

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

**STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Robert Schlipf  
MEETING DATE: September 10, 2025**

**ITEM: 8**

**Nutrient Watershed Permit Annual Update – Information Item**

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**DISCUSSION**

This informational item is to provide an update on the Nutrient Watershed Permit the Board reissued in July 2024 for all municipal wastewater dischargers of nutrients to San Francisco Bay. The Nutrient Watershed Permit requires municipal wastewater dischargers to collectively reduce dry weather total inorganic nitrogen loads to San Francisco Bay by 40 percent from 2022 levels within ten years to protect aquatic life from harmful algae blooms.

We will provide an overview of the Nutrient Watershed Permit requirements, progress made in implementing those requirements, and expected progress in the upcoming year. During this past year, municipal wastewater dischargers were required, in part, to (1) monitor and analyze trends in nutrient discharges to the Bay; (2) support an update to the Science Plan that provides a framework for monitoring, modeling, and special studies; (3) submit a report that includes preliminary alternatives for meeting final effluent limits for total inorganic nitrogen; and (4) prepare a Scoping Plan that describes how municipal wastewater dischargers will work together regionally to reduce total inorganic nitrogen loads.

We will also describe our progress updating regulatory requirements to allow some dischargers longer than 10 years to comply with final effluent limits. Because 10 years may be insufficient for dischargers to complete nutrient reduction projects that provide community benefits beyond nutrient reduction, the Board adopted Resolution R2-2024-0014 (*Resolution to Identify and Consider Regulatory Mechanisms to Extend Compliance Schedules for Nutrient Effluent Limitations*) in July 2024, directing staff to evaluate and identify regulatory mechanisms to provide more time where warranted, such as for multi-benefit solutions, including nature-based treatment, wastewater recycling, and innovative technologies that may require pilot testing before full-scale operation.