



## **Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Fees Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **1. Why did I get an invoice?**

An annual WDR invoice is sent to any person/entity who is enrolled in or permitted by a WDR order. The fee is assessed for the privilege of discharging waste that may affect the state's surface or ground water. California Water Code sections 13260 and 13269 allow the State Water Board to collect a fee to recover costs associated with the issuance, administration, reviewing, monitoring and enforcement of WDRs or waivers of WDRs.

### **2. How is the fee determined?**

The fee is assessed based on criteria specific to each WDR program. The main programs are described below. See the annual fee schedule posted on the Fee Branch website (address below) for a detailed list of all WDR and NPDES Stormwater fees.

*WDR (Non-Chapter 15) and Land Disposal (Chapter 15)* – a Threat to Water Quality (TTWQ)/Complexity (CPLX) rating is assigned to every discharger. See question 3 for a description of TTWQ/CPLX ratings.

*NPDES (Municipal Storm Water)* – Public entities subject to an area-wide NPDES Stormwater permit will be invoiced based on the population of the public entity.

*NPDES (Flow)* – The majority of non-Storm Water NPDES permittees will pay a fee based on the designed flow of the facility.

*NPDES (General)* – Facilities are assessed a fee based on one of three categories determined by the treatment required and threat to water quality.

*Confined Animal Facilities (CAF)* – Facilities will be assessed a fee based on animal headcount.

*Agricultural Lands (formerly referred to as Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program)* – Dischargers pay a fee based on their agricultural activity and whether they are enrolled as a member of a group that manages fee collection and payment or if they are enrolled as an individual.

**3. What is the Threat to Water Quality (TTWQ)/Complexity (CPLX) rating?**

Discharges are assigned a rating by the regulating Regional Board based on the discharge's potential effect upon the surface or ground water quality and the beneficial uses of those waters (TTWQ) and the complexity of the discharge (CPLX). In determining the TTWQ, the Regional Board should consider duration, frequency, seasonality and other factors that might limit the impact of the discharge. A detailed explanation of each category can be found in the annual fee schedule posted on the Fee Branch website (address below).

If you have a question about your TTWQ/CPLX rating, contact the Regional Board that issued your permit. The telephone number and email address can be found on the back of your invoice.

**4. I sold my facility. Shouldn't the new owner be responsible for the invoice?**

Not necessarily. If you sold your facility or operation, state law requires you to notify the regulating Regional Board in writing. Under law, the new owner must also notify the Regional Board that they are taking over responsibility for compliance with the WDR order. The State Water Board is required to invoice the discharger named in the WDR order and who is responsible for payment of the fee until the Regional Board transfers or reissues the WDR order.

**5. What do I do if the invoice does not belong to me?**

Notify the Regional Board (phone numbers below) that the invoice does not belong to you.

**6. Is a fee still required if I am not discharging?**

Yes. The fee is a requirement of the permit and is not based on the frequency or duration of your discharge. Since your WDR order allows you to discharge waste as specified, you must pay an annual fee as long as your WDR order remains in effect. You are required to report any material changes in your discharge to the Regional Board (phone numbers below).

**7. I will stop discharging mid-year. Will my fees be pro-rated?**

No. WDR fees are not pro-rated. To prevent future fiscal year invoices from being generated, please submit a rescission request to the Regional Board by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**8. How do I terminate my permit?**

If you are no longer discharging and think you should not be assessed future fees, you must notify the Regional Board immediately (phone numbers below). As appropriate and after you have complied with all laws and permit conditions, the Regional Board may determine that your WDR order can be rescinded. If rescinded, you will not be assessed future fees but you may still be required to pay current and past annual WDR fees.

**9. Is interest accrued or is there a late penalty fee incurred on late payments?**

The State Water Board does not assess interest or late payment fees for WDR invoices. However, outstanding fees will be considered delinquent 30 days after the date of the invoice. Balances that remain outstanding 90 days past the date of the original invoice will be turned over to an outside collection agency.

**10. Can I pay using a credit card or electronic fund transfer (EFT)/debit?**

Yes! Go to our website for more information and a link to the online payment system: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/make\\_a\\_payment/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/make_a_payment/).

**11. Can I pay multiple invoices with one check?**

Yes. You must indicate on the check the invoice numbers you are paying with that check so the payments can be applied correctly.

**12. How long do I need to wait before checking the status of my payment?**

Please allow two weeks from the date of receipt for the State Water Board to process and post your payment. You may look up information on current and previous invoices, including payment status, on our Permit Fee Invoice Information search site:

<https://public3.waterboards.ca.gov/infofees/faces/invoiceSearch.xhtml>.

**13. What is the State Water Resources Control Board's Taxpayer ID number?**

The State Water Board's tax ID # is 68-0281986. A signed W-9 form may be requested by emailing the Fee Branch (email address below).

**State Water Resources Control Board – Fee Branch**

Phone: (916) 341-5247

FAX: (916) 341-5248

Email: [FeeBranch@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:FeeBranch@waterboards.ca.gov) (*preferred*)

Website: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/>

For questions about your permit (TTWQ/CPLX rating, change of ownership, rescission, termination, etc.), contact the appropriate Regional Board:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Water Quality Cert. ONLY</b>
1 (North Coast)	(707) 576-2656	(707) 576-2220 <a href="mailto:northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov">northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
2 (San Francisco Bay)	(510) 622-2400	(510) 622-2300 <a href="mailto:Rb2-401application@waterboards.ca.gov">Rb2-401application@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
3 (Central Coast)	(805) 549-3550 <a href="mailto:RB3-Fees@waterboards.ca.gov">RB3-Fees@waterboards.ca.gov</a>	(805) 549-3147 <a href="mailto:Rb3-401application@waterboards.ca.gov">Rb3-401application@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
4 (Los Angeles)	(213) 620-2424 <a href="mailto:RB4Fees@waterboards.ca.gov">RB4Fees@waterboards.ca.gov</a>	(213) 576-6718 – Dredging (213) 576-5733 – Fill/Excavation <a href="mailto:rb4-401certification@waterboards.ca.gov">rb4-401certification@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
5F (Fresno)	(559) 445-5550 <a href="mailto:RB5F-Fees@waterboards.ca.gov">RB5F-Fees@waterboards.ca.gov</a>	(559) 445-6278 <a href="mailto:CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov">CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
5R (Redding)	(530) 224-4845 <a href="mailto:RB5R-Fees@waterboards.ca.gov">RB5R-Fees@waterboards.ca.gov</a>	(530) 224-4845 <a href="mailto:CentralValleyRedding@waterboards.ca.gov">CentralValleyRedding@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
5S (Sacramento)	(916) 464-4727 <a href="mailto:R5-Fees@waterboards.ca.gov">R5-Fees@waterboards.ca.gov</a>	(916) 464-4732 <a href="mailto:CentralValleySacramento@waterboards.ca.gov">CentralValleySacramento@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
6A (S. Lake Tahoe)	(530) 542-5406	(530) 542-5422 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.vanDiepen@waterboards.ca.gov">Elizabeth.vanDiepen@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
6B (Victorville)	(760) 241-6583	(530) 542-5422

Waste Discharge Requirement Fees – FAQs

Region	Phone Number	Water Quality Cert. ONLY
		<a href="mailto:Tiffany.Steinert@waterboards.ca.gov">Tiffany.Steinert@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
7 (Colorado River Basin)	(760) 776-8941	(760) 776-8941 <a href="mailto:Kai.Dunn@waterboards.ca.gov">Kai.Dunn@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
8 (Santa Ana)	(951) 782-4130 <a href="mailto:RB8Fees@waterboards.ca.gov">RB8Fees@waterboards.ca.gov</a>	(951) 782-3281 <a href="mailto:Rb8-401application@waterboards.ca.gov">Rb8-401application@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
9 (San Diego)	(619) 521-3919	(619) 521-3919 <a href="mailto:sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov">sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov</a> Attn: Eric Becker