

**Title: Rethinking Water Demand Estimates of Cannabis Cultivation in the North Coast Region of California**

To date, evaluations of water demand of cannabis cultivation have been based largely upon scaling up from individual plant use estimates, which have been unable to address factors of water use inefficiency, monthly variation, and the widespread use of stored water. This has led to disagreement about the impacts of cannabis cultivation on California's water resources. This study analyzed water use reporting data from cannabis cultivators in the North Coast who are enrolled for regulatory coverage under the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Cannabis Waste Discharge Regulatory Program.

**Presenter: Dr. Christopher Dillis, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**

Christopher Dillis is an Environmental Scientist in the Cannabis Division at the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. He received his PhD in Ecology from UC-Davis, as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow, studying the impacts of illegal logging on rainforest health in Indonesia. He served as an environmental consultant while finishing graduate school, specializing in permitting related to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. His current research is focused on the impacts of cannabis cultivation to water quality and instream flow. He has worked to enhance the quality and quantity of data collected from cannabis cultivators, in an effort to facilitate research on this relatively understudied industry.