

CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS 2013 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.

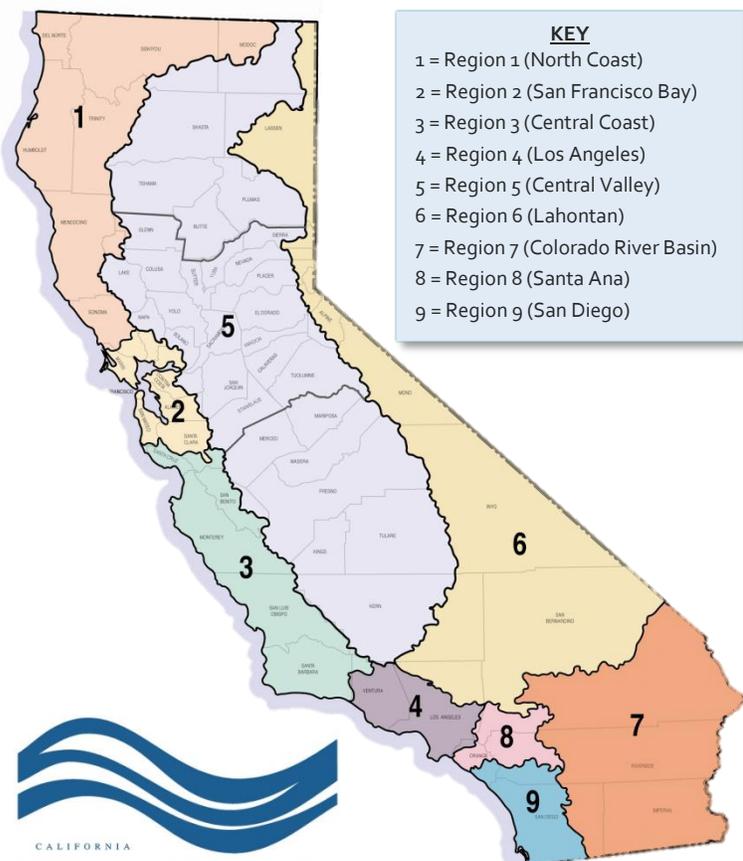
WHO WE ARE

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



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 coastal beaches, totaling over 630 miles.
- 200 million acre-feet of precipitation in an average water year.
- 46,000 acre-feet of groundwater used per day by Californians, more than any other state in the nation.

Water Boards' Workload Highlights (Fiscal Year 2012/2013)

- Almost 25,000 facilities regulated.
- More than 5,000 inspections conducted.
- More than 4,000 permits issued.
- Almost 5,000 enforcement actions.
- More than \$276 million in Clean Water State Revolving Funds allocated.
- Almost 39,000 water rights administered.

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Photo by: Dale Oliver, State Water Board staff.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Policy and Planning 2013 Accomplishments



Photo by: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Recycled Water Policy Amended to Address Public Health Concerns

In January 2013, the State Water Board adopted an amendment to its Recycled Water Policy (amendment). The original Recycled Water Policy (policy), adopted in 2009, emphasized the use of recycled water and the reuse of storm water as locally available, sustainable water supplies. The policy had several provisions that mandate monitoring constituents of emerging concern (CECs) in municipal recycled water. The policy also established an advisory panel, which is to reconvene every five years, to evaluate monitoring data, new information on CECs, potential health risks, treatment options, and public acceptability and confidence. The amendment incorporates the panel's 2010 recommendations, including establishing monitoring requirements for CECs in recycled water used for groundwater recharge. The amendment strengthens the policy by addressing public health concerns associated with using recycled water for

groundwater recharge to augment the municipal water supply. The amendment will help increase recycled water use and water sustainability in California. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_recycling_policy/draft_amendment_to_policy.shtml



Photo by: State Water Board staff.

Policy Adopted to Protect Fisheries in Northern California Coastal Streams

In October 2013, the State Water Board adopted a Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams. The policy establishes principles and guidelines for maintaining instream flows for the protection of fishery resources (specifically, steelhead trout, Coho salmon, and Chinook salmon) while minimizing the water supply impacts on other beneficial uses, including irrigation, municipal use, and domestic use. The policy, which extends to five counties (Marin, Sonoma, and portions of Napa, Mendocino, and Humboldt counties), applies to coastal streams from the Mattole River to San Francisco and coastal streams entering northern San Pablo Bay. The policy applies to applications to appropriate water, water right registrations, and

water right petitions. It establishes guidelines for evaluating whether a proposed water diversion, in combination with existing diversions in a watershed, may affect instream flows needed for the protection of fishery resources. The policy also prescribes protective criteria for limiting the season of diversion, establishes minimum bypass flows for all points of diversions, and limits the maximum cumulative rate of diversion from a watershed. For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/instream_flows

Drinking Water Policy Adopted for Delta and Upstream Tributaries

In July 2013, the Central Valley Regional Water Board approved an amendment to their Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan) to establish a Drinking Water Policy for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and its upstream tributaries. A critical drinking water supply for California, the Delta provides drinking water for more than 25 million people, approximately 60 percent of the State's population. As a surface drinking water source, the Delta is subject to State- and federally-imposed treatment requirements and regulations. The policy addresses five drinking water constituents of concern: *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, organic carbon, nutrients, and salinity. The amendment includes narrative water quality objectives for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*, implementation provisions for the narrative objectives, monitoring and surveillance provisions to support the policy, and clarification of the existing chemical constituents of concern. The Basin Plan amendment was approved by the State Water Board in December 2013.

For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/drinking_water_policy/



Photo by: Central Valley Regional Water Board staff.

Water Boards Respond to California's Historic Dry Year

2013 was the driest year on record in California, leading the Water Boards to take a number of actions to improve water management efforts and address the impacts of water shortages. In response to Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.'s Executive Order,¹ the State Water Board streamlined the approval process for voluntary water transfers. The State Water Board also issued water conservation guidelines to surface

water diverters for irrigation practices under dry year water shortage conditions.²

These efforts encouraged statewide water use efficiency, increased instream flows³ in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and alleviated impacts to the State's agricultural economy and fisheries resources. The Water Boards also amended the Recycled Water Policy,⁴ and certified three Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower projects,⁵ to increase recycled water use and support renewable energy, respectively. In December 2013, at the Governor's direction, the State Water Board joined an interagency Drought Task Force.⁶ The Task Force will review the State's preparedness in addressing the impacts of drought statewide, while protecting the public and natural resources. The State Water Board also has created a drought year water actions website to provide water users with important information about the State Water Board's 2013 actions and activities for 2014.⁷ [Footnotes on page 17.]



Photo by: Dale Oliver, State Water Board staff.

Wastewater Management

2013 Accomplishments

Comprehensive Permit for All Discharges from the San Diego Naval Base Approved

In August 2013, the San Diego Regional Water Board issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit regulating all discharges from the U.S. Naval Base San Diego Complex (NBSD Complex). The comprehensive permit consolidates regulation of industrial process wastewater and storm water discharges to San Diego Bay, and other waters, from 353 discharge points located throughout the NBSD Complex. The permit establishes requirements for all point source discharges, including municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) discharges, and implements allocations of pollutant discharges for water quality restoration strategies, known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The permit also requires toxicity testing, using the latest methods to measure the aggregate toxic effects of the discharges on specific test organisms, as a means of preventing and curtailing the discharge of toxic chemicals. The permit establishes three tiers of risk, based on the water quality threat posed by discharges. This tiered regulatory approach provides for more effective regulation of discharges from the NBSD Complex that present the greatest threat to water quality. For more information:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcbg/water_issues/programs/npdes/naval_base/naval_base.shtml



Photo by: Wikipedia Commons.



Photo by: City of Santa Rosa staff.

Permit Reissued to Address Nutrient Impairments in Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed

In November 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Board reissued NPDES permits for the City of Santa Rosa (City) and Town of Windsor for wastewater discharges to surface waters in the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed (Laguna). Master Water Reclamation (reclamation) permits also were reissued for the distribution and use of recycled water. The reissued NPDES and reclamation permits are an interim step in the development of the Laguna's Nutrient TMDL. Because the Laguna is currently listed as impaired for nutrients, including phosphorus, the NPDES permits limit the discharge of phosphorus to "no net loading." "No net loading" requires that loads from discharge points be equal to load reductions achieved through treatment upgrades, waste diversions, or the City's Santa Rosa Nutrient Offset

Program. The reclamation permits expand the City's recycled water use, in line with the State's goal to increase the use of recycled water to two million acre-feet per year by 2013. Until waste load allocations are calculated for the TMDL, the reissued permits will lead to improvements in water quality, increased water use efficiency, expanded use of recycled water, and protection of the Laguna's beneficial uses. For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/nutrient_offset_program/

Storm Water Management

2013 Accomplishments

Storm Water Permit Issued for Municipal Discharges in Coachella Valley

In June 2013, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board adopted an NPDES permit for MS4 discharges within Coachella Valley. The permit, which is the first Phase I MS4 permit for the Colorado River Basin Region, regulates urban storm water discharges in ten cities in Coachella Valley, two flood control districts, and Riverside County. The permit includes requirements to implement preventive measures to protect the quality of receiving waters within the region. The permit will also implement allocations of pollutant discharges for the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel Bacteria TMDL. The adoption of this permit will lead to improvements in storm water management and



Photo by: Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board staff.

efficiencies in regulating discharges from the Coachella Valley MS4 to improve water quality. The permit is an example of focused source control management in an arid desert environment where the annual average rainfall is less than 3.6 inches. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/stormwater/#mp1_program



Photo by: Christina Arias, San Diego Regional Water Board staff.

Region-wide Storm Water Permit Adopted for Municipal Discharges

In May 2013, the San Diego Regional Water Board issued the Regional MS4 Permit. The region-wide permit will jointly cover 39 municipal, county, and special district entities in southern Orange County, southwestern Riverside County, and San Diego County who own and operate large MS4s that discharge storm water runoff to inland surface waters throughout the region. The San Diego County entities were enrolled under the new region-wide permit upon its adoption. The Orange County and Riverside County entities will be enrolled in a phased manner as their current MS4 permits expire, or upon request for earlier coverage prior to permit expiration. The region-wide permit includes a requirement that each permittee develop a Water Quality Improvement Plan. The plans describe the highest priority pollutants or conditions in a specific watershed, strategies to address those pollutants or conditions, and time schedules associated with those strategies. The region-wide

permit takes a new adaptive management approach, providing permittees increased flexibility to focus their resources on the highest priority issues. The permit's watershed approach will uniformly regulate storm water runoff, better achieve regulatory consistency, and increase efficiency for both the San Diego Regional Water Board and the permittees. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water_issues/programs/stormwater/index.shtml

Statewide Storm Water Permit Adopted for Small Municipalities

In February 2013, the State Water Board adopted the Phase II Small MS4 General Permit. This statewide MS4 permit regulates storm water discharges from municipalities that serve populations of less than 100,000 persons. Urban storm water runoff is a significant source of water pollution that can negatively impact aquatic ecosystems and public health. The permit provides coverage for approximately 250 traditional (e.g., municipal government), and approximately 185 non-traditional (e.g., State and federal facilities, universities, and military bases), small municipal storm water systems. Developed after extensive public outreach and an intensive stakeholder process, the permit requirements focus on implementing low impact development (LID) design standards to prevent and reduce the impacts of urbanization, and to address California's growing population. Further, the permit prioritizes implementation efforts based on local water quality issues and concerns, including storm water discharges to impaired water bodies and coastal Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), and establishes new monitoring programs and reporting requirements for permittees. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml



Photo by: Los Angeles Times.



Photo by: State Water Board staff.

Statewide Low Impact Development Requirements Continue to Address Adverse Impacts from Storm Water Runoff

Impervious surfaces increase storm water runoff, which causes flooding, stream erosion, property damage, and carries pollutants to waters, potentially making them unsafe for recreation and wildlife. In 2013, the Water Boards required the implementation of LID practices to manage storm water throughout the State. The State Water Board adopted a statewide general permit that requires small MS4s to address storm water runoff through post-construction requirements (described above⁸), and funded LID projects throughout the State.⁹ Implementation of LID practices was also expanded by the Regional Water Boards. The Central Coast Regional Water Board's Post-Construction Storm Water Management Requirements,¹⁰ the San Diego Regional Water Board's region-wide MS4 permit (described above¹¹), the Central Valley Regional Water Board's new guidance manual for new development for the City of Modesto,¹² and the North

Coast Regional Water Board's Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification (401 Cert.) for a single family residence¹² all require LID strategies to be implemented for new development and significant redevelopment projects. By mimicking or preserving natural drainage processes to manage storm water, LID practices provide a low-cost, minimally-invasive approach to counteracting urban development's impacts on water quality, reduce the likelihood of flooding events, and promote groundwater recharge. [Footnotes on page 17.]

Nonpoint Source Controls

2013 Accomplishments

General Dairy Permit Adopted for Dairies and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in Santa Ana Region

In June 2013, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board reissued general Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR, a form of permit) for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs, mostly dairies) within the Santa Ana Region. The permit covers the management of animal manure and process water at CAFOs, including the application of these materials to croplands. The permit, which meets the latest federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to CAFO operations, requires the CAFOs to develop and implement a nutrient management plan and water quality control plan to prevent CAFO wastes, such as manure, from being discharged to surface waters. The permit also requires CAFO operators to track manure transfers, and to perform additional sampling and analysis during discharge and runoff events.

Developed in consultation with stakeholders, Regional Water Board staff were able to build consensus on some of the most controversial issues related to salt and nutrient management. Regulating approximately 130 facilities, housing about 172,000 animals, the permit encourages greater awareness of manure management issues by the CAFO operators to better achieve long-term regional water quality objectives. For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/dairies/



Photo by: Ed Kashak, Santa Ana Regional Water Board staff.



Photo by: The Nature Conservancy.

Nonpoint Source Program Expanded for North Coast Region

In 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Board expanded its Nonpoint Source Program through the adoption of several waivers and permits. In May 2013, a waiver of WDR and general 401 Cert. for road management and maintenance projects were adopted for the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (Siskiyou, Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino counties). Also in May 2013, a general WDR for Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans for the North Coast Region was adopted to address timber harvest, treatment of sediment discharge sites, and inspections. In November 2013, the Regional Water Board adopted a waiver of WDR and general 401 Cert. as part of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District's Permit Coordination Program. The waiver and general 401 Cert. promote high-quality conservation and restoration projects on farms, ranches, and forestland to support recovery of threatened and endangered salmon and trout. For more information on the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation

Program permit: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/pdf/2013/130502_13-0004_5C_Waiver.pdf

For more information on the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans permit:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/pdf/2013/130502_NTMP_WDR_13-0005.pdf

For more information on the Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program permit:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/pdf/2013/131120_0059_MendocinoCounty_waiver.pdf

Permit Adopted for Bard Valley Agricultural Discharges and Drain Operation and Maintenance Activities

In January 2013, 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 Bard Valley. The permit also regulates the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Bard Valley drainage system. Addressing both sources ensures that agricultural drainage discharges and O&M practices are not adversely impacting water quality in Bard Valley and Bard Valley drains, which flow into the Colorado River. The permit regulates approximately 7,000 acres of farmland in Bard Valley, and requires responsible parties to prepare and implement management plans to address the threat that their waste discharges pose to water quality. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/adopted_orders/orders/2013/0002bard.pdf



Photo by: Water Board staff.

Surface Water Quality Restoration

2013 Accomplishments

Water Quality Restoration Plans Completed for Ventura River, and Malibu Creek and Lagoon



Photo by: Copyright © 2002-2013 Kenneth and Gabrielle Adelman, California Coastal Records Project, www.californiacoastline.org.

2013 marked the end of the 14-year effort by the Los Angeles Regional Water Board to fulfill the requirements of the 1999 consent decree (court order) that required the completion of TMDLs for impaired waters. After the Regional Water Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) completed 47 TMDLs by March 2012, three TMDLs remained to be completed in 2013 under a negotiated extension. The Ventura River Algae TMDL, developed by the Regional Water Board, and the Malibu Creek and Lagoon TMDLs for Sedimentation and Nutrients, developed by USEPA, were adopted by the July 2013 deadline. The TMDLs require reductions of bacteria, nitrogen, phosphorus, mercury, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals that affect the Los Angeles Region's streams, lakes, rivers, and beaches. When fully implemented, the TMDLs will improve water quality, protect public health by providing cleaner beaches for swimming and safer fish to eat, and restore and maintain thriving ecosystems for fish and other aquatic life. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/

Plans Approved to Reduce Pollution to Lake Tahoe

In June 2013, the Lahontan Regional Water Board adopted pollutant load reduction plans to reduce fine sediment discharges into Lake Tahoe. The plans, part of the Lake Tahoe Sediment and Nutrient TMDL, include evaluating the benefits of water quality improvement projects constructed within the past five years, evaluating new water quality projects, and implementing methods to enhance road maintenance and operation. The 2011 Lake Tahoe Municipal NPDES Permit regulates urban runoff discharges on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. As part of the TMDL, the permit requires Placer County, El Dorado County, and the City of South Lake Tahoe (permittees) to reduce fine sediment from urban storm water flows by roughly 30 percent over the next 15 years, with 10 percent reduction targets for each five-year permit term. The plans describe how each permittee will reduce fine sediment discharges by the required 10 percent by 2016. Implementation of the plans will achieve the required sediment and nutrient reductions as established by the TMDL, restore 100-foot clarity in Lake Tahoe, and reduce algae in the near-shore areas. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/tmdl/lake_tahoe/npdes.shtml

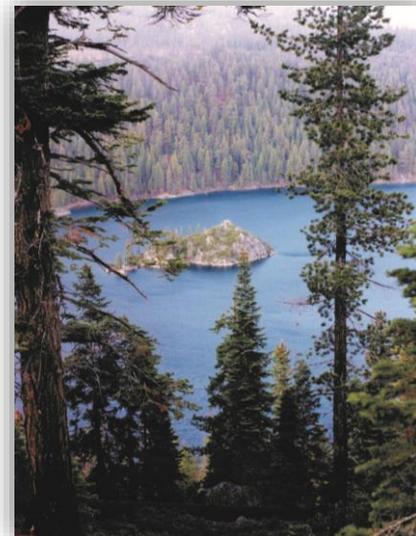


Photo by: Dale Oliver, State Water Board staff.

Permit Adopted for San Diego Shipyard Sediment Remediation Project



Photo by: National Steel and Shipbuilding Company.

In July 2013, the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted a permit for the San Diego Shipyard Sediment Remediation Project. The project calls for the remediation of a 150-acre contaminated sediment site located along the eastern shore of the San Diego Bay (Bay). For almost 100 years, shipyards and other industrial operators discharged pollutants to the Bay. A 2012 Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) required the remediation of approximately 143,000 cubic yards of contaminated Bay sediment. The project utilizes a variety of remedial techniques, including direct removal and sand cover placement, to attain target cleanup levels for various chemical constituents in the project area. Remediation actions began in September 2013. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcbg/water_issues/programs/shipyards_sediment/index.shtml

Permit Adopted for Port of Long Beach Maintenance Dredging

In October 2013, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board reissued a permit for the Port of Long Beach (POLB) for maintenance dredging activities within Long Beach Harbor. The second largest port in the United States, with more than \$140 billion in trade moving through annually, the POLB must perform maintenance dredging of berths and access channels within the harbor to become "big-ship ready," and to accommodate the newest fleet of large, deep-draft container vessels and ships. The permit requires that the removal and reuse of dredged materials be managed such that concentrations of toxic pollutants in the sediment do not adversely affect the harbor's beneficial uses, or adversely affect the receiving waters or adjacent areas. The permit increases the amount of material that can be dredged annually and includes requirements that dredged material be beneficially reused as fill for new land facilities as the



Photo by: Water Board staff.

growing port continues to expand. The permit provides the POLB greater operational flexibility to conduct routine maintenance dredging in response to changing needs. For more information: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/adopted_orders/by_year.shtml

Diazinon and Chlorpyrifos Reduced in the San Joaquin River

In 2013, the Central Valley Regional Water Board continued to take steps to address the pesticides diazinon and chlorpyrifos in the San Joaquin River (SJR). In the 1990s, diazinon and chlorpyrifos were frequently detected in the SJR at concentrations that exceeded standards and were toxic to aquatic life. In 2005, as part of the SJR Diazinon and Chlorpyrifos TMDL, the Regional Water Board established a control program for diazinon and chlorpyrifos runoff in the SJR basin. The control program is implemented through the Regional Water Board's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and agricultural area coalitions, which assist growers in complying with regulatory requirements by conducting surface water monitoring and preparing regional plans to address water quality problems. In May 2013, the coalitions reported that diazinon and chlorpyrifos concentrations in the SJR were well below protective water quality standards for the second consecutive year. The Regional Water Board, along with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, continues to work with stakeholders to implement practices that reduce concentrations of these pesticides and ensure that the management practices required by the TMDL are conducted. The established regulatory approaches and practices will help control other pesticides in the SJR as well. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/tmdl/central_valley_projects/san_joaquin_op_pesticide/index.shtml



Photo by: Central Valley Regional Water Board staff.

San Francisco Bay Long-Term Management Strategy Achieves Dredging Goals

In August 2013, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board, along with other State and federal agencies, released the findings of the 12-year review of the Long-Term Management Strategy [LTMS] for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region Management Plan (Plan). The review found that the Plan has been successfully implemented to date and that the goal to reduce in-Bay disposal to no more than 1.25 million cubic yards (MCY) of dredged sediment per year by 2012 had been met. Between 2000 and 2012, approximately 48 MCY of

sediment was dredged from the Bay, maintaining the Bay's navigation channels. Of the removed sediment, more than 19 MCY (39 percent) of the dredged material was placed at beneficial reuse sites, which reduced dredging impacts to the Bay and accelerated the wetland restoration process. The review also found that the Plan has been integrated into the mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) TMDL implementation programs. Dredging projects reduced mercury and pesticide contaminants in the Bay, and the LTMS sediment testing program provided additional monitoring data, which increased public trust that the Bay's health is being appropriately protected. Based on the review, the Plan has been successfully implemented and its goals remain appropriate. The review proposed minor changes to the implementation of the LTMS to: accommodate changing, or add flexibility to, in-Bay disposal volume limits; and encourage more, and new kinds of, beneficial reuse. For more information:

<http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Portals/68/docs/Dredging/LMTS/Final%20Review/LTMS%202012-Year%20Review%20Final%20Report.pdf>



Photo by: Water Board staff.



Photo by: Audubon Society.

Aramburu Island Restoration Completed

In 2013, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board completed its role as project manager on the Aramburu Island Enhancement Project. Funded by the State Cleanup and Abatement Account and enforcement penalties, the restoration project transformed Aramburu Island in Richardson Bay, Marin County, from a construction debris disposal site to a 17-acre wildlife refuge. The project incorporated ecological principles and practices to reduce erosion and stabilize shorelines. The project also enhanced habitat along the island's eastern shoreline for improved shorebird and harbor seal access and use. Aramburu Island's renovated landscape supports a suite of new habitats emulating the historical ecosystem, including a sand and gravel beach, high tidal marsh, native seasonal wetlands, and lowland grasslands. Post-construction monitoring results indicate that birds are flocking to the island, which provided nesting ground for over 50 Caspian Terns in spring 2013. For more information: <http://richardsonbay.audubon.org/aramburu-island>

Reports Addressing Pollutants in Sport Fish and on Toxicity in Urbanized Watersheds Released

In 2013, the State Water Board released two reports on the findings of statewide surveys of contaminants in sport fish, and toxicity and pollutant concentrations in stream sediment. The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) report, *Contaminants in Fish from California Rivers and Streams, 2011*, summarizes the findings of the first systematic statewide survey of sport fish contaminants in California's rivers and streams. The SWAMP report identifies sport fish that have the highest risk of contaminants that could be harmful to humans, and provides information on potential human exposure to contaminants. Concentrations of contaminants, such as methylmercury and pesticides, in sport fish were found to be low at the majority of sampling locations. One area of concern was the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region where fish high in the food chain showed accumulation of methylmercury.

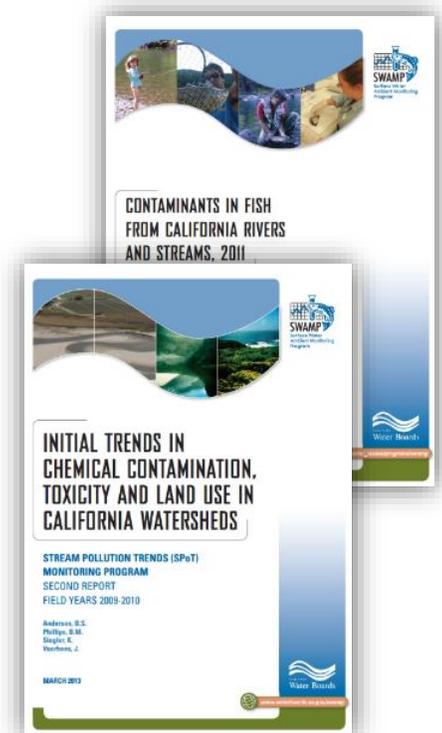
The Stream Pollution Trends (SPoT) Program released its second year report, *Initial Trends in Chemical Contamination, Toxicity and Land Use in California Watersheds*, which summarizes the 2009-2010 survey findings, and identifies how stream pollution concentrations are affected by urban and agricultural land use. The SPoT report found that levels of most pollutants, including industrial compounds, some metals, and many pesticides, were higher in urban areas than in agricultural or open areas. Pyrethroid pesticides were the only chemicals found to have increasing trends in both the number of detections and measured concentrations.

For more information on the SWAMP report:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/rivers_study.shtml

For more information on the SPoT report:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/workplans/spotrpt.pdf



Groundwater Protection and Cleanup

2013 Accomplishments



Photo by: Central Coast Regional Water Board staff.

Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Implemented for Central Coast Irrigated Agriculture Program

In September 2013, the State Water Board issued a Water Quality Order (State Order) supporting, but modifying, the Central Coast Regional Water Board's 2012 conditional waiver of WDR and Monitoring and Reporting Program for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Central Coast Order). As modified by the State Order, the Central Coast Order requires farmers, or coalitions of farmers, to prioritize drinking water sampling and assessment for nitrate, and notify well users if those nitrate levels exceed public health standards for drinking water. Furthermore, the Central

Coast Order requires some farmers to report the amount of nitrogen they apply to crops. The State Order also directs an expert panel to be convened to provide a more thorough analysis and long-term statewide recommendations regarding issues related to the impact of agricultural discharge on groundwater and surface water. Along with revisions directed by the State Order, the Central Coast Order will provide enhanced implementation and monitoring of agricultural management practices, and monitoring of water quality. For more information on the State Order: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality/a2209centralcoast_ag.shtml

For more information on the Central Coast Order:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml

Underground Storage Tank Local Oversight Program Implemented

In January 2013, the State Water Board adopted Underground Storage Tank (UST) Local Oversight Program (LOP) Procedures and Criteria for Certification (Certification) of LOP agencies to oversee UST Cleanup Program actions. Assembly Bill (AB) 1701 required that after July 1, 2013 only certified LOP agencies and Regional Water Boards be authorized to implement a program for the abatement, and abatement oversight, of unauthorized releases of hazardous substances from USTs. Adoption of the Certification fulfills the State Water Board's requirements under AB 1701. By the end of 2013, 21 LOP agencies had been certified. Over 500 open Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) cases (under the jurisdiction of 31 local agencies that did not receive LOP certification) were transferred to the Regional Water Boards. To date, all case files have been scanned and uploaded to GeoTracker GAMA (Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment), the Water Board's data management system for groundwater sites. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/lop.shtml



Photo by: Sullivan International Group, Inc.



Photo by: Water Board staff.

Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Cases Closed

In 2013, the State Water Board directed its Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (UST Cleanup Fund) staff to review, in coordination with other regulatory agencies, 541 UST cases that had previously been recommended for closure consideration using the Board's 2012 Low-Threat UST Case Closure Policy. The policy established consistent statewide case closure criteria and increased process efficiency of case closures for low-threat, petroleum-impacted UST sites that no longer pose a threat to human health, safety, and the environment. Approximately 90 percent of the recommended UST cases met the closure criteria. By the end of 2013, 238 cases had been closed and the remaining cases that met the closure criteria are in the closure process. Most case closures are expected to be completed by July 1, 2014. For more information: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/lt_cls_plcy.shtml

Permit Adopted for In-Situ Remediation of Groundwater

In May 2013, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board adopted a general WDR for the in-situ remediation of groundwater within the Santa Ana Region. In-situ remediation provides a cost-effective alternative to traditional methods of groundwater remediation, such as pump and treat, with minimal disruption to the properties and businesses located above the contaminated groundwater plume. Developed in collaboration with stakeholders, the region-wide WDR incorporates the latest technological advances, and ensures the protection of groundwater and the environment by requiring that treatment technologies (i.e., chemicals and other reactive materials known as amendments) be contained within treatment area boundaries. The WDR also requires extensive monitoring to ensure that the amendments do not cause an adverse water quality impact and are effective remediation practices. The WDR streamlines the permitting process, and provides permittees with uniform and consistent discharge and monitoring requirements for in-situ groundwater remediation projects within the Santa Ana Region. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/board_decisions/adopted_orders/orders/2013/13_029_InSitu_WDR_final.pdf



Photo by: Nick Amini, Santa Ana Regional Water Board staff.

Continued Cleanup of Chromium-Contaminated Groundwater in Hinkley

In July 2013, the Lahontan Regional Water Board certified the final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) on the Comprehensive Groundwater Cleanup Strategy for Historical Chromium Discharges from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Hinkley Compressor Station. PG&E is responsible for extensive groundwater contamination in the Town of Hinkley that resulted from discharging wastewater from cooling towers to unlined ponds. The FEIR is a required first step to support future decisions by the Regional Water Board related to implementing a comprehensive cleanup strategy, including new CAOs and a general WDR. In December 2013, the Regional Water Board circulated for public review a draft WDR for expanded agricultural land treatment of hexavalent chromium discharges. The WDR will be considered for Regional Water Board adoption in March 2014. Also in 2013, PG&E fulfilled the requirement of a June 2012 CAO to provide a permanent replacement water source to all Hinkley domestic well users in the area with detectable chromium concentrations in groundwater. PG&E completed installation of individual whole house water systems for the second (and final) priority group of 35 residents. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml



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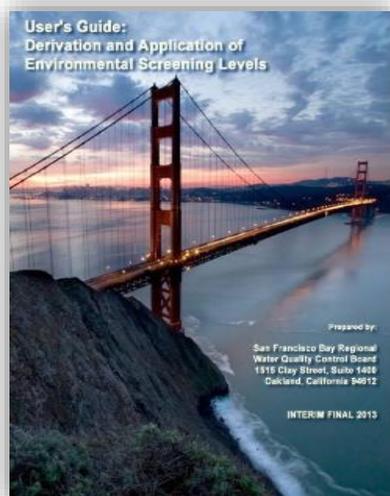
Reports on Groundwater Contamination Released

In 2013, the State Water Board submitted two reports to the Governor and Legislature that addressed groundwater contamination. Due to California's reliance on groundwater, and because many communities are entirely reliant on groundwater for drinking, contamination of this resource has far-reaching consequences. An estimated 85 percent of California's community public water systems, supplying more than 30 million residents, rely on groundwater for at least part of their drinking water supply. Many groundwater basins are contaminated with either naturally-occurring or human-caused pollutants.

The first report, *Communities that Rely on a Contaminated Groundwater Source for Drinking Water*, was submitted in January 2013. Developed pursuant to AB 2222, the report identified communities that rely on contaminated groundwater as a primary source of drinking water, and potential solutions and funding sources to ensure the provision of safe drinking water. While an estimated 98 percent of Californians using a public water supply receive safe drinking water, 680 community water systems (serving nearly 21 million residents) were found to be reliant on a contaminated groundwater source between 2002 and 2010. Thirty-one principal contaminants were identified in the community water systems: arsenic was the most detected naturally-occurring principal contaminant (287 systems), and nitrate was the most detected human-caused principal contaminant (205 systems). Although many water suppliers draw from contaminated groundwater sources, most are able to treat the water, or blend it with cleaner supplies, before providing it to the public. The report outlines three possible solutions to address groundwater pollution: pollution prevention, cleanup of contaminated groundwater, or providing safe drinking water through treatment or alternative supplies (where pollution prevention and cleanup is not feasible). The report also notes that public funding sources for alternative water supplies or treatment are limited.

The second report, *Recommendations Addressing Nitrate in Groundwater*, was submitted in February 2013 and makes 15 recommendations to address the impacts of nitrate-contaminated groundwater. Nitrate contamination in groundwater is widespread throughout California with the primary source coming from fertilizing materials in irrigated agricultural areas. Developed pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) X2 1, the report focuses on the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley areas, where approximately 2.6 million people rely on groundwater for their drinking water. The recommendations rely significantly on a 2012 University of California, Davis technical report, as well as input from the Governor's Drinking Water Stakeholder Group and an Interagency Task Force representing State and local agencies. The recommendations reflect a comprehensive strategy focused on the following four key areas: providing safe drinking water; monitoring, assessment, and notification; nitrogen application and reporting; and protecting groundwater. Many of the report recommendations rely on identifying a funding source for successful implementation, such as the need for long-term funding to address needs in disadvantaged communities. For more information on the *Communities that Rely on a Contaminated Groundwater Source for Drinking Water* report: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gama/ab2222/ For more information on the *Recommendations Addressing Nitrate in Groundwater* report: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nitrate_project/





San Francisco Bay Environmental Screening Levels Updated

In May 2013, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board completed a major update to its Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs). The ESLs address over 100 chemicals commonly found at sites with contaminated soil and groundwater. The ESLs address a range of media (e.g., soil, groundwater, soil gas, and indoor air) and a range of concerns (e.g., impacts to drinking water, vapor intrusion, and impacts to aquatic life). The 2013 update makes significant changes in vapor intrusion screening levels that reflect changes in how the Regional Water Board evaluates vapor intrusion. Soil gas ESLs and groundwater ESLs for vapor intrusion were reduced to approximately half their 2008 values, which is consistent with California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) guidance. The ESLs are widely used by regulators and dischargers to help expedite the identification and evaluation of potential environmental concerns at contaminated sites. The accompanying ESL User Guide was updated in December 2013. The regular update of the ESLs is key to ensuring that the Regional Water Board can protectively and efficiently close contaminated sites. For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb2/water_issues/programs/esl.shtml

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

2013 Accomplishments

San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Requirements Under Review

In March 2013, the State Water Board held a public hearing on its proposal to increase flows in the Tuolumne, Merced, Stanislaus, and Lower San Joaquin rivers, and to improve water quality in the southern Sacramento-San Joaquin 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 hearing was held to receive comments on the adequacy of the draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED), which was prepared to support the first phase of a proposed update to the Bay-Delta Plan. The SED evaluates the potential environmental impacts that may be associated with the proposed changes to the Bay-Delta Plan and will identify mitigation measures for any significant impacts. In response to comments received both at the March 2013 hearing and during a written comment period, the State Water Board will release a revised draft SED for public comment in early 2014. For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/2012_sed/



Photo by: State Water Board staff.

Financial Assistance

2013 Accomplishments



Photo by: State Water Board staff.

More Than \$97 Million in Water Projects Funded

In 2013, the State Water Board administered the financing of 27 projects worth more than \$97 million to improve water management and water quality. The projects were funded through the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program and the Storm Water Grant Program (SWGPs). Since 2007, the IRWM Grant Program (funded by Proposition 50) has awarded approximately \$365 million to IRWM groups for projects that promote IRWM practices, protect communities from drought, improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water. In 2013, the second (and final) round of the IRWM Grant Program funded four IRWM projects worth more

than \$56 million. The first round of the SWGP (funded by Proposition 84) funded 23 storm water management projects, including LID projects, totaling more than \$41 million. SWGP provides grants to local public agencies for the implementation phase of projects managing storm water runoff to reduce flooding and surface water pollution. SWGP also opened a second round of solicitations for additional storm water projects. The second round of SWGP funding will consist of LID implementation projects. For more information on the IRWM Grant Program: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/irwmgp/index.shtml
For more information on SWGP: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/prop84/index.shtml

State Water Board Finances Water Recycling Projects Worth More than \$61 Million

In 2013, the State Water Board funded more than \$61 million worth of water recycling projects. The State Water Board's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program financed \$55 million worth of construction projects to build new water recycling treatment and distribution facilities throughout California. The SRF-funded projects promote the beneficial use of treated municipal wastewater. The State Water Board also provided \$5.9 million in construction grants and \$290,000 in planning grants, using State bond funds, to construct or assess the feasibility of constructing water recycling facilities. The funded water recycling projects augment fresh water supplies, help manage the State's water supply under drought conditions, and increase local water supply reliability, a strategy critical to implementing California's Water Action Plan. The State Water Board also provided technical assistance to agencies and other stakeholders in support of water recycling projects and research. For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/water_recycling/

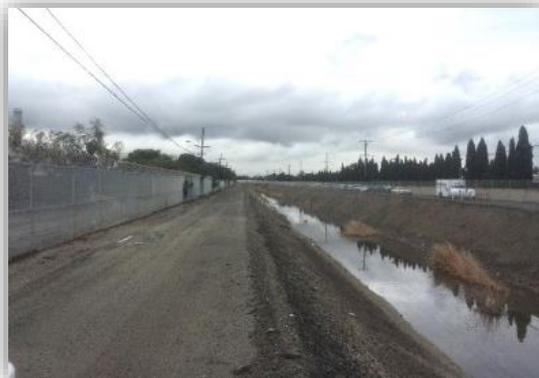


Photo by: State Water Board staff.

Enforcement

2013 Accomplishments



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Settlement Agreement Reached With City of Brawley for Water Code Violations

In September 2013, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board assessed a \$1 million Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) fine against the City of Brawley (City) for violations of its NPDES permit, and for failure to develop and implement a pretreatment program for industrial wastewater. Between 2001 and 2012, the City's wastewater treatment plant repeatedly violated its permit due to high concentrations of ammonia in inadequately pretreated industrial wastewater discharges from a slaughterhouse into the City's wastewater treatment plant. In 2008, the Regional Water Board issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) requiring the City to develop and implement a pretreatment program. Although the City established a surcharge system based on industrial wastewater flows into the wastewater treatment plant,

pretreatment limits were never established. The fine has prompted the City to complete development and implementation of its pretreatment program to reduce its major industrial discharges. The ACL is the largest fine ever adopted by the Regional Water Board. For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/hot_topics/city_of_brawley.shtml

Enforcement Actions Lead to Criminal Conviction for Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund Fraud

In June 2013, the State Water Board, working with the California Attorney General's Office, secured its first felony conviction for fraud against the UST Cleanup Fund. Also in 2013, the State Water Board assisted California Department of Justice agents with search warrants served on several California-based environmental consultants for fraud investigations. The goal of these enforcement efforts is to deter other environmental remediation claimants and contractors from submitting fraudulent claims to the UST Cleanup Fund. The UST Cleanup Fund has reimbursed



Stock photo.

more than \$3.3 billion since its inception in 1992. The Water Boards are committed to investigating and prosecuting claimants and consultants submitting fraudulent claims to the UST Cleanup Fund. In April 2013, the State Water Board permanently established the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Prevention Unit to continue investigating cases of fraud against the UST Cleanup Fund.

For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/orders_actions.shtml#a2013

Cleanup and Abatement Order Issued to Rancho Guejito Corporation for Unauthorized Discharges

In April 2013, the San Diego Regional Water Board issued a CAO to Rancho Guejito Corporation (RGC) that requires the remediation of the effects of unauthorized discharges of debris and sediment resulting from road construction. RGC performed unauthorized road construction and grading that resulted in the discharge of soil and sediment into Guejito Creek and its tributaries. Additionally, RGC placed earthen fill material in at least five tributaries of Guejito Creek, obstructing natural water flow. RGC's actions resulted in the permanent removal of sensitive native habitat, directly threatening the designated beneficial uses of Guejito Creek and its tributaries. The CAO requires the removal of waste and abatement of the effects of road-grading sediment discharges, the implementation of erosion control measures, the restoration of the creek and tributaries to pre-grading conditions, and the restoration of native vegetation. Also in 2013, the Regional Water Board approved RGC'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/rwqcb9/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2013/R9-2013-0009.pdf



Photo by: State Water Board staff.



Photo by: Central Valley Regional Water Board staff.

Settlement Agreement Reached with Equilon Enterprises for Water Code Violations

In November 2013, the Central Valley Regional Water Board entered into a settlement agreement with Equilon Enterprises, LLC (Equilon) for an ACL of \$500,000 for failure to submit groundwater monitoring reports, and annual evaluations of remediation actions and site conditions for its Bakersfield Refinery. In 2007, the Regional Water Board issued a CAO requiring Equilon to submit the reports and evaluations for groundwater cleanup of petroleum hydrocarbons. As a result of enforcement actions, Equilon has achieved compliance with reporting requirements. Half of the assessment (\$250,000) will fund two Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs). The first SEP will assist West Goshen, a severely disadvantaged community whose drinking

water groundwater source is contaminated by nitrates. The SEP will connect West Goshen to an alternative drinking water distribution system, providing a reliable clean drinking water source. The second SEP will be used to re-plant native vegetation (including cottonwood, sycamore, and valley oak) on the Panorama Vista Preserve along the Kern River in Bakersfield. The remaining \$250,000 was paid to the State Cleanup and Abatement Account in December 2013. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/kern/r5-2013-0585_stip.pdf

Enforcement Action Ensures Replacement Drinking Water Sources

In March 2013, the Central Coast Regional Water Board issued a CAO to ensure safe drinking water for the community of San Lucas. For at least two years, residents of San Lucas have used bottled water because the local drinking water well is polluted by nitrate from fertilizer. The CAO requires the landowner and farm operator of Las Colinas Ranch to provide uninterrupted interim and long-term replacement water service to San Lucas residents. The CAO is unusual in that the landowner and farm operator were already working with the San Lucas County Water District and Monterey County to provide replacement water. The landowner and farm operator are also working with local housing agencies and officials to find a long-term solution to the local drinking water problems. The CAO acknowledges the landowner and farm operator's proactive efforts. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb3/press_room/press_releases/docs/Revised_San_Lucas_CAO.pdf



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Data Accessibility Enhancements

2013 Accomplishments

California Water Quality Monitoring Council Enhances Data Transparency



Photo by: David Rosen, Wildside Photography.

In 2013, the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Council) enhanced access to water quality and ecosystem information and assessments produced by the Water Boards, and numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Council, a partnership between the California Environmental Protection Agency boards, departments, and office (including the State Water Board) and the California Natural Resources Agency, was established to integrate and coordinate water quality and related ecosystem monitoring, assessment, and reporting. The Council's My Water Quality website houses the largest collection of water quality and ecosystem health data ever available about our State's water resources. The website provides public access to important water quality questions and provides water quality professionals the data visualization tools necessary to make the best use of data. In October 2013, the California Estuaries portal

and the California Tide Pools portal were added to the website, providing information on the health of the State's estuaries, with an initial emphasis on the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary, and the State's rocky intertidal habitats, commonly known as "tide pools," respectively. Also in June 2013, the Council released EcoAtlas, a website that provides wetland health assessments and tracks wetland restoration. The portals represent a collaborative effort to improve the delivery of water quality and ecosystem health information to decision-makers and the public.

For more information on My Water Quality: <http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/>

For more information on EcoAtlas: <http://www.ecoatlas.org/>

Program Efficiencies

2013 Accomplishments

Streamlined Registrations Completed for Small Domestic Use and Livestock Stockpond Use

In April 2013, the State Water Board adopted revised General Conditions for Small Domestic Use and Livestock Stockpond Use Registrations. Developed as part of an effort to streamline the existing Water Rights Registration Program, the new process applies to the registration of water diversions for small domestic use and livestock stockpond use (less than 10 acre-feet of water per year or 4,500 gallons per day). The streamlined registration process, which was developed in consultation with agricultural and fisheries stakeholders, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), provides a timely and effective approach to approving these relatively small appropriations. In April 2013, the State Water Board and CDFW were recognized by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz) as the inaugural Streamlining Superstars for their collaborative work with stakeholders to simplify the registration program. For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/registrations/



Photo by: State Water Board staff.

Water Boards Work to Reduce Costs of Compliance for Dischargers

Beginning in 2012, four stakeholder groups (representing wastewater, storm water, and agricultural dischargers) were formed to evaluate the costs of complying with Water Board regulations, permits, and policies to identify potential cost savings while still protecting the State's waters. In June 2013, two wastewater stakeholder groups submitted reports documenting their findings and recommendations for reducing costs of compliance. Based on these recommendations, the State Water Board adopted Resolution 2013-0029 in September 2013, which directed Water Board staff to implement measures intended to reduce compliance costs and improve efficiency, including: streamlining

sanitary sewer spill reporting requirements; forming a workgroup to identify any additional steps required to ensure a transparent, consistent, and efficient process for issuance and reissuance of individual NPDES permits; and piloting the use of cost considerations in developing Water Board policy. Water Board staff will continue to work with the stakeholder groups to implement Resolution 2013-0029 and further develop other feasible recommendations for reducing compliance costs.

For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/rap/

Water Rights

2013 Accomplishments

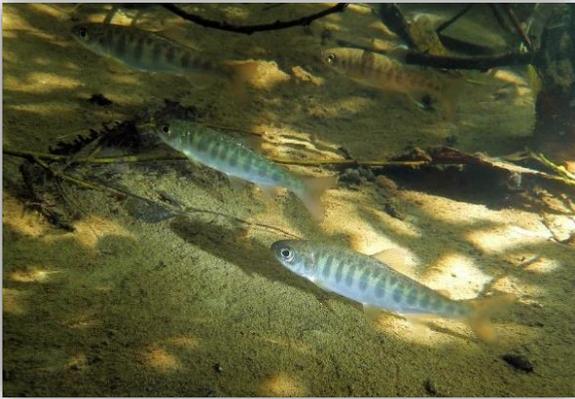


Photo by: Matthew Coleman, Mendocino Land Trust.

Increased Instream Flows for Fish and Improved Water Management

In 2013, the State Water Board increased instream flows through water transfers and voluntary water dedications. During a four-month period (April-July), the State Water Board expedited the approval of 14 temporary water transfers involving 46 water rights. The transfers totaled 277,283 acre-feet of water and increased instream flows in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta from July 1 through September 30, 2013. The transferred water provided an alternative water supply for municipal and industrial use, irrigation, water quality purposes (including salinity control and other instream uses), and wildlife enhancement during times when water was otherwise unavailable.

Also in 2013, the State Water Board approved long-term changes to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's water rights at the Solano and Friant projects to dedicate additional instream flows for fish. In May 2013, the State Water

Board approved re-operation of the Solano Project at Lake Berryessa to increase stream flows with the purpose of protecting fish-rearing habitat in lower Putah Creek. In October 2013, changes were approved for the Friant Project at Millerton Lake, located on the San Joaquin River. The changes allow water to be released from Friant Dam to the river channel to support fish and wildlife, and then to be diverted for other uses farther downstream. Together, these two projects improved water management, through water transfers and dedication of additional instream flows, and increased instream flows in California's rivers beyond what they would have otherwise been in 2013. For more information on water transfers: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_transfers/

For more information on instream flow dedication:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/instream_flow_dedication/

Online Water Diversion Reporting Compliance Improved

In 2013, the State Water Board increased enforcement efforts that resulted in improved online reporting of water diversions, which essentially reflect water use in California. Stakeholders who divert and use water from the State's lakes, creeks, streams, rivers, and subterranean streams are required to report their monthly and annual water diversions and use to the State Water Board. Failure to file the water diversion reports is subject to enforcement action. During 2013, 31 Draft ACLs, 285 Draft CDOs, and 24 Final CDOs 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. Between 2011 and 2012 (the most current data available), reporting compliance increased for water right permits (from 76 percent to 86 percent), licenses (from 62 percent to 70 percent), and statements of water diversion and use (from 87 percent to 95 percent). Reporting is necessary to monitor statewide diversions and water use. The reports also provide information for water availability analysis and environmental studies of the State's streams. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/enforcement



Photo by: State Water Board staff.

Renewable Energy Projects

2013 Accomplishments



Photo by: American Whitewater.

Water Quality Certifications Issued for Hydropower Projects

In 2013, the State Water Board issued 401 Certs. for three FERC hydropower projects: Eagle Mountain Pump Storage Project, Fire Mountain Lodge Hydroelectric Project, and Upper American River Hydroelectric Project. Valid for 30-50 years, the 401 Certs. require hydroelectric projects to protect water quality and beneficial uses. They also dictate what the projects can build and use to harness the power of water, and the types of mitigation measures that must be implemented to protect environmental resources. The 401 Certs. require new minimum instream flows, ramping rates (i.e., how quickly permittees are allowed to alter stream flows), and other measures to protect environmental resources while providing for municipal and irrigation water uses. In November 2013, the State Water Board and FERC executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to coordinate pre-application activities between the two agencies. The MOU will improve the timeliness of the licensing process while making the most efficient use of staff resources and ensuring that each agency maintains its independent authority. For more information: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/

Solar, Wind, and Geothermal Projects Permitted to Develop California's Renewable Energy Resources

California has one of the most ambitious renewable energy programs in the nation, with a target of procuring 33 percent of its electric energy from renewable sources by 2020.¹⁴ In 2013, the Water Boards continued to support the development of California's renewable energy resources by permitting renewable energy projects in the Water Boards' Lahontan and Colorado River Basin regions. Two solar energy projects were permitted, one by the Lahontan Regional Water Board,¹⁵ and one by the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board,¹⁶ which will utilize light and heat radiating from the sun to generate a combined 500 megawatts of electricity for the State. Additionally, the Lahontan Regional Water Board permitted a wind project¹⁷ that will harness the wind's energy to generate 153 megawatts of electricity. The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board also permitted a geothermal project¹⁸ that will use the internal heat of the Earth's crust to generate electricity to operate the John L. Featherstone Power Plant located at the project site, and to recover the valuable metal, lithium, for industrial application. Together, the projects help realize California's renewable energy goals. [Footnotes below.]



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Water Boards Respond to California's Historic Dry Year (page 3)

- ¹ For more information on the Governor's Executive Order: <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18048>
- ² For more information on Water Conservation in Irrigation guidelines: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/delta_watermaster/docs/notice_sws2013.pdf
- ³ For more information on water transfers and instream flow dedication, see "Increased Instream Flows for Fish and Improved Water Management" on page 16.
- ⁴ For more information on the Recycled Water Policy amendment, see "Recycled Water Policy Amended to Address Public Health Concerns" on page 2.
- ⁵ For more information on the FERC projects, see "Water Quality Certifications Issued for Hydropower Projects" on page 17.
- ⁶ For more information on the Drought Task Force: <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions/drought/docs/Govs%20drought%20letter%20dec%202013.pdf>
- ⁷ For more information on State Water Board Drought Year Water Actions: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/index.shtml

State Low Impact Development Implementation Efforts Continue to Address Adverse Impacts from Storm Water Runoff (page 5)

- ⁸ For more information on the State Water Board MS4 General Permit, see "Statewide Storm Water Permit Adopted for Small Municipalities" on page 5.
- ⁹ For more information on funded LID projects, see "More than \$97 Million in Water Projects Funded" on page 12.
- ¹⁰ For more information on the Central Coast Region post-construction requirements: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/lid/lid_hydromod_charette_index.shtml
- ¹¹ For more information on the San Diego Regional MS4 Permit, see "Region-wide Storm Water Permit Adopted for Municipal Discharges" on page 5.
- ¹² For more information on the Colorado River Basin Region's solar energy project: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/adopted_orders/orders/2013/0005genesis_wdr.pdf
- ¹³ For more information on the North Coast Region 401 Certification: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/water_quality_certification/pdf/2013/130920_SiennaCourtResidnece_401.pdf

Solar, Wind, and Geothermal Projects Permitted to Develop California's Renewable Energy Resources (page 17)

- ¹⁴ For more information California's goal of 33 percent renewable energy by 2020: <http://gov38.ca.gov/index.php?executive-order/11072/>
- ¹⁵ For more information on the Lahontan Region's solar energy project, contact the Lahontan Regional Water Board, South Lake Tahoe office: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/>
- ¹⁶ For more information on the Colorado River Basin Region's solar energy project: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/adopted_orders/orders/2013/0005genesis_wdr.pdf
- ¹⁷ For more information on the Lahontan Region's wind energy projects, contact the Lahontan Regional Water Board, Victorville office: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/>
- ¹⁸ For more information on the Colorado River Basin Region's geothermal project: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/adopted_orders/orders/2013/0059hudson_wdr.pdf

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2014



Photo by: Dale Oliver, State Water Board staff.

At the time of publication of this report, with little water remaining in storage and 2014 forecasted to be one of the driest years on record, the State was in the grip of a severe drought. Accordingly, actions to address drought will be among the highest priorities statewide for the Water Boards in 2014.

Region 1 – North Coast Regional Water Board

- ✦ Adopt a Temperature Policy and TMDL Action Plans for the Eel, Navarro, and Mattole rivers.
- ✦ Develop a sediment TMDL and WDR for the Upper Elk River for Regional Water Board consideration.
- ✦ Develop a Basin Plan amendment for chemical constituents objectives for Regional Water Board consideration.
- ✦ Develop an Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Policy for Regional Water Board consideration.
- ✦ Advance the Watershed Stewardship Approach within the Klamath Basin and Mendocino County coastal watersheds.
- ✦ Continue development of the re-scoped Agricultural Lands Discharge Program.

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 or permits for grazing activities and vineyards, implementing the regional urban storm water permit, and directing grants toward watershed restoration actions.
- ✦ Pursue aggressive enforcement, with an emphasis on sewage spills, trash and debris discharges, and polluted storm water discharges.
- ✦ Develop and implement a nutrient strategy for the San Francisco Bay, focusing on developing the science to support nutrient water quality objective development, monitoring, modeling, and load reductions.
- ✦ Close low-risk contaminated groundwater sites upon completion of investigation and cleanup actions, with an emphasis on sites needing cleanup before their restoration or redevelopment, and develop a regulatory strategy for addressing dry cleaner spill sites, in light of the challenges in getting such sites cleaned up.

Region 3 – Central Coast Regional Water Board

- ✦ Implement the Domestic Well Sampling Project region-wide.
- ✦ Implement LID Post-Construction Storm Water Management Requirements.
- ✦ Fully implement the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program region-wide based on newly-adopted requirements, and evaluate compliance and progress toward water quality improvement based on key program metrics (e.g., groundwater reporting, nitrate exceedances, and nitrogen application reporting).
- ✦ Prepare for climate change by promoting and assisting local entities with issues related to recycled water and water transfers.
- ✦ Work with stakeholders to initiate the development of a long-term management strategy for the Salinas River Channel Maintenance Program.

Region 4 – Los Angeles Regional Water Board

- ✦ Collaborate with USEPA, DTSC, and the State Water Board on long-range plans to address groundwater volatile organic compound plumes in the Los Angeles Region.
- ✦ Implement the Los Angeles County MS4 Permit, including review of the draft Watershed Management Programs and workplans for Enhanced Watershed Management Programs.
- ✦ Incorporate programs of implementation into the Basin Plan for the management of salts and nutrients in major groundwater basins in the Los Angeles Region, per the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy.
- ✦ Improve public outreach to communities adjacent to groundwater cleanups, and continue cleanups and off-site assessments (including the chromium groundwater investigation in the San Fernando Valley).
- ✦ Initiate NPDES permit renewals for power plants.
- ✦ Increase enforcement on storm water non-filers and permit violations with a focus on: metal recycling facilities; plastic manufacturing facilities; and oil and gas exploration, drilling, transmission, and storage facilities.

Region 5 – Central Valley Regional Water Board

- ✦ Strengthen groundwater protection from agricultural wastes through adoption of the final three (of nine) General Orders for irrigated agriculture that incorporate groundwater protection, including nutrient management planning in vulnerable groundwater areas, and the refinement of dairy management practices through the Central Valley Dairy Representative Groundwater Monitoring Program.
- ✦ Define the appropriate application and level of protection of municipal and domestic supply beneficial uses in agriculturally-dominated water bodies.
- ✦ Continue stakeholder development of a Central Valley-wide Salt and Nutrient Management Plan.
- ✦ Modify existing oil field regulatory programs to address hydraulic fracturing (i.e., fracking) and other well stimulation operations.
- ✦ Develop and implement a multi-agency regulatory program to appropriately respond to water quality problems caused by medical marijuana cultivation.

Region 6 – Lahontan Regional Water Board

- ✦ Implement remediation investigations and cleanup at the Leviathan Mine Site, located in Alpine County, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement between Atlantic Richfield Company and the State Water Board.
- ✦ Require PG&E to expand cleanup efforts, and continue to operate and maintain whole house water treatment systems to affected individuals in the town of Hinkley.
- ✦ Participate in salt and nutrient management planning and control efforts with focus on the Antelope and Mojave salt and nutrient management plans, replacement water for individuals with polluted wells, nitrate treatment of groundwater impacted by wastewater treatment facilities, and requiring source controls at dairies with groundwater pollution.
- ✦ Improve the protection of surface water bodies not currently subject to federal CWA requirements by identifying the waters, and communicating to the affected public the applicable State requirements and regulatory expectations for water quality and beneficial use protection.
- ✦ Continue groundwater investigation of perchlorate contamination near the City of Barstow and provide assistance to evaluate the development of a community water system to provide a long-term water supply to affected individuals.
- ✦ Continue efforts to improve the Lahontan Region's enforcement program by implementing a region-specific SEP program in which independent third parties identify and implement potential SEP projects focused on improving water quality and beneficial use protection.

Region 7 – Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board

- ✦ Remove all legacy organochlorine CWA Section 303(d) listings in the Imperial and Palo Verde valleys from the "needing TMDLs" category to the "being addressed" category of the 303(d) List of impaired water bodies.
- ✦ Remove the current-use pesticides chlorpyrifos and diazinon CWA Section 303(d) listings in the Alamo and New rivers from "needing TMDLs" category to the "being addressed" category of the 303(d) List.
- ✦ Delist the Colorado River and the Salton Sea for selenium, and the New River for copper and zinc from the CWA Section 303(d) List.

Region 8 – Santa Ana Regional Water Board

- ✦ Renew the Area-wide MS₄ NPDES Permit for Orange County.
- ✦ Develop and adopt a conditional waiver of WDR for agricultural dischargers to manage nonpoint source pollution from irrigated farming operations, and from livestock operations that are not subject to the region-wide CAFO NPDES permit, in the San Jacinto River watershed.
- ✦ Adopt copper TMDLs for Newport Bay to address copper pollution.
- ✦ Update the Salt Management Plan (total dissolved solids/Nitrate-nitrogen) Maximum Benefit Plan for the Beaumont Groundwater Basin Management Zone.
- ✦ Review, comment on, and present to the Regional Water Board for adoption the Watershed Action Plans developed by the Riverside and San Bernardino counties MS₄ permittees.
- ✦ Develop selenium TMDLs for the San Diego Creek/Newport Bay Watershed.

Region 9 – San Diego Regional Water Board

- ✦ Renew or issue a general WDR to regulate the 6,000 irrigated land facilities in the San Diego Region.
- ✦ Adopt an extension of the Regional MS4 Permit to include Orange County.
- ✦ Renew the International Boundary and Water Commission International Wastewater Treatment Facility NPDES Permit.
- ✦ Adopt a San Diego Bay Strategy to implement the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision (Practical Vision), coordinate Regional Water Board programs throughout San Diego Bay, implement sediment quality objectives to protect human health and aquatic-dependent wildlife, and draft a State of the Waters Report for San Diego Bay.
- ✦ Implement the Practical Vision by establishing Monitoring and Assessment Workgroups and Progress Reports for monitoring and assessment projects in South Coastal Orange County, the San Diego River, and the Binational Tijuana Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Project.
- ✦ Implement the Practical Vision by adopting a comprehensive wetlands policy for the San Diego Region, initiating a Healthy Watersheds Program to develop environmental outcome measures, and preparing a San Diego Region report card using those measures.

State Water Resources Control Board

- ✦ Consolidate the State's drinking water program, and surface and groundwater quality programs, to achieve broader program efficiencies and synergies.
- ✦ Complete a groundwater protection and management workplan; identify and take actions needed to protect groundwater basins at risk of permanent damage.
- ✦ Develop and implement monitoring/oversight provisions for well stimulation activities (i.e., fracking) and assist in development of well stimulation regulations.
- ✦ Update Delta flow and water quality objectives in the Bay-Delta Plan (Phase 1).
- ✦ Develop and start implementing administrative actions for enhancing flows statewide in at least five stream systems that support critical habitat for anadromous fish.
- ✦ Adopt and implement the Industrial General Storm Water Permit.
- ✦ Adopt State Water Quality Control Plan updates to address: (1) trash in waterways; (2) desalination impacts; and (3) toxicity provisions for enclosed bays and estuaries.
- ✦ Adopt a Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy (Phase 1).
- ✦ Develop a storm water strategic workplan to improve program effectiveness by incentivizing watershed management, multiple-benefit projects, storm water capture, and source control.



Photo by: LaVonna Butz.

FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS IN THIS REPORT

ACL – ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY
CAFO – CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION
CAO – CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER
CDO – CEASE AND DESIST ORDER
CWA – CLEAN WATER ACT
DTSC – DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL
FERC – FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
LID – LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT
MS₄ – MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM
NPDES – NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
PCBs – POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS
SEP – SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT
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.



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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, AND OUR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AT: [HTTP://WWW.WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV/ABOUT_US/PERFORMANCE_REPORT_1213/](http://WWW.WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV/ABOUT_US/PERFORMANCE_REPORT_1213/)