



# CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS 2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

*MISSION: TO PRESERVE, ENHANCE, AND RESTORE THE QUALITY OF CALIFORNIA'S WATER RESOURCES, AND ENSURE THEIR PROPER ALLOCATION AND EFFICIENT USE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.*

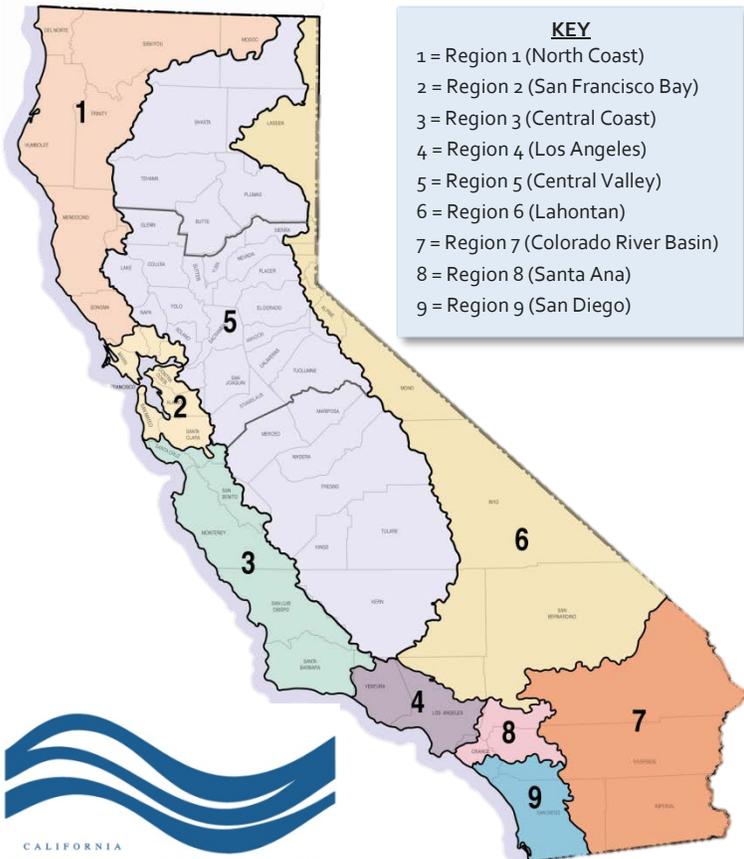
## WHO WE ARE

The California Water Boards protect and enhance the quality of our waters for present and future generations. We are made up of the State Water Resources Control Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards. The State Water Board develops statewide policy and regulations for water quality

control, and allocates water rights. The Regional Water Boards provide local implementation of policy and regulations, develop long-range plans for their areas, issue waste discharge permits, and take enforcement actions against violators. We also monitor and report on the quality of surface water and groundwater throughout the State, develop and implement plans to restore impaired waters, and fund restoration and capital improvement projects aimed at protecting

public health and the environment. While some of these activities are more well-known than others, all are essential to providing California individuals, families, farmers, cities, industry, and the environment with water needed to keep our State healthy and productive.

For more information, please see our website: [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov).



### FAST FACTS

#### California's Water Environment

- 211,000 miles of rivers and streams.
- 9,000 lakes, totaling over 1.6 million acres.
- 1,100 miles of coastline.
- 433 beaches, totaling over 630 miles.
- 200 million acre-feet of precipitation in an average water year.
- 40,000 acre-feet of groundwater used per day by Californians, more than any other state in the nation.

#### Water Boards' Workload Highlights

(Fiscal Year 2011/2012)

- Almost 32,000 facilities regulated.
- More than 5,000 inspections conducted.
- More than 3,000 permits issued.
- Almost 4,000 enforcement actions.
- More than \$350 million in Clean Water State Revolving Funds allocated.
- Almost 38,000 water rights administered.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**SEVEN** years ago, I walked through the doors of the Joe Serna Jr. CalEPA building to serve as a member of the State Water Board. Not a single year passed when I could not say that the Water Boards made decisions and took actions that improved management of the State’s precious water resources. The year 2012 was no exception and, in fact, was remarkable in its achievements. State and Regional Water Board members, staff, and stakeholders committed considerable effort toward the adoption of statewide, regional, and local permits and policies to improve the consistency and effectiveness of our regulatory programs. We made substantial investments in California’s water quality infrastructure by financing more than \$350 million in wastewater treatment plant upgrades and other water quality improvement projects, while at the same time realizing a “AAA” bond rating, saving the State an estimated \$10.5 million in future interest costs through bond refinancing. By the end of the year, we released a proposal to increase flows tributary to the Delta and improve water quality within the Delta. At the same time, our staff continued to conduct the Water Board’s core business: approving permits and plans needed to address some of our most persistent water quality concerns; cleaning up contaminated soil and groundwater; and taking enforcement, when necessary, to compel compliance with the regulations.

As boards, our emphasis this past year was on increasing accountability in our regulations, permits, and policies. Using our unique, online performance report, we accelerated efforts in 2012 to analyze water quality data trends to determine the overall effect that our regulatory programs are having on the waters they are designed to protect. Equipped with this information, we will make adjustments in the coming years to our regulations, permits, and policies that emphasize the approaches that work and discard those that do not. Equally important, we invited our stakeholders to partner with us to evaluate the costs of complying with water quality protections contained in our regulations, permits, and policies to identify potential cost savings while still protecting the State’s waters. In an era of tightening public and private sector budgets, it is now more critical than ever that every dollar spent on water quality protection be used wisely and be focused on our most important priorities. On a more personal note, as I retire from my position as a State Water Board member and reflect on these years of public service, I am rewarded by my first-hand experience of the level of effort, education and sincerity in understanding the diversity of viewpoints behind each of our decisions. As we head into 2013, I am confident that the Water Boards will continue to build on these skills to achieve even greater successes in the years ahead.



*Charles R. Hoppin, Chair*  
State Water Resources Control Board

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### *Policy and Planning*

#### *2012 Accomplishments*



#### **Policy Adopted to Protect Water Quality from Septic System Discharges**

In June 2012, the State Water Board adopted the Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS, also referred to as septic systems). As California’s population continues to grow, the construction of residences and other facilities in areas that are not served by centralized wastewater treatment systems will also grow. Expanded use of dispersed septic systems has the potential to increase risks of water

quality degradation and public health impacts. The policy uses a tiered, risk-based management approach. The tiers are based on the potential of OWTS to impact surface waters, considering factors such as proximity to impaired water bodies, operational status, and level of local agency involvement in managing OWTS. The policy allows continued management of OWTS by local agencies and relies on their knowledge and expertise (e.g., of unique geographical conditions) to ensure that water quality and public health are protected. For more information:

[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/owts/index.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/index.shtml)



### California Ocean Plan Amended to Address Specific Discharges to Sensitive Marine Environments

In March 2012, the State Water Board granted an exception to the California Ocean Plan to allow 27 applicants to discharge clean storm water to Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), provided special conditions (known as Special Protections) are met. The Ocean Plan prohibits discharges of waste to ASBS, which are areas that are afforded special protection because of their high natural resource value. A survey conducted in 2003 found more than 1,600 storm water and other nonpoint source waste discharges into ASBS statewide. The State Water Board sent Notices of Violation to those responsible to cease discharges or to apply for an exception to the Ocean Plan. From 2006

to 2008, 27 storm water and nonpoint source dischargers completed applications for an exception to the ASBS prohibition. The Special Protections prohibit harmful dry weather discharges, and require monitoring to help ensure that storm water runoff does not alter natural water quality in the ASBS. Full compliance is expected within six years. The Special Protections are important because these biologically significant marine waters now have practical protections against potentially harmful runoff. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ocean/asbs.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/asbs.shtml)

### Policy Adopted for Closure of Low-Threat Underground Storage Tanks Cases

In May 2012, the State Water Board adopted a Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank (UST) Case Closure Policy. The policy applies to petroleum UST sites and establishes consistent case closure criteria statewide for petroleum UST sites considered to be low-threat in California. The policy will increase UST cleanup process efficiency, while ensuring that human health, water quality, and the environment are still protected. By doing so, limited resources are preserved for addressing UST releases that pose a greater threat to human health and the environment. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/lt\\_cls\\_plcy.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/lt_cls_plcy.shtml)



### Water Quality Standards for Freshwater Recreational Uses Updated to Better Protect Public Health

In June 2012, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board approved an amendment to their Water Quality Control Plan (known as a Basin Plan) that revised recreational water quality standards for inland freshwaters in the Santa Ana Region. The revised standards included the replacement of the fecal coliform bacteria water quality objectives with *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) water quality objectives, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recommends as a better indicator of the presence of harmful pathogens in water. With the revisions, recreational beneficial uses will be suspended during large storm events to avoid significant expenditures by responsible parties to meet the bacterial water quality objectives when recreation is unlikely to occur. Revisions to recreational beneficial use

designations are intended to focus bacterial control efforts on waters where recreation is known or likely to occur, rather than on waters where recreation is not likely to occur. It is expected that this amendment will be considered by the State Water Board in spring 2013. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/recreational\\_standards.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/recreational_standards.shtml)

## Updates to Salt Management Plan Promote Reliable Water Supplies

In February 2012, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board approved an amendment to their Basin Plan to update their Salt Management Plan. The amendment revised Basin Management Zone boundaries based on updated digital imaging data, deleted outdated monitoring program requirements, and revised the Basin Plan's monitoring program to allow flexibility, should future modifications be needed. The Basin Plan amendment also included revisions to the implementation requirements for the Chino Basin's alternative total dissolved solids and nitrate-nitrogen water quality objectives. These revisions provide greater flexibility and support for the implementation of the Santa Ana Region's Salt Management Plan, which includes strategies to combine the use of recycled water, imported water, and storm water to provide long-term reliable water supplies in the Region. For more information: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/santaana/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/salt\\_management\\_plan.shtml#NPH](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/salt_management_plan.shtml#NPH)



# Wastewater Management

## 2012 Accomplishments

### Recycled Water Projects Permitted in the Bay Area Will Augment Water Supplies and Reduce Discharges



The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board permitted three new water recycling projects in Marin County and a fourth project in the City of Pacifica to reduce wastewater discharges and enhance drinking water supplies. All four recycled water projects involve advanced treatment and disinfection of wastewater, regulated under the Regional Water Board's general permit for municipal water recycling. The Novato Sanitary District and Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District projects are located in Marin County, and both will include new production facilities. A third project, also located in Marin County, is the North Marin Water District's expanded distribution system, which will supply recycled water to local users. The fourth project, located in the City of Pacifica, will produce recycled water at a new production facility; the North Coast County Water District will distribute that water to users in the City of Pacifica, as well as to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the California Department of Transportation. For more information:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/wastewaterrecyclingandreuse.shtml>

### New Orange County Sanitation District Ocean Outfall Permit Requires Enhanced Wastewater Treatment

In June 2012, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board and USEPA jointly reissued wastewater permits to the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) for regulating the discharge of treated sanitary wastewater from two of OCSD's plants into the Pacific Ocean. OCSD, USEPA, and the Santa Ana Regional Water Board entered into a consent decree (court order) that provided a time schedule to construct necessary facilities to achieve full secondary treatment of wastewater. The facilities have been constructed and OCSD is now achieving full secondary treatment. Currently, OCSD is ahead of schedule to complete this \$1.2 billion project. Once the treatment systems are fully operational, the discharge quality to the Pacific Ocean is expected to improve significantly, thereby protecting beach water quality and public health. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/orders/2012/12\\_035\\_WDR\\_OCSD.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/board_decisions/adopted_orders/orders/2012/12_035_WDR_OCSD.pdf)



# Storm Water Management

## 2012 Accomplishments



### Storm Water Permit Issued for Municipal Discharges in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County

In November 2012, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board reissued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) discharges within the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles County, excluding discharges originating from the City of Long Beach. The permit includes requirements to implement low impact development for new construction and significant redevelopment to control pollutant discharges and storm water runoff to receiving waters. The permit also will implement allocations of pollutant discharges for 33 water quality restoration strategies, known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The reissuance of this permit will lead to improvements in storm water management and efficiencies in regulating discharges from the Los Angeles County MS4 to improve water quality. Enhancements to water quality will have a positive impact on beneficial

uses, including recreation, and aquatic and terrestrial habitats, as well as water supply. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/index.shtml)

### Statewide Storm Water Permit for State Highways and Caltrans Facilities Adopted

In September 2012, the State Water Board adopted an updated Statewide Storm Water Permit (MS4) for the regulation of storm water and certain types of non-storm water discharges from California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) highways, facilities, and activities. Discharges of storm water and non-storm water occur throughout the State from Caltrans' MS4. The permit regulates storm water discharges from more than 50,000 lane miles of State highways, as well as numerous Caltrans facilities, including maintenance stations/yards, equipment storage areas, and fleet vehicle parking areas. Implementation requirements for Areas of Special Biological Significance and over 70 TMDLs are both included for the first time in a statewide permit. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/caltrans\\_permits](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/caltrans_permits)

[.shtml](#)



### New Storm Water Requirements Adopted to Enhance Central Coast Water Quality and Supply

In September 2012, the Central Coast Regional Water Board adopted post-construction storm water management requirements for development projects throughout the Central Coast Region. The post-construction requirements apply variably to projects, depending on the amount of impervious surface (e.g., roads, roofs, parking lots) that a development project will create or replace. Management of storm water runoff volume through low impact development methods is emphasized for projects creating or replacing more than 15,000 square feet of impervious surface. The post-construction requirements are applied more rigorously to previously undeveloped areas, as compared to areas targeted for urban infill and redevelopment. The requirements will promote a form of land

development that protects a broad spectrum of watershed processes and beneficial uses. Prior to the adoption of the requirements, new and re-development projects in the Region were not subject to consistent or clear objectives for managing storm water runoff once

constructed. Municipalities in the Region must now update their storm water control programs to implement the requirements. The approach that the Central Coast Regional Water Board used to develop the requirements will serve as a model for statewide application. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/lid/lid\\_hydromod\\_charette\\_index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/lid/lid_hydromod_charette_index.shtml)

### Permit to Control Polluted Runoff from Scrap Metal Facilities First in Nation

In February 2012, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board adopted a Sector-Specific General Storm Water Permit for Scrap Metal Recycling Facilities. This permit, which will regulate waste discharges from scrap metal recycling facilities, is the first sector-specific permit for this industry category in the nation. Scrap metal recycling facilities are a significant source of pollutants in storm water runoff. Pollutants typically associated with scrap metal recycling include dissolved metals, oil and grease, sediment, and ethylene glycol. Currently, 41 facilities are regulated under the permit, and the permittees have approximately two years to fully implement the permit provisions. Upon permit implementation, storm water runoff from scrap metal recycling facilities should cease to be a significant source of pollutants to waters in the Santa Ana Region. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/scrap\\_metal\\_permit.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/stormwater/scrap_metal_permit.shtml)



## Nonpoint Source Controls

### 2012 Accomplishments

#### Regulatory Program Established for North Coast Dairies and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations



In January 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Board adopted the Regulatory Program for Waste Discharges from Dairies and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in the North Coast Region. This program is comprised of three permits: an NPDES permit, a Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs, a form of a permit), and a conditional waiver of WDR. These permits cover the management of animal manure, other organic materials, and process water at dairies and CAFOs, including the application of these materials to cropland. Each permit requires dairies and CAFOs to develop and implement a nutrient management plan or a water quality control plan to prevent dairy wastes, such as manure, from being discharged to surface waters. These operations are also required to monitor both surface and ground water quality. Approximately 150 dairies, housing about 50,000 cows, are located in the North Coast Region. Nearly all of these dairies have been enrolled in the program. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/dairies/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/dairies/)

#### New Ownership-Wide Timberland Permit Will Lead to Increased Efficiency and Effectiveness

In October 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Board adopted an ownership-wide forest management permit for all of the forest management activities conducted by the Green Diamond Resource Company (Green Diamond). The permit requires the protection and monitoring of surface water quality on 384,000 acres of commercial timberland owned by Green Diamond on the west slopes of the Klamath Mountains and along the Coastal Range in Del Norte and Humboldt counties. This permit is an improvement on the old approach of permitting individual timber harvest plans for a narrower set of activities. Under the previous approach, measures to protect water quality were generally limited





to discrete areas of active timber harvesting, and surface water quality monitoring was focused on implementation of those measures. This new regulatory approach is a more efficient method to regulate a large ownership's timber harvesting activities and in protecting water quality. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/pdf/2012/121015\\_12\\_0087\\_WDR\\_GreenDiamond.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/pdf/2012/121015_12_0087_WDR_GreenDiamond.pdf)

### Agriculture Runoff Regulations Updated to Better Protect Water Quality and Human Health

In March 2012, the Central Coast Regional Water Board updated its conditional waiver of WDR for managing discharges from commercial irrigated farming operations, including commercial nurseries, vineyards, and field and tree crops. The permit requires that these farming operations implement practices to reduce nitrate leaching into groundwater to safeguard drinking water sources and the public's health. The permit also requires the implementation of practices to reduce pesticide discharges that cause toxicity to aquatic organisms in rivers and creeks that are currently impaired by pesticides and/or toxicity and

included on the State's List of Impaired Waters (Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List). Improved groundwater and surface water quality monitoring, and the reporting of management practices such as irrigation efficiency and nutrient budgeting are also required. Members of the agricultural and environmental communities have petitioned the permit to the State Water Board; some permit provisions are stayed, pending the decision of the State Water Board. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/ag\\_waivers/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml)

### Permit Adopted for Palo Verde Agricultural Discharges and Drain Operation/Maintenance Activities

In September 2012, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board adopted a permit, in the form of a conditional waiver of WDR, to regulate agricultural drainage discharges from irrigated agricultural lands in the Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa into Palo Verde Irrigation District's (PVID) drainage system. The permit also regulates the operation and maintenance (O&M) of PVID's drainage system. Addressing both sources ensures that agricultural drainage discharges and O&M practices are not adversely impacting water quality in the Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa Drains, the Palo Verde Valley Lagoon, and the Palo Verde Outfall Drain, all of which flow to the

Colorado River. This is the first permit adopted in the Colorado River Basin Region for irrigated lands. The adoption of this permit brings an additional 131,000 acres of irrigated agricultural lands under regulation by the Regional Water Board. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/orders/2012/0047waiver.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/adopted_orders/orders/2012/0047waiver.pdf)



### Permits Adopted to Address Closed, Abandoned, and Inactive Burn Sites and Landfills



In June 2012, the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted two general permits: one permit for the maintenance and monitoring of closed, abandoned, or inactive burn sites; and one permit for closed, abandoned, or inactive landfills, which also includes a monitoring and reporting program. Unlined and mostly unmonitored, these sites threaten both surface and ground water quality if not properly managed to prevent the leaching of pollutants, and the release of landfill gases. The new permits ensure that these sites will be in compliance with the State's current waste management regulations. The State Water Board and other Regional Water Boards are examining these two permits as a model for a statewide general permit for these types of sites. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2012/R9-2012-0001.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2012/R9-2012-0001.pdf) and

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2012/R9-2012-0003.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2012/R9-2012-0003.pdf)

# Surface Water Quality Restoration

## 2012 Accomplishments

### Permits Adopted to Implement Water Quality Restoration Strategies in the Scott and Shasta Watersheds

In October 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Board adopted updated permits (conditional waivers of WDR) to address impairments in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds in Siskiyou County. The pollutants addressed are sediment and temperature in the Scott River, and nutrients and temperature in the Shasta River. The permits will address pollutant sources from discharges not already regulated under a permit, including agricultural runoff, certain private timber activities, and dredge and fill activities. Implementation of the permits will focus on approaches that address the highest risk to water quality and provide restoration opportunities unique to each watershed. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/tmdls/shasta\\_river/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/shasta_river/)  
and

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/tmdls/scott\\_river/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/scott_river/)



### Permit Adopted to Protect Napa Watersheds and Reduce Impacts from Stream Maintenance Activities

In August 2012, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board adopted WDRs and a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification for the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) to implement its Stream Maintenance Program. This comprehensive permit allows the District to perform routine maintenance activities, including vegetation management, downed tree management, erosion protection/bank stabilization, and other minor maintenance activities, within the Napa River watershed and the portion of the Suisun Creek watershed within Napa County over the next five years. The new requirements will reduce stream maintenance impacts by prioritizing and limiting the areas within stream channels where sediment and vegetation will be removed. The District will implement watershed projects that will reduce sediment loads to flood control channels. The program also addresses pollutant load reduction requirements for sediment in the Napa River watershed. These requirements will ensure that the

District's stream maintenance activities protect and enhance water quality. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2012/R2-2012-0063.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2012/R2-2012-0063.pdf)

### Water Quality Restoration Plans Completed for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

In March 2012, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board fulfilled its obligations under a consent decree (court order), that required the completion of TMDLs for impaired waters that were included on the State's 1998 List of Impaired Waters (Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List) over a period of 13 years. As a result of the consent decree, which was part of a 1999 legal settlement between environmental groups and USEPA, the Regional Water Board developed 38 TMDLs, and USEPA established nine TMDLs, between 2000 and 2012. Development of these TMDLs has put both Los Angeles and Ventura counties on a path toward cleaner ocean waters, estuaries, bays, lakes, reservoirs, and rivers that are safe for all beneficial uses, including water contact recreation and fishing. Successful implementation of these TMDLs has led to a 65 percent reduction in trash entering the Los Angeles River and a



50 percent reduction in exceedances of bacteria water quality standards at Santa Monica Bay beaches, improving protection of water quality and the public's health. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/)



### Efforts Continue to Address California-Nevada Fire Commission Recommendations for the Lake Tahoe Basin

In April 2012, the Lahontan Regional Water Board issued a permit (WDR) to the U.S. Forest Service for its South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project (South Shore Project) to treat excessive forest fuel loading surrounding the community of South Lake Tahoe, enabling better management of forest fires. This 10,000-acre project, which extends from the Heavenly Ski area near Nevada to Emerald Bay on Lake Tahoe's west shore, involves implementing fuel reduction and forest health treatments in the wildland-urban interface surrounding the south shore of Lake Tahoe over an eight-to-ten-year period. During 2012, approximately 700 acres were treated for fuel reduction. The South Shore Project incorporated approaches and treatments recommended by the California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire

Commission, which was formed in response to the 2007 Angora Fire in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Angora Restoration Project was permitted immediately following the 2007 fire to address burned timber damage. The fuel reduction component of the Angora Restoration Project, which included the re-planting of some areas, was completed during 2012; the non-fuels reduction elements of the project are ongoing. For more information: <http://resources.ca.gov/tahoefirecommission/>

### Salt Marsh Recovery Targeted in Water Quality Restoration Plan for Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, a Designated "State Preserve"

In June 2012, the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon TMDL for sediment. Los Peñasquitos Lagoon (Lagoon) is a 0.6-square-mile coastal salt marsh lagoon in Torrey Pines State Park, and is one of the few remaining and irreplaceable coastal lagoons in southern California that provides valuable estuarine habitat, as well as many other important beneficial uses. The Lagoon is a designated "State Preserve", a label for the rarest and most fragile of State-owned lands. Over the course of the 20th Century, the Lagoon experienced many disturbances caused by human activities, which have resulted in excessive sedimentation, and the degradation and loss of estuarine habitat.

The TMDL requires reduced sediment discharges into the Lagoon, and also includes a Lagoon habitat target. The habitat target is the successful restoration of tidal and non-tidal salt marsh habitat to achieve a total of 346 acres of salt marsh habitat in the Lagoon. This target represents a 50 percent recovery of salt marsh habitat lost in the Lagoon since the 1970s. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/tmdls/los\\_penasquitos\\_lagoon.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tmdls/los_penasquitos_lagoon.shtml)



### Permits Issued for 13,600-Acre Newhall Land Housing Development, One of the Largest Developments in the State

In September 2012, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board adopted WDRs and a Clean Water Act 401 certification for the Newhall Land and Farming Company's (Newhall Land) housing development site in the City of Santa Clarita, which will be one of the largest housing developments in the State. Newhall Land plans to build 20,000 residential housing units and associated roads, bridges, parks, schools, fire stations, and shopping centers over a 20-year period on a 13,600-acre site along the Santa Clara River. The permits will require 70 percent of the land to be kept as natural open space and will require 114 acres of wetlands to be restored on site in compensation for aquatic habitat losses due to the project. Extensive and comprehensive requirements,

including low impact development features that will increase infiltration and retention of storm water flows, will ensure the long-term protection of the natural habitat and water quality in the Santa Clara River. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/401\\_water\\_quality\\_certification/NewhallLand.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/401_water_quality_certification/NewhallLand.shtml)

# Groundwater Protection and Cleanup

## 2012 Accomplishments

### Statewide Aquifer Storage and Recovery Permit Adopted to Enhance Groundwater Quality and Quantity

In September 2012, the State Water Board approved a general permit for aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects that use injection wells to recharge groundwater aquifers with treated drinking water. The development of this permit was led by the Central Valley Regional Water Board. Some water agencies treat water to meet drinking water standards at an existing water treatment plant and then pump the treated water through one or more injection wells into a groundwater aquifer. This stored water is later extracted from the aquifer as needed, treated again if necessary, and conveyed to water users through the water agency's distribution system. This statewide general permit will achieve consistent and streamlined regulation of ASR projects. Groundwater is an important water source for municipal water supply, agriculture, and individual water users across the State. Storage of water in groundwater aquifers can improve the reliability and quality of the State's water supply, and will become increasingly important in meeting California's future water needs. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/asr/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/asr/index.shtml)



### Bay Area Contaminated Soil and Groundwater Sites No Longer A Threat

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board closed 120 contaminated soil and groundwater sites in the Bay Area. These sites no longer pose a threat to human health or the environment and can now be redeveloped and put back into productive use. Two noteworthy closures are located on the Bay margin in San Mateo County. At the Peninsula Sportsmen's Club, skeet- and trap-shooting that took place from 1939 to 1994 resulted in extensive lead pollution of 30-acres of wetlands. Cleanup focused on restoring the wetlands and nearby surrounding soils. At Cooley Landing, cleanup focused on shallow soil pollution caused by an old landfill. From the 1930s until the mid-1950s, Cooley Landing was used as a county burn dump. The dump was then closed and the burn ash covered with fill. The cleanup allowed for development of a new shoreline park for a low-income

area. These restored adjacent Bayland sites now provide improved wildlife habitat and enhanced public recreation and access to the Bay and South Bay wetlands. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board\\_info/agendas/2011/November/8\\_SSR.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2011/November/8_SSR.pdf)

### Actions Continue to Clean Up Chromium-Contaminated Groundwater in Hinkley and Ensure Safe Drinking Water Supply

In August 2012, the Lahontan Regional Water Board circulated a draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the comprehensive groundwater cleanup of hexavalent chromium pollution at Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Hinkley Compression Station. PG&E is responsible for discharging wastewater from cooling towers to unlined ponds causing extensive groundwater contamination in the Town of Hinkley. The DEIR requires aggressive clean-up of the contaminated groundwater while ensuring Hinkley residents have a safe and adequate water supply. The Regional Water Board will rely on the DEIR for future decisions, including a new cleanup and abatement order and a general permit. In March 2012, a settlement agreement was approved by the Regional Water Board requiring PG&E to pay \$3.6 million for failure to contain contaminated groundwater by



December 31, 2008, as ordered by the Regional Water Board. The violation continued for approximately three years. The agreement requires PG&E to provide a new water supply to the Hinkley Elementary/Middle School via the construction of a new pipeline to a groundwater source outside of the chromium-contaminated area. Also in 2012, the Regional Water Board approved an expanded program to provide permanent replacement water to all Hinkley domestic well users in the affected area with detectable chromium, or offer a property buyout. The program has been successfully implemented for the first priority group of 18 residences. PG&E is working to implement the program for the second group, involving about 230 residents, who have lower chromium concentrations in their wells than the first group. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\\_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml)

## Efforts to Address Industrial Groundwater Contamination Continue Statewide



The Water Boards continued to address perchlorate contamination in groundwater across the State. Perchlorate is associated with the manufacture of solid rocket propellant, fireworks, and other incendiary and explosive devices. Perchlorate does not readily biodegrade and can easily reach groundwater. In low doses, perchlorate interferes with thyroid function and can cause birth defects. In 2012, the Lahontan Regional Water Board completed an investigation of the extent of perchlorate-contaminated groundwater near the City of Barstow. Also, during 2012, USEPA completed an investigation that confirmed the source area of the contamination. The illegal disposal of perchlorate salts from a former pyrotechnics company contaminated one of Barstow's water supply wells and two private residential water supply wells. Sampling of groundwater confirms the consistent presence of perchlorate in the two private wells. However, flushing of the City's well in 2010 cleared the City's water supply of perchlorate.

In the Central Coast Region, Olin Corporation started up a groundwater extraction system, in July 2012, to hydraulically contain a one-mile-long perchlorate plume and remove perchlorate from a drinking water aquifer. Illegal discharges, over a 40-year period, from Olin's flare manufacturing facility in the City of Morgan Hill resulted in a 10-mile-long plume of perchlorate. Only nine residential water supply wells exceeded the drinking water standard for perchlorate in 2012 compared to 188 wells during the first quarter of 2004, and the groundwater plume continues to decrease in size.



In 2012, USEPA entered into settlement agreements worth more than \$50 million to clean up perchlorate- and trichloroethylene (TCE)-contaminated groundwater from the 160-acre B.F. Goodrich Superfund Site near the City of Rialto. USEPA shares jurisdiction over the site with the Santa Ana Regional Water Board and the State Water Board. The site was formerly occupied by the U.S. Department of Defense, various defense contractors, and fireworks manufacturers and distributors. TCE is an industrial cleaning solvent, and is known to damage the nervous system, liver, and lungs. The Rialto agreements will address the 30-year cleanup process at the site that will lead to restored drinking water resources. For more information on Barstow:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\\_issues/programs/perchlorate/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/perchlorate/index.shtml).

For more information on Morgan Hill:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/olin\\_corp/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/olin_corp/index.shtml) and

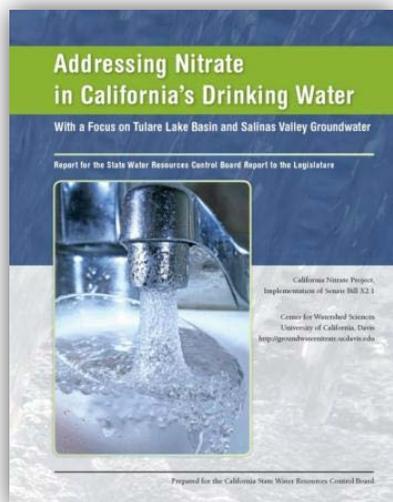
[http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=SL0608756247](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL0608756247).

For more information on Rialto:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb8/water\\_issues/programs/perchlorate/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb8/water_issues/programs/perchlorate/index.shtml).

## Report on Nitrate in Groundwater Released

In March 2012, the University of California, Davis (UCD), under contract to the State Water Board, delivered a technical report on nitrate contamination in groundwater. In 2008, Senate Bill (SB) X2 1 was signed into law, requiring the State Water Board, in consultation with other agencies, to prepare a Report to the Legislature to improve understanding of the causes of nitrate contamination in groundwater, identify potential solutions and funding sources for the cleanup or treatment groundwater, and ensure the provision of safe drinking water to all communities. The report prepared by UCD will serve as a foundational technical reference for the State Water Board's forthcoming Report to the Legislature,



anticipated to be completed in early 2013. That Report will make recommendations for addressing nitrate-contaminated groundwater statewide. Nitrate contamination in groundwater is widespread throughout California, particularly in the southern Central Valley, Central Coast, and Los Angeles areas. Nitrate contamination in public water system supply wells has often necessitated either treatment or replacement water to be provided. The primary source of nitrate in groundwater is fertilizer from irrigated agricultural areas; other sources include dairies, septic systems, domestic wastewater, and food processing facilities. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/nitrate\\_project/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nitrate_project/index.shtml).

# Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

## 2012 Accomplishments



### Protection of Bay-Delta Waters

The Central Valley Regional Water Board continued to take steps to address mercury in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). The Delta is the largest estuary on the western coast of the United States. Mercury is found in the sediments of the Delta due, in large part, to historic mining operations. Methylmercury is the biologically active form of mercury, and is found in fish species caught in the Delta and then consumed. The Delta Mercury Control Program (MCP) addresses high mercury levels in fish that impact humans and wildlife. Through the MCP, the Regional Water Board formed a technical advisory committee during 2012 to review work plans for mercury source control studies, which are scheduled to begin in 2013, and also initiated development of a program to reduce human exposure to Delta mercury.

The Delta Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) aims to improve coordination across multiple monitoring programs and to create a more comprehensive picture of conditions across the Delta as a whole. The RMP will complement

existing larger-scale regional monitoring efforts throughout the State. Through the RMP, a draft monitoring and assessment framework was developed during 2012.

Pesticides continue to be a concern in the Delta, impairing Delta waters and impacting aquatic life. The Regional Water Board coordinated with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and, in July 2012, finalized regulations for urban pyrethroid pesticide applications, which have been identified as a threat to Delta aquatic life. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/tmdl/central\\_valley\\_projects/delta\\_hg/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/tmdl/central_valley_projects/delta_hg/) and

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/delta\\_water\\_quality/comprehensive\\_monitoring\\_program/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/delta_water_quality/comprehensive_monitoring_program/index.shtml)

### San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Requirements Released

In December 2012, the State Water Board released its much anticipated proposal to increase flows that are tributary to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and improve water quality in the southern Delta. The Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan) identifies the beneficial uses of water in the Delta, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and a program of implementation to achieve those objectives. The State Water Board is phasing the current update of the Bay-Delta Plan. Phase I, initiated in 2009 and the subject of the 2012 proposal, updates flow objectives to protect fish and wildlife in the San Joaquin River and its salmon-bearing tributaries, and updates salinity objectives to protect agriculture in the southern Delta.

Phase II of the Bay-Delta Plan update, initiated in 2012, will address the remainder of the Bay-Delta Plan, including Delta outflow and export

objectives, and other measures needed to protect Delta resources. Extensive technical workshops were held in the summer and fall of 2012 to inform the Phase II update. The timing of Phase II ensures that the substantial body of information on Delta outflow, exports, and habitat



needs which were developed through the Bay-Delta Conservation Planning process, will be fully considered in the State Water Board's Bay-Delta Plan update. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/comp\\_review.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/comp_review.shtml)

# Financial Assistance

## 2012 Accomplishments

### Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program Finances Projects Worth More than \$355 Million



The State Water Board's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program had one of its most productive years. The program financed 34 projects worth more than \$355 million, providing affordable loans for the State's vital water protection infrastructure, including the construction of publicly owned treatment works, the elimination of nonpoint sources of pollution, and the development and implementation of plans to protect important estuaries. The SRF program has protected and promoted the health, safety, and welfare of Californians since 1989, when the first loans were made. Many funding recipients use their financing to address water quality violations at their facilities and the associated enforcement actions. Every project financed by the program is directly related to improving water quality or public health. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about\\_us/performance\\_report\\_1112/fund/51121\\_fund\\_process\\_cwsrf.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/performance_report_1112/fund/51121_fund_process_cwsrf.shtml)

### Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program Bond Refinance Saves State Money

In December 2012, the State Water Board's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program refinanced its 2002 Revenue Bonds, saving the State Water Board an estimated \$10.5 million in future interest costs. Thanks to the program's AAA Bond Rating, the interest rate on the 2002 Revenue Bonds was refinanced from 3.79 percent to 0.93 percent. The program is now in a position to access funds, if needed, from the bond market to fund new projects to more quickly address water quality or public health and safety.

# Enforcement

## 2012 Accomplishments

### Cease and Desist Order Issued to the City of Avalon for Illegal Sewage Discharges

In April 2012, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) to the City of Avalon (City) requiring the City to stop the illegal waste discharges from its Avalon Wastewater Treatment Facility. The discharges occurred as a result of the City's failure to adequately identify and address collection system problems. These sewage overflows contain raw sewage, which has pathogens known to be harmful to human health, can cause environmental, social, and economic impacts such as the loss of recreation, and can be detrimental to aquatic life. The CDO includes the elements of a TMDL that addresses impairments due to bacteria at Avalon Beach. Avalon Beach is included on the State's List of Impaired Waters (Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List) for bacteria. Studies conducted by the University of California, Irvine showed that shallow groundwater may be contaminated with raw sewage and that sewage-contaminated shallow





groundwater is discharged to Avalon Bay. The CDO requires the City to come into compliance with their water quality permits by assessing, repairing, and maintaining their sewer collection system. For more information:

<https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/enfActionDocRetriever.jsp?actID=387565&docID=1029658&source=>

### Settlement Agreement Reached With Tesoro Company for Illegal Tank Release of Naphtha to Groundwater

In July 2012, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board entered into a settlement agreement with the Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company (Tesoro) for \$440,670 for an illegal discharge to groundwater of approximately 638,400 gallons of naphtha from a corroded leaking above-ground storage tank at their Los Angeles Refinery. In 2011, the Regional Water Board issued a Cleanup and

Abatement Order requiring Tesoro to clean up and abate the effects of this discharge. Naphtha is a toxic fuel component, considered hazardous by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and is extremely flammable. Naphtha can be harmful or fatal if swallowed and contains benzene, which can cause blood diseases, including anemia and leukemia. Groundwater is an important source of drinking water for many Californians. This was one of the first enforcement actions taken by the Los Angeles Regional Water Board for a major discharge from an above-ground storage tank that was released to groundwater. A majority of the naphtha has been cleaned up and the discharge no longer poses a threat to public health or drinking water supplies. For more information:

<https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/enfActionDocRetriever.jsp?actID=386653&docID=1002411&source=>

### Enforcement Action Leads to Approved Cleanup Plan for the San Diego Bay Shipyard Sediment Site

In March 2012, the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) for the San Diego Bay Shipyard Sediment Site that requires the remediation of accumulated pollutants in marine sediments adjacent to existing shipyard facilities in San Diego Bay.

Illegal discharges by multiple entities resulted in the accumulation of waste in the sediment, which has adverse impacts on human health and aquatic life in San Diego Bay. The CAO requires the dredging of sediment adjacent to the shipyards, the dewatering and solidification of the dredged material, the potential treatment and disposal of decanted water from the dredging, and the transport of dredged sediment to an appropriate landfill for disposal. Also in 2012, the Regional Water Board approved the discharger's Remedial Action Plan, which is a requirement of the CAO and is the cornerstone document for the cleanup. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/shipyards\\_sediment/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/shipyards_sediment/index.shtml)



### Illegal Reservoir Cases Evaluated and Addressed

The State Water Board closed approximately 300 illegal reservoir cases in California because these reservoirs were either covered by existing water rights or not subject to the State Water Board's water rights permitting authority. The State Water Board's Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams identified 1,771 alleged illegal reservoirs in Napa, Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Humboldt counties. The State Water Board has closed 68 percent of these alleged illegal reservoirs cases since 2011. Of the remaining alleged illegal reservoirs being investigated, 15 percent filed applications to appropriate water with the State Water Board, with 48 of those applications filed in 2012. Currently, there are ongoing investigations of 24 percent of the remaining reservoirs. Also in 2012, the State Water Board initiated 11 formal enforcement actions against parties that failed to respond to the State Water Board's findings of illegal use, or when voluntary corrective

actions were not made. If a reservoir is found to be illegal, the State Water Board requires that reservoirs be removed, water diversions be stopped, and/or water diverters file applications for a water right. The latter brings unauthorized diverters into the State's water rights

system with a permit that allows for their diversion, and includes terms that protect senior water right holders and the environment. It further identifies users of waters of the State and brings them into the reporting process so there is a better understanding of where and how much of the State's water is being used. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/enforcement/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/enforcement/)

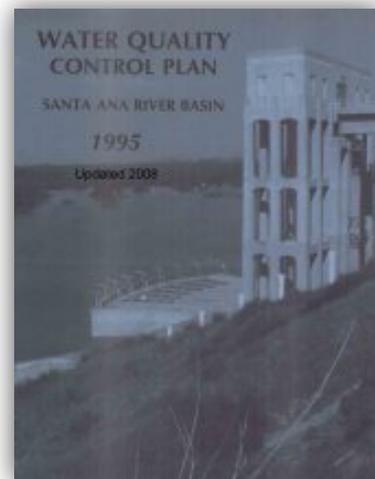
# Data Accessibility Enhancements

## 2012 Accomplishments

### Digital Maps Now Available Online for the Santa Ana Basin

The Santa Ana Regional Water Board, in collaboration with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), completed digital Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) maps of the Santa Ana Region and posted them on the Regional Water Board's website. These maps show all of the water bodies that are listed in the Basin Plan, including groundwater management zones, and includes the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and hydrologic units for these water bodies. In completing these maps, SAWPA provided the geographic information system support to the Regional Water Board, while the Regional Water Board provided guidance to SAWPA as to the form and accuracy of the maps. The maps in the existing Basin Plan were developed more than 17 years ago and are outdated. The updated digital maps are extremely useful for all stakeholders in the Santa Ana watershed and elsewhere in the State, not only as a planning tool, but as an informational resource. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/basin\\_plan\\_maps.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/basin_plan_maps.shtml)



### Electronic Discharger Self-Monitoring Reports Now Available in the California Integrated Water Quality System Database



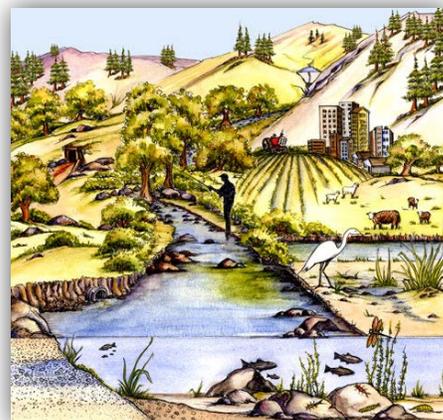
Ninety-one percent of the major and minor wastewater dischargers in the State now submit their self-monitoring reports electronically (eSMRs) to the Water Boards' California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS). A major discharger is one who discharges at least 1 million gallons per day (MGD). A minor discharger discharges less than 1 MGD and has not been determined to have an actual or potential adverse environmental impact that would classify the discharge as major. Wastewater dischargers are required to submit their eSMRs into CIWQS. Until mid-2011, efforts were focused on getting major dischargers to submit their eSMRs to CIWQS. In July 2011, the State Water Board initiated eSMR training for minor dischargers, with the goal to train all minor dischargers within 12 months and have all dischargers (major and minor) submitting eSMRs within 60 days of training. Live online training sessions and self-paced training videos via the State Water Board's website were also offered. As of August 2012, all major and minor dischargers were trained and received notification of their requirement to submit eSMRs into CIWQS. The submittal of eSMRs eliminates hard copy report submittal, processing, and review. The monitoring data are submitted in a consistent format that is easy for staff and the public to analyze. For more information:

<http://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/readOnly/PublicReportEsmrAtGlanceServlet?inCommand=reset>

## Healthy Streams, Rivers, and Lakes Online Internet Portal Launched

In June 2012, the State Water Board, in collaboration with the California Water Quality Monitoring Council's Healthy Streams Partnership, launched the Healthy California Streams, Rivers, and Lakes "My Water Quality" Internet portal. The new online portal provides information on the health of public waterways, and includes interactive graphics, maps, and monitoring data that focus on the location, extent, and health of the State's streams and rivers. The portal will provide answers regarding the extent of the State's stream, river, and lake resources, the condition of these resources, and what is being done to make our waters healthier. The goal is to make this information as timely and user-friendly as possible. The portal's interactive maps display data from statewide monitoring projects that measure indicators of aquatic ecosystem health. The data displayed on the maps are stored in, and can be queried from, the publicly-accessible California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). CEDEN aggregates data from multiple sources on water quality monitoring, aquatic habitat, and wildlife health. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/eco\\_health/streams/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/eco_health/streams/) and  
<http://www.ceden.org/>



## Performance and Effectiveness Evaluated

The Water Boards published its fourth annual Performance Report in September 2012. This web-based report provides a mechanism to measure and evaluate our progress on meeting workload goals and how the environment is responding to those actions. This year's report included increased emphasis on accountability by accelerating efforts to analyze the water quality outcomes resulting from our ongoing regulatory and planning actions. Moving forward, the Water Boards will use the information in the performance report to make adjustments to our regulations, permits, and policies, and to focus our efforts on the most effective actions. For more information on the Water Board's performance and water quality outcomes see:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about\\_us/performance\\_report\\_1112/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/performance_report_1112/)

# Water Rights

## 2012 Accomplishments

### Delta Watermaster Reports with Water Rights Focus Released

The State Water Board's Office of the Delta Watermaster developed and provided three reports to the State Water Board and the Delta Stewardship Council during 2012. One of the reports addresses expanding restrictions on diverting water released into the Delta by the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project to meet water quality standards. A second report addresses efficient use of limited resources by concentrating water rights enforcement and prevention of unauthorized diversions on reclamation and water districts rather than on individual water diverters. The third report addresses improving the State Water Board's water rights enforcement authorities, which will benefit the State's ability to improve water supply planning and make sound water use decisions. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/delta\\_watermaster/reports.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/delta_watermaster/reports.shtml)





## Water Right Actions Taken to Implement the Truckee River Operating Agreement

In October 2012, the State Water Board adopted a decision conditionally approving water right applications and change petitions (for altering the existing water rights) for the Truckee River watershed that were filed to implement the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA). The TROA is an agreement between California, Nevada, and other parties to better manage the water of the Truckee River. In part, TROA will help to resolve more than a century of interstate water allocation disputes between California and Nevada over the use of the Truckee River, Carson River, and Lake Tahoe for environmental and water supply purposes. Implementation of the TROA will have many benefits, including enhanced habitat for aquatic life throughout the Truckee River basin, increased drought protection for Truckee Meadows, and improved instream flows and recreational opportunities. In November 2012, the State Water Board received a petition for reconsideration of the decision. The decision remains in effect until the State Water Board considers the petition at a future Board meeting. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/hearings/truckee\\_river/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/hearings/truckee_river/index.shtml)



## Online Water Diversion Reports Nearly Double Existing Records of Water Use in the State

From 2010 through 2012, the State Water Board implemented its online reporting system for water diversions, which essentially reflects water use in the State. As of December 2012, the new reporting requirements nearly doubled available information on water that is diverted from the State's lakes, creeks, streams, and rivers. Those who divert and use water from these surface water sources, or who divert water from a subterranean stream that flows in a known and definite channel, must report their water diversion and use to the State Water Board. Failure to file reports of water diversion and use are subject to enforcement action taken by the State Water Board. During 2012, 178 Cease and Desist Orders were issued to diverters for failure to file these reports. Enforcement actions have increased compliance, providing a better understanding of the total amount of water used in the State. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/diversion\\_use/water\\_use.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/diversion_use/water_use.shtml)

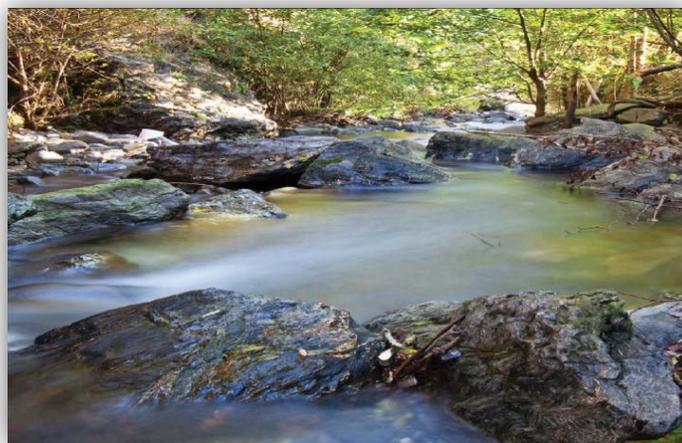


## Streamlined Registrations Established for Small Irrigation Use

In July 2012, the State Water Board established General Conditions for Small Irrigation Use registrations to protect prior water rights and instream beneficial uses. Assembly Bill (AB) 964, signed into law by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in October 2011, established a program to register "small" irrigation uses (less than 20 acre-feet of water per year) with the State Water Board. Nearly one-quarter of the water right applications pending before the State Water Board are for projects requesting less than 20 acre-feet of water per year. Rather than rely on the ordinary water right permit application process, these relatively small appropriations may be approved within weeks through a streamlined registration process. Prior to approving small irrigation use registrations, the State Water Board was required to establish general conditions developed in consultation with stakeholders and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for these registrations. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/registrations/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/registrations/index.shtml)

# OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2013



## *Region 1 – North Coast Regional Water Board*

- ✦ Adopt and initiate implementation of a program to control discharges from county roads.
- ✦ Complete a technical TMDL for the Elk River watershed.
- ✦ Complete a 5-year Nonpoint Source Workplan.
- ✦ Continue development of the Agricultural Lands Discharge Program.
- ✦ Continue to make progress on the development, implementation planning, and early implementation of the Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDLs and Russian River pathogen TMDL.

## *Region 2 – San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board*

- ✦ Develop TMDLs for impaired waters, including coastal beaches, salmonid bearing streams, and Suisun Marsh while continuing to implement TMDLs for pathogens, sediments, pesticides, mercury, and PCBs by using waivers for grazing activities and vineyards, implementing the regional urban stormwater permit, and directing grants towards watershed restoration actions.
- ✦ Pursue aggressive enforcement with emphasis on sewage spills, illegal dredge and fill activities, and polluted stormwater discharges.
- ✦ Develop and implement a nutrient strategy for San Francisco Bay.
- ✦ Close low-risk contaminated groundwater sites upon completion of investigation and cleanup actions, with emphasis on sites needing cleanup in order to facilitate restoration or redevelopment, and update Environmental Screening Levels to assist closure activities.

## *Region 3 – Central Coast Regional Water Board*

- ✦ Implement Groundwater Assessment and Protection (GAP) program by sampling domestic wells within the Pajaro Valley and Salinas Valley in conjunction with USGS and the GAMA Priority Basin Project.
- ✦ Prevent and correct degradation of aquatic habitat by incorporating requirements in permits and orders, prioritizing enforcement actions to address illegal filling and degradation of aquatic habitat, and prioritizing 401 certification projects based on protecting aquatic habitat.
- ✦ Prevent and reverse seawater intrusion where local efforts are failing, and recommend the State Water Board implement actions to control pumping causing salt water intrusion.
- ✦ Prevent further degradation of groundwater basins from salts by continuing to work with local agencies to develop effective salt management plans.
- ✦ Prevent degradation of hydrologic processes by developing and implementing the Central Coast Water Board's Post-Construction Stormwater Management Requirements for Development Projects in the Central Coast Region for municipalities region-wide.
- ✦ Prioritize and condition Water Quality Certification projects to control hydromodification.

## *Region 4 – Los Angeles Regional Water Board*

- ✦ Continue to develop and implement TMDLs to address impairments, including a TMDL or alternative program for the pumping and diversion impairment in the Ventura River. Prepare implementation plans for several USEPA established TMDLs, including the San Gabriel Rivers Metals TMDL, the Los Cerritos Channel TMDL, and Malibu Creek Nutrients TMDL.
- ✦ Assist local agencies in developing salt and nutrient management plans encouraged under the Recycled Water Policy.
- ✦ Reissue the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit for the City of Long Beach.
- ✦ Continue to identify and investigate instances of non-compliance throughout the Region's programs by taking appropriate enforcement actions and by prioritizing enforcement resources to achieve maximum environmental benefits.
- ✦ Continue cleanups and off-site assessments, including the chromium groundwater investigation in the San Fernando Valley, threats to public health, and focus on the management of backlogged cases. Improve public outreach to communities adjacent to groundwater cleanups.
- ✦ Implement the UST Low Threat Policy and continue to move UST cases to cleanup.

## *Region 5 – Central Valley Regional Water Board*

- ✦ Evaluate municipal and domestic supply beneficial uses in agriculturally dominated water bodies.
- ✦ Strengthen agriculture waste regulatory programs.
- ✦ Continue stakeholder development of a Central Valley-wide "Salt and Nitrate Management Plan".
- ✦ Streamline the permitting process for confined animal facilities other than dairies.

## *Region 6 – Lahontan Regional Water Board*

- ✦ Continue regulatory, planning, and tracking efforts to restore Lake Tahoe clarity and address deteriorating near-shore conditions.
- ✦ Require replacement water, source control measures, and groundwater remediation by dischargers impacting groundwater with nitrate and salts.
- ✦ Ensure timely and efficient remediation of groundwater at sites affected by petroleum and other contaminants, with emphasis on the PG&E Hinkley hexavalent chromium cleanup.
- ✦ Take prompt and appropriate enforcement actions to address and correct unauthorized activities impacting surface and ground waters.

## *Region 7 – Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board*

- ✦ Continue to address the actual and potential impacts that runoff from irrigated agriculture has on water quality, as provided by the Policy for Implementation and Enforcement of the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program. Focus will be on the Bard Valley, Coachella Valley, and Imperial Valley.
- ✦ Eliminate waste discharges from septic tanks in high density areas overlying drinking water sources, and promote the construction of centralized wastewater treatment plants and sewer lines, and the recycling of treated wastewater.
- ✦ Work with stakeholders in the Coachella Valley to ensure that overloaded/outdated septic systems are brought up to current standards, and actual and potential nuisance and water quality threats are addressed.
- ✦ Under the New River Improvement Project (AB 1079), continue implementing key surveillance and strategic regulatory programs to address New River pollution from Mexico and the Imperial Valley to ensure that the river meets State water quality standards.

## *Region 8 – Santa Ana Regional Water Board*

- ✦ Renew the General Dairy Permit for concentrated animal feeding operations to incorporate the latest USEPA regulations and court decisions.
- ✦ Conduct training classes and focused inspections of scrap metal facilities to facilitate implementation of various provisions of the sector-specific scrap metal permit adopted by the Regional Water Board in early 2012.
- ✦ Revise and/or update the nitrogen/total dissolved solids wasteload allocations for discharges from sewage treatment plants within the Region.
- ✦ Renew at least 80 percent of the 20 expired National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.
- ✦ Continue to work with stakeholders to develop and implement best management plan (BMP)-based control measures to address pollutants for which TMDLs have been approved or are being developed.
- ✦ Develop TMDLs for Newport Bay to address copper (largely from antifouling boat paint) and other metals.
- ✦ Update the Salt Management Plan (TDS/Nitrate-nitrogen) Maximum Benefit Plan for the Beaumont Groundwater Basin Management Zone.

## *Region 9 – San Diego Regional Water Board*

- ✦ Bring a single NPDES municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit for the regulation of all Phase I co-permittees in the San Diego Region to the Regional Water Board for adoption consideration.
- ✦ Continue development and implementation of the regional monitoring strategy, and the San Diego Bay cleanup and restoration plan.
- ✦ Develop a regional Strategic Vision that sets a path forward to achieve the highest priority environmental outcomes.

## *State Water Resources Control Board*

- ✦ Update Delta flow and other water quality objectives in the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.
- ✦ Work with State and local partners to develop in-stream flow recommendations for priority tributaries to protect beneficial uses.
- ✦ Amend the California Ocean Plan and the Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan to address impacts to aquatic life from the intakes and brine discharges associated with desalination facilities.
- ✦ Develop a Groundwater Strategic Workplan to better manage groundwater quality and supply throughout the State.
- ✦ Implement actions to correct water supply and treatment problems in disadvantaged communities as a result of nitrate contamination.
- ✦ Adopt a Statewide Water Quality Control Plan for Trash to address trash control in all of California's waterways.
- ✦ Adopt statewide stormwater permits for small municipalities and industrial facilities.
- ✦ Integrate stakeholder recommendations to reduce the cost of compliance with the Water Boards' regulatory programs that do not lessen water quality protections.
- ✦ Develop recommendations for integrating climate change considerations into Water Board regulatory and assistance programs.



**FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS IN THIS REPORT**

MS<sub>4</sub> – MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM

NPDES – NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

TMDL – TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD

USEPA – U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

UST – UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK

WDR – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

## *Our Vision*

*A sustainable California made possible by clean water and water availability for both human uses and environmental protection.*

## *Our Mission*

*To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.*

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., GOVERNOR  
 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

MATT RODRIQUEZ, SECRETARY  
 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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# CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

## North Coast Region

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast)

E-mail: [info1@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay)

E-mail: [info2@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info2@waterboards.ca.gov)

1515 Clay Street, #1400

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 622-2300 TEL

(510) 622-2460 FAX

## Central Coast Region

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast)

E-mail: [info3@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles)

E-mail: [info4@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley)

E-mail: [info5@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info5@waterboards.ca.gov)

11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(916) 464-3291 TEL

(916) 464-4645 FAX

### • Fresno Office

1685 E Street, Suite 200 Fresno, CA 93706

(559) 445-5116 TEL

(559) 445-5910 FAX

### • Redding Office

415 Knollcrest Drive

Redding, CA 96002

(530) 224-4845 TEL

(530) 224-4857 FAX

## Lahontan Region

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan)

E-mail: [info6@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info6@waterboards.ca.gov)

2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

(530) 542-5400 TEL

(530) 544-2271 FAX

### • Victorville Office

14440 Civic Drive, Suite 200

Victorville, CA 92392

(760) 241-6583 TEL

(760) 241-7308 FAX

## Colorado River Basin Region

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver)

E-mail: [info7@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana)

E-mail: [info8@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info8@waterboards.ca.gov)

3737 Main Street, Suite 500

Riverside, CA 92501-3339

(951) 782-4130 TEL

(951) 781-6288 FAX

## San Diego Region

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego)

E-mail: [info9@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info9@waterboards.ca.gov)

9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100

San Diego, CA 92123

(858) 467-2952 TEL

(858) 571-6972 FAX

## State Water Board

[www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

Email: [info@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info@waterboards.ca.gov)

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

P.O. Box 100

Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

(916) 341-5254 TEL

(916) 341-5252 FAX



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE ARE DOING, PLEASE SEE OUR WEB SITE AT [WWW.WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV](http://WWW.WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV), AND OUR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AT: [HTTP://WWW.WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV/ABOUT\\_US/PERFORMANCE\\_REPORT\\_1112/](http://WWW.WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV/ABOUT_US/PERFORMANCE_REPORT_1112/)