



Media Release

State Water Boards Issue Ninth Web-based Performance Report

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards launched their ninth web-based “Annual Performance Report” this week -- a report intended to assess the Water Boards’ efforts during the 2016-17 fiscal year to protect and manage California’s water resources.

“While constantly being improved, this report is a valuable tool that allows us to track our progress in protecting the waters of the state,” said Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Board. “This year’s report also makes data more accessible to the general public, which in turn gives residents a better understanding of what the Water Boards are doing to protect one of California’s most precious resources.”

The 12-month period covered by the report illustrates the variability in California’s annual precipitation, with one of the wettest winters on record ending the state’s historic five-year drought. Nonetheless, the state-declared drought emergency remained in selected central California communities. As the report documents, the Water Boards stepped up efforts during this period to provide funding and regulatory oversight to help meet their water needs.

This “report card” also gives a snapshot of the state’s water quality, using a variety of metrics and documents to show what the Water Boards are doing to protect it. In 2016-17, the Water Boards collectively oversaw more than 50,000 dischargers, took approximately 600 individual permit actions, inspected more than 7,600 facilities, completed more than 2,000 penalty and compliance actions, and adopted plans to address nearly 150 listings for polluted waterways.

While there is still much work to be done, the Water Boards’ actions are leading to improvements in watersheds around the state. Forty-one waterbodies that were listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as impaired under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act were removed from that list in 2016-17. The number of waterbodies that have not yet been addressed by a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project continues to decrease. TMDL projects are used to restore water quality for waterbodies that are listed as impaired.

C A L I F O R N I A E N V I R O N M E N T A L P R O T E C T I O N A G E N C Y



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Additionally, five watershed units, of the State's 167 watersheds of focus, had documented improvements in water quality under the Non-Point Source program, which aims to address water pollution from diffuse, unregulated sources rather than a single, regulated source. In the Water Boards' Clean-up Program, 602 clean-up sites were closed in 2016-17, bringing the total to almost 20,000 sites cleaned up and closed.

The Annual Performance Report not only allows the State and Regional Water Boards to track and monitor the work being done to address water quality concerns, it also allows the Water Boards to track the impact of this work on the water resources. Managers of Water Board programs are able to use the report to more effectively assign limited resources.

To learn more, visit the Water Boards' Performance Report at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/performance_report_1617/

Or see an overview of the report at: <https://arcg.is/z5Km1>

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