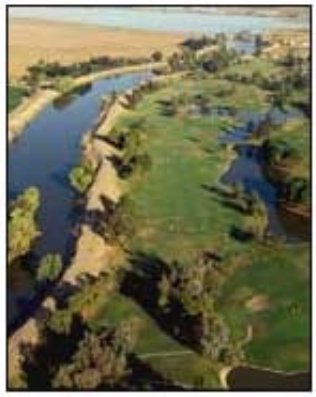
CALIFORNIA
Water Boards



2008

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

Published February 2009

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

February 2009



Introduction

The State Water Resources Control Board and its nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Water Boards) have broad responsibilities in protecting surface and ground water quality while balancing competing demands on our water resources. This balance is established through our programs that allocate water rights, adjudicate water right disputes, develop statewide and regional water quality control plans, and establish and implement water quality standards.

This report summarizes some of the important accomplishments of the Water Boards during 2008. While many of these accomplishments will have broad impact across the State in the years to come, many more are focused on the specific challenges faced in particular watersheds around the State.

For more information on programs in this report, please see our Web site:

www.waterboards.ca.gov

Cover photos from top to bottom right Region 2- Delta Channel, Agricultural Lands and Adjacent Residential Development; Region 6- Lake Tahoe; Region 1- Jim Burke monitors the Garcia River after starting a TMDL to restore it; Region 2- Former salt production ponds in South San Francisco slated for restoration; Region 3- 143 acres of Parsallen Beach was permanently preserved thanks to $900,000 in settlement funding from the Central Coast Regional Board.

Statewide Initiatives

Delta Channel, Agricultural Lands and Adjacent Residential Development

Bay-Delta Strategic Work Plan

The complexity and history of the Water Boards' involvement with other agencies in addressing the needs of the Bay-Delta called for a working document to more fully coordinate water quality and water rights activities; address emerging issues identified in the 2006 update to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta* (Bay-Delta Plan), including the decline of species in the Delta; and to complement the activities and priorities identified by the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, which was created by the Governor's Executive Order S-17-06.

Accomplishment: The Bay-Delta Strategic Work Plan **(http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta/default.htm)** was developed over six-months by the Water Boards' Bay-Delta Team with input from members of the public, stakeholders, and Board members. The Strategic Work Plan directs State Water Board activities to ensure the protection of beneficial uses and the public trust, while promoting adaptive management approaches to address emerging concerns. Highlights of the Strategic Work Plan include: a comprehensive regional monitoring program for the Bay-Delta; a comprehensive review and update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan; increased compliance and enforcement of water rights requirements in the Bay-Delta; and, activities to improve water conservation.

Enforcement Initiatives

Comprehensive data about enforcement efforts across the State Water Boards' five core regulatory programs was inconsistently available, making it very difficult to evaluate program needs, effectiveness, and adherence to all legislatively mandated requirements. For example, there have been concerns about the continuing backlog of mandatory minimum penalties (MMP) for violations of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits mandated by *Water Code section 13385*. In early 2008, more than 7,200 MMP violations (issued between Jan. 1, 2000 and Dec. 31, 2007) had not received formal enforcement action.

Accomplishment: The *Baseline Enforcement Report* **(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/docs/baseline/enforcement_baseline_0607.pdf)**, developed early in 2008, established a baseline of information about enforcement resources and outputs. It identified challenges faced by the core regulatory programs and enforcement resources to support those programs. The report identified a core set of performance measures to evaluate enforcement effectiveness and graphically presented this data. To address the backlog of violations requiring mandatory minimum penalties, an expedited payment process was developed to resolve MMP violations as an alternative to formal administrative civil liability (ACL) complaints. As of December 2008, expedited payment offers, or ACL complaints, were issued to 418 facilities representing 10,846 violations. This included 109 ACL complaints, and 309 expedited payment offers. There are 30 additional facilities with 520 violations which will be addressed soon.

Water Boards Photo
SWAMP Staff conducts water monitoring.

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)

No comprehensive assessments of the status and conditions of freshwater and estuarine habitats existed in California and the condition of beneficial uses was generally unknown.

Accomplishment: Five water quality assessment reports were produced: Ecological Condition Assessments of California's Perennial Wadeable Streams; Sediment Quality in California Bays and Estuaries; Status of Perennial Estuarine Wetlands in the State of California; Bioaccumulation of Pollutants in California Waters: a review of historic data and assessment of impacts on fishing and aquatic life; and a Statewide Investigation of the Role of Pyrethroid Pesticides in Sediment. These reports can be accessed at: **http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/reports.shtml**

Data Management Improvements

The Water Boards maintain many data systems requiring ongoing upgrades to effectively manage and provide timely information for regulator and public use.

Accomplishment: During 2008 the Office of Information Management & Analysis (OIMA) was created to modernize and enhance how the State and Regional Water Boards share information with one another and the public. A comprehensive report containing recommendations to maximize the effectiveness of water quality data collection and dissemination was completed and is at: **http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/monitoring_council/index.shtml**. The Water Boards developed and upgraded key data systems. The Electronic Water Rights Information Management System (eWRIMS) was developed to provide secure online access to water right records. For the public users, water right information can be easily queried, viewed, downloaded and mapped using different search criteria and a statewide GIS display. Geotracker, the system that manages cleanup site information, was integrated with Google maps and is now hosted at an offsite co-location facility. During the first two days of operation at the new facility, 2,000 electronic submittals were uploaded. Submittal times took an average of 2 seconds – 100 times faster than before the upgrade. Finally, upgrades to the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) continue with substantial improvements in data quality and quantity.

Strategic Plan Update: 2008 - 2012

The Water Boards' Strategic Plan, last updated in 2001, did not consistently reflect the current priorities of the Governor, Legislature or the State and Regional Water Boards.

Accomplishment: After stakeholder summits, workshops and public comment, the State Water Board adopted its Strategic Plan Update. This update covers the next five years and will be informally reviewed annually to evaluate progress and make changes. The plan contains three environmental goals related to surface and ground water and sustainable water supplies, one goal for a statewide water quality plan and three organizational priorities to improve transparency, consistency and workforce capacity. The plan can be accessed at: **http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/hot_topics/strategic_plan/2007update.shtml**

1 North Coast Regional Water Board

Upcoming Priorities:

- Adopt a TMDL for the Klamath River by December 2009.
- Adopt a regulatory framework for permitting all US Forest Service activities and adopt a model permit/ waiver for the Klamath National Forest that incorporates TMDL requirements with the USFS.
- Issue an MS4 permit within Sonoma County that includes Low-Impact Development principles.

Remote wilderness and towering redwoods characterize the North Coast Region, which stretches from the Oregon border to Marin County. A land of wet coastal mountains and drier inland valleys, it accounts for 12 percent of the state's land area, but 35 percent of its freshwater runoff. Its 340-mile-long coastline includes estuaries and environmentally sensitive areas protected by state law. Timber harvesting, agriculture, recreation and tourism are mainstays of the local economy.

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403
Phone: (707) 576-2220

● = Regional Board Office

The Regional Board is governed by nine members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Regional Board members represent categories related to the control of water quality and must reside in, or have a place of business within, the region.

1 North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Photo by Kaete King Region 1
Jim Burke monitors the Garcia River after starting a TMDL to restore it.

TMDLs in the Garcia and Shasta Watersheds

The TMDL Action Plans for the Garcia and the Shasta rivers address pollutants from multiple sources in the watersheds. TMDLs at this scale involve challenges from building agency credibility to identifying, engaging, and shepherding potentially responsible parties toward compliance.

Accomplishment: The results of the TMDL Action Plans are positive and readily observable. Salmon are beginning to thrive again in the Garcia River and the Shasta River Community District, the Regional Water Board, local irrigation districts and others, removed two main instream dams. Sources of additional cold water have been identified as well as ranch parcels that are contributing hot water to the river. These actions are key to restoring the Shasta River.

Klamath River Bistate Workplan

The Klamath River, which flows from Oregon into California, is significantly degraded by sources of pollution in both states.

Accomplishment: The states and US EPA developed a shared modeling approach to analyze pollutant loadings, sources, and the pollutant reductions necessary to achieve water quality standards. The modeling has confirmed the importance of reducing nutrient loads in Oregon and California. A two-state Memorandum of Understanding will guide TMDL development.

Humboldt Redwood Company

Forest management under the Pacific Lumber/Scotia Pacific Companies resulted in considerable pollution in five watersheds in the North Coast region. During the past 10 years, sizeable staff resources were used for surveillance, enforcement, and the development of watershedwide waste discharge requirements. Ownership and management of those timberlands recently changed hands as the result of a bankruptcy reorganization to the Humboldt Redwood Company.

Accomplishment: The only watershed permits for timber harvesting in California are on two of the five affected watersheds. Staff developed the permitting documents and a schedule for a public hearing and board action to memorialize the ownership change and preserve the continuity of the watershed permits, the existing cleanup and abatement orders, and more than 100 timber harvest plans covered under general waste discharge requirements. The smooth transition allowed the Humboldt Redwood Company to begin work on necessary landscape features and to continue with the remedial actions in the cleanup orders.

Russian River Watershed Reuse

The Russian River watershed is a prized drinking water source, recreational destination, and is highly valued by viniculturists. Because of the sensitivity of the watershed and dwindling water supply, measures were needed to accelerate water reuse and offset water diversions from the river.

Accomplishment: The prohibition on summer discharge begun a number of years ago along with staff outreach to permittees and stakeholders, permit modifications and community education has led to significant gains in the amount of water being beneficially reused. The Santa Rosa Sub-regional Wastewater Reclamation system discharged to the Russian River only 12 days in 2007; the balance of their 15 million gallons per day (mgd) flow (about 5 billion gallons/year) was reused. The City of Windsor is designing storage ponds to increase their reuse options. The cities of Cloverdale and Healdsburg have committed to stopping summer indirect discharge and reusing their effluent. Recycled water is reused at the Geysers steam field to create energy; in communities for landscape irrigation; and in rural areas for dairy pastureland and grapes.

Photo by Earl Ambrosini, Beacom Construction Co. Used with Permission/ Region 1
Crews clean up along the Smith River after 4,000 gallons of fuel spilled.

Smith River Diesel Cleanup

The Smith River in Del Norte County is California's only major undammed river. In February 2008, a fuel truck spilled 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the river.

Accomplishment: Federal, State and local agencies including the North Coast Regional Water Board, Department of Fish & Game, US Forest Service, Del Norte County, California Highway Patrol, Department of Public Health, and the Department of Transportation collaborated to expedite cleanup. Working around the clock, crews placed booms along the river and extracted the fuel from a trench on the gravel bar. Contaminated river rocks were steam cleaned and 80% of the spilled fuel was recovered.

2 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay
1515 Clay St., Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: (510) 622-2300

Upcoming Priorities:

- Adopt a single stormwater permit for most municipalities in the region that provides regulatory clarity, consistency and flexibility with an emphasis on trash control and Low-Impact Development.
- Implement enhanced spill response, prevention, and enforcement with emphasis on sewage spills and polluted stormwater discharges.
- Ensure aggressive cleanup of contaminated sites, including former military bases, to expedite restoration and redevelopment.

San Francisco Bay lies at the heart of this area, home to more than 7 million people. Industries range from high-tech computer manufacturers in Silicon Valley to oil refineries in Contra Costa County. The northern part of the region supports agriculture, such as the wine industry and dairies. Despite the heavy urbanization, there are still abundant natural resources, such as migratory birds, and fish in and around the Bay.

● = Regional Board Office

The Regional Board is governed by nine members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Regional Board members represent categories related to the control of water quality and must reside in, or have a place of business within, the region.

2 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Grazing Operations

Tomales Bay and its tributaries are degraded by pathogens, nutrients, mercury and sediment harming fish, commercial shell fish harvesting, and recreation.

Accomplishment: The Regional Water Board adopted a conditional waiver to regulate under-regulated dischargers by requiring landowners/operators of grazing operations to start multiobjective management practices. The waiver requires each grazing operator to prepare a Ranch Water Quality Plan that identifies where and when management practices will be carried out. The waiver fulfills actions required in the *Tomales Bay Pathogen TMDL Implementation Plan*, the *Walker Creek Mercury TMDL Implementation Plan*, and *California's Policy for Implementation and Enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program*.

Enforcement Strategy

Because of the number of publicized sewage spills, it became clear that enforcing requirements, other than mandatory minimum penalties, needed enhancement to meet the public's expectations of the Regional Water Board.

Accomplishment: The Regional Water Board prioritized, reorganized and improved its approach to enforcement. This involved creating a new enforcement section, reassigning staff, and initiating a process for prioritizing enforcement cases. Enforcement activities were refocused on sewage spills and industrial NPDES storm water permit late reporting violations. This has resulted in more than $3.6 million in administrative civil liability complaints. These efforts aim to deter future noncompliance, and create incentives for infrastructure and wet weather treatment plant upgrades.

Photo Courtesy of Region 2
A pilot aeration system holds promise for reducing mercury levels in fish.

Guadalupe River Watershed Mercury TMDL

Several water bodies in the Guadalupe River are heavily polluted by mercury. Wastes from past mining activities are present on the land and in the sediments of the river and its tributaries. There are public health warnings not to eat the fish. The river drains into an area destined for major wetland restoration.

Accomplishment: Approval of Mercury TMDLs for the Guadalupe River watershed establishes a 20-year plan for cleaning up mercury to levels that would protect human health and wildlife. The TMDL focuses on reducing the level of mercury in runoff from land areas with mining waste. A pilot reservoir aeration methylmercury reduction project is underway and the results are encouraging.

PCB (Polychlorinated biphenyls) TMDL

PCBs contaminate fish in San Francisco Bay. There are health warnings advising the public to limit consumption of fish and they pose a threat to wildlife. PCBs are a legacy pollutant and its manufacture was banned nationwide in the late-1970s.

Accomplishment: The San Francisco Bay PCB TMDL establishes a 20-year plan to reduce the loading and address cleanup of PCBs in the Bay to levels that would protect human health and wildlife. The TMDL focuses on reducing the level of PCBs in urban runoff through municipal stormwater permits. The TMDL calls on dischargers to develop programs to assist in managing the risk to human health from consuming contaminated fish.

Courtesy Photo by Region 2
Former salt production ponds in South San Francisco slated for restoration.

Tidal Marsh Restoration of the South Bay Salt Pond

Most of the historic tidal wetlands have been altered or eliminated in the San Francisco Bay affecting both water quality and biodiversity. More tidal wetlands are needed to restore the ecosystem's balance. Wetland restoration projects are not only challenging from a scientific perspective, but they must balance water quality, flood control, native special status biological species, and recreation needs.

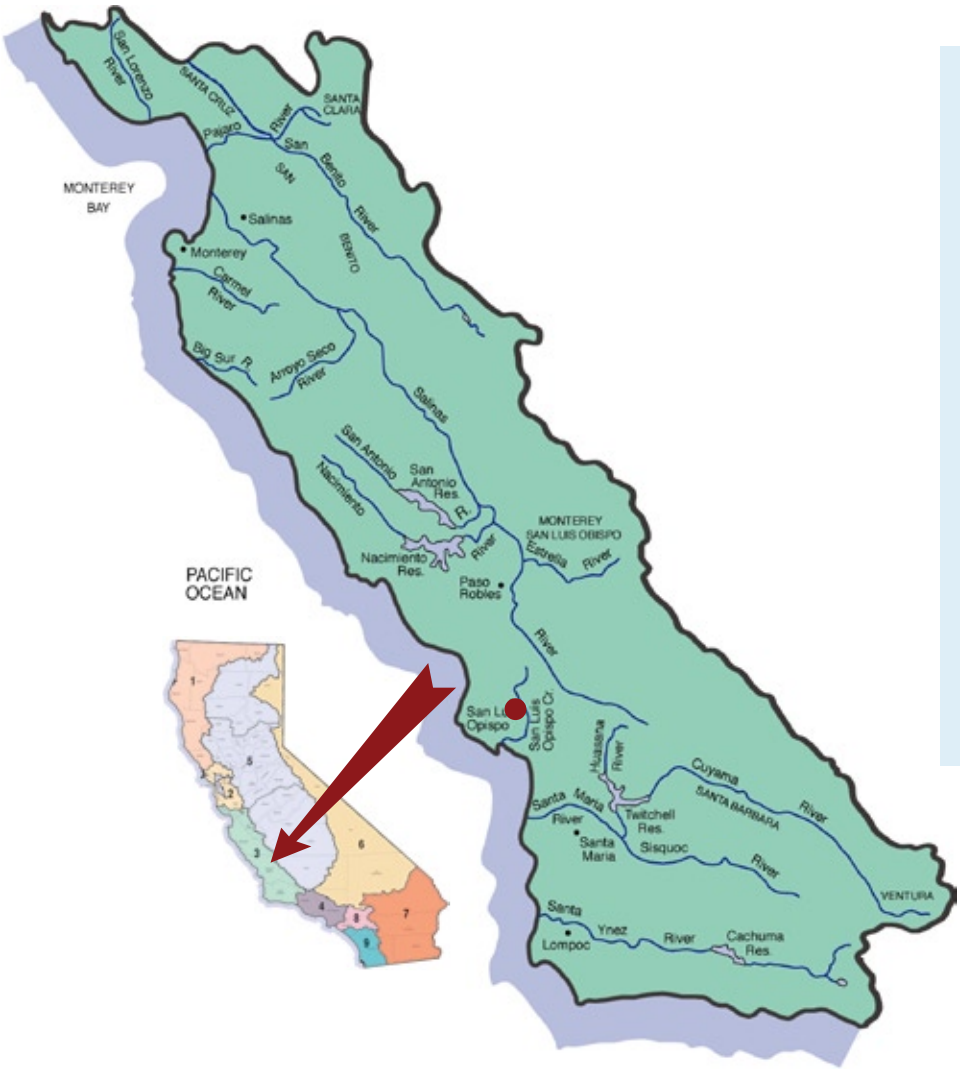
Accomplishment: The 15,000-acre South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project was developed to control flooding, protect human health, improve water quality, protect native tidal marsh species and expand their habitats, and increase recreational opportunities while protecting wildlife. An order was adopted that allows work to begin on marsh restoration and provides assurances that beneficial uses will be protected and restored. This order covers the first phase of the project which will be experimental and adaptively managed to determine which new habitats can best protect water quality. Some of the new tidal marsh and reconfigured managed pond systems will be reversible and monitoring will be conducted to ensure that water quality objectives are attained and biological species are protected. This increase of tidal wetlands will provide a significant boost to the goal of increasing wetlands.

Environmental Screening Levels (ESL)

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board's Environmental Screening Levels have been prepared for more than 100 commonly encountered contaminants and were developed based on conditions specific to the San Francisco Bay region. They may also be useful tools statewide. The Environmental Screening Levels were last revised in February 2005 and were due for an update. The underlying toxicity factors and other inputs necessitated updating to maintain the tool's "evergreen" status.

Accomplishment: The recent revision primarily addresses the screening levels for the protection of aquatic habitats and also incorporates many chemical-specific changes. The Environmental Screening Levels are intended to help staff and dischargers focus their site investigations and cleanup activities. They also streamline site investigations, cleanups, and closures which help encourage Brownfield restorations. A working group of staff from the Water Boards is building on the ESL concept to develop screening levels that are protective of water quality in all regions of the state.

3 Central Coast Regional Water Board



Upcoming Priorities:

- Improve urban stormwater runoff quality and quantity, and increase watershed sustainability through the development and approval of high-quality Stormwater Management Plans for 24 municipalities.
- Improve irrigated agricultural runoff and percolating water quality through the adoption of a more targeted and effective irrigated agriculture order in July 2009, and by improving practices through the Central Coast Irrigation and Nutrient Management Grant.

The Central Coast Region extends from Santa Clara County south to northern Ventura County. The region has 378 miles of coastline, including Santa Cruz and the Monterey Peninsula, the agricultural Salinas and Santa Maria Valleys, and the Santa Barbara coastal plain. Tourism, power and oil production, agriculture and related food processing activities are the major industries.

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Phone: (805) 549-3147

● = Regional Board Office

The Regional Board is governed by nine members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Regional Board members represent categories related to the control of water quality and must reside in, or have a place of business within, the region.

3 Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Photo Courtesy of Region 3
143 acres of Paradise Beach was permanently preserved thanks to $900,000 in settlement funding from the Central Coast Regional Board.

Creating conservation easements

The major causes of water quality and habitat degradation in the Santa Maria watershed are land use practices associated with urbanization and irrigated agriculture. Addressing these land use practices is one of the highest priorities of the Central Coast Regional Water Board.

Accomplishment: The Regional Water Board allocated funding from the Guadalupe settlement to achieve tangible and permanent results in conservation and regional monitoring by creating conservation easements, and funding regional monitoring activities. The Regional Water Board's action allocated $900,000 to the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo to assist with funding the acquisition and permanent preservation of the 143- acre Paradise Beach property, including one-half mile of beach frontage with associated tide pools and subtidal habitat, north of Point Sal, on California's coastline. The Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) endowment was also augmented to continuing operations. The Regional Board recently uploaded thousands of lines of evidence to the State Water Board allowing assessment of Central Coast waters for the 305b water quality report and 303d impaired waters listings.

Controlling Urban Runoff

Increased water volume and pollutants from stormwater have degraded water quality and habitats.

Accomplishment: The Regional Water Board clarified expectations for water quality benefits, watershed protection, and hydromodification controls and how those need to be demonstrated in municipalities' Stormwater Management Plans (SWMPs). For the most part, the municipal dischargers are proceeding toward more effective SWMPs. Urban runoff improvement is showing progress through: 1) regulatory program expectations for hydromodification controls; 2) regulatory assistance through creation of a Low-Impact Development Center for the Central Coast; and 3) through coordination with agencies to create a LID educational program for the State.

Olin Perchlorate Site Cleanup

Olin Corporation discharged perchlorate that created a plume more than 10 miles long, polluting hundreds of wells and impacting thousands of well users in southern Santa Clara County. Well users include individuals, small community well systems, and municipalities.

Accomplishment: The Central Coast Regional Water Board has taken an aggressive approach with cleanup oversight and achieved an expanded and accelerated pace of cleanup. Olin cleaned up onsite soil contamination while onsite groundwater cleanup continues. Olin is proceeding with offsite groundwater cleanup. The Regional Water Board also oversees Olin's required alternative water supply program. About 725 well owners that provide water to thousands of people were initially in the program and received bottled or treated water. Due to a reduction in perchlorate concentrations in wells, those reliant on bottled water have been reduced to 113 well users. Sites of this magnitude and complexity often take decades to accomplish what has been achieved at this site in just a few years.

Grants Program Improvements

Staff has worked to improve the Regional Water Board's grant program based on accountability and tangible results.

Accomplishment: The Regional Water Board has improved accountability and the management of grant-funded projects to better achieve environmental outcomes and increase financial controls. Specifically, a grant analyst reviews all project costs for eligibility, proper documentation, and consistency with the grants budget before submitting the invoice to the grant manager for approval. When grantees (including for Supplemental Environmental Projects) do not perform as required, after having been provided an opportunity to make corrections, the Regional Water Board has terminated grants, or recommended to the State Water Board termination without payment for all invoices. This accountability translates into better contracts (tighter language and milestones) and better performance and outcomes.

4 Los Angeles Regional Water Board

Upcoming Priorities:

- Protect water quality by developing, adopting and enforcing standards and permits which are environmentally responsible, technically sound and reflect stakeholders' concerns.
- Restore and enhance water quality through rigorous and timely clean up of brownfields and other contaminated properties especially in environmental justice communities.

With 10 million residents, the Los Angeles region is the most densely populated region in the state. It encompasses all the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, along with portions of Kern and Santa Barbara Counties. Land use varies considerably. In Ventura County, agriculture and open space exist alongside urban, residential and commercial areas. In northern Los Angeles County, open space is steadily being transformed into residential communities. In southern Los Angeles County, land uses include urban, residential, commercial and industrial.

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Phone: (213) 576-6600

● = Regional Board Office

The Regional Board is governed by nine members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Regional Board members represent categories related to the control of water quality and must reside in, or have a place of business within, the region.

4 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Photo Courtesy of City of Los Angeles
Machado Lake

Machado Lake TMDL

Machado Lake is one of Los Angeles' last lake and wetland systems. The lake provides public recreation and is a renowned wildlife sanctuary. Pollutants including odor, scum, and excessive algae impair beneficial uses. As a result of these conditions, Machado Lake was placed on the *Clean Water Act 303d* list of impaired water bodies requiring action be taken to protect the municipal water supply, aquatic life habitat, water contact recreation, and non-contact water recreation beneficial uses.

Accomplishment: The Machado Lake TMDL was adopted by the Regional and State Water Board and was developed using input from stakeholder meetings and public comment periods. The TMDL reflects the most current science in limnology and nutrient enrichment of urban lakes to ensure an effective implementation plan. It relies on a state-of-the-art water quality model developed by US EPA to set pollutant reduction strategies The TMDL coordinates with existing projects planned by the City of Los Angeles to realize cost-effective solutions to reduce the contaminant loadings and restore Machado Lake to its full beneficial uses. The TMDL can be used as a template for other urban lake TMDLs statewide.

Calleguas Creek TMDL

In the Calleguas Creek Watershed, agricultural irrigation and groundwater recharge beneficial uses are impaired because the waters are not meeting the numeric and narrative water quality objectives for salts set in the Basin Plan to protect those uses. Because the Calleguas Creek Watershed is listed as not meeting water quality standards, action is needed to protect these uses that are important to the economy and ecology of the watershed.

Calleguas Creek TMDL continued

Accomplishment: Realizing the benefits of enhancing long- term water supplies and instream water quality requires a combination of solutions to address ground and surface water pollution. This TMDL provides a unique approach to reducing pollutant loads in groundwater basins underlying Calleguas Creek through advanced treatment and construction of a brine line. This provides additional benefits to increase water supplies and improve surface and ground water quality. The TMDL coordinates with existing projects planned by the municipalities and water agencies for cost- effective solutions to reduce salt and to restore Calleguas Creek to its full beneficial uses. The TMDL can be used as a template for other salt TMDLs statewide.

Attorney General's Pilot Project

The effectiveness of the Water Boards' enforcement efforts is in part limited because of a lack of coordination with the Attorney General's office. Water quality enforcement capabilities could be improved by leveraging the expertise of both agencies to address more complex cases and to develop a model that can be used by all Regional Water Boards.

Accomplishment: A pilot program was developed through the initiative of the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement and the Los Angeles Regional Water Board, to develop staff water quality enforcement expertise in the Attorney General's Office. Funds were allocated from the Cleanup and Abatement Account and an Interagency Agreement was approved in August 2008 for a three-year pilot, to develop the working relationship between the Los Angeles Water Board and the Attorney General's office, and to develop, refer and prosecute water quality enforcement cases. The results of this pilot are anticipated to be transferable statewide.

Douglas Park Project

Boeing is working with the cities of Long Beach and Lakewood to redevelop and sell a 343-acre former aircraft manufacturing and assembly plant site near the Long Beach Airport. As a former manufacturing facility, redevelopment efforts are hampered by soil and groundwater contamination.

Accomplishment: To aid redevelopment and sales, Boeing has performed a comprehensive, multiphase environmental remediation program under the oversight of the Regional Water Board. Approximately 54-acres of the Douglas Park Project were sold in 2006 and 2007 with more sales in 2008. The former 717 and Alteon facilities, are in escrow for a movie studio and community college use. The redevelopment plan for the Douglas Park Project is expected to generate 10,000 jobs and include a movie studio and community college uses. Staff continues to work with Boeing to complete soil remediation and achieve parcel closures concurrent with groundwater remediation and long-term monitoring in order to further this redevelopment.

Mass Removal and E-Government

The Los Angeles Regional Water Board's Underground Storage Tank program was overwhelmed by the number of open tank sites, information to be reviewed and the quantity of paper associated with the program.

Accomplishment: Paperless filing procedures and directives to clean up contamination in the Underground Storage Tank program were implemented to alleviate this workload. All reports and correspondence are filed electronically. The UST Web page was upgraded to improve access to information including regulatory guidelines, groundwater depth data, Excel spreadsheet analytical models, MTBE data, and closure letters issued since 2004. A public participation Web page was added to serve as an electronic document repository for those sites where the public has an interest. Staff issued more than 1,000 directive letters to responsible parties for site investigation, monitoring, and clean up, including formal and informal enforcement letters and Cleanup and Abatement Orders. Staff also granted 74 case closures, reviewed more than 2,500 quarterly groundwater monitoring reports, conducted 128 site inspections, and issued 19 General WDRs (Order No. R4-2007-0019) for groundwater cleanup. This represents:

- 26,800 tons of impacted soil removed and legally disposed,
- 437,000 million pounds of petroleum hydrocarbons recovered, and
- 1.3 million gallons of groundwater treated.

5 Central Valley Regional Water Board

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

- Sacramento Office
  11020 Sun Center Drive #200
  Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114
  Phone: (916) 464-3291

● = Regional Board Office

Upcoming Priorities:

- Develop a Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy by December 31, 2009. Groundwater is the primary source of drinking and irrigation water for much of the region. The quality and quantity of groundwater in the Central Valley continues to worsen leaving some communities without a viable source of drinking water. Staff will work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy that will establish the framework and road map for addressing and improving groundwater quality throughout the Central Valley.
- By November 2009, complete stakeholder workgroup meetings for developing the Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and begin developing final draft EIR and Program Staff report for public comment and review. Final EIR and long-term program alternatives will be presented to the Board at its December 2010 meeting.
- Adopt a Methyl Mercury TMDL for the Delta.

The Central Valley Region is the State's largest, encompassing 60,000 square miles, or about 40 percent of the State's total area. Thirty-eight of California's 58 counties are either completely or partially within the Regional Board's boundaries, formed by the crests of the Sierra Nevada on the east, the Coazst Ranges and Klamath Mountains on the west, the Oregon border on the north, and the Tehachapi Mountains on the south. The Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, along with their tributaries, drain the major part of this large area through an inland Delta, before to emptying into San Francisco Bay. The Delta is the focal point of the state's two largest water conveyance projects, the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project. Together, the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and the Delta furnish over half of the state's water supply. The southern third of the Central Valley contains the Tulare Lake Basin, a closed hydrographic unit, except during extremely wet years.

The Regional Board is governed by nine members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Regional Board members represent categories related to the control of water quality and must reside in, or have a place of business within, the region.

5 Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Photo Courtesy of Region 5
Livestock at a Central Valley dairy

Dairy Surface and Groundwater Threats Regulated

More than 80% of the dairies in California are in the Central Valley. Many dairies can discharge wastes equivalent to small cities. Dairy wastes are stored in basins and used for irrigating croplands during the summer. As a result of the irrigation, surface waters are threatened with ammonia, nitrates, pathogens, oxygen demand, and salt and groundwater can be polluted by nitrates and salts.

Accomplishment: The Central Valley Regional Water Board adopted general waste discharge requirements that placed 1,600-plus existing dairies under reporting and monitoring requirements for the first time. The general order requires strict control of dairy operations to make sure that the waste does not harm ground or surface water and requires monitoring to document program effectiveness. The efforts have resulted in a compliance rate of nearly 100% for report submittal required by the general order and improved awareness and long-term protection of surface and ground water in the Central Valley.

Cleanup and Redevelopment at McClellan, AFB

The Site Cleanup program at the Central Valley Regional Water Board regulates more than 2,300 facilities, including Department of Defense sites, leaking underground fuel tanks, mines, and privately held facilities (e.g., dry cleaners, gas stations, or industrial plants). The former McClellan Air Force Base is one of the most complex Department of Defense facilities in terms of cost, variety of contaminants, and the complexity of cleanup. Redevelopment efforts are tied to the effectiveness and timeliness of cleanup.

McClellan, AFB continued

Accomplishment: Proposed redevelopment with innovative privatized partnerships has accelerated cleanup and reuse of the former military base. The 62-acre early transfer at McClellan is an ideal example of how the Air Force, county, private developers, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders worked together to turn a polluted property into an income and job-producing asset while the cleanup is being completed. Another early transfer occurred in October 2008, at the Davis Global Communications Site, previously associated with the former McClellan Air Force Base. This 314-acre parcel was transferred to Yolo County to expand the existing Grasslands Regional Park, which will create the largest contiguous protected grasslands habitat area in Yolo County and provide habitat for several threatened and endangered species.

Watershed Protection & Non-Point Source Reductions

The Central Valley region has the State's largest agricultural area, more than one-half of the State's timberlands, most of the State's grazing lands, and the largest number of discharging abandoned mines and onsite sewage disposal systems all of which contribute to nonpoint source pollution.

Accomplishment: The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program has enrolled more than 5 million acres of irrigated lands, conducted extensive monitoring, and is developing management plans to address water quality problems. The timber harvest conditional waiver program addresses sediment in forested watersheds by requiring improved best management practices. Staff coordination with watershed groups to use state grant funds has restored many streams in upper watersheds to increase water yield and enhance fisheries. The regulation and cleanup of abandoned mines has greatly reduced (thousands of pounds annually) the discharge of heavy metals (copper, zinc, cadmium and mercury) and arsenic into surface waters. Finally, enforcement of a decades old Basin Plan Prohibition on the use of septic systems in the Chico urban area has reduced nitrate pollution to groundwater. Similar efforts with the U.S. Forest Service have stopped the discharge of 1.3 million gallons of houseboat wastewater into Shasta Lake.

NPDES Program Successes

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits regulate discharges of wastewater from municipal and industrial wastewater systems into rivers and lakes. While properly adopted and enforced permits are critical to protecting surface water quality, a backlog of expired NPDES Permits and Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) violations had accumulated over the past years. Expired permits do not reflect current policy and regulation and may not be fully protective of water quality.

NPDES Program Successes continued

Accomplishment: NPDES staffing was reorganized to separate permitting from compliance and enforcement work, allowing staff to fully focus on permitting or enforcement actions. Templates and guidance were developed to streamline and improve the efficiency of staff work. The effort resulted in a dramatic decrease in expired NPDES Permits and a significant increase in the number of MMPs addressed. By the end of 2008, nearly 90% of the backlogged of permits were eliminated and nearly 100% of the MMPs on individual permit violations were issued.

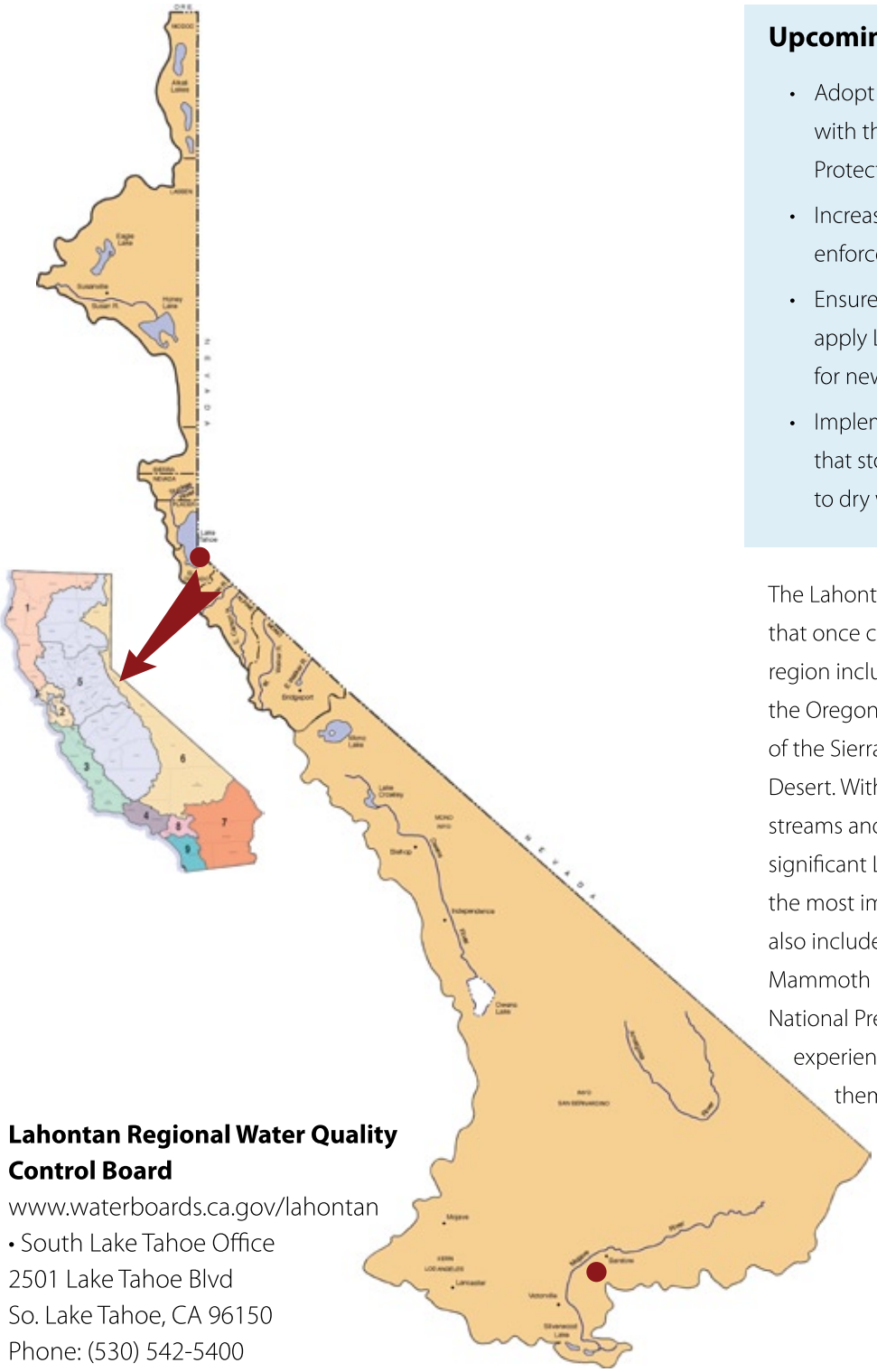
Photo Courtesy of Region 5
Fire ravages forest, and leaves environmental devastation in its wake.

Disaster Response Efforts to Protect Water Quality

Disasters, such as fires, train derailments, floods, storms, earthquakes, or spills, often result in short and long-term water quality problems. The Water Boards' are an integral part of the State's response to many of these disasters, working closely and effectively with federal, state and local agencies.

Accomplishment: A new conditional (Emergency) Waiver for the management and disposal of disaster-related wastes from fires, floods, animal mass mortality, and other types of wastes was adopted so that cleanup of wastes from these events can be managed in a way that protects water quality but does not impede emergency operations or present risks to public health and safety. This proved timely since massive wildfires occurred in several areas of the Central Valley this past summer. The Emergency Waiver allowed the local landfills to handle the sudden increase in burn waste in a way that protected water quality. The Governor also mandated an interagency process for conducting post-fire hazard assessments to determine the potential impacts on public health and safety and on watershed resources. Regional Water Board staff participated in this time-critical work to provide expertise in assessing threats to watershed resources including impaired water quality and excessive erosion.

6 Lahontan Regional Water Board



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan
• South Lake Tahoe Office
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd
So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Phone: (530) 542-5400

● = Regional Board Office

Upcoming Priorities:

- Adopt a Lake Tahoe TMDL concurrently with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.
- Increase compliance through timely enforcement.
- Ensure that Phase II municipal permitees apply Low-Impact Development concepts for new development.
- Implement a regulatory strategy to ensure that stormwater and nuisance water disposed to dry wells does not harm beneficial uses.

The Lahontan Region is named for a prehistoric lake that once covered much of the Great Basin. The region includes about 20 percent of California from the Oregon border south along the eastern crest of the Sierra Nevada through the northern Mojave Desert. Within this area are hundreds of lakes, streams and wetlands, including the nationally significant Lake Tahoe and Mono Lake. Tourism is the most important industry in the region, which also includes Death Valley National Park, the Mammoth Lakes area and portions of the Mojave National Preserve. The region's southern cities are experiencing rapid population increases ranking them within the top ten nationally.

The Regional Board is governed by nine members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Regional Board members represent categories related to the control of water quality and must reside in, or have a place of business within, the region.

6 Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Photo Courtesy of Region 6
Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe TMDL

Lake Tahoe's clarity continues to decline, albeit at a slower rate, due to stormwater discharges of sediment and nutrients originating from human activities.

Accomplishment: The Restoration Plan for achieving Lake Tahoe's famed clarity (the Total Maximum Daily Load plan to reduce sediment and nutrients to Lake Tahoe) is nearly complete. *"Charting the Course to Clarity"* summarizes the $10 million scientific effort completed at Lake Tahoe. Studies focused on answering three questions: 1) what pollutants are causing the loss of clarity and what are the sources? 2) how much of each pollutant can Lake Tahoe still accept and achieve the clarity standard? 3) what are the best methods to reduce the pollutants reaching Lake Tahoe? Two other reports are available on the Regional Water Board's Web site: *Lake Tahoe Technical Report* and *Pollutant Reduction Opportunity Report*. These reports will serve as the foundation for the completed TMDL, to be released for public comment in 2009. Federal, State and local agencies, along with the private sector have begun projects that are reducing the pollutant load to the Lake. Many other agencies are important partners in this effort including the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and the US Forest Service- Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Sewering Eagle Lake Communities, Lassen County

Sewage disposal to individual leach fields harmed water supply wells and contributed to accelerated eutrophication of Eagle Lake.

Sewering Eagle Lake Communities continued

Accomplishment: The Lahontan Regional Water Board issued enforcement actions to hundreds of residences prompting community members to fund and implement collection and treatment facilities for two communities. The US Forest Service-Lassen Nation Forest provided assistance and one facility was constructed on federal lands. Wastewater from the Stones-Bengard community and a majority of the Spalding community now discharge to lined ponds eliminating the historic discharge to ground waters and the lake. In 2008, the Regional Water Board issued orders to individuals in the Spalding Tract. In 2009 the Regional Water Board will consider additional enforcement actions to facilitate the connection of residences to the Spalding Tract community system.

Increased Enforcement

Enforcement efforts in the region needed enhancement to meet the public's expectations.

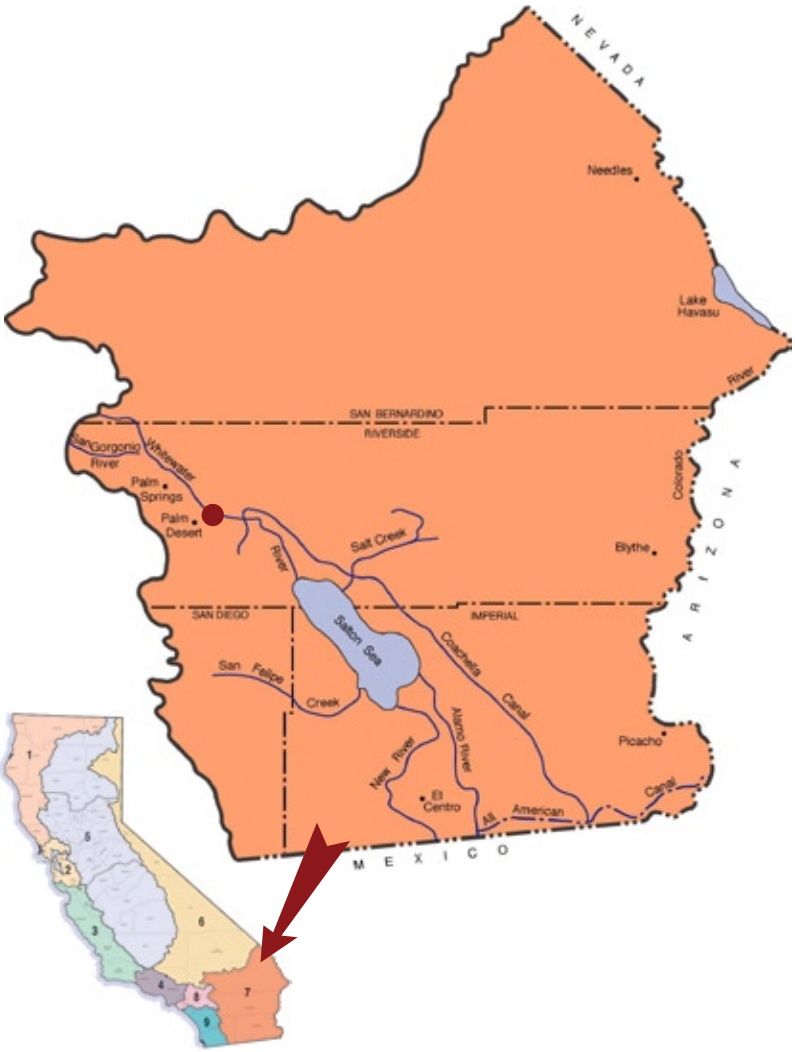
Accomplishment: The Lahontan Regional Water Board created a unit dedicated to enforcement that prosecutes significant enforcement actions for the Regional Water Board. Violations and enforcement actions are reviewed and prioritized monthly by an internal Enforcement Committee. These steps have resulted in increased, focused and more consistent enforcement. More dischargers are now under enforceable compliance schedules and enforcement has resulted in more than $5.43 million in penalties, with a $2.75 million administrative civil liability settlement awaiting Regional Water Board consideration, and $4.55 million in supplemental environmental projects, with an additional $2.15 million project under consideration.

County of Los Angeles Sanitation District – Compliance Efforts

Two of the wastewater treatment plants within the Los Angeles County Sanitation District experienced substantial growth in their service areas resulting in discharges that exceeded available disposal capacity. This resulted in groundwater pollution and wastewater discharges to US Air Force property, potentially affecting operations. Actions were needed to bring these dischargers into compliance with their permits and require groundwater investigations and cleanup for the Palmdale disposal site.

Accomplishment: The affected facilities filed a lawsuit challenging the compliance schedules adopted by the Lahontan Regional Water Board. These lawsuits were dismissed as part of a settlement resulting in revised compliance orders and a $4.75 million Administrative Civil Liability penalty for violations at the District's wastewater treatment plants in Palmdale and Lancaster. The settlement included a supplemental environmental project that provided start-up money to promote recycled water use in Antelope Valley. Additionally, groundwater pollution is being addressed under a separate Regional Water Board order.

7 Colorado River Regional Water Board



Upcoming Priorities:

- Monitor, inspect, and assess water quality improvements in the New River at the international boundary with the Republic of Mexico after completing Las Arenitas Waste Water Treatment Plant in Mexicali.
- Eliminate septic tanks and promote the construction of Publicly Owned Treatment Works and sewer lines in dense residential and commercial areas.
- Prohibit agricultural discharges by using Basin Plan Amendments.

The Colorado River Basin Region covers California's most arid area. Despite its dry climate, the region contains two water bodies of state and national significance: the Colorado River and the Salton Sea. Water from the Colorado River irrigates more than 700,000 acres of productive farmland in the Imperial, Coachella, Bard, and Palo Verde Valleys. The river also provides drinking water to several million people in California's southern coastal cities.

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board
www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Phone: (760) 346-7491

● = Regional Board Office

The Regional Board is governed by nine members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Regional Board members represent categories related to the control of water quality and must reside in, or have a place of business within, the region.

7 Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Topock Compressor Station Corrective Action

PG&E's Topock Compressor Station is adjacent to the Colorado River. Between 1951 and 1964, PG&E discharged untreated cooling tower wastewater containing hexavalent chromium to percolation beds in Bat Cave Wash, an ephemeral streambed that drains into the Colorado River. This led to elevated levels of hexavalent chromium being detected in groundwater. There is a continuing need to update the Monitoring and Reporting Programs to reflect progress and monitoring needs in the floodplain and groundwater injection areas.

Accomplishment: More than 230 million gallons of groundwater was treated from March 2004 through May 2008 and reinjected. The groundwater treatment system removes 3-4 pounds of chromium a day, for a total of more than 5,000 pounds removed through May 2008.

Photo Courtesy of Region 7
The New River at the International Boundary in Mexicali, Mexico.

Monitoring Water Quality Improvements: New River at the International Boundary

Ongoing monitoring, inspection, and assessment of water quality improvements in the New River at the International Boundary is required following completion and operation of Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Plant in Mexicali, Mexico.

Accomplishment: Extensive cooperation and coordination between the U.S., Mexico, and the Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Plant in Mexicali, Mexico, led to the start up of plant operations in March 2007. The Las Arenitas Wastewater

Monitoring Water Quality Improvements New River continued

Treatment Plant is designed to prevent any remaining untreated municipal sewage in Mexicali from being discharged into the New River. As a result, 15-20 million gallons a day of raw sewage in the New River at the border have been eliminated. Data shows that New River bacteria were reduced by about 10-fold and volatile organic compounds were reduced to below detection limits. Also, nutrient loading into the Salton Sea has been reduced by about 20%.

Permit Updates

The existing MS4 Permit needed to be updated to reflect other permits within the State and include requirements for developing measurable goals for Best Management Practices. Also, the Confined Animal Feed Operation (CAFO) permit, last updated in 2001, needed to be updated to reflect State and US EPA CAFO regulations and to standardize monitoring and reporting requirements.

Accomplishment: The MS4 Permit update was developed with stakeholders during monthly permit meetings. The CAFO Permit update was developed with the assistance of Tetra Tech as contractor support. Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board staff worked with representatives of the CAFO permittees, National Resource Conservation Service, UC Davis Farm Extension, Imperial Valley Growers Association, and County of Imperial Environmental Health Department to address concerns and included permit forms for monitoring and reporting.

Completion of 2007 Triennial Review

Basin Plans must be updated pursuant to *Section 303 (c) (1) of the Clean Water Act*, and to reflect water quality priorities of the Region.

Accomplishment: The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board completed its 2007 Triennial Review, and adopted the Triennial Review List and Work Plan in 2008. The Regional Water Board asked staff to address high-priority issues identified in the Work Plan. Staff is completing Basin Plan Amendments to address the following:

- Conditionally prohibit agricultural discharges in Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa;
- Conditionally prohibit certain agricultural discharges in Coachella Valley;
- Conditionally prohibit certain agricultural discharges in Bard Valley;
- Change Water Quality Objectives for pathogen indicator bacteria from three indicators (fecal coliform, enterococci, and E. coli) to one indicator (E.coli) in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC);
- Suspend Water Contact Recreation (REC-I) Beneficial Use in the CVSC during critical, high flow (storm) conditions; and
- Conditionally prohibit septic systems in the town of Yucca Valley.

8 Santa Ana Regional Water Board

Upcoming Priorities:

- Continue work to implement a cleanup plan for perchlorate contamination in the Rialto-Colton groundwater basin.
- Adopt a Selenium TMDL and a selenium site-specific objective for the San Diego Creek/Newport Bay Watershed.
- Adopt three municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits for the Santa Ana River Watershed in parts of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.
- Revise recreational water quality standards, including revised objectives based on U.S. EPA's national criteria, suspension of standards during high-water flows, and modification of the definition for water contact recreation. [REC1]

The Santa Ana Region, which extends from the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountains in the north and east to Newport Bay along the coast, continues to be one of the most rapidly growing areas of the state. While the region is geographically the smallest, 2,800 square miles, it boasts one of the largest populations with almost 5 million people. This semi-arid region is known for its temperate climate and relatively low rainfall – about 15 inches per year.

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana
3737 Main St., Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501
Phone: (951) 782-4130

● = Regional Board Office

The Regional Board is governed by nine members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Regional Board members represent categories related to the control of water quality and must reside in, or have a place of business within, the region.

8 Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

Rialto Perchlorate Cleanup and Abatement Account Project

A plume of groundwater contamination with perchlorate is present in the Rialto area. This plume continues to migrate and is the largest uncontrolled plume in the area. A State Water Board hearing on a proposed cleanup and abatement order was stayed by the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Accomplishment: The Santa Ana Regional Water Board requested, and the State Water Board approved, $3 million in funding from the Cleanup and Abatement Account for more investigations of the plume and to develop a cleanup plan.

Emerging Contaminants Task Force

Groundwater monitoring by a local agency in the upper watershed found that emerging contaminants were present in the groundwater, through approximately 400 feet of vadose zone, down gradient from an area served by medium-density septic tanks. Also, monitoring of groundwater recharge operations using recycled water has identified the presence of emerging contaminants.

Accomplishment: Although there is yet no regulatory requirement to monitor these compounds, the Regional Water Board is generating data to document the levels being discharged. A Task Force was established to develop monitoring programs for emerging contaminants (endocrine disrupting compounds, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products) in surface water discharges from Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) and in groundwater recharge projects using recycled or

Emerging Contaminants Task Force continued

imported water. It is expected that the Task Force will generate recommendations for monitoring surrogate or indicator parameters that will substitute for the need to directly monitor these contaminants. The Task Force has made progress and has agreed to continue monitoring for emerging contaminants using a program developed by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California/Orange County Water District/National Water Research Institute until a watershed-specific program is developed and approved.

Storm Water Quality Standards Task Force

The Regional Water Board adopted a TMDL for pathogen indicator bacteria in several lakes and streams based on fecal coliform data in the Santa Ana region. Because of the differences used in the approach from the federal guidance, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board agreed that the standards should be reassessed and updated with federal guidance.

Accomplishment: A task force was established in 2003 to review the beneficial use designations and the related pathogen indicator objectives. The task force (organized by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority) has met monthly to consider the beneficial use definitions, the bacterial objectives to protect those uses and to develop a strategy to achieve those objectives. The task force reviewed federal and State guidance, reexamined the scientific literature and surveyed the regulatory approaches used by other Regional Water Boards and 49 states. Video cameras were installed at 12 locations to evaluate water contact recreation in freshwater channels throughout the watershed. Regular project updates were provided before the Regional Water Board and special progress reports were presented to US EPA and State Water Board staff. The formal basin plan amendment process is expected to be completed in 2009.

Imported Water Recharge Cooperative Agreement Adoption

Certain groundwater management zones within the Santa Ana River Watershed have Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) water quality objectives as low as 200 mg/l. Critical data is needed to assess water quality information related to the recharge of imported water.

Accomplishment: An Imported Water Cooperative Agreement was developed with agencies that recharge or plan to recharge imported water. Under this Agreement, the recharging agencies have agreed to model the effects of their ongoing and planned imported water recharge operations over 20 years using scientific methods compatible with those used by the region's Nitrogen/TDS Task Force in setting groundwater quality objectives and calculating ambient groundwater quality. The recharging agencies have agreed to update the model projections every 6 years. This agreement fills an important data gap for assessing groundwater quality.

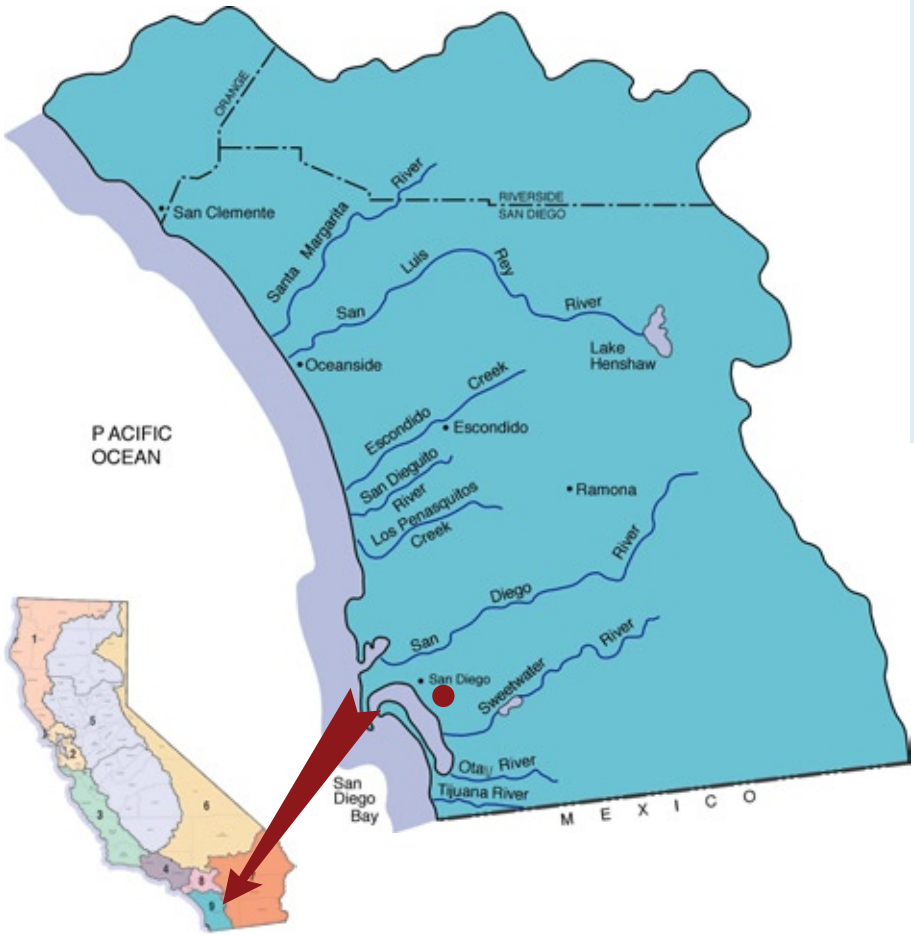
Photo Courtesy Department of Fish & Game
View of Wetlands at Upper Newport Bay

Newport Bay Watershed Organochlorine Compounds TMDL

The process to adopt the Newport Bay watershed organochlorine compound (OC) TMDL was controversial because stakeholders thought that compliance with the small allocations for DDT, PCBs, chlordane and toxaphene would be problematic.

Accomplishment: Staff worked with a stakeholder group to craft a TMDL implementation plan that should achieve compliance with the organochlorine compounds TMDL and achieve water quality standards within the time schedule. The plan entails ongoing technical expert review and comment, and an opportunity to participate in an adaptive management plan that provides for integration with other TMDL considerations.

9 San Diego Regional Water Board



Upcoming Priorities:

- Continue effective municipal stormwater regulation with increased Low Impact Development, and lessen the effects of stream hydromodification.
- Restore water quality in many of the area's water bodies through TMDLs and other regulatory measures that manage trash and sediment.

The San Diego Region stretches 85 miles of scenic coastline from Laguna Beach to the Mexican Border and extends 50 miles inland to the crest of the coastal mountain range. In a mild coastal climate, the region's growing population enjoys many water-related activities; however, little precipitation falls within this semiarid region. About 90 percent of the region's water supply is imported from northern California and the Colorado River.

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340
Phone: (858) 467-2952

● = Regional Board Office

The Regional Board is governed by nine members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Regional Board members represent categories related to the control of water quality and must reside in, or have a place of business within, the region.

9 San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Paperless Office-Electronic Content Management (ECM) Project

A quantity of data, technical reports, correspondence, and information on waste discharges and surface and ground water quality is received in the Regional Water Board office. The organization of agency files, data in paper form and the lack of computer automated document management and retrieval systems limit our ability to gather and analyze critical information in a timely manner.

Accomplishment: In May 2007, a two- year multiregional team effort of the San Diego, San Francisco Bay and Central Coast Regional Water Boards resulted in a uniform, statewide prototype document management system using enterprise content management (ECM) technologies to serve the operational requirements of the Water Boards and meet public expectations.

The Paperless Office Pilot Project began for all of the water quality programs at the San Diego Regional Water Board in mid-2007. Since that time, more than 40,000 documents have been imported, roughly translating to 1,171,200 pages, 107 four-drawer file cabinets, 428 boxes, or 857 linear feet of documents. This system is being used in two additional pilot Regional Water Board offices.

Compliance Project Proposed by the US International Boundary and Water Commission

The discharge of treated wastewater from the International Boundary Water Commission's (IBWC) international wastewater treatment fails to comply with the *California Ocean Plan* and federal secondary treatment standards of the

Compliance Project Proposed continued

Clean Water Act. In 2001, the San Diego Regional Water Board addressed this chronic noncompliance by the federal government by filing suit in federal court to enforce a compliance date of Sept. 30, 2008.

Accomplishment: Although the Sept. 30, 2008 compliance date has passed without completion of the needed secondary treatment facilities, a US Federal Court judge may consider providing more time beyond the compliance date provided the IBWC is able to demonstrate that the proposed project has adequate funding to be completed. The additional time granted is likely to be 18 to 24 months.

San Diego Bay Shipyard Sediment Site Cleanup Project-Mediation

Elevated levels of pollutants exist in the San Diego Bay bottom marine sediments along the eastern shore of central San Diego Bay in a 100-acre area. This area is referred to as the "Shipyard Sediment Site." A tentative Cleanup and Abatement Order identified alternative cleanup scenarios with costs ranging from $900,000 for the natural recovery/no action alternative to $122 million for the cleanup to background alternative. The parties deemed responsible for the pollution at the site have denied any responsibility and argued for no-action or passive remediation alternatives. Environmental groups have argued for cleanup to background levels. Until legal challenges to an adopted order are resolved, it is considered unlikely that the parties responsible for the pollutants in the sediments will actually undertake the cleanup.

Accomplishment: To break the impasse so that the cleanup can move forward, the San Diego Regional Water Board took a lead role in brokering an agreement between the parties to attempt to resolve the cleanup level and liability issues through formal mediation under Regional Water Board member direction. The initial 90-day mediation concluded in September, 2008. Progress has been made and the mediation process was ongoing through the end of 2008.

Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Emergency Repair and Protection Activities in Non-Federal Waters of the State

Wildfires devastated parts of the area in October 2007. Many of the needed emergency repair and protection projects could harm streams through dredge and fill activities. A regulatory tool was needed to allow emergency repair and protection projects to proceed expeditiously while providing protections for water quality and beneficial uses.

Accomplishment: A Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Emergency Repair and Protection Activities in Non-Federal Waters of the State

Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements continued
(Resolution No. R9-2007-0211) was issued to allow emergency activities to start. The waiver is similar to a nationwide Regional General Permit (no. 63) issued by the Department of the Army that cover emergency dredge and fill projects to federal waters under *Clean Water Act Section 404*.

Photo Courtesy of the California Integrated Waste Management Board
Tijuana River Valley Trash

Tijuana River Valley Trash and Sediment Strategic Plan and Actions

The Tijuana River and Estuary are polluted by discharges of sediment, trash and other pollutants from Mexico. The San Diego Regional Water Board has no legal authority to abate pollution from Mexico, but has determined to use all regulatory measures to solve this issue on the California side of the international boundary.

Accomplishment: *The Tijuana River Valley Strategic Plan* was developed with input from a public workshop and public comments. A recent second stakeholder workshop was held in October 2008, where efforts were initiated to address challenges concerning the Tijuana River Estuary. A Strategic Plan was developed for restoring the estuary to its original healthy condition. The strategy begins with capturing and disposing the sediment and trash which crosses the international boundary, followed by the cleanup of existing pollutants in the estuary, and concludes with a full restoration of the waterway. All workshop attendees committed to participating in one or more of four workgroups which operate as the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team. The four work groups are: Border Issues (i.e. sediment basin and trash grate construction), Cleanup Efforts, Remediation Efforts, and Mexican Issues. Notably, the City of San Diego and County of San Diego assumed the lead role for the Border Issues and Cleanup Efforts work groups, while the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve assumed the lead role for the Remediation Efforts and Mexican Issues work groups. A status report by the work group leads was presented at the Dec. 10, 2008 Regional Water Board meeting. The Regional Water Board was pleased with the progress presented in the status report.

State Water Board Initiatives

Water Boards Photo
Zuma Beach, Southern California

Infrastructure Support

The 2004 clean watersheds needs survey shows that California requires an estimated $21 billion for waste water treatment, water recycling, nonpoint source correction, and storm water pollution prevention projects over the next 20 years. This includes $18.2 billion to update aging infrastructure. For many of the state's small and/or disadvantaged communities, failing septic systems and old and undersized wastewater treatment plants that cannot meet current wastewater quality standards can cause significant health and safety problems, endanger surface water uses, and pose a threat to groundwater supplies. In the coastal regions, bacterial contamination in beach water is a serious problem affecting public health and water quality. Urban runoff is one of the main sources of bacterial contamination at beaches, with contaminant levels in urban runoff often exceeding state standards. For many communities, regional strategies for water resources management may be the key to obtaining funding for projects that improve water quality and provide local water security by reducing dependence on imported water.

Accomplishment: The Clean Water State Revolving Fund issued 37 financing agreements, totaling $394 million, for projects to improve wastewater treatment facilities, construct or fix sewer collection systems, construct facilities for recycled water distribution and address non-point source pollution. Since 1988, the program has issued more than $4.2 billion in low-interest loans for water quality projects. To protect the State's beaches, $17.26 million, invested in 20 projects, were completed which diverted urban runoff, improved the quality of water entering upstream creeks

and reduced the potential for spills harming beaches. An additional $12.44 million was allocated for 14 new beach projects. The State Water Board adopted Strategies to Assist Small and/or Disadvantaged Communities to help these communities address their wastewater needs **http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/small_community_wastewater_grant/strategy.shtml**. To promote cost-effective regional strategies, $405 million in grant funding for more than 200 projects was adopted by the State Water Board and the Department of Water Resources. These grant funds will leverage $3 billion in other funding through 2012.

Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (USTCF)

Water Boards Photo
Underground storage tank

Leaking underground storage tanks seep petroleum, cleaning solvents, and other hazardous substances into soil and contaminate groundwater which can be a source of drinking water. A lack of funding limits the ability of tank owners and operators to take the necessary steps to remove leaking tanks and clean up soil and groundwater contamination.

Accomplishment: This program provides a means for petroleum owners and operators to meet federal and State financial responsibility requirements, pay for cleanup costs from their tank operations and provide money to the Regional Water Boards and local regulatory agencies to stop leaks or to clean up abandoned sites that pose a threat to human health, safety, and the environment. During the year, more than 4,926 reimbursement requests were processed representing $234 million to clean up contaminated soil and groundwater caused by leaking tanks. To date, 10,900 claims have received cleanup funding, of those, 5,244 sites were closed.

Salinas River Project

Water Boards Photo
The Salinas River in the Salinas Valley.

The groundwater in the Salinas Valley has been degraded by seawater intrusion and nitrate pollution. The State Water Board considered an adjudication proceeding to address these problems, however, elected instead to encourage a local solution to these water quality problems.

Accomplishment: Changes to water rights held by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and water right approvals for the Salinas Valley Water Project are aimed at halting saltwater intrusion of Salinas Valley groundwater aquifers and to improve water quality. The water right approvals allow a rubber dam on the Salinas River to collect and divert what would be flood water for use by customers who might otherwise pump groundwater. Completion of the final permitting process represents a 50-year collaboration between the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and the State Water Board. Limiting pumping is expected to keep enough pressure in the aquifers to stop intrusive saltwater. The Salinas Valley Water Project is expected to provide habitat enhancements in the Salinas River system for the threatened central coast steelhead trout population.

Water Boards Photo
The Yuba River

Yuba River Accord

In 1988, a coalition of fishery groups filed a complaint with the State Water Board concerning fishery protection and water right issues on the Lower Yuba River. In June 2003, the State Water Board issued Revised Order 1641, which addressed fishery protection and water right issues involving the diversion and use of water from the Yuba River. This order amended water right permits held by Yuba County Water Agency, several irrigation districts, and other water right holders to divert water from the Lower Yuba River. Five challenges to the State Water Board's decision were filed and ultimately decided in San Joaquin County Superior Court.

Accomplishment: In May 2008, the State Water Board adopted corrected Water Right Order WR 2008-0014 which concluded more than 20 years of efforts by the State Water Board and others to improve flow conditions for fish on the Yuba River and allow for water transfers of up to 200,000 acre feet of water to increase water supply reliability. The order resolves most of the issues raised in litigation filed against the State Water Board in 2003. Approval of this water right order aids the implementation of the Lower Yuba River Accord. The Accord is a 17-party consensus agreement between fisheries agencies, water users and environmental nonprofit organizations reached after the State Water Board required higher flows on the Yuba River. The Accord provides roughly the same quantity of water as the State Water Board had required, although the timing of the flows to be provided varies somewhat from the original requirement. These flows provide additional protection to about 24 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat. Other benefits of the Accord include funding for levee enhancements in Yuba County through the transfer of released water for in-Delta uses and water users south of the Delta.

California Water Boards

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

www.waterboards.ca.gov

Public Affairs Information: (916) 341-5254
Legislative Affairs Information: (916) 341-5251

Water Quality Information: (916) 341-5455
Water Rights Information: (916) 341-5300
Financial Assistance Information: (916) 341-5700

California Regional Water Quality Control Boards

NORTH COAST REGION (1)
www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast
E-mail: info1@waterboards.ca.gov
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 576-2220 TEL
(707) 523-0135 FAX

SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION (2)
www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay
E-mail: info2@waterboards.ca.gov
1515 Clay Street, #1400
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 622-2300 TEL
(510) 622-2460 FAX

CENTRAL COAST REGION (3)
www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast
E-mail: info3@waterboards.ca.gov
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 549-3147 TEL
(805) 543-0397 FAX

LOS ANGELES REGION (4)
www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles
E-mail: info4@waterboards.ca.gov
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 576-6600 TEL
(213) 576-6640 FAX

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION (5)
www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley
E-mail: info5@waterboards.ca.gov
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 464-3291 TEL
(916) 464-4645 FAX

- **Fresno Branch Office**
  1685 E Street
  Fresno, CA 93706
  (559) 445-5116 TEL
  (559) 445-5910 FAX

- **Redding Branch Office**
  415 Knollcrest Drive
  Redding, CA 96002
  (530) 224-4845 TEL
  (530) 224-4857 FAX

LAHONTAN REGION (6)
www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan
E-mail: info6@waterboards.ca.gov
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 542-5400 TEL
(530) 544-2271 FAX

- **Victorville Branch Office**
  14440 Civic Drive, Suite 200
  Victorville, CA 92392
  (760) 241-6583 TEL
  (760) 241-7308 FAX

COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION (7)
www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver
E-mail: info7@waterboards.ca.gov
73-720 Fred Waring Dr., Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 346-7491 TEL
(760) 341-6820 FAX

SANTA ANA REGION (8)
www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana
E-mail: info8@waterboards.ca.gov
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3339
(951) 782-4130 TEL
(951) 781-6268 FAX

SAN DIEGO REGION (9)
www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego
E-mail: info9@waterboards.ca.gov
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-2952 TEL
(858) 571-6972 FAX

Printed on recycled paper

California Water Boards

State of California
Arnold Schwarzenegger, *Governor*

California Environmental Protection Agency
Linda S. Adams, *Secretary*

State Water Resources Control Board
Tam M. Doduc, *Chair*