implementation of the SNMP.

**Workplan Completion Summary:** This summary of work is for tasks included in the 2013 Workplan, additional work completed by the CV-SALTS initiative is reported on in Annual Reports to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and are available

at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity/progress\\_reports/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/progress_reports/index.shtml)

During the term of this workplan staff continued to provide regular updates on the status of CV-SALTS progress in the Executive Officer's Report included in each Central Valley Water Board meeting agenda. Annual updates to the State Water Board were provided in January 2014 and 2015. Informational presentations to the Central Valley Water Board were held in July 2013, December 2013, and April 2015. Staff also facilitated four initial CEQA Scoping sessions during October 2013.

CV-SALTS contracted technical work nears completion on the Conceptual Model Phase II that includes an Agricultural Management Zone archetype study, Strategic Salt Accumulation Land & Transport Study (SSALTS), and the Nitrate Implementation Measures Study (NIMS). Staff participates and provides comments as part of the Technical Advisory Committee reviewing these work products.

Staff have also participated and provided contract management for the Lower San Joaquin River Committee that has been working toward developing draft Salt and Boron

Water Quality Objectives. Staff is currently working on a staff report to present the technical findings for a potential basin plan amendment to the Central Valley Water Board in 2016.

At the Central Valley Water Board's December 2013 meeting a resolution was approved allowing a time extension for the development of the Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan extending the due date by two years to May 2016. This time extension will be reflected with additional tasks to be included in the next GWQ Strategy Workplan.

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**Action #6.4.2 Implement Consistent and Scientifically Sound Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program**

Project Sponsor: Clay Rodgers

Project Manager: Rob Busby, [rbusby@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rbusby@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** To implement this action a Groundwater Monitoring Advisory Workgroup (GMAW) composed of groundwater experts was formed. The GMAW identified several technical issues related to groundwater monitoring. The volunteer GMAW is tasked with development of white papers for each of the technical issues: Establishing and Applying Site-specific Background Concentrations, Conceptual Model, Monitoring Well Network Design, Additional Monitoring Techniques, Methods, and Tools.

**Workplan Completion Summary:** Work of the GMAW is on hold due to two on-going efforts working on related issues, a statewide committee is reviewing the Antidegradation Policy and guidance on its implementation with respects to groundwater, and CV-SALTS is looking at policy issues related to assimilative capacity. The results of these two efforts will likely have an impact on the approach or guidance that would be outlined in the GMAW white papers. Therefore, it is not an efficient use of the volunteer GMAW time, and to avoid duplication of efforts, the work of the GMAW will remain on hold while we await directions on policy issues from these two efforts.

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**Action #6.4.3 Implement Groundwater Quality Protection Programs through the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Groups**

Project Sponsor: Clay Rodgers

Project Manager: Pam Buford, [pbuford@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:pbuford@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** The goal of this action is to leverage and expand groundwater quality program coverage through improved coordination and partnering with local regional groups through the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) process.

**Workplan Completion Summary:** There are 22 Regional Water Management Groups implementing IRWM Plans within the Central Valley Region. Each of these groups has an assigned Central Valley Water Board staff responsible for actively participating with these groups. Staff follows the direction provided by a memo that describes expectations for active participation developed by executive management. During the period of this workplan staff have participated in regular meetings of IRWM groups,

worked on Technical Advisory Groups, assisted in obtaining Technical Assistance through the State Water Board, developed a Fact Sheet for the Central Valley Water Board's Rose Foundation Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) Program, and provided several presentations on current and future funding available through Proposition 1 and the Rose Foundation SEP program. Efforts by staff continue to encourage inclusion of water quality considerations and the needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs) in IRWM Plans and projects.

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**Action #6.4.4 Broaden Public Participation Through Enhanced Communication, Education, and Outreach**

Project Sponsor: Richard Loncarovich

Project Manager: Linda Bracamonte, [lbracamonte@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:lbracamonte@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** Ensure interested parties have the opportunity to participate in the Central Valley Water Board's decision making processes.

**Workplan Completion Summary:** The initial effort has been **completed** and reported in the 2011 Workplan Summary available at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/groundwater\\_quality/gwq\\_strategy1\\_summary\\_2011-2013.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/groundwater_quality/gwq_strategy1_summary_2011-2013.pdf). Broadening public participation will be an on-going effort for the Central Valley Water Board for all programs not just those focused on groundwater. Therefore, this update is included even though there were no specific tasks included in the 2013 Workplan for this action.

The 2011 Workplan identified tasks to broaden public participation throughout the Central Valley Region. The following was completed 2011-2013: provided meeting facilitation training to 26 Central Valley Water Board staff; held multiple board workshops in project specific locations and as the need arise we will continue to provide this service; provide the opportunity for interested parties to participate in specific program issues such as, CV-SALTS, Dairy Monitoring, ILRP, etc.

In 2014 an upgrade of equipment was completed to allow for webcasting of our Board Meetings which began in October 2014, and there have also been at least one board meeting in Fresno and Redding annually. We continue to work with State Water Board to expand our ability to allow for remote Board Meeting Participation from all three of our offices.

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**Action # 6.4.5 Well Design and Destruction (Abandonment) Program** Project

Sponsor: Clay Rodgers

Project Manager: Rob Busby, [rbusby@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rbusby@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** Protect groundwater quality through improved local implementation of a Well Design and Destruction Programs.

**Workplan Completion Summary:** The well standards for the State of California were reviewed and compared to well standard ordinances of each county in Region 5 to consider (1) how Well Design and Destruction Programs are implemented, and (2) how such implementation is working or is not working to protect groundwater quality. The primary goal was to identify specific well standards not being enforced by local agencies and develop ideas to improve implementation of the standards. Implementation and enforcement of the well standards in each county is by permitting processes, inspections, and specific enforcement ordinances. It appears that implementation of well standards is working but rigorous oversight and enforcement is curtailed due to limited resources. Increased staffing of local agencies, particularly for addressing well destruction, along with educating the public regarding wells would improve implementation and enforcement of well standards. The Well Design and Destruction (Abandonment) Programs summary document is under executive management and legal review and is expected to be posted to the Central Valley Water Board website in the first quarter of 2016.

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**Action #6.4.6 Groundwater Database – Transitioned to State Water Board January 2013**

Project Sponsor: Linda Bracamonte & Clay Rodgers

Project Manager: Jovel Vossler, [javossler@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:javossler@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** To develop a groundwater quality database that facilitates the compilation and assessment of data and allows for seamless integration with information from different Central Valley Water Board programs and other agencies.

**Workplan Completion Summary:** Working cooperatively with State Water Board's Office of Information Management and Analysis (OIMA), Central Valley Water Board staff reviewed all existing groundwater data systems and their ease of use and functionality. The Workgroup identified the basic groundwater data needs of all key programs. The effort identified all programs with groundwater data that are currently not in a database.

An issue paper was sent to OIMA recommending that the State Water Board's GeoTracker System be modified to incorporate data from the remaining programs with groundwater data that were not already in the system. The State Water Board had reached a similar decision that GeoTracker was the appropriate system to be modified. OIMA's plan is to move forward one program area at a time to make modifications to the

system. This effort will take several years to complete and as each program is identified Central Valley Water Board staff will work closely with OIMA's staff to make sure our program data is identified and the functionality of the system is appropriate for each program.

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**Action #6.5.1(a) Alternative Dairy Waste Disposal – Dairy Manure Digester and Dairy Manure Co-Digester Facilities - Completed June 2011**

Project Sponsor: Andrew Altevogt

Project Manager: Doug Patteson, [dpatteson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dpatteson@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** Find alternative wastewater disposal methods and processes that protect groundwater quality while providing multiple environmental media benefits. Develop a programmatic EIR for Digester Facilities at dairies that use manure waste as a renewable energy source that will generate power and ensure protection of groundwater quality. Develop and implement a General Order for digester facilities throughout the Central Valley that is based on the EIR. *This action was completed June 2011 and will not be included in future status reports of the GWQ Strategy.*

**Workplan Completion Summary:** There were no tasks included in the 2013-2015 Workplan for this action. Streamlined permitting of digesters on dairies was completed with the certification of the Program EIR (Resolution R5-2010-0116) and adoption of the General Order (Order R5-2010-0130) at the Central Valley Water Board's December 2010 meeting. A General Order for centralized digester facilities offsite of dairies (Resolution and Order R5-2011-0039), which relies on the Program EIR was adopted at the Central Valley Water Board's June 2011 meeting. The General Orders are being utilized with 14 dairy digesters currently permitted within the Central Valley Region.

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**Action #6.5.1(b): Develop General Order for Poultry, Cattle, or Other Confined Animal Facilities**

Project Sponsor: Andrew Altevogt

Project Manager: Doug Patteson, [dpatteson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dpatteson@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** This action is to protect groundwater from waste associated with the operation of confined animal facilities including poultry raising and egg laying facilities, bovine feedlots (heifer ranches, beef cattle yards, etc.), and other types of confined animal facilities not covered by the Dairy General Order.

**Workplan Completion Summary:** A General Order for Bovine Feedlots has been drafted and is being revised to address comments after internal review, expand the order to include new and expanding facilities, incorporate provisions of the recently-adopted State Water Board General Order for Composting, and add surface water monitoring provisions derived from those in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. A public review draft should be available for review January 2016.

Drafting of the General Order for Poultry facilities has begun. It will follow a similar path as the Bovine Feedlots General Order with an administrative draft to industry early in 2016 than a public review draft, and presentation to the Central Valley Water Board mid-2016.

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**Action #6.5.2(a) Implementation of the Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) – Completed October 2015**

Project Sponsor: Adam Laptuz

Project Manager: Sue McConnell, [smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** To implement a program that establishes a groundwater protection program for wastes associated with irrigated agricultural practices.

**Workplan Completion Summary:** Work over the last two years focused on issuance and implementation of the General Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges of wastewater from irrigated lands in the Central Valley. Eight Orders were issued that allow growers to be represented by third-party groups, with seven Orders covering specific watershed areas and one Order covering a specific commodity (rice). One additional Order was issued for growers that elect individual coverage and not be a part of a third-party group (Coalition).

Staff has engaged in significant outreach to both growers and coalitions to ensure enrollment in the ILRP Orders and compliance with Order requirements. Staff has taken compliance and enforcement actions against growers who failed to enroll in the program as well as growers who violated the Orders. Staff mailed over 30,000 initial outreach letters and over 20,000 final notice outreach letters, conducted nearly 5,000 inspections, issued about 1,700 Section 13260 directive letters, over 400 Notices of Violation, with a total of \$622,000 in penalty. Staff also developed a database for tracking grower information, reviewed numerous monitoring plans and management plans.

A priority for the ILRP is the development of a groundwater management effort. All growers are required to develop farm evaluation plans and nitrogen management plans using Executive Officer approved templates. In the last two years, staff has worked on development and issuance of those templates. Staff has also reviewed and commented on groundwater quality assessment reports provided by the Coalitions and worked with Coalitions on development of groundwater quality management plans, groundwater quality trend monitoring programs and management practices evaluation programs.

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**Action #6.5.2(b) Coordinate with California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to identify methods to enhance outreach, education, and research through CDFA's fertilizer research and education program**

Project Sponsor: Adam Laptuz

Project Manager: Sue McConnell, [smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** This action is to reduce groundwater quality impacts from use of nitrogen based fertilizing materials in agricultural, commercial, and residential applications.

**Workplan Completion Summary:** Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program staff coordination with the CDFA has been important for addressing nitrate in groundwater. Staff met regularly with CDFA to develop a training program for certified crop advisors and growers to certify nitrogen management plans. The training program has been developed and implemented. Staff also met with CDFA to discuss calculators for nitrogen removed from farming operations and other elements of the nitrogen management plan effort.

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**Action #6.5.3 Reduce Site Cleanup backlog**

Project Sponsor: Andrew Altevogt

Project Manager: Stewart Black, [sblack@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sblack@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** This action is to reduce the number of inactive cases (i.e., the case backlog) in the Site Cleanup Program.

**Workplan Completion Summary:** During the term of this workplan case review procedures were developed and staff began the task of reviewing files by county, by other agency case files, and cases without any identified file. This initial review then allowed for the assignment of cases needing additional assessment/cleanup to be prioritized and those that may be ready for closure. Following further review staff prepared case summary memorandum for duplicate and DTSC-lead cases, or cases that should be closed in GeoTracker. The case status was then updated and a summary memorandum was uploaded to GeoTracker.

Since July 2013, the site cleanup backlog has been reduced from about 600 sites to 500 sites. This represents a 16% reduction, exceeding the work plan commitment of a 10% reduction. Staff is currently using lessons learned to improve efficiency in gathering available data from counties, cities and other Boards, Departments and organizations to evaluate these sites. Staff have also received recent direction from the State Water Board on the information that must be included in each GeoTracker site file to properly address each of these sites. Work will continue on this action during FY15/16.

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**Action #6.5.4(a) & #6.5.4(b) Update Guidelines for Waste Disposal from Land Developments – Completed January 2015**

Project Sponsor: Ken Landau

Project Manager: Betty Yee, [byee@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:byee@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** Update to Action 6.5.4(b) at the time of approval of the GWQ Strategy the State Water Board's efforts related to Assembly Bill 885 (AB 885) had stalled. The priority given to action 6.5.4(b) was partly based on resources and the need to continue to work on an update to the waste disposal guidelines. *This action was completed January 2015 and will not be included in future status reports of the GWQ Strategy.*

**Workplan Completion Summary:** AB 885, creating Section 13291 et. seq. of the California Water Code, legislated statewide minimum 'regulations or standards' (regulations) for onsite sewage treatment systems (including septic systems). AB 885 required the State Water Board to adopt new regulations for discharges from onsite wastewater treatment systems. The State Water Board Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Policy became effective 13 May 2013.

As required by the OWTS Policy, the Central Valley Water Board adopted amendments for both Basin Plans in May 2014 and were approved by the State Water Board and Office of Administrative Law. The amendments to incorporate the OWTS Policy into the basin plans are in effect as of 26 January 2015. This completed work on these actions and created a Phase 2 which is implementation of the OWTS policy addressed below.

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**Action #6.5.4(a) & #6.5.4(b) Phase 2 - Implementing the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Policy**

Project Sponsor: Clint Snyder

Project Manager: Eric Rapport, [erapport@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:erapport@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** As a result of the adjustments made to actions 6.5.4(a) and 6.5.4(b) based on the newly adopted OWTS policy a second phase is its implementation that was described in the 2013 Workplan. The implementation of the OWTS Policy gives Local Agencies the option to develop and implement performance-based requirements for new and replacement OWTS in Local Agency Management Programs (LAMPs).

**Workplan Completion Summary:** The implementation of the OWTS Policy gives Local Agencies the option to develop and implement performance-based requirements for new and replacement OWTS in Local Agency Management Programs (LAMPs). In the Central Valley, most Local Agencies have committed to submit LAMPs; drafts are due to our agency by 13 May 2016, and will require Regional Board approvals by 13 May 2017. Central Valley Water Board staff expects to receive 30 draft LAMPs.

To prepare for this workload, staff has been coordinating with State Water Board, the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH), and California Onsite Wastewater Association throughout 2015. With their cooperation, in February a preliminary completeness checklist for LAMPs was distributed to all Central Valley Local Agencies. Staff met with CCDEH in March and April to discuss the checklist and Local Agencies' potential concerns; which were mainly focused on reporting requirements of the OWTS Policy. As a follow-up, staff have composed for CCDEH review, a conceptual straw-man spreadsheet of requirements for annual reports and Water Quality Assessment Reports. The CCDEH Director is compiling comments; and follow up with the State Water Board, is anticipated early in 2016. In June the State Water Board released a Guidance Document for LAMPs and Advanced Protection Management Programs (APMPs) for LAMPs that cover OWTS near 303(d) listed impaired water bodies for pathogens or nitrates. Counties expected to submit LAMPs that include APMPs are Nevada, Placer, and Tuolumne Counties.

An information item was presented at the Central Valley Water Board October 2015 meeting in Redding, reporting on the work leading up to the implementation of the OWTS Policy. The implementation component of the OWTS policy is included in the 2015 Update to the GWQ Strategy as action #6.15.

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**Action #6.5.4(c) Develop methods to reduce backlog and increase facilities regulated**

Project Sponsor: Andrew Altevogt

Project Manager: Lonnie Wass, [lwass@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:lwass@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** Identify like industrial facilities or operations that a General Order could be utilized. Rank these by potential threat to water quality and begin General Order development for the industrial facilities or operations that could have the highest potential to impact groundwater. Develop general orders for like industrial facilities or operations that would allow for efficiency of permitting.

**Workplan Completion Summary:** In the last 17 months, staff has reduced the number of backlogged applications for new or revised WDRs from 278 to 219, an approximately 20% reduction. Staff has done so primarily by enrollments in general orders and waivers. Since development of the GWQ Strategy workplan, staff has enrolled over 100 small domestic dischargers under Order 97-10 DWQ, and has now enrolled 20 dischargers in the new and expanded order for small domestic dischargers, Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, adopted in November 2014.

Staff has also been enrolling small food processors and wineries under the recently-issued and expanded conditional waiver for small food processors and small wineries. Since the waiver's update in February 2015, staff has issued 51 Notices of Applicability for coverage under the new waiver.

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development partnered with the Government Operations Agency to offer Lean 6-Sigma training to state agencies to specifically address process-based issues within state departments. The Central Valley Water Board is one of 15 state departments that were chosen to participate in training held during 2015 and our project was titled, "Reduction in Permit Processing Time for Non-15 Waste Discharge Requirements." Through this evaluation problems and efficiencies were identified that will allow for reduced permit processing time. These new processes are being implemented and are further described in action #6.8 of the 2015 Addendum to the GWQ Strategy.

Over the last two workplans, tools and/or methods have been developed that have resulted in the 20% reduction in the WDR backlog. Reducing the backlog will continue to be a priority for the Central Valley Water Board and will be included in future workplans under implementation of action #6.8 Lean 6-Sigma.

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**Action #6.5.4(d) Actively coordinate with State Water Board on development of statewide Aquifer Storage and Recovery policy guidance – Completed September 2012**

Project Sponsor: Rick Moss

Project Manager: Rob Busby, [rbusby@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rbusby@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Description:** To develop a statewide approach for Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects through coordination with State and Regional Water Boards, Department of Water Resources, California Department of Public Health and USEPA to provide statewide consistency for permitting of ASR projects. *This action was completed September 2012 and will not be included in future status reports of the GWQ Strategy.*

**Workplan Completion Summary:** In 2012 the State Water Board working with the Regional Water Boards prepared an Initial Study and Notice of Proposed Mitigated Negative and circulated these for public review. After considering comments received on the Initial Study, the State Water Board determined based on the reasons specified in the Initial Study that the proposed project, the adoption of the General Order, will have a less than significant effect on the environment and will not result in significant cumulative impact; and that specific requirements in the General Order will mitigate any potential adverse impacts.

To streamline the permitting process and to ensure consistent requirements, the State Water Board adopted on 19 September 2012, general WDRs for ASR projects that inject treated drinking water into aquifers. The general WDRs require that water injected into an aquifer meet drinking water standards and not cause groundwater to violate any water quality objectives in the applicable Water Quality Control Plan.

The general WDRs are available for use by the Regional Water Boards for permitting ASR projects that meet the criteria provided in the waste discharge requirements.