



# CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

*MISSION STATEMENT: TO PRESERVE, ENHANCE, AND RESTORE THE QUALITY OF CALIFORNIA'S WATER RESOURCES AND DRINKING WATER FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND ALL BENEFICIAL USES, AND TO ENSURE PROPER WATER RESOURCE 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, regulates drinking water, 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)



- KEY**
- 1 = Region 1 (North Coast)
  - 2 = Region 2 (San Francisco Bay)
  - 3 = Region 3 (Central Coast)
  - 4 = Region 4 (Los Angeles)
  - 5 = Region 5 (Central Valley)
  - 6 = Region 6 (Lahontan)
  - 7 = Region 7 (Colorado River Basin)
  - 8 = Region 8 (Santa Ana)
  - 9 = Region 9 (San Diego)



### 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 2013/2014)

- Almost 26,000 facilities regulated.
- More than 6,000 inspections conducted.
- More than 4,000 permits issued.
- Almost 5,000 enforcement actions.
- More than \$579 million in Clean Water State Revolving Funds allocated.
- Almost 31,000 water rights administered.

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## KEY 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Water Boards Take Immediate Action to Address Impacts of Severe Drought

California's severe drought continued in 2014, prompting the Water Boards to take immediate actions in response to Governor Edmund G. Brown's Drought State of Emergency Proclamation in January, Emergency Drought Relief Legislation in March, and Executive Order to Redouble State Drought Actions in April. The Water Boards responded to the drought emergency across all programs:

- Classes of water right holders in the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Russian, and Scott river watersheds and the Delta were told there was not enough water available to support their needs and they must find alternative supplies;
- Emergency actions were approved to reserve water for use later in the summer and fall months in many lakes and reservoirs, and to protect endangered and threatened fish in important Central Valley tributaries;
- Regulatory programs were streamlined to accelerate the availability of alternative water supplies, such as recycled water and gray water;
- Emergency water supplies were provided to communities that saw their groundwater wells and surface water sources dry up; and
- Technical and financial assistance was targeted at communities with threatened water supplies. *[Continued on page 3]*



Lake Oroville, Stock photo



Stock photo

## **Drought Actions** [Continued from page 2]

### **Federal Central Valley Project and State Water Project Change Petitions**

In January 2014, the State Water Board approved the first of many petitions from the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) requesting adjustment of standards that protect water quality in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Delta). These standards govern the amount of water needed to maintain salinity control, export water south of the Delta, and support fish migration. The State Water Board-approved adjustments to the standards reserved approximately 400,000 acre-feet of water in reservoirs for use later in the year.

### **Hydropower Water Releases**

Hydropower projects throughout the State were impacted by reduced water supplies and, in some cases, could not meet the water quality requirements included in their permits. During 2014, the State Water Board approved temporary changes to their permits, in response to these conditions, including reduced minimum instream flows, water releases, and reservoir levels. The State Water Board collaborated with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), who issued a February 2014 letter to the 128 hydropower projects in the State offering assistance in seeking variances in their licenses if needed to conserve water at hydropower facilities.

### **Emergency Fish Flows**

In May 2014, the State Water Board adopted emergency regulations to establish drought emergency minimum flow requirements to protect specific runs of anadromous fish in three Sacramento River tributaries: Mill, Deer, and Antelope creeks. The regulations authorized curtailment of water diversions if the drought emergency minimum flows in these creeks were not met.

### **Regulations to Protect Senior Water Right Holders**

In July 2014, the State Water Board adopted emergency drought regulations to protect senior water rights holders throughout the State. In times of water shortage, if there is enough water for some, but not all, water rights holders, the most junior water rights holders are curtailed before restrictions are imposed on more senior water rights holders. The State Water Board issued more than 9,600 notices to junior water rights holders ordering them to curtail their water use in the Scott, Sacramento, Russian, San Joaquin, and Eel river watersheds. The regulation also authorized the use of informational orders to compel responses to requests for information related to water rights.

[Continued on page 4]



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## Drought Actions [Continued from page 3]

### Water Transfers

The State Water Board continued to expedite voluntary water transfers in 2014, resulting in the transfer of nearly 400,000 acre-feet of water from areas where it was available to areas where it was needed most.

### Conservation Regulations

In July 2014, the State Water Board adopted emergency conservation regulations to reduce outdoor urban water use. The regulations target individual water use, as well as steps that local water suppliers should take to reduce water demand in their service areas. Under the regulations, large water suppliers are required to report water use to the State Water Board monthly to help determine whether individual and water supplier actions, such as limiting irrigation, are effective.

### Drought Financial Assistance

During 2014, public water systems throughout the State faced unforeseen costs due to drought-related drinking water emergencies. The State Water Board provided rapid financial assistance to these systems, including \$12 million in funding agreements for 56 water systems to restore water service and prevent water outages for approximately 240,000 Californians. The State Water Board made an additional \$4.5 million in funding from the Cleanup and Abatement Account available to provide interim emergency drinking water to 27 disadvantaged communities with contaminated water supplies. The disadvantaged communities included public water system customers, schools, tribal governments, and rural residents with domestic wells.

### Infrastructure Improvements

The State Water Board approved extended-term financing for up to 30 years for water quality projects eligible for financing under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program. Extended-term financing significantly reduces costs for communities, and will result in more water quality projects being financed to improve California's waters. Additionally, the State Water Board provided low-interest financing for projects that will produce nearly 150,000 acre-feet of recycled water annually for the State. For more information on Water Board recycled water efforts to alleviate demands on and augment local water supplies, please refer to the "Recycled Water Management" section of this report. With these 2014 actions, the State and Regional Water Boards were able to reduce stress on California's limited water resources, support projects to augment local water supplies, and provide relief to those impacted by the drought, while ensuring the continued protection of public health and the environment.

*[For more information on drought actions, see web links below]*



Emergency drinking water. Credit: Water Boards



Stock photo

#### **Water Boards Take Immediate Action to Address Impacts of Severe Drought (pages 2-4)**

Drought State of Emergency: <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18379>

Executive Order: <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18496>

Drought Relief Legislation: <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18415>

State Water Board's Drought Year Water Actions: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/index.shtml)

Curtailement Regulations: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/water\\_availability.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/water_availability.shtml)

Conservation Regulations: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/emergency\\_regulations\\_waterconservation.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/emergency_regulations_waterconservation.shtml)

Water Transfers & Temporary Urgency Change Petitions: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/docs/2014rcvdrequests.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/docs/2014rcvdrequests.pdf)

State Water Project and Central Valley Project Changes: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/tucp.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/tucp.shtml)

Hydropower and FERC: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_cert/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/)

Public Water System Funding: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/DroughtPreparedness.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/DroughtPreparedness.shtml)

Disadvantaged Community Funding: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/caa/dw\\_droughtfund/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/caa/dw_droughtfund/)

Water Storage Tanks: <https://cdfgnews.wordpress.com/2014/03/13/state-streamlines-domestic-water-tank-storage-process-in-response-to-drought/>

Extended-term Financing: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/docs/cwsrf/cwsrf\\_extended\\_term\\_financing\\_press\\_release.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/cwsrf/cwsrf_extended_term_financing_press_release.pdf)

Low-interest Loans: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2014/pro31914.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2014/pro31914.pdf)

Emergency Drought Barriers: <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions/emergencybarriers.cfm>

# KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

## Policy and Planning

### 2014 Accomplishments



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#### Foundation Established for Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan

During 2014, significant actions were taken to further the development of a comprehensive, region-wide Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (Central Valley SNMP) by the stakeholder-led Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS). The Central Valley Regional Water Board completed a final framework for the Central Valley SNMP, which will guide activities to ensure that CV-SALTS participants complete the final comprehensive plan to address salinity and nitrate throughout the Central Valley region by 2016. Additionally, during 2014, the Regional Water Board assisted in the development of two CV-SALT reports: one on salt and nitrate source and transport, groundwater assimilative capacity, and water quality trends for zones within the Central Valley floor; and a second on the first two phases of a project evaluating alternatives to contain and transport excess salt away from sensitive areas. The Regional

Water Board also initiated a case study evaluating mechanisms to improve drinking water quality in areas with legacy nitrate contamination. The reports and case study will further the efforts toward the development of a final comprehensive management plan. The slow and steady accumulation of salts and nitrates threatens not only the long-term viability of agriculture and industry in the Central Valley, but also the water supplies for millions of people. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/index.shtml) [www.cvsalinity.org](http://www.cvsalinity.org)

#### Regulation Updates Promote Environmental Restoration in Lahontan Region

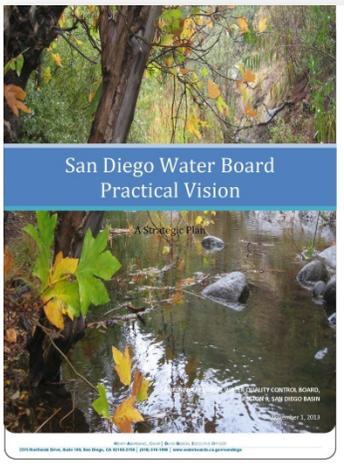
In April 2014, the Lahontan Regional Water Board amended its Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) to make regulations clearer and easier to implement for both the Regional Water Board and dischargers alike. In addition to making clarifying changes, corrections, and other updates, the amendment included revisions to waste discharge prohibitions and associated exemption criteria that make it easier for the Regional Board to permit certain environmental restoration and other projects while still ensuring water quality and other environmental protections. Specifically, with the Basin Plan amendment, limited new development within floodplains can be authorized in conjunction with wetland and floodplain restoration in the Truckee River watershed, and the Regional Water Board has greater flexibility to consider mixing zones for discharges to surface water and groundwater. Furthermore, the amendments updated the Basin Plan's Lake Tahoe Policy chapter to ensure consistency with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's updated Lake Tahoe Regional Plan and the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load implementation approach. These amendments are the product of many years of detailed review and represent the first comprehensive update of the 1995 Basin Plan. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb6/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb6/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/index.shtml)



Perazzo Meadows after restoration. Credit: Lahontan Regional Water Board

#### San Diego Region Lays Out Strategies to Attain Healthy Waters

In 2014, the San Diego Regional Water Board began implementation of its strategic plan, the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision (Practical Vision), which is a planning tool to focus resources on the region's highest priorities over the next seven years. In 2014, the Regional Water Board undertook fifteen projects identified in the Practical Vision. An Operational Plan for implementing the projects was created to assign resources, and establish milestones and schedules for the projects. These projects included the San Diego Bay Strategy, San Diego River Monitoring and Assessment Coordination and Improvement, Community Outreach Strategy, and the Salt and Nutrient Management



Cover of Practical Vision.  
Credit: San Diego Regional Water Board

Planning Implementation Project. Adopted in November 2013, the Practical Vision aims to guide and focus the Regional Water Board's efforts to achieve healthy waters through collaboration and stakeholder efforts in the region. The Practical Vision consists of five chapters, which focus on setting priorities to attain healthy waters, monitoring and assessment, restoration of streams and wetlands, enhancing sustainable local water supplies, and community outreach and communication. The Practical Vision establishes a framework to set environmental outcomes, especially biological measures, as the ultimate metrics for success of the Regional Water Board's programs and attainment of healthy waters in the San Diego region. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/Practical\\_Vision/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/Practical_Vision/index.shtml)

# Drinking Water Quality

## 2014 Accomplishments

### Small Water System Compliance Targeted

During 2014, the State Water Board continued work under the 2013 Small Water System Program Goal Implementation Plan, which aims to increase the compliance rate of 183 small water systems that have had violations of one or more primary drinking water standards. The State Water Board reached out to systems with violations, identified solutions to bring them into compliance, and monitored systems to ensure that compliance is maintained. The systems are required to be brought up to a level of technical, managerial, and financial competence to enable them to sustain compliance with the standards. Four small water systems achieved compliance with the standards in 2014. Since efforts began under the 2013 implementation plan, and through the end of 2014, among the 183 non-compliant systems, 20 were in compliance, 31 had construction projects underway, 23 had received construction funding, and 51 had received funding for a planning study to identify permanent solutions. Approximately 58,000 individuals (less than 1 percent of the State's population) are served by small water systems that violate a standard. Predominantly, these systems are located in rural disadvantaged communities, and cannot charge rates sufficient for operation and maintenance, or to undertake infrastructure repairs and upgrades. At the same time, the standards for public water systems have grown increasingly complex and more stringent. Bringing small water systems into compliance contributes to advancing the State policy that every person has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitation. For more information:

[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Smallwatersystems.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Smallwatersystems.shtml)



Stock photo



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### Process to Deliver Drinking Water Funding Improved

In July 2014, with the transfer of the State's Drinking Water Program from the CA Department of Public Health (CDPH) to the State Water Board, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program also was transferred to the State Water Board. To continue improvements already made while the DWSRF program was with CDPH, the State Water Board adopted, in October 2014, the "Policy for Implementing the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund" (DWSRF policy handbook). The DWSRF policy handbook was modeled after the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program's 2013 policy handbook. Effective January 1, 2015, the DWSRF policy handbook repealed certain State statutes and regulations that were increasingly complex, unnecessarily restrictive, and prevented some water systems from accessing funding. The DWSRF policy handbook was designed to provide clear guidance to water systems on how to apply for DWSRF funds. It makes the application submittal process easier for all applicants and further improves the

efficient delivery of financial assistance for drinking water agencies throughout California. For more information:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/services/funding/SRF.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.shtml)

# Recycled Water Management

## 2014 Accomplishments



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### Statewide Permit Adopted to Streamline Permitting of Recycled Water Projects

In June 2014, in response to the Governor's January 2014 proclamation of a Drought State of Emergency, the State Water Board adopted General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR, a form of permit) to streamline permitting for recycled water use. The permit makes it easier for communities to use non-potable recycled water for agriculture, landscape and golf course irrigation, and other uses, and can be used by the Regional Water Boards to streamline permitting of recycled water use. It establishes standard conditions for the use of recycled water, relieving producers, distributors, and users of recycled water from the sometimes lengthy permit approval process, and provides regulatory certainty. The State Water Board is taking every opportunity to augment local water supplies in ways that protect the environment. Recycled water is often an underutilized resource, and the permit allows increased use of recycled

water in communities grappling with drought conditions. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2014/wq02014\\_0090\\_dwq\\_revised.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wq02014_0090_dwq_revised.pdf)

### Groundwater Replenishment Regulations Adopted

In May 2014, the State's Drinking Water Program (transferred to the State Water Board in July 2014) adopted regulations for groundwater replenishment using recycled water. These regulations, which became effective in June 2014, are the culmination of more than 20 years of work by the Drinking Water Program, the Regional Water Boards, and stakeholders toward ensuring that this specific use of recycled water will be done in a way that protects public health and the environment.

Replenishing groundwater with treated recycled water alleviates the increasing demand on limited water supplies and can provide drought relief to some communities. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/RecycledWater.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/RecycledWater.shtml)



Stock photo

### Southern California Permits Offset Need to Import Water

During 2014, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board adopted several permits to reduce pressure on water resources in Southern California. In March 2014, the Regional Water Board adopted a WDR for the Water Replenishment District (WRD), which will allow the use of treated recycled water to replace potable water in maintaining the Alamos Seawater Intrusion Barrier to prevent saltwater intrusion into freshwater groundwater aquifers. The WDR is the first permit issued under the new groundwater replenishment regulations (described above). In April 2014, the Regional Water Board adopted a WDR for the WRD's Montebello Forebay Groundwater Recharge Project that will increase the amount of recycled water used to recharge groundwater on the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River Spreading Grounds, which provides 40 percent of the total water supply in the Los Angeles region. In July 2014, in collaboration with the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, the Regional Water Board adopted a general NPDES permit that will expedite cleanup of contaminated groundwater in the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin and generate an additional source of potable water supply. The total water conserved under these three permits meets the demands of approximately 187,000 households per year in Southern California, and offsets the need for imported water supplies. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2014/pro30614.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2014/pro30614.pdf)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2014/pro41114\\_losanageles.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2014/pro41114_losanageles.pdf)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2014/pro71014\\_r4.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2014/pro71014_r4.pdf)



Southern California, Stock photo



Stock photo

## Permit Adopted for Water Recycling Program in Coachella Valley

In January 2014, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board adopted revised WDRs for the Desert Water Agency's (DWA) recycled water program. DWA, which began its recycled water program in 1988 when the Regional Water Board first permitted the DWA Wastewater Treatment Plant, has the capacity for producing and distributing six million gallons of recycled water per day when using the Palm Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant. DWA provides recycled irrigation water to golf courses, parks, street medians, and Palm Springs High School. The use of recycled water in landscaping saves potable drinking water resources in Coachella Valley's arid desert environment. In addition, recycled water saves energy by reducing the cost associated with pumping groundwater or importing water. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/orders/2014/0008desert\\_water.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/adopted_orders/orders/2014/0008desert_water.pdf)

## Wastewater Reclamation for Groundwater Recharge Enhanced in Santa Ana Region

In April 2014, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board adopted revisions to its 2004 Santa Ana Region Salt Management Plan (SMP) to incorporate total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrogen "maximum benefit" management plans for the Beaumont, Yucaipa, and San Timoteo groundwater management zones. To accommodate wastewater reclamation projects in the region, alternative water quality objectives (known as "maximum benefit" objectives) were established for some groundwater basins to allow water quality in the basins to be lowered without detriment to the beneficial uses of those basins. The management plans are long-range water supply plans developed by local water supply agencies that will combine the use of recycled water, imported water, and storm water with the goal of providing a sustainable, drought-proof water supply for the areas that those agencies serve. Local water supply agencies can use recycled water to recharge local groundwater basins, and their customers can use it for non-potable use. However, in many cases, the recycled water being used for recharge would increase the concentrations of TDS and/or nitrogen in those basins. Thus, to remove or dilute excess salts and nitrogen caused by using recycled water for recharge, local water supply agencies will import higher quality State Water Project water for recharge of the basins, improve the infiltration of storm water, and construct de-salters and reverse osmosis systems. The management plans will allow local water supply agencies to maximize the use of recycled water while still protecting groundwater resources. For more information:

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



Reverse osmosis systems to remove salt from pumped groundwater. Photo Credit: Yucaipa Valley Water District

## Permits Help Increase Water Supplies in Central Coast Communities

During 2014, the Central Coast Regional Water Board prioritized and expedited permitting to help sustain drinking water supplies for the cities of Santa Barbara and Cambria. In May 2014, the Regional Water Board issued a water quality certification for the Emergency Pumping System Project at Lake Cachuma in Santa Barbara County. Because water levels in the lake are extremely low, the certification will allow sediment to be removed and a pump to be installed that will move water from deep portions of the lake to water delivery pipes. The purpose of the Lake

Cachuma project is to maintain delivery of potable water to the residents and businesses of the Santa Barbara area. In November 2014, the Regional Water Board adopted WDRs that will allow the Cambria Community Services District (District) to operate the Cambria Emergency Water Supply Project. The Cambria project will extract groundwater from a well near the District's wastewater disposal ponds, treat the water to drinking water standards, and then inject the water in the San Simeon Creek aquifer, where it will be available to the District's existing water supply wells. In addition to the groundwater recharge, a portion of the treated groundwater will be discharged to the San Simeon Creek freshwater lagoon to enhance aquatic habitat conditions. These projects are designed to increase water supplies to the communities of Cambria and Santa Barbara during the drought. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2014/cambria/title\\_22/Cambria%20CSD%20Order%20R3-2014-0050%2011-17-14%20Final.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2014/cambria/title_22/Cambria%20CSD%20Order%20R3-2014-0050%2011-17-14%20Final.pdf)



Lake Cachuma, Stock Photo

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2014/cambria/title\\_22/Cambria%20WDR%2001-100%20modified%202014%2011-17-14%20Final.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2014/cambria/title_22/Cambria%20WDR%2001-100%20modified%202014%2011-17-14%20Final.pdf)

## Management Plan to Address Salts and Nutrients in Lahontan Region

During 2014, the Lahontan Regional Water Board reviewed and provided input on the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Antelope Valley groundwater basin. In November 2014, the Lahontan Regional Water Board, at a public meeting, accepted the plan. The State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy (Policy) requires local water and wastewater entities, together with local stakeholders, to develop an SNMP for each groundwater basin in California. Under the Policy, salt and nutrient loading in groundwater basins is expected to be addressed through SNMPs. The Antelope Valley SNMP will address the management of salts and nutrients (as well as other constituents) from all sources to ensure that water quality objectives are met and beneficial uses are protected. The intention is to minimize the anthropogenic accumulation of salts and nutrients that would degrade water supplies in Antelope Valley. In addition, the SNMP will streamline the process of getting recycled water projects approved and permitted by the Regional Water Board. The Antelope Valley is an arid region that requires careful management of its water supplies to meet the needs of its residents. Increased use of recycled water will allow for the increased availability of potable water supplies for the residents of Antelope Valley. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2014/cambria/title\\_22/Cambria%20WDR%2001-100%20modified%202014%2011-17-14%20Final.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2014/cambria/title_22/Cambria%20WDR%2001-100%20modified%202014%2011-17-14%20Final.pdf)



*Antelope Valley, Stock photo*

# Wastewater Management

## 2014 Accomplishments



*International Wastewater Treatment Plant, Credit: San Diego Regional Water Board*

## Permit Issued for International Wastewater Treatment Plant to Protect San Diego County Waters

In June 2014, after successfully concluding 13 years of litigation in federal court with the International Boundary and Water Commission, the San Diego Regional Water Board reissued the much-needed NPDES permit for the International Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP). The new permit includes significant new requirements to address cross-border flows of polluted water, and improves coordination with state and municipal agencies in Mexico to control the discharge of wastewater. The IWTP, located in San Diego County, treats domestic and industrial wastewater originating in Tijuana, Mexico and discharges it to the Pacific Ocean. The IWTP plays a key role in addressing international border pollution problems by preventing millions of gallons of dry weather flows of raw sewage from flowing daily from Mexico into the U.S. Sediment, trash, and occasional wastewater discharges originating from Tijuana and Rosarito, Mexico remain a significant impact to the Tijuana River

Valley and Estuary, and Imperial Beach. The permit is a milestone in the collaborative effort among local, state, and federal agencies on both sides of the border to minimize wastewater flows to the U.S., and to protect shared ocean waters. For more information:

[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/sandiego/press\\_room/press\\_releases/docs/pro62614\\_iwtp.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/sandiego/press_room/press_releases/docs/pro62614_iwtp.pdf)

## Nutrient Management Strategy and Permit Adopted for San Francisco Bay

In April 2014, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board adopted an NPDES permit to address nutrients discharged from municipal wastewater treatment facilities to San Francisco Bay. The permit, which covers 37 dischargers that represent the sources of approximately two-thirds of the nutrients discharged to the Bay, is an important milestone in implementing the 2012 San Francisco Bay Nutrient Management Strategy. During 2014, the Regional Water Board also established a steering committee of stakeholders to oversee the strategy and developed a charter for



*San Francisco Bay, Stock photo*

implementing the strategy. The strategy drives the completion of scientific studies needed to determine whether the Bay is impaired, the collection of effluent monitoring data to determine nutrient discharge loads and trends, and the evaluation of wastewater treatment plant operations to determine how to most efficiently decrease nutrient discharges. Under the permit, studies will be conducted that will inform future Regional Water Board decisions regarding nutrient reduction levels that are necessary at wastewater treatment plants to protect the Bay from nutrient impairment. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water\\_issues/programs/planningtmdls/amendments/estuaryne.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/planningtmdls/amendments/estuaryne.shtml)

# Storm Water Management

## 2014 Accomplishments



Stock photo

### New Statewide Industrial Storm Water Permit Adopted

In April 2014, the State Water Board renewed its statewide industrial general storm water permit, which is intended to decrease the amount of pollution entering waterways during storm events in industrial areas. Storm water and urban runoff are significant sources of water pollution that can threaten aquatic life and public health. Common industrial sites that are regulated under the permit include manufacturing facilities, mining operations, disposal sites, recycling yards, and transportation facilities. Statewide, there are approximately 10,000 industrial dischargers currently enrolled under the updated permit, which became effective on July 1, 2015. The number of industrial dischargers with full permit coverage is not expected to change under the updated permit. However, the updated permit does require additional facilities with industrial activities to notify the State Water Board if those activities are not exposed to rain water and will not cause discharges to nearby storm drains. For more information:

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

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2014/pro40114\\_sw.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2014/pro40114_sw.pdf)

### Long Beach Storm Water Permit Reissued With Focus on Watershed Management

In February 2014, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board reissued an NPDES permit for MS<sub>4</sub> discharges from the City of Long Beach (City). As with the Los Angeles County MS<sub>4</sub> permit, this permit reflects a new framework for storm water management through the development of watershed management programs (WMPs) that are driven by desired water quality outcomes. For the City, these water quality outcomes include achieving the requirements of nine TMDLs to address impaired waters to which the City discharges, and ensuring that the City's MS<sub>4</sub> discharges are not causing or contributing to exceedances of water quality standards. This approach provides incentives for the City to collaborate on region-wide, multi-benefit storm water retention projects that will improve water quality, while also managing storm water as a valuable resource. The City participates in multiple group WMPs with other Los Angeles County MS<sub>4</sub>



Stock photo

permittees and is developing its own WMP to address watershed areas that fall exclusively within the City's boundaries. For more information:

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



Millcreek Wetlands. Credit: City of Ontario

### San Bernardino County Watershed Action Plan Approved

In December 2014, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board reviewed, and its Executive Officer approved, San Bernardino County's Watershed Action Plan (WAP), which is required under the county's MS<sub>4</sub> storm water permit. The objective of the WAP is to improve the integration of water quality, stream protection, storm water management, water conservation and re-use, and flood protection with the approval processes for land use planning and development. To promote this coordinated watershed approach, the WAP identifies potential regional retrofit and stream restoration sites that will address the cumulative

impacts of urban development on vulnerable streams, thereby protecting surface water quality and groundwater recharge areas. A majority of the potential retrofit sites identified are storm water infiltration basins that will benefit groundwater replenishment. Additionally, the WAP uses a GIS-based watershed mapping tool that identifies the watershed information necessary to facilitate coordinated integrated planning, and the implementation of low impact development and hydromodification management practices. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/san\\_bernardino\\_permit\\_wap.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/stormwater/san_bernardino_permit_wap.shtml)

# Nonpoint Source Controls

## 2014 Accomplishments

### Coachella Valley Irrigated Agriculture Regulated

In June 2014, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board adopted a permit, in the form of a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements (waiver), to regulate agricultural wastewater discharges from irrigated lands in the Coachella Valley. The waiver also regulates the operation and maintenance (O&M) activities of Coachella Valley drains, which include weed removal and herbicide application. The waiver is intended to ensure that agricultural wastewater discharges and O&M practices are not impacting water quality in Coachella Valley drains and the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel, which are tributary to the Salton Sea. Excess agricultural irrigation water eventually flows into the drains and the Salton Sea, thereby increasing their salinity and harming aquatic species. The adoption of the waiver brings approximately 55,000 additional 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/2014/0046cv\\_ag\\_waiver.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/adopted_orders/orders/2014/0046cv_ag_waiver.pdf)



Coachella Valley orchard. Credit: Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board



Foster Keystone Feedlot. Credit: Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board

### Imperial Valley Feedlots Brought into Compliance

During 2014, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board completed an audit, which began in 2012, of all 30 concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in the region to determine compliance with existing permit requirements. All 30 CAFOs are located in Imperial County, where one is a dairy and the others are cattle feeding operations (most have between 10,000 to 25,000 heads of cattle, but several have up to 80,000 heads of cattle). CAFOs generate two types of wastes: manure and process wastewater (e.g., spillage from animal watering systems, cleaning of facilities, direct washing or spray cooling of animals, and dust control). Manure and process wastewater are discharged on-site to land and, generally, are prohibited from being discharged to surface waters. The Regional Water Board regulates the discharge of wastes from those facilities through a general NPDES permit. The audit determined that 25 CAFOs were out of compliance with various provisions of the permit. During the audit period, the Regional Water Board took enforcement actions against those 25 facilities, which brought the majority of CAFOs in the region into full compliance with their permit requirements. Bringing these facilities

into compliance helps to protect surface water and groundwater quality in the region. For more information:

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

### Timber Waiver Promotes Healthy Forest Projects in Lahontan Region

In April 2014, the Lahontan Regional Water Board adopted its Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Waste Discharges Resulting from Timber Harvest and Vegetation Management Activities in the Lahontan Region (2014 Timber Waiver). The 2014 Timber Waiver replaces the 2009 Timber Waiver, which expired in May 2014. Discharges of wastes associated with these activities can have an impact on water quality. For example, vegetation management activities can impact the soil's ability to infiltrate or filter runoff (e.g., through erosion or compaction), resulting in sediment discharging to water bodies. With the 2014 Timber Waiver, the Regional Water Board made a shift from a prescriptive to an



Prescribed fire in Angora Meadow. Photo Credit: Lahontan Regional Water Board

outcome-based approach in regulating timber harvest and vegetation management activities in the region. This outcome-based approach will better ensure water quality protection while providing greater flexibility in implementing timber harvest or vegetation management projects. The changes further promote timberland fuel reduction and healthy forest projects in the region. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\\_issues/programs/waste\\_discharge\\_requirements/timber\\_harvest/timberwaiver.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/waste_discharge_requirements/timber_harvest/timberwaiver.shtml)



*Stock photo*

### Comprehensive Timber Harvest Permit Adopted for Jordan Creek Watershed

In August 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Board adopted watershed-wide Waste Discharge Requirements for Timber Harvesting and Associated Land Management Activities Conducted by the Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC (WDR) in the Jordan Creek watershed in Humboldt County. Jordan Creek is significantly impaired by sediment discharges stemming from timber-harvesting activities. The WDR (a form of permit) incorporates a comprehensive watershed-scale approach to efficiently manage timber harvesting, roads, landslide prevention, and other potential sources of sediment discharges, as well as restoration and monitoring efforts in the Jordan Creek watershed. Additionally, in September 2014, the Regional Water Board held a joint public meeting with the CA Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, where both Boards identified opportunities for enhanced coordination, including coordinated monitoring and

assessment for meaningful adaptive management and regulation modifications. For more information:

[http://water100.waterboards.ca.gov/rb1/adopted\\_orders/detail.asp?discharger=humboldt&ordernumber=&ordertype=Waste+Discharge+Requirements&WADbSearch1=Submit&ID=1709](http://water100.waterboards.ca.gov/rb1/adopted_orders/detail.asp?discharger=humboldt&ordernumber=&ordertype=Waste+Discharge+Requirements&WADbSearch1=Submit&ID=1709)

# Surface Water Quality Restoration

## 2014 Accomplishments

### Action Taken to Reduce Copper Pollution in Marina del Rey Harbor

In September 2014, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board adopted an amendment to their Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) to revise a water quality restoration strategy, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), for toxic pollutants in Marina del Rey Harbor (Harbor). The pollutants addressed by the TMDL include three metals (lead, zinc, and copper), two pesticides (chlordane and dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane [DDT]), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These pollutants are toxic to marine aquatic life and birds, and the organic chemicals are carcinogens that can impact humans who consume contaminated fish. The copper pollution in the Harbor, which is causing serious toxic effects on marine life, is the worst of any marina in California. The major source of dissolved copper pollution to the Harbor is copper-based antifouling paint (which slows the growth of organisms) that is applied to the hulls of boats moored in the Harbor's marina. The revised TMDL, which addresses copper pollution in the sediment and water column, requires the County of Los Angeles, boat owners, and the individual anchorages to address this source of copper over the next 10 years. As part of the TMDL revision, the Regional Water Board considered the CA Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) recommendations regarding leach rates for copper-based antifouling hull paints, and best management practices for boat hull cleaning, relative to the necessary reduction in the discharge of dissolved copper from boat hulls. The revised TMDL can serve as a model for restoring harbor waters in California. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2014/pro90914\\_rb4mdr.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2014/pro90914_rb4mdr.pdf)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl\\_list.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl_list.shtml)



*Marina del Rey, Stock photo*

## Actions Taken on Temperature Impairments in the Mattole, Navarro, and Eel River Watersheds

In March 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Board approved an amendment to its Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) to include their Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature (Policy), and their Action Plans to Address Temperature Impairments in the Mattole, Navarro, and Eel River Watersheds (Action Plans). The Policy describes the tools available to remediate and restore temperature-impaired water bodies, and will address both impaired and unimpaired waters in a single framework. The Policy also describes a region-wide approach for implementing temperature objectives, and identifies riparian shade, sediment, and flow as the three most important factors affecting stream temperature. The Action Plans will be used to implement the Eel River, Navarro River, and Mattole River temperature TMDLs to address temperature impairments, and describe the application of the regional approach in those watersheds. Implementing the Policy and Action Plans will result in significant improvements to stream temperature conditions in these watersheds that support aquatic life, including salmon and other fish. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/temperature\\_amendment.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/temperature_amendment.shtml) [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/pdf/2014/140313\\_0006\\_TemperaturePolicy.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/pdf/2014/140313_0006_TemperaturePolicy.pdf)



*Cattle exclusion fencing along Shasta River. Credit: North Coast Regional Water Board*



*Klamath River, Stock photo*

## Actions to Address Klamath River Basin Impairments Continue

During 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Board continued efforts to restore water quality in the Klamath River Basin. The Regional Water Board continued implementing the 2006 Scott River and Shasta River TMDL waivers, which aim to reduce ranching impacts on Scott River sediment and water temperatures, and on Shasta River water temperatures and nutrient levels. Work with partners in the Upper Klamath Basin continued with the goal to build on-farm nutrient treatment wetlands (or diffuse source treatment wetlands). The Regional Water Board was involved in the ongoing development of the Klamath Tracking and Accounting Program, a key component of the adaptive management framework that will quantify and document expected water quality benefits of on-the-ground actions. The multi-agency Klamath Fish Health Assessment Team continued to assess and monitor river conditions and fish health in the Klamath Basin to help prevent fish die-offs during hot dry years. Also, working with the

State Water Board's water rights programs, instream flow improvements were achieved to support salmonid habitat in the Basin through flow dedications by The Nature Conservancy in the Shasta River, and by the Scott River Water Trust in the Scott River. These ongoing cooperative efforts are expected to improve water quality in the Klamath River to support healthy fish populations, as well as the California communities who live along and rely upon the Klamath River and its tributaries. For more information:

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

## Storm Water Permit Used to Restore Loma Alta Slough in San Diego County

In June 2014, the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted a Commitment to an Alternative Process for Achieving Water Quality Objectives for Biostimulatory Substances (i.e., nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which promote algal growth) in Loma Alta Slough. The slough is a coastal estuarine wetland located in the City of Oceanside, where excessive summertime algal growth caused by high levels of nutrients in storm drains (primarily from landscape irrigation) reduces the public's enjoyment, harms wildlife, and can kill fish. Rather than adopting a water quality restoration strategy, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), the Regional Water Board adopted an alternative that instead acknowledges the 2013 regional MS4 storm water permit, which has the capacity and requirements to effectively restore and protect the beneficial uses of the slough. This alternative process directs the restoration of the slough through the reduction of urban runoff and establishes biological metrics to measure successful attainment of healthy waters in the slough. Relying on existing permit requirements saves the Regional Water Board and the City of Oceanside resources in their efforts to control algal growth in the slough. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/tmdls/Loma\\_Alta\\_TMDL.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tmdls/Loma_Alta_TMDL.shtml)



*Loma Alta Slough. Credit: San Diego Regional Water Board*



Breaching of Hamilton Wetlands. Credit: CA Coastal Conservancy

### Hamilton Wetlands Reopened to San Francisco Bay

In April 2014, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board joined with other agencies to celebrate the breaching of the San Francisco Bay levee that reopened the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project to Bay tidal currents. Prior to this historic action, the site was the home of the Hamilton Army Airfield and had been diked off from the Bay for use as farm land for over a century. The levee breach restores the 650-acre site to tidal wetlands and reconnects it to the Bay. This action was the culmination of extensive Regional Water Board oversight in ensuring cleanup of the former airfield before the project could begin, permitting the Port of Oakland deepening project that generated the bulk of the dredged material placed at the airbase site, and overseeing the placement of 6 million cubic yards of dredged

material to form tidal sloughs, tidal salt marsh, high transitional marsh, seasonal wetlands, and uplands on the site before levee breaching. The restored wetland habitat will provide ecological benefits for many sensitive species, including the California clapper rail, California black rail, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and the salt marsh harvest mouse. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water\\_issues/programs/planningtmdls/amendments/estuaryne.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/planningtmdls/amendments/estuaryne.shtml)

### Pilot Project to Remove Non-Native Vegetation from Salinas River

In September 2014, the Central Coast Regional Water Board issued a water quality certification to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) for implementation of the Salinas River Multi-Benefit Demonstration Project. This pilot project, a collaborative effort among the MCWRA, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Water Board, and other stakeholders, covers 11 miles of the Salinas River, and is part of the Regional Water Board's long-term management plan for the river. The Nature Conservancy collaborated with MCWRA to develop a science-based approach that provides flood benefits while preserving important habitat and improving wildlife movement. The Salinas River, the largest river in the Central Coast region and located in the fourth largest watershed in California, provides essential wildlife habitat, and vital water resources to farms and vineyards in the State. The project involves removing vegetation from secondary channels within the Salinas River to improve flow conditions. Vegetation maintenance activities in the channels primarily will impact non-native vegetation, particularly *Arundo donax* (giant reed). This noxious species is threatening California's riparian ecosystems by outcompeting native species, such as willows, for water. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2014/march/Item\\_3/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2014/march/Item_3/index.shtml)



Arundo donax removal along Salinas River. Credit: Central Coast Regional Water Board

# Groundwater Protection and Cleanup

## 2014 Accomplishments



Credit: State Water Board

### Steps Taken to Protect Water Resources from Oil Field Wastes

In July 2014, the State Water Board created the Oil and Gas Monitoring Program to address and implement provisions of Senate Bill 4 (SB 4). SB 4 requires the State Water Board to develop model criteria to monitor groundwater that may be impacted by well stimulation, with a priority for monitoring groundwater that is, or has the potential to be, a source of drinking water. Well stimulation, including hydraulic fracturing, is performed on oil or gas wells to increase production. In August 2014, the State Water Board hosted two stakeholder meetings to begin development of the model criteria, as needed to protect the beneficial uses of groundwater, and sought technical advice on the development of the criteria. The State Water Board also developed an online process that allows independent, third-party contractors to be designated by the State Water Board as being qualified to perform property owner-requested water quality sampling and testing. In addition, the State Water Board worked with the

CA Department of Conservation (DOC) Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources in developing DOC's final regulations for well stimulation treatments, as well as developing an agreement with DOC regarding the roles and responsibilities for the SB 4 requirements. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/groundwater/sb4/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/groundwater/sb4/index.shtml)  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/groundwater/contractors.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/groundwater/contractors.shtml)

## Agreement Extended to Continue Groundwater Cleanup in Los Angeles Region

In May 2014, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board Executive Officer extended for two years a Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to continue cooperative efforts in the investigation and cleanup of hexavalent chromium and solvent contamination in the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin, which provides a significant portion of drinking water to the City of Los Angeles. During 2014, the Regional Water Board investigated commercial and industrial sites in the North Hollywood area of Los Angeles, and issued eight investigative orders to assess potential groundwater contamination sources. The San Fernando Valley is a heavily industrialized area, and the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin was declared a Superfund site in 1986 due to contamination of the basin's soil and groundwater by solvents and other chemicals of concern, including hexavalent chromium and perchlorate compounds. The existence of hexavalent chromium in the environment is associated with industrial waste (e.g., from metal plating operations), and is highly toxic to aquatic organisms and humans. Solvents were used in a variety of industries, including aerospace component manufacturing and dry cleaning, and are known human carcinogens. Cleanup of the groundwater will reduce the need to import water and provide water sustainability for the Los Angeles region. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_issues/chromium\\_s1.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/water_quality_issues/chromium_s1.shtml)



*Metal plating shop. Credit: Los Angeles Regional Water Board*

## Collaborative Efforts Undertaken to Identify Contaminated Central Coast Groundwater Resources

During 2014, the Central Coast Regional Water Board continued work with the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CCGC) to collect and analyze groundwater data from domestic water supply wells and agricultural irrigation wells throughout the region. This work is being done to characterize shallow groundwater quality, and to better understand where drinking water is impacted by nitrate and unsafe for consumption. The CCGC represents landowners and growers, and fulfills groundwater monitoring and reporting regulatory requirements on their behalf. When a domestic well exceeds the drinking water standard for nitrate, the Regional Water Board or CCGC notifies landowners and growers that the water is unsafe to drink and that replacement water may be necessary. In 2014, growers submitted groundwater data to the Water Boards' GeoTracker database for approximately 2,800 wells, and the CCGC submitted data for approximately 350 additional wells. During 2014, the Regional Water Board analyzed groundwater nitrate data to begin



*Domestic well in farm field. Credit: Central Coast Regional Water Board*

mapping groundwater quality across the region. The mapping, which will help to identify areas at risk for nitrate pollution and to prioritize follow-up actions (including efforts to reduce nitrate loading), is ongoing as the Regional Water Board acquires additional groundwater data. Numerous communities in the region are affected by nitrate pollution in their groundwater drinking water, which presents a major health risk to domestic well users because their drinking water is unregulated and many residents do not realize their drinking water is contaminated. Efforts by the Regional Water Board and CCGC will help to ensure that well users are informed of their drinking water quality. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2014/july/item11/item11\\_stfrpt.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2014/july/item11/item11_stfrpt.pdf)  
<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>

# Financial Assistance

## 2014 Accomplishments

### Grants Awarded for Safe Drinking Water in Central Coast Disadvantaged Communities

In addition to State Water Board financial assistance actions associated with drought response (described on page 4), in May 2014, the Central Coast Regional Water Board allocated \$118,000 from its PG&E settlement fund to its Safe Drinking Water Grant Project (SDWGP). The SDWGP awards funds to entities to provide interim safe drinking water to impacted individuals, such as low-income farmers and disadvantaged communities, in agricultural areas affected by nitrate pollution from fertilizers. The primary purpose of the SDWGP is to provide interim replacement water (e.g., bottled water) to ensure that well users have immediate access to safe drinking water. The funds were also used to sample domestic wells and provide technical assistance on an as-needed basis. This financial assistance also supports outreach to affected communities to ensure awareness of the risks of nitrate-contaminated drinking water, and to implement projects to reduce nitrate loading to groundwater. In 2014, funding

was awarded to the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water and the Coalition for Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship to provide services to low-income farmers and disadvantaged communities. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/rfp\\_safe%20drinking%20water%20project.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/rfp_safe%20drinking%20water%20project.pdf)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2014/may/item\\_11/item11\\_supp%205-21-14.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2014/may/item_11/item11_supp%205-21-14.pdf)



Stock photo

# Enforcement

## 2014 Accomplishments

### Actions Taken to Address Water Quality Impacts from Marijuana Growing

In June 2014, the Governor's Office proposed, and the Legislature approved, funding for the Water Boards and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to work collaboratively to reduce environmental damage caused by the cultivation of marijuana. That direction was in response to the rapid increase in marijuana cultivation and associated negative environmental impacts, such as degraded water quality and impact to flows, in the State. The State Water Board created the Cannabis Enforcement Unit, which has partnered with the Central Valley and North Coast regional water boards, and CDFW, to develop and implement a statewide strategic plan to address the environmental impacts of marijuana cultivation through enforcement actions, the development of a regulatory permitting strategy, education and outreach, and agency and stakeholder coordination. Since June 2014, a cannabis enforcement task force, composed of Water Board and CDFW staff, has performed investigations, conducted education and outreach, and taken enforcement action in Northern California counties that are severely impacted by marijuana cultivation. The focus in 2015 will be to continue implementing the strategic plan, investigating and enforcing against cultivation activities that negatively impact the environment, and developing a regulatory permitting strategy. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/enforcement/cannabis\\_enforcement.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/cannabis_enforcement.shtml)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/marijuana/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/marijuana/index.shtml)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications\\_and\\_forms/available\\_documents/pdf/2013/130611\\_MarijuanFactSheet.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications_and_forms/available_documents/pdf/2013/130611_MarijuanFactSheet.pdf)



Stock photo

## Treatment Plant Upgrades by Largest Central Valley Discharger to Improve Delta Water Quality

In May 2014, the Central Valley Regional Water Board entered into a settlement agreement that requires the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San) to upgrade the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP) to advanced treatment that will substantially increase the quality of wastewater discharged to the Sacramento River, which flows into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. A condition of the agreement was that the Regional Water Board would consider an amendment of Regional San's NPDES permit to include seasonal disinfection requirements, which would allow excess treated wastewater flows to not be disinfected by the SRWTP's disinfection filters during wet-weather periods (November–April). During these periods, filtered and unfiltered wastewater would be combined and disinfected with chlorine prior to being discharged. The combined discharge would occur at times when wet weather and other conditions minimize public use of the river, and high river dilution is generally available, minimizing the increased risk of public contact with wastewater pathogens. The Regional Water Board determined that operating the SRWTP in this manner is fully protective of public health and, therefore, modified Regional San's NPDES permit in August 2014 to allow the seasonal disinfection requirements. The SRWTP upgrades, which are ongoing and scheduled for completion in 2023, will result in significant effluent quality improvement for the largest discharger within the Central Valley Region, as well as improvement in overall Delta water quality. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/drinking\\_water\\_policy/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/drinking_water_policy/)



*Sacramento River, Stock photo*

## Water Boards Lead Negotiations for Safe Drinking Water in Disadvantaged Communities

During 2014, the State Water Board assisted the Central Coast, Central Valley, and Lahontan regional water boards with negotiating agreements and orders directing responsible parties to provide replacement water to disadvantaged communities that rely on nitrate-contaminated groundwater as their drinking water source. Nitrate is one of the State's most widespread groundwater contaminants and poses public health concerns for those who consume nitrate-contaminated groundwater. One negotiated agreement benefited the Rodriguez Farm Labor Camp in Tulare County. The camp, with approximately 150 residents, had been coping for several years with a drinking water supply contaminated with triple the maximum legal limit for nitrate. As of March 2014, all residences had reverse-osmosis treatment units installed to provide safe drinking water. During the year, the State Water Board and the three Regional Water Boards, with input from the Community

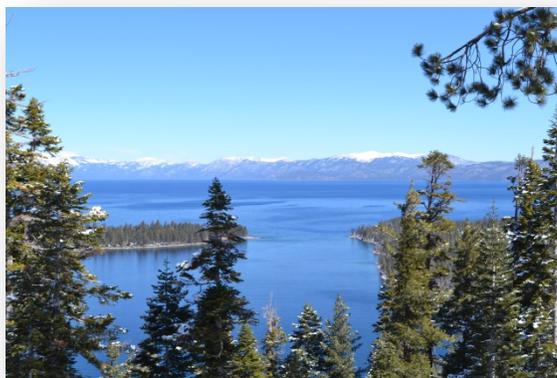
Water Center and other organizations, developed screening methods to assist the Regional Water Boards with identifying sites for negotiating agreements and orders for the provision of replacement drinking water. The State Water Board continues to look for additional opportunities in the same regions, as well as in the regions of the Los Angeles and Santa Ana regional water boards. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/programs/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/index.shtml)

## Enforcement Penalties Used for Environmental Projects in Central Valley and Lahontan Regions

In March 2014, the Central Valley Regional Water Board adopted a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) program in partnership with the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment (Rose Foundation). The Water Boards may allow a discharger to satisfy part of the monetary assessment (penalty) imposed in an administrative civil liability order by completing or funding one or more SEPs. SEPs are projects with environmental value that enhance the beneficial uses of the waters of the State and provide a benefit to the public. In October 2014, the Central Valley Regional Water Board also reached two settlements, which resulted in more than \$230,000 for their SEP program. The Rose Foundation will distribute the funds to the Community Water Center to fund their Clean Water Project to protect and enhance groundwater quality in disadvantaged communities. In February 2014, the Lahontan Regional Water Board adopted a SEP program that partners with the



*Stock photo*



*Lake Tahoe, Stock photo*

Truckee River Watershed Council (Council) to fund restoration projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Settlement funds of approximately \$704,000 from the Northstar Mountain Properties settlement will be used to fund the program. The Council identified three restoration projects to receive funding: the Elizabethtown Meadows Restoration, Middle Martis Creek Wetlands Restoration, and Dry Creek Restoration. These projects will address erosion, protect and restore wetlands, create recreational access, and address water quality problems. The State Water Board assisted the Regional Water Boards in developing these regional SEP programs. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/enforcement/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/enforcement/index.shtml)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/press\\_room/announcements/press\\_releases/r5\\_2014\\_0410\\_disadvntgcom\\_media.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/press_room/announcements/press_releases/r5_2014_0410_disadvntgcom_media.pdf)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/r5-2014-0040\\_res.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2014-0040_res.pdf)

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

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2014/docs/r6t\\_2014\\_0015.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2014/docs/r6t_2014_0015.pdf)

### Enforcement Actions Taken on Oil Field Waste Discharges to Protect Central Valley Water Resources

During 2014, the Central Valley Regional Water Board took action to protect water resources from wastes associated with well stimulation (including hydraulic fracturing). The Regional Water Board issued enforcement orders against dischargers for the illegal discharge of oil field wastes to unlined sumps (sumps,

which are typically unlined, are used for the storage or disposal of drilling muds and oil field wastewater). The Regional Water Board also implemented an aggressive work plan to address unlined sumps that receive oil field wastewater, and has inspected approximately 950 sumps in the region to date. In addition, the Regional Water Board began an intensive effort to identify and catalog sumps used for oil field wastewater disposal. The orders required dischargers to investigate if the disposal of oil field wastewater to injection wells impacted groundwater quality. Most oil field wastewater disposed of in sumps or injection wells is highly saline water (brine), which is produced when oil and natural gas are extracted, and poses a threat to the environment and public health if discharged to surface waters or land.

During 2014, the Regional Water Board also participated in the development and implementation of activities required by SB 4 to address water quality concerns associated with well stimulation (as noted on page 14, SB 4 requires the State Water Board to develop model criteria to monitor groundwater that may be impacted by well stimulation). The significance of these actions is to prevent the degradation of the region's waters by high salinity wastes and other pollutants associated with well stimulation activities, and to protect sources of groundwater used as drinking water. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/oil\\_fields/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/oil_fields/index.shtml)  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/groundwater/sb4/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/groundwater/sb4/index.shtml)

### Cleanup of San Diego Bay Shipyards Successfully Continues

During 2014, in the San Diego Region, the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO) Shipyard remediation work was successfully completed, and the BAE Systems San Diego Ship Repair Facility Shipyard remediation commenced, at the San Diego Shipyards Sediment Site. In its oversight role, the San Diego Regional Water Board conducted site inspections, reviewed weekly status reports, and commented on NASSCO's June 2014 Final Cleanup and Abatement Completion Report.

For nearly a century, shipyard activities have resulted in the discharge of wastes to San Diego Bay. These waste discharges result in the accumulation of pollutants in the marine sediment, which has adverse impacts on human health and aquatic life in the bay. In 2012, the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted a landmark Clean Up and Abatement order directing the remediation of the shipyards and, in 2013, adopted WDRs for the remediation activities. The cleanup of the shipyards will result in the single largest mass of contaminants (including PCBs, tributyltin [TBT], polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs], mercury, copper, arsenic, and zinc) ever removed from San Diego Bay, and is being successfully accomplished without decades of additional litigation. Post-remedial monitoring will begin in 2015 to verify the success of the cleanup efforts.

For more information: <http://www.sdcleanbay.com/>  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water\\_issues/programs/shipyards\\_sediment/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water_issues/programs/shipyards_sediment/index.shtml)



NASSCO Shipyards. Credit: San Diego Regional Water Board



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## Increased Enforcement Reduced Sewage Spills to San Francisco Bay

During 2014, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board increased its audits of, and enforcement on, sanitary sewer collection system agencies to decrease the rate and amount of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) to San Francisco Bay. Sewage overflows result in discharges of untreated sewage into the environment, which contaminates water resources, causes property damage, and threatens public health. The Regional Water Board entered into a consent decree in September 2014 to settle a lawsuit against the East Bay Municipal Utility District (District) and seven East Bay communities to decrease their wet-weather SSOs. Those entities were required to upgrade their sewer collection systems, implement local ordinances to compel property owners to fix their leaky private sewer pipes, and divert storm water runoff to the

District's wastewater treatment plant when conditions allowed. These actions resulted in the rate and amount of SSOs decreasing faster than the State's average: the regional SSO rate decreased by 27 percent from 2008 to 2014 (from over 13 SSOs to close to 10 SSOs per 100 miles); whereas, the State SSO rate from 2008 to 2014 decreased only 9 percent (from about 5.5 SSOs to 5 SSOs per 100 miles). For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water\\_issues/programs/SSO\\_Reduction.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/SSO_Reduction.shtml)

## San Diego Fined Nearly \$1 Million for Storm Water Pollution

In August 2014, the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted an enforcement order specifying that the City of San Diego (City) will pay nearly \$950,000 for violations of their MS4 storm water permit. The City failed to adequately implement their storm water treatment plans at 306 new construction sites. Treatment controls at these sites were either missing, or designed and installed incorrectly, resulting in storm water runoff that received little or no treatment before being discharged to local water bodies. Pollutants in runoff discharged from storm drains adversely affect human health, recreational opportunities, and animals. The enforcement order requires the City to bring sites into compliance, improve its tracking system, and hire additional staff. In addition, nearly half of the penalty will go toward a Storm Water Treatment Control Best Management Practices Project that will enhance existing storm water controls at five City facilities, and the building of a new storm water hydromodification basin at a sixth City facility. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2014/R9-2014-0017.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2014/R9-2014-0017.pdf)  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2014/pr081314\\_r9.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2014/pr081314_r9.pdf)



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# Outreach and Education

## 2014 Accomplishments



Tribal meeting at State Water Board. Credit: State Water Board

## Water Board Training Provided for Tribes

In October 2014, the State Water Board held a day-long training in the City of Sacramento for Tribal representatives regarding the programs and activities of the Water Boards. More than 70 Tribal members from around the State attended the training, which followed a half-day training session regarding the State Water Board's water rights program that was held for Tribes in 2012. At the request of Tribes, the 2014 training covered water rights and select water quality programs. Planning for the training event was conducted by a committee of Water Board staff, Tribal representatives, and federal officials. The goal of the training was to increase the knowledge of Tribal members regarding Water Board programs and activities, thereby increasing their ability to work more effectively on issues within the jurisdiction of the Water Boards. Two more training sessions are being planned in 2015. For more information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/outreach/education/justice.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/outreach/education/justice.shtml)

# Data Accessibility

## 2014 Accomplishments

### Five Years of Stream Pollution Trends Reported

In November 2014, the State Water Board's Stream Pollution Trends Program (SPoT) released the statewide report, "Trends in Chemical Contamination, Toxicity and Land Use in California Watersheds: Stream Pollution Trends (SPoT) Monitoring Program Third Year Report - Five-Year Trends 2008-2012." SPoT, a surface water monitoring program managed by the State Water Board, is designed to monitor

long-term trends of watershed contamination and associated toxicity. The program investigates the impacts of land use on water quality, helps prioritize water bodies in need of water quality management, and evaluates the effectiveness of management programs designed to improve stream health. The 2014 SPoT report summarizes results from the first five years of annual surveys assessing stream pollution concentrations and how they are affected by land use. The report indicated that levels of pyrethroid pesticides showed an increasing trend in all watersheds, but most significantly in urban watersheds, with bifenthrin continuing to be the most commonly detected. Detections and concentrations of the chlorinated compounds, DDT, and PCBs, significantly declined, whereas, detections and concentrations of PAHs, flame retardants, polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), and selected metals remained relatively constant. Detections and concentrations of organophosphate pesticides in sediment also decreased. The data provide a statewide perspective on the impact of pollution on stream health, and allow local and regional water quality managers to evaluate how conditions in their streams compare to those in other California watersheds. For more information:



Big Sur, Stock photo

tables, and statistical tools. A unique feature is the ability to download data directly from the website. Additionally, the Regional Water Board is developing web-based watershed report cards that will be made available on the CCAMP website in 2015. The report cards will be based on multiple parameters to determine the overall water quality and biological health of the region's watersheds. For more information:

[www.ccamp.org](http://www.ccamp.org)

### Database Update Sends Discharger Monitoring Data Directly to USEPA

In fall 2014, the Water Boards implemented the online Electronic Self-Monitoring Reports (eSMR) 2.5 system which is an enhancement to the existing eSMR module of the Water Boards' California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS). The enhancement allows NPDES permit holders that are classified as "major dischargers" to enter their Discharger Monitoring Report (DMR) data into the system. DMRs are required by the USEPA, and are similar to Self-Monitoring Reports, required by the Water Boards, in that they both contain compliance data about permitted discharges. The enhancement allows data to flow between CIWQS and USEPA's regulatory database, the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS). DMR data was previously submitted by dischargers on paper forms and



State Water Board website

### Public Web Portal on Central Coast Watershed Health Updated

In October 2014, the Central Coast Regional Water Board released significant upgrades to its Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) Data Navigator public web portal. CCAMP is the Regional Water Board's water quality monitoring and assessment program with the mission to collect, assess, and disseminate water quality information to aid decision-makers and the public in maintaining, restoring, and enhancing water quality and associated beneficial uses in the Central Coast region. The Data Navigator allows the user to view water quality data in a number of ways, and includes graphs, maps,



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manually entered into ICIS by USEPA contractors. By allowing major NPDES permit holders to log into one system to submit data to both CIWQS and ICIS, resources can be redirected to activities that more directly benefit water quality. For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ciwqs/esmr25.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/esmr25.shtml) and <https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/>

## Focus on Delta Flows as Comprehensive Review of Bay-Delta Plan Continues

Efforts continued in 2014 to comprehensively update the State Water Board's 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). The Bay-Delta Plan identifies the beneficial uses of the waters of the Bay-Delta, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and implementation elements to achieve those objectives. In 2008, the State Water Board adopted a strategic work plan for actions to protect the beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta. As flow has been identified as a major factor affecting fisheries and other beneficial uses of waters in the Delta, the State Water Board's four-phase comprehensive update to the Bay-Delta Plan, initiated in 2009, addresses flows in Delta tributaries.



*Bay-Delta, State Water Board website*

A brief description of the four phases, which may overlap with each other at various points, follows: Phase 1 involves updating San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity objectives; Phase 2 examines whether changes are needed to Bay-Delta outflow objectives and other water quality objectives; Phase 3 involves changes to water rights and other measures to implement changes to the Bay-Delta Plan from other phases; and Phase 4 involves developing instream flow objectives for priority tributaries to the Delta. During 2014, as part of Phase 2 of the update, the State Water Board, in coordination with the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Science Program, completed several workshops and independent scientific reviews on key scientific issues focused on Delta outflows and interior Delta flows. Under Phase 4 of the update, in February 2014, the State Water Board received a recommendation from the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Science Program on the method to develop instream flow criteria, to be used in developing instream flow objectives, for priority tributaries to the Delta. In March 2014, the State Water Board held a public workshop to present the recommendation to stakeholders. The development of flow objectives for the Delta by the State Water Board will help to protect the largest estuarine ecosystem along the West Coast of North America and the hub of much of California's water supply.

For more information: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/bd\\_prccs\\_faq.shtml#5](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bd_prccs_faq.shtml#5), [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), and [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/flow\\_objectives/public\\_process.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/flow_objectives/public_process.shtml)

## State Water Board Responds to Napa Earthquake

At 3:20 a.m. on August 24, 2014, a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck the Napa area of California. By 5:00 a.m., the State Water Board had begun contacting local water system personnel to evaluate impacts to local drinking water supplies. By noon, the State Water Board had completed an initial assessment of affected water systems, and engaged in a coordinated response effort with State and local partners, including health departments, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and the California Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network. Several small water systems suffered immediate impacts, most notably the St. Helena Hospital water system and the Meyers Water Company. The State Water Board guided these systems through sanitary assessments, public notice, and obtaining financial assistance through the State Water Board's Proposition 84 emergency funding program. The City of Napa (City) water system was severely impacted by the quake. Approximately 500 people were initially without water as a major storage tank was catastrophically damaged and pipes were ruptured throughout the system. The City improvised "water stations" to ensure that all residents could obtain potable water.



*Napa earthquake damage. Stock photo*

To address possible contaminant intrusion into the damaged distribution system, the State Water Board directed the City to issue a boil water notice to residents that rely on the portions of the system that had lost pressure. The State Water Board approved Proposition 84 emergency funding to repair the damaged storage tank. These collaborative efforts resulted in minimal disruption of water service and rapid restoration of a safe drinking water supply to Napa's residents and businesses.

For more information: <http://www.calwarn.org/>, <http://hazardmitigation.calema.ca.gov/>



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# OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2015

## Region 1 - North Coast Regional Water Board

- ✚ Implement the regional Vision Statement, including a new organizational structure and regional priorities, both developed through an all-staff visioning process.
- ✚ Develop sediment TMDL and WDR for timber operations in the Elk River watershed.
- ✚ Develop a Policy in Support of Restoration Projects in the North Coast Region.
- ✚ Develop the Cannabis Cultivation Regulatory and Enforcement Program, including a WDR or Waiver of WDRs for discharges associated with cannabis operations.
- ✚ Finish the pathogens indicator bacteria TMDL for the Russian River, which will include load allocations and requirements associated with septic systems in the lower watershed.
- ✚ Hold Regional Water Board workshops on topics of emerging importance, including: climate change and identification of Regional Water Board actions for inclusion in an upcoming Climate Change Policy; and the role of water quantity and flow on water quality, and identification of potential regulatory actions to address low flow conditions.

## Region 2 - San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board

- ✚ Reissue the Municipal Regional Storm Water Permit (covering 76 permittees) with a "100% reduction by 2022" goal for trash and streamlined requirements for LID.
- ✚ Develop TMDLs for impaired waters while continuing to implement TMDLs by: developing a vineyard regulatory program to address sediment discharges in Napa and Sonoma; updating permits for dairies; and working to divert more storm water to wastewater treatment plants to reduce the discharge of PCBs, pathogens, and pesticides in urban runoff.
- ✚ Develop and implement a nutrient management strategy for San Francisco Bay, focusing on the science to support nutrient objective development, monitoring, modeling, and load reductions.
- ✚ Develop a program to efficiently address cleanup of unfunded dry cleaner pollution sites.
- ✚ Pursue aggressive enforcement with emphasis on sewage spills, trash and debris discharges, and illegal fill of wetlands and streams.

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

- ✚ Prioritize permitting actions to address drought issues as quickly as possible.
- ✚ Continue to encourage local entities to take actions to reduce groundwater over-drafting and to implement long-term sustainable groundwater management strategies.
- ✚ Continue to investigate drinking water contamination cases and require replacement water where appropriate.
- ✚ Continue to implement the region's irrigated agriculture order by working with growers to reduce pollutant loading to surface water and groundwater, reduce toxicity to surface water, reduce erosion, and protect riparian habitat. Prioritize the greatest threats to water quality, emphasize the iterative improvement process, and follow up with enforcement when necessary.

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

- ✚ Encourage and facilitate increased water reuse through NPDES permits for municipal wastewater treatment plants.
- ✚ Work to implement watershed-based, multi-benefit projects through the Los Angeles County MS4 permits.
- ✚ Partner with water purveyors to accelerate cleanup of critical drinking water aquifers.
- ✚ Reissue the Ventura County MS4 permit.

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

- ✚ Improve the efficiency of the WDR adoption process by addressing facilities with the highest threat to groundwater quality, adopting general orders or waivers, and developing templates or standard language for individual orders to improve consistency and streamline the development of individual permits.
- ✚ Use resources acquired through SB4 to expand and improve oil field regulatory oversight and enforcement. Coordinate with the State Water Board, CA Department of Conservation, and other agencies to evaluate potential water quality impacts from fluid injection, including fracking, and the disposal of drilling and production wastes in unlined surface sumps.
- ✚ Evaluate data collected by the Dairy Representative Monitoring Program, and work with dairies to assess the effectiveness of existing dairy water quality protection management practices. Develop a plan and schedule to ensure dairies are in full compliance with the Dairy General Order.
- ✚ Implement the Delta Regional Monitoring Program. Monitoring will commence in 2015, with an initial focus on pathogens, and will be expanded as funding and resources increase.
- ✚ Continue CV-SALTS efforts to develop a sustainable salt and nitrate management plan for the entire Central Valley, which includes providing safe drinking water in areas with legacy nitrate contamination in local groundwater.
- ✚ Further develop a marijuana regulatory and enforcement program, including refining inspection protocol, contracting of the Cannabis Identification and Prioritization System, streamlining the enforcement process, expanding outreach and education, and working with the North Coast Regional Water Board to develop a consistent regulatory program.
- ✚ Adopt a General MS4 permit with a focus on watershed planning and implementation. The General Permit will replace all Phase I permits for the Central Valley Water Board and allow Phase II dischargers to seek coverage at their discretion. Target adoption date is early-mid 2015.
- ✚ Develop a general waiver to regulate timber and other activities on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands. Coordinate with the North Coast Regional Water Board, which has an existing waiver, to ensure a consistent regulatory approach for the USFS. Additionally, continue to develop an MOU with the USFS to establish the Water Boards' role in Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams. The MOU would apply to all Regional Water Boards but not require their participation.
- ✚ The Central Valley Regional Water Board developed and implemented Portfolio Management to promote consistency within each program. In 2015, the region will continue to refine the annual Programmatic Work Plan requirement and incorporate a fiscal

analysis. The land disposal WDR program will be reviewed under the Lean 6 Sigma process to identify and remove impediments to the processing of WDRs.

## *Region 6 - Lahontan Regional Water Board*

- ✚ Produce a report on procedures/criteria for using Managing Natural Attenuation in groundwater cleanups tailored for the region by early 2015. A workshop was held in September 2014.
- ✚ Produce a report on climate change actions and adaptation strategies tailored for the region by early 2015.
- ✚ Adopt a PG&E Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) to set cleanup deadlines, plume capture, and monitoring requirements to clean up the hexavalent chromium groundwater pollution in Hinkley, CA. Workshops on the draft CAO began in September 2014.
- ✚ Lead statewide policy development efforts with other Regional Water Boards on a grazing regulatory action project.
- ✚ Complete the first phase of a source tracking study for the regional bacteria project to better identify sources of bacterial contamination in bacteria-impaired waters in the region. Results will support TMDL efforts. Participate in the statewide efforts to update bacterial standards to support recreational uses.

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

- ✚ Conduct a triennial review of the region's Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan).
- ✚ Cleanup of the New River remains a top priority for the region. Consistent with the recommendations set forth in the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan, the region's regulatory priorities for the New River continue to be water quality monitoring and reporting, ensuring discharges of wastes from Mexico into the New River do not violate TMDL load allocations, and controlling agricultural runoff.

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

- ✚ Renew the Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino County storm water permits. The Orange County permit expired on April 1, 2014, and the Riverside and San Bernardino County permits expired in January 2015. Adoption of these permits is expected during the first half of 2015.
- ✚ Adopt Selenium TMDLs for the Newport Bay Watershed. The Board has conducted a number of TMDL development workshops with stakeholders and agencies, and adoption of the TMDLs is expected in early 2015.
- ✚ Adopt Metals TMDLs for Newport Bay. Copper is the key pollutant being addressed in the TMDLs. The Metals TMDLs is expected to be controversial as the primary source of copper in the bay is anti-fouling paints used on boats.
- ✚ Adopt a Conditional Waiver for Agricultural Discharges in the San Jacinto Watershed. Release of a draft waiver is expected in early 2015, with Board workshops and adoption expected in late 2015.
- ✚ Continue participation in the Orange County North Basin Task Force that is working to develop a cleanup strategy for a regional groundwater contamination plume.

## Region 9 - San Diego Regional Water Board

- ✚ Initiate development of environmental outcomes performance measures, beginning with the development of biological water quality objectives for rivers and streams in the region.
- ✚ Complete the San Diego Bay Strategy to fully implement the Bays and Estuaries Policy, and address long-standing legacy contamination and water quality impairments, identify environmental outcomes performance measures, and complete all 33 cleanups and address three Bay-wide listings through strategic stakeholder partnerships by 2030.
- ✚ Update the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Strategy, and adopt a Five-Year Action Plan to restore the Tijuana River Valley waters, wetlands, and coastal water quality.
- ✚ Building on work started through a Waiver of WDRs in 2007, adopt a far-reaching General WDR to protect water quality and beneficial uses from pollutants coming from irrigated lands.

## State Water Resources Control Board

- ✚ Ensure safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities by maximizing the use of the State Revolving Fund, and providing technical, managerial, and financial assistance to resolve problems that small public water systems have in providing safe, reliable drinking water to their customers.
- ✚ Complete the integration of the State's Division of Drinking Water program, including the development of fee regulations for drinking water systems.
- ✚ Begin implementation of groundwater regulation legislation, and develop an approach to managing groundwater-surface water interactions related to surface flow objectives.
- ✚ Assess effectiveness of 2014 drought action implementation, and implement near-term recommendations in preparation for a possible dry 2015 (includes both water rights and conservation).
- ✚ Identify drought-vulnerable public water systems, and monitor these systems to help prevent or mitigate any anticipated shortfalls in supply and to secure alternative sources of water when needed. Work with other systems to ensure they prepare for continued and future drought.
- ✚ Adopt uniform water recycling criteria for indirect potable reuse of recycled water, and develop criteria for direct potable use.
- ✚ Adopt a General permit for low-risk drinking water discharges.
- ✚ Continue outreach on development and implementation of monitoring/oversight provisions for well stimulation (hydraulic fracturing) activities and regulations.
- ✚ Implement the groundwater program for well stimulation activities under SB 4.
- ✚ Develop strategies to address groundwater contamination in the Los Angeles region.
- ✚ Amend the Industrial Storm Water Permit to include TMDLs.
- ✚ Develop a storm water strategic initiative to improve program effectiveness by incentivizing watershed management, multiple-benefit projects, storm water capture, and source control.
- ✚ Adopt a general permit for Trash in Waterways.
- ✚ Adopt an Ocean Desalination Policy.
- ✚ Complete the proposal for Comprehensive Update of Bay-Delta Plan (Phases 1 and 2).
- ✚ Develop and start implementing administrative actions for enhancing flows statewide in at least five stream systems that support critical habitat for anadromous fish.

### FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

**CAFO** – CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION

**DDT** – DICHLORODIPHENYLTRICHLOROETHANE

**FERC** – FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

**NPDES** – NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

**PAHs** – POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS

**PCBs** – POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS

**SB** – SENATE BILL

**TMDL** – TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD

**USEPA** – U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**WDR** – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (TYPE OF PERMIT)

## *Our Mission*

*"To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations."*

## *Our Vision*

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR., GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ, SECRETARY  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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## 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 West 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

Fresno, CA 93706

(559) 445-5116 TEL

(559) 445-5910 FAX

### Redding Office

364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205

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

(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)

2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100

San Diego, CA 92108

(619) 516-1990 TEL

(619) 516-1994 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

(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\\_1314/](http://WWW.WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV/ABOUT_US/PERFORMANCE_REPORT_1314/)