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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region Staff Summary Report June 13-14, 2024

**ITEM:** 8

**SUBJECT:** Regional Board Program Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024-25

**BOARD ACTION:** This is an informational item; no action will be taken by the Board.

**BACKGROUND:** In advance of each fiscal year (July 1 through June 30), the Regional Board's program staff conduct annual work planning to identify priorities, assess resources available, and set expectations regarding the scope and timing of work products. With limited resources come difficult choices, and the work planning process also provides the opportunity to identify projects and tasks that will need to be reduced, delayed, or otherwise modified given insufficient resources. In addition to its importance as a planning tool, this process is also intended to provide transparency to the Board and interested public regarding planned priorities.

In past years, Regional Board staff have developed detailed documents for each division, providing an overview of the division, a description of the staff resources within the division, a description of each program within the division (including priority activities and projects for the program; descriptions of each activity and program; and performance targets for the program), and additional supporting information as needed.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, this year Regional Board management examined the work planning process and outputs, with the primary goal of providing the most useful information in a format that would be easily accessible and digestible. The result of this effort is a new, web-based format that presents key information about each program and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, along with links to further program information contained on the Regional Board Website.

While the output of work planning has changed to a more succinct format, the process remains the same. Program priorities for the year were developed by the respective Division Supervisors and unit Seniors with input from program staff. The level of detail provided for each program varies based on the nature of the work. Throughout the fiscal year, each division's leadership will meet to assess the status of the division's program priorities, adjust distribution of resources to assure that the most pressing priorities are

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met, and make modifications as needed to respond to changing conditions and demands.

The Regional Board's vision, *Healthy Watersheds. Effective Regulations. Strong Partnerships.*, is broad and aspirational. It serves as a reminder of why we do what we do, and a touchstone to help determine priorities. At the June 2024 Regional Water Board meeting, the Executive Officer will provide a general overview and summary of the Regional Board's program priorities for fiscal year 2024-25, which reflect an ambitious body of work to advance this vision. We look forward to feedback from Board members on these priorities, welcome comments by interested parties, and we will be available to answer questions.

**RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** [Regional Board Program Priorities](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/program_priorities/)  
([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/program\\_priorities/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/program_priorities/))