# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT APRIL 2025

# CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

### PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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#### STAFF RECOGNITION

#### SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARDS

The Central Valley Water Board believes in recognizing superior employee performance via the Employee Recognition Program. This Program consists of monthly Employee Recognition Awards (ERAs) and Superior Accomplish Awards (SAAs). ERAs are presented at monthly All Staff Meetings with a certificate and announcement by the Executive Officer (EO). SAAs are presented at Board Meetings and include a certificate, monetary award, and announcement by the EO. <a href="Employee">Employee</a> Recognition Awards can be viewed on the Board's website at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/press room/employee recognition/).

#### PROGRAM REPORTS

#### **BASIN PLANNING**

#### TRIENNIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act and section 303(c) and Water Code section 13240, the Board reviews the water quality standards contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plans) every three years. The process of soliciting information pertinent to this review and the review itself is referred to as the "Triennial Review."

Board staff initiated the concurrent reviews of both Basin Plans on 5 January 2024 with the issuance of the solicitation for public comments on 5 January 2024.

On 13 December 2024, the Central Valley Water Board approved Resolution R5-2024-0060 adopting the 2024 Triennial Review Workplan. Pursuant to federal regulation, on 3 January 2025, Board staff submitted the adopting resolution, final workplan, and other relevant records to US EPA and State Board.

The 2024 Triennial Review Workplan and adopting resolution, R5-2024-0060, are available on the <u>Triennial Reviews webpage</u> at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/basin plans/triennial reviews/).

#### TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) PROGRAMS

#### **PESTICIDE TMDLS**

On 8 June 2017, the Board adopted a Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) which established a Control Program for Pyrethroid Pesticide Discharges throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, as well as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for pyrethroid pesticides in certain impaired water bodies. The State Water Board approved the BPA on 10 July 2018. The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the BPA on 19 February 2019. On 22 April 2019, USEPA approved the BPA, including the TMDL, are fully approved and effective.

Board staff continue to work with MS4s, wastewater, and agricultural dischargers under the program to meet the baseline monitoring and management plan requirements in the Control Program for Pyrethroid Pesticide Discharges.

On 13 July 2020, Board staff sent orders under Water Code sections 13267 and 13383 (Orders) to MS4 permittees in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins specifying requirements for baseline monitoring under the Control Program for Pyrethroid Pesticide Discharges. Under these Orders, Phase I MS4 permittees were required to submit draft Baseline Monitoring Plans by 1 December 2020. Phase II MS4 permittees under the Order had the option to either 1) submit Baseline Monitoring Plans (Plans) by 28 February 2021, or 2) acknowledge the existing data are assumed to be representative of their discharge, forego baseline monitoring, and prepare a Pyrethroid Management Plan (PMP) due to the Board by 19 August 2021.

All five Phase I MS4 permittees have fulfilled the requirements of the Orders.

Six Phase II MS4 permittees selected the baseline monitoring option and received subsequent approval of their Baseline Monitoring Plans. Three of the Phase II MS4 permittees (Cities of Davis, Los Banos, and Woodland) reported exceedances during baseline monitoring, and in accordance with the Order, developed and received approval for PMPs. Baseline Monitoring Reports from the Cities of Redding and Chico were approved in late 2022, fulfilling the responsibilities of these cities under the Order. The County of Lake and the Cities of Clearlake and Lakeport completed their joint baseline monitoring in early 2024, and the associated Baseline Monitoring Report is in review with Board staff.

Board staff received notices of intent to submit a PMP from 48 Phase II MS4 permittees. Of those 48 Phase II MS4 permittees, 46 submitted PMPs and all have been approved. Board staff continue to work with the Phase II MS4 permittees (2) that did not submit PMPs.

In July 2023, Board staff released the Draft Pyrethroid Research Plan for public comment. The Draft Pyrethroid Research Plan, which is a deliverable of the Control Program for Pyrethroid Pesticide Discharges, summarizes the current state of science, and identifies research and special studies that, once completed, may inform future iterations of pyrethroid pesticide discharge regulations.

Board staff hosted a workshop on 01 August 2023 to provide participants with an opportunity to discuss the Board's Draft Pyrethroid Research Plan. Board staff met with MS4 Phase II entities on 16 August 2023. The public comment period closed on 18 September 2023.

After considering the public comments, Board staff revised the Draft Pyrethroid Research Plan. Board staff hosted a second hybrid workshop on 12 March 2024 to discuss the proposed revisions based on feedback obtained through meetings and written comments provided during the public comment period. Based on feedback received at this workshop, Board staff solicited interest in and availability for a meeting where interested groups could present their prioritization proposals to staff for possible inclusion in the Pyrethroid Research Plan. This meeting was held on 29 July 2024. Board staff are available for additional meetings as requested by the regulated community, Tribes, or other interested parties. Once the revisions are finalized, Board staff will present the Pyrethroid Research Plan to the Board for adoption. Once determined, the date for the public hearing for Board adoption will be publicly noticed.

#### DELTA METHYLMERCURY CONTROL PROGRAM/TMDL

The Delta Methylmercury TMDL and associated program of implementation, collectively referred to as the Delta Mercury Control Program (DMCP) was adopted as a phased TMDL by the Regional Board on 22 April 2010. Final approval by the U.S. EPA was received on 20 October 2011. The TMDL was adopted as a Basin Plan Amendment and includes a control program to reduce methylmercury and inorganic mercury in the Delta.

The first phase of the DMCP requires entities responsible for discharging methylmercury (MeHg) in the Delta to conduct source control studies and subsequently develop and evaluate MeHg management methods. Board staff will use information from these studies and recommendations from both Panels to consider revisions to the DMCP, referred to as the DMCP Review. ADA compliant versions of the Review Panel's Final Reports can be viewed at

(https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/independent-science-review-of-the-delta-mercury-control-program).

Phase 2 began on 20 October 2022 and requires dischargers to implement MeHg control programs to meet allocations, continue total mercury reduction programs, and conduct compliance monitoring. Board staff are continuing to review and incorporate more recent data and methodologies, including information provided in the control and characterization studies, to determine modifications to the DMCP.

Board staff prepared a staff report, the DMCP Review Draft Staff Report for Scientific Peer Review (Staff Report), which presents Board staff's technical review of certain aspects of the Phase 1 DMCP based on comprehensive water quality studies and data that were collected as part of Phase 1. The studies conducted during Phase 1 affirm that regulated sources of mercury within the Delta, including wastewater plants, irrigated agriculture, and stormwater, are not the most significant drivers of methylmercury impairments in the Delta. In contrast, methylmercury inputs from tributary watersheds and open water sediment flux are described in the Report as comprising an even larger proportional share of methylmercury loading to the Delta than was previously estimated.

The Staff Report is the first step in completing the Basin Plan's required re-evaluation of the Phase 1 DMCP. Peer review of the new data and scientific conclusions will help establish a baseline that program alternatives may be compared against. Board staff submitted the Staff Report for external scientific peer review and simultaneously released the report publicly in August 2024. A hybrid Staff Workshop was held on 12 September 2024 to discuss the Staff Report and next steps in the Delta Mercury Control Program.

More information on the DMCP, including the Staff Workshop presentation slides and recording, can be found on the <u>DMCP website</u> at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/tmdl/central valley projects/delta hg/).

#### **DISSOLVED OXYGEN TMDL**

In 2006-2007, an aeration facility was constructed on the Port of Stockton's West End Complex as part of the Stockton Deepwater Ship Channel/San Joaquin River (SDWSC/SJR) Dissolved Oxygen TMDL Implementation Program. Since 2011, the Port of Stockton has operated the aeration facility when dissolved oxygen concentrations are expected to fall below the dissolved oxygen water quality

objective. The water quality objective is 5 mg/L December through August and 6 mg/L September through November in the channel.

From 9 January 2024 to 19 March 2025 no excursions were detected exceeding the applicable water quality objective.

Real-time dissolved oxygen data for the DWSC can be found at

(https://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/QueryF?s=SDO).

More information on the SDWSC/SJR Dissolved Oxygen TMDL Control Program can be viewed at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\_issues/tmdl/central\_valley\_projects/san\_joaquin \_oxygen/index.shtml).

#### CLEAR LAKE NUTRIENT CONTROL PROGRAM/TMDL/BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

Board staff continued implementation of the Nutrient TMDL and considered future revisions to the Control Program and TMDL based on information currently being gathered through studies and projects in the watershed, including the Board's Environmental Driver's study, the UC Davis study, Tribal monitoring data, and other stakeholder efforts. Additionally, Board staff reviewed contract deliverables received pursuant to the second phase of the Environmental Driver's study, which investigated the cyanobacterial community composition of water samples collected during the initial study phase to identify the specific cyanobacterial species with the ability to make toxins, and the environmental factors that cause toxins to be produced. The report is anticipated to be finalized and publicly available in April.

Board staff participated in the Blue-Ribbon Committee meetings and the State Water Board Clear Lake Tour on 27 March 2025. The next Blue Ribbon Committee meeting is expected in May 2025.

More information can be found on the Clear Lake Nutrient TMDL website at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\_issues/tmdl/central\_valley\_projects/clear\_lake\_nutrients/).

More information regarding the Blue-Ribbon Committee can be found on the Natural Resources Agency's <u>Blue Ribbon Committee website</u> at

(https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Blue-Ribbon-Committee-for-the-Rehabilitation-of-Clear-Lake).

#### LOWER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER SALT AND BORON TMDL

On 8 January 2025, the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) submitted the 2024 Annual Report summarizing activities to be completed by USBR in fiscal year 2024 under the Management Agency Agreement to meet obligations assigned to it by the Salt and Boron TMDL for the lower San Joaquin River. The draft Work Plan was distributed for a 30-day public comment period and has been approved. The 2025 Annual Report is now available on the <u>USBR website</u> at

(https://www.usbr.gov/mp/ptms/).

#### CV-SALTS/SALT CONTROL PROGRAM

#### SALT PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION (P&O) STUDY

The first of three phases of the Salt Control Program, the P&O Study, is a ten- to fifteen-year project to characterize the status of salinity in the Central Valley and evaluate salinity management solutions to inform Phases 2 and 3 of the Salt Control Program.

Monthly meetings of the Executive Committee of interested parties are conducted, as well as two subcommittees of the Executive Committee that meet regularly to discuss modeling and regulatory/policy topics. There is a suite of modeling and analytical tools that have been selected for this project and multiple models are currently being applied to each of the three Central Valley hydrologic basins (Sacramento River watershed, San Joaquin River watershed, and the Tulare Lake watershed). The initial model outputs have been completed and provide information on characterizing the current salinity conditions in each basin of the Central Valley.

The initial modeling outputs of current salinity conditions have also informed the Baseline Characterization Report (Part 2 that includes salt loading). Part 2 of the Baseline Characterization Report has been finalized. Next steps for the P&O Study are future modeling scenarios being conducted, evaluation of Salt Management Regions (each Region will have a specific, tailored salinity management plan), a pilot study for Salt Management Region evaluation, evaluation of Salt Management Areas (areas that may serve as salt depositories), evaluation of archetype areas, and evaluation of salinity target setting.

The finalized report summarizing the data gathered from the 66 Groundwater Sustainability Plans that represent the Central Valley Floor was submitted to the Executive Committee in September 2024 and was accepted by the Executive Committee.

Additionally, an evaluation occurred to choose a location for the first archetype study. The location of the Delta-Mendota sub-basin was selected and approved by the Executive Committee as the first archetype study area. The next steps in the archetype study for this location are gathering information from entities in the study area, gathering crop tolerance information, developing initial salinity target ranges, and developing salinity management scenarios. The initial kickoff meeting for the archetype study occurred on 25 June 2024.

On 11 February and 20 March 2025, meetings for the Regulatory and Policy Small Group occurred, discussing Salt Management Areas (SMAs), archetype study policy issues, and de-designation basin plan amendment processes.

The current efforts for the Archetype #1 Study include continued modeling, development of preliminary target values, and development of future scenarios to model. Additionally, a second archetype study is being developed, and the location has been selected as a western portion of the Kings Sub-basin.

Additionally, the Salt Management Area Pilot Study is underway, evaluating parameters for current "in-Valley" salt management solutions consisting of the following: irrigation of salt tolerant crops, evaporation basins, and reverse osmosis technology. A Salt Management Area Pilot Study Report was produced, dated 13 September 2024.

## EVALUATION OF MUNICIPAL AND DOMESTIC SUPPLY (MUN) BENEFICIAL USE IN AG DOMINATED SURFACE WATER BODIES

On 11 August 2017, the Board adopted a Basin Plan Amendment to develop a region wide MUN evaluation process in Ag dominated surface water bodies. A State Board Meeting to consider approval of the Basin Plan Amendment was held on 10 July 2018. State Board members deferred their decision on the amendments to a future date. Board staff continue to work on addressing questions and concerns that were raised during the 10 July 2018 State Water Board Meeting.

More information on the <u>Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) Beneficial Use Project</u> can be found at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\_issues/salinity/mun\_beneficial\_use/).

#### OIL FIELD SALINITY BASIN PLANNING ACTIONS

Groundwater within the Tulare Lake Basin is designated to have both Municipal and Domestic (MUN) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial uses, unless specifically de-designated by a Basin Plan Amendment. The need for evaluating appropriate beneficial uses, specifically for MUN and AGR, has been recognized by stakeholders and the Central Valley Water Board through the 2011, 2013, 2018 and 2021 Triennial Reviews. In addition, the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative also identified the need to evaluate the level of protection of MUN and AGR beneficial uses as an essential activity of the CV-SALTS initiative to find solutions to the salt problem in the Central Valley. There are several basin planning evaluation efforts underway.

#### Southern Lost Hills Basin Plan Amendment

The Central Valley Water Board adopted a Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) to de-designate MUN and AGR use in groundwater within a portion of the Southern Lost Hills Oil field in June 2022. The State Water Board approved the BPA on 7 November 2023. Board staff are currently preparing to submit the Administrative Record for the BPA to the Office of Administrative Law for approval.

Once approval is received from the Office of Administrative Law, this BPA will become effective.

Information on the Southern Lost Hills BPA can be found at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\_issues/basin\_plans/southern\_lost\_hills/).

#### McKittrick Oil Fields Area Basin Plan Amendment Evaluation

Valley Water Management Company (Valley Water) operates oil field-produced wastewater disposal facilities in Kern County. The facilities receive wastewater produced from oil and gas producers in adjacent oil fields. Valley Water has requested to have MUN and AGR beneficial uses removed from portions of the groundwater adjacent to, and within, the administrative boundaries of the South Belridge, Monument Junction, and Cymric oil fields. Board staff have initiated a beneficial use designation evaluation to determine if the removal of MUN and AGR beneficial use designations from the subject groundwater is appropriate and have completed AB-52 and B10-11 tribal consultation. Board staff held a CEQA Scoping Meeting on 25 May 2023 in Buttonwillow, CA.

A draft Staff Report for this project has been developed and internally reviewed. Board staff submitted the Staff Report and a request letter for an external scientific peer review to the State Water

Resources Control Board on 27 September 2024. The external scientific peer review is anticipated to be conducted during April 2025.

Information on the McKittrick Oil Fields BPA Evaluation can be found at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/basin plans/mckittrick/).

#### California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA) Basin Plan Amendment

CIPA submitted information relevant to evaluate MUN and AGR designations on the southwestern portion of the Tulare Lake Basin in western Kern County. Both Central Valley Water Board staff and the Central Valley Salinity Coalition have reviewed the information and provided feedback to CIPA's consultant. CIPA recently submitted a technical report for this project to the Central Valley Water Board to provide information for a beneficial use evaluation. This report was reviewed by Board staff and on 24 October 2023 a meeting was held to discuss the report. Board staff requested more information and CIPA agreed to provide a revised technical report for the Central Valley Water Board. Board staff met with CIPA to discuss the proposed revisions to the CIPA technical report in June 2024. On 31 July 2024 a revised CIPA technical report was submitted to the Central Valley Water Board and is currently being reviewed by Board staff.

#### TRIBAL BENEFICIAL USES DESIGNATIONS

On 2 May 2017, the State Water Board adopted Part 2 of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California --Tribal and Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses and Mercury Provisions (Resolution 2017-0027). This Resolution established three new beneficial use definitions: Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB). The SUB and T-SUB beneficial uses relate to the risks to human health from the consumption of fish or shellfish. The definition of CUL also includes consumption of aquatic resources to support cultural, spiritual, ceremonial, and traditional rights.

On 6 December 2018, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Resolution R5-2018-0079 approving the 2018 Triennial Review with TBU designations as a priority project. At the 18 February 2022 Board Meeting, the Central Valley Water Board adopted the proposed basin plan amendment (BPA) to add the TBU definitions to the Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and Tulare Lake Basin. On 7 September 2022, the State Water Board approved the BPA. The administrative record package was submitted for review to the Office of Administrative Law on 30 October 2023 and approved the administrative record package on 14 December 2023 (corrected Notice of Approval issued 11 January 2024). The administrative record package was submitted to United States Environmental Protection Agency on 29 February 2024.

Board staff continued internal coordination with the Water Board Round Tables, which has representatives from the nine Regional Water Boards and several divisions within the State Water Board (including the Office of Chief Council, Office of Public Participation, Division of Water Quality, and the Division of Water Rights).

As a commitment to providing government-to-government meetings, Board staff host semi-annual hybrid meetings to provide project updates to tribes and their representatives as well as to solicit input to incorporate into the Board's approach.

Board staff continued meeting with tribes who submitted TBU designation requests to review their request, discuss evidence submitted, and provide an opportunity to establish continued collaboration. Meetings will continue to be held and offered throughout the TBU designation process.

More information can be found on the Tribal Beneficial Uses website at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\_issues/basin\_plans/tribal\_beneficial\_uses/).

#### BIOSTIMULATORY/BIOINTEGRITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The State Water Board is developing a statewide plan for controlling bio stimulatory substances and cyanotoxins under the Biostimulation and Cyanotoxins, and Biological Condition Provisions (Provisions) project. Biostimulatory substances are excess nutrients, primarily nitrogen and phosphorus, that cause harmful aquatic plant and algal growth. Biological condition refers to using indices of species diversity and abundance to assess ecological health of a water body. The Provisions may include numeric or narrative water quality objective(s) for bio stimulatory substances and control options for point and non-point sources applicable statewide to streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.

To support the development of the Provisions, Board staff contracted with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) to produce data analyses focused on Central Valley Region streams, lakes and reservoirs. The lakes and reservoirs analysis are completed, and the final report is anticipated to be completed and publicly available in April. For wadable streams, SCCWRP reviewed the applicability of bio stimulatory and bio integrity models with a focus on modified and intermittent waterways in the Central Valley Region. The models used are statistical relationships between a single variable and single response, such as total nitrogen versus chlorophyll or total phosphorus versus bio integrity index score. Key outcomes of the report:

- The methods of assessing stream health (bio integrity indices and measurements of eutrophication) developed first for perennial streams can effectively be used in modified channels and intermittent streams.
- Examples of alternative methods for selecting numeric thresholds for nitrogen, phosphorus and eutrophic conditions for modified channels and northern California intermittent streams were provided in the report. Alternative methods include thresholds based on best-observed conditions within the stream category rather than comparison with perennial reference streams.
- Data is limited to all types of modified channels (e.g., hard bottom, soft bottom) in the Central Valley Region.
- Northern California intermittent streams exhibit benthic invertebrate index scores that are lower than expected, relative to Southern California intermittent streams and perennial streams.

Board staff released the contract deliverable report for public comment in December 2024. Comments received from fourteen entities were shared with SCCWRP and the State Water Board Division of Water Quality. SCCWRP anticipates completing a subsequent version of the report that will consider comments on the technical analyses by fall 2025. In addition, SCCWRP and the SWAMP Bioassessment Program team are continuing evaluation of methods for intermittent streams.

More information on State Water Board's Provisions can be found on the website at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water issues/programs/biostimulatory substances biointegrity/).

The <u>Executive Officer's cover letter</u> to SCCWRP's streams report for Region 5 is available on the website at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\_issues/swamp/streams\_report/streams\_report\_eo\_cov.pdf).

#### NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM (NPDES)

#### **PROJECTS**

The Central Valley Water Board will be considering the renewal of its Region-wide General NPDES Permit for Cold Water Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Facility Discharges to Surface Water (CAAP General Order) at its 19/20 June 2025 Board Meeting. The CAAP General Order regulates discharges to surface waters from fish hatcheries and other aquatic animal production facilities in the Central Valley Region. Currently, 20 facilities are enrolled under Order R5-2019-0079 issued by the Central Valley Water Board. The proposed 2025 CAAP General Order generally carries forward the provisions from the prior Order. However, several new policies became effective after the 2019 permit adoption and will be added to the renewed Order, including the Salt Control Program and the Statewide Toxicity Provisions.

#### GENERAL ORDER ENROLLMENTS

The Central Valley Water Board has issued several NPDES general orders to streamline the permitting process for similar type discharges. Where existing NPDES permittees meet the eligibility requirements of the general orders, staff seek to enroll the permittees under the general orders to streamline the permitting process. The NPDES Table below summarizes the Notices of Applicability that have been issued for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 from 16 January 2025 to 26 March 2025 for the General Waste Discharge Requirements/NPDES Permit for Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water (Limited Threat General Order). No Notices of Applicability were issued during this period for the Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Waste Dischargers that Meet Objectives/Criteria at the Point of Discharge to Surface Water (Municipal General Order) and the Waste Discharge Requirements for Cold Water Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Facility Discharges to Surface Water (CAAP General Order).

#### NPDES PERMIT Table 1 - Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Waters R5-2022-0006-03

Facility	General Order Permit Number
Ballantyne Holdings LLC, Former Marley Cooling Tower Company, San Joaquin County	R5-2022-0006-035
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Deuel Vocational Institution Warm Shutdown Facility, San Joaquin County	R5-2022-0006-036

#### PERMITTING INITIATIVES

#### GENERAL ORDERS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Three general groups of discharges have been identified that are similar in nature and include a significant number of backlogged permits that need to be updated. The three groups include: domestic wastewater treatment plants that treat more than 100,000 gpd (large domestic), nut processing (walnut, pistachios, and almonds) operations, and fruit and vegetable packing operations. Rancho/Fresno staff are drafting the domestic general order, Rancho Cordova staff are drafting the nut processing general orders, and Fresno staff are drafting the fruit and vegetable packing general order.

The adoption of the new General Orders will not only result in increased regulatory consistency, but it will also significantly reduce our permitting backlog within the WDR Program.

#### LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Board priorities for the Land Disposal Program in Fiscal Year 2024/2025 include continued implementation of Racial Equity goals outlined in the Board's Racial Equity Resolution and an assessment of composting activities and permitting needs in the region. In response, the Land Disposal Program incorporated a work prioritization flow chart into the annual work plan and eight sites are estimated for enrollment under General Order No. WQ 2020-0012-DWQ this fiscal year. Target perofrmance measures and current status is presented below in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Current Fiscal Year 2024/2025 performance measures and status

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Target	% of target
Individual WDRs Adopted					3	13	23%
Redding		1			1	2	50%
Rancho Cordova	1				1	6	17%
Fresno		1			1	5	20%
Composting General Order Enrollments					1	8	13%
Redding					0	1	
Rancho Cordova	1				1	4	
Fresno					0	3	
WDR Permitting Related Inspections					5	14	36%
Redding					0	3	0%
Rancho Cordova					0	6	0%
Fresno		5			5	5	100%
Construction Related Inspections					7	11	64%
Redding					0	2	0%

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Target	% of target
Rancho Cordova	1	1			2	5	40%
Fresno	4	1			5	4	125%

#### **IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM (ILRP)**

#### (ILRP) QUARTERLY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The next ILRP stakeholder meeting will be on 26 March 2025, as a Zoom meeting. The focused discussion will be on updates to the Groundwater Protection Values.

More information regarding the stakeholder meetings can be found on the Central Valley Water Boards' <u>ILRP – Stakeholder Meetings and Workgroups web page</u> at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\_issues/irrigated\_lands/regulatory\_information/st akeholder advisory workgroup/).

#### **ILRP COMPLIANCE, OUTREACH & ENFORCEMENT**

#### DRINKING WATER WELL MONITORING OUTREACH

All ILRP enrollees are required to monitor drinking water wells on enrolled parcels for nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen and notify users if the drinking water standard is exceeded. This started with members of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition and Tulare Lake Basin Coalitions in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Members of the San Joaquin & Delta, Grasslands and Westside San Joaquin River Coalitions started monitoring in 2021, and members of the Rice Commission and Sacramento Valley and Westlands Water Quality Coalitions in 2022.

Board staff are tracking notification submittals and conducting follow-up as needed to ensure that members/landowners with wells exceeding the nitrate drinking water standard are notifying users of the impacted wells. Between 1 January and 28 February 850 samples were submitted to GeoTracker by 487 agricultural coalition members/landowners. Approximately 13 percent of the samples exceeded the drinking water standard. During the same period, staff sent emails/phone calls to members reminding them of the notification requirement. Out of 4,484 drinking water well exceedances since the beginning of the program, staff have received 4,442 notification responses. Staff continue to follow up with phone calls, emails, letters and notices of violation, as necessary, for inadequate notification action.

Board staff has also sent 70 sample reduction letters to members of East San Joaquin and Westside San Joaquin Coalitions who have fulfilled 3 consecutive years of sampling with results under 8 mg\L nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen. Notifying members of their requirement to sample their well again in 5 years.

Region-wide, this effort has resulted in 25,343 nitrogen samples being collected and entered in GeoTracker for over 14,184 wells, with approximately 32% of the wells exceeding the nitrate drinking water standard (as of 28 February 2025).

#### **OUTREACH PACKAGES FOR ENROLLMENT**

Water Board staff sent outreach packages prior to 13260 Directives to owners of potential commercial irrigated lands. Outreach packages are sent to potential non-filers to provide them with information on the ILRP and steps for enrolling in the program. Staff then follow up with Directives as needed. Coalition areas not shown had no outreach packages mailed during the reporting period.

Coalition Area	Reminder Letters sent 1 January 2025 – 28 February 2025
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition	621
Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition	578
San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition	474
Kaweah Basin Water Quality Coalition	51
Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority	41
Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority	131
Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition	67
Total	1,963

#### ON-FARM INSPECTIONS FOR GENERAL ORDER COMPLIANCE

The purpose of on-farm inspections is for Board staff to visit coalition-enrolled farms and discuss water quality-related issues with growers. These inspections include staff review of the farm evaluations, irrigation and nitrogen management plans and sediment and erosion control plans. Board staff inspect site conditions, including potential discharge points to surface waters, pollution management practices, chemical storage and handling areas, and wellhead protection practices. Coalition areas not shown had no on-farm inspections during the reporting period.

Coalition Area	On-Farm Inspections 1 January 2025 – 28 February 2025
Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition	2
San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition	1
Total	3

#### **WATER CODE SECTION 13260 DIRECTIVES**

Staff sent directive letters to owners of potential commercial irrigated lands identified through staff inspections of agricultural-zoned parcels. The directives require recipients to obtain permit coverage

within 15 days of receipt. Coalition areas not shown had no directives mailed during the reporting period.

Coalition Area	Directive Letters sent 1 January 2025 – 28 February 2025
San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition	1
Total	1

#### NOTICES OF VIOLATION FOR FAILURE TO SUBMIT A MEMBER REPORT

Notices of Violation (NOVs) were sent to coalition members for failure to submit their member report(s) by the Board-approved deadlines. Members who did not respond to our reminder letters were issued NOVs urging them to promptly provide their report(s) to their respective coalitions or potentially face monetary penalties. Coalition areas not shown had no directives mailed during the reporting period.

Coalition Area	NOVs sent 1 January 2025 – 28 February 2025
Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition	15
Total	15

#### **ENFORCEMENT FOLLOW-UP**

ILRP staff continues to conduct significant compliance and outreach efforts associated with obtaining appropriate enrollment in the program and ensuring late member reports are submitted to the coalitions. During this reporting period, Staff primary focus was sending outreach packages to potential non-filers to provide them with information on the ILRP and steps for enrolling in the program. Staff also conducted several on-farm inspections. Staff sent NOVs to members who have not turned in their Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Reports to their Coalition. There is no enforcement occurring beyond NOVs currently. Staff work closely with the agricultural water quality coalitions throughout the compliance and enforcement process.

#### SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED COALITION GROUPS

#### **ILRP Acronyms**

Acronyms	Meaning
GAR	Groundwater Quality Assessment Report
GQMP	Groundwater Quality Management Plan
GQTMP	Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Program
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
RMMP	Reduced Monitoring/Management Practice

#### **CALIFORNIA RICE COMMISSION**

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
12/30/2024 2/14/2025	2024 AMR  2025 Pesticides for Monitoring	Under Review Approved	
3/10/2025	2025 GAR Update Extension Request	Under Review	

#### **SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATER QUALITY COALITION**

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
07/11/2024	Proposed Modifications to GQTMP	Under Review	
07/15/2024	GQMP Amendment	Under Review	
12/20/2024	Revised Surface Water QAPP	Under Review	
1/31/2025	Documentation Supporting the Renewal of RMMP Verification Options	Under Review	Reduced monitoring renewal requests for El Dorado, Lake, and Napa Sub watersheds

#### SAN JOAQUIN RIVER WATERSHED COALITION GROUPS

#### **ILRP Acronyms**

Acronyms	Meaning
A/R	Applied and Removed Ratio
AMPINAR	Annual Management Practice Implementation Nitrogen Management Report
GQMP	Groundwater Quality Management Plan
GWP	Groundwater Protection
Mgt	Management
MPU	Monitoring Plan Update
MZIP	Monitoring Zone Implementation Plan
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
SW	Surface Water
WY	Water Year

#### **EAST SAN JOAQUIN WATER QUALITY COALITION**

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
10/21/2024	SW QAPP	Under Review	
1/15/2025	MPU Addendum	Under Review	

#### SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AND DELTA WATER QUALITY COALITION

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
7/1/24	GQMP amendment	Under Review	Incorporates GWP Targets, nitrogen applied and removed ratio (A/R) Acceptable Ranges, and MZIP) requirements into the Performance Goals and Measures and Focused Outreach process
10/23/24	2024 SW QAPP	Under Review	Fully revised QAPP. Incorporates past amendments into one doc.

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
12/2/24	AMPINAR	Approved 2/21/25	Annual Mgt Practice Implementation and Nitrogen Application Report
12/11/24	Mgt Plan Completion Request	Under Management Review	Coalition requests approval for completing mgt plans
1/15/25	Monitoring Plan addendum 2025 WY	Approved 3/11/25	Addendum includes new info after the August MPU deliverable

#### WESTSIDE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
12/15/2024	SW Monitoring Plan	Approved 1/31/25	
2/12/2025	Management Plan Completion Request	Under review	

#### **GRASSLAND DRAINAGE AREA COALITION**

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
12/02/2024	2024 AMPINAR	Under Review	

#### **TULARE LAKE BASIN COALITION GROUPS**

#### **ILRP Acronyms**

Acronyms	Meaning
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
GQMP	Groundwater Quality Monitoring Report
SIS	Source Identification Study
SWMR	Surface Water Monitoring Report
Q1/Q3	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter/3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter

#### **BUENA VISTA COALITION**

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
02/10/2025	GQMP – Shallow HVA (2025 Update)	Under Review	
02/10/2025	GQMP – Southern HVA (2025 Update)	Under Review	
08/30/2024	2023 AMR (Update)	Review sent 1/29/2025	

#### **CAWELO WATER DISTRICT COALITION**

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	ltem	Review Status	Notes
08/30/2024	2023 AMR	Review sent 1/10/25	

#### KINGS RIVER WATER QUALITY COALITION

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
02/04/2025	Q3 Monitoring Data Submittal	Under Review	
02/03/2025	Revised SIS Proposal – Molybdenum, Nickel	Approved 02/12/25	

#### **TULE BASIN WATER QUALITY COALITION**

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
08/31/2025	2023 AMR	Review sent 01/17/25	

#### WESTLANDS WATER QUALITY COALITION

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
12/30/2024	Petition for completion of Zinc Management Plans (Panoche-Silver Creek)	Approval Sent 01/29/25	
02/28/2025	Q3 Monitoring Data Submittal	Under Review	

#### WESTSIDE WATER QUALITY COALITION

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	Item	Review Status	Notes
09/03/2024	2023 AMR	Review Sent 02/20/25	
02/28/2025	Q1 2025 SWMR	Under Review	

#### **OTHER PROJECTS**

#### **DATA MANAGEMENT**

ILRP staff routes water quality monitoring data through the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) for transfer to California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN), with uploads occurring monthly. After a completeness check, SWAMP staff loads coalition data to CEDEN. Four coalitions submit data directly to the Central Valley Regional Data Center each May. Currently, nine data sets are awaiting processing and submission.

Several Electric Data Deliverable (EDD) data sets remain incomplete in CEDEN. Staff and Office of Information Management and Analysis (OIMA) are working to reconcile the missing records, with five data sets still pending upload as of this EO report date.

#### RICE PESTICIDES PROGRAM

#### **Deliverables and Activities**

Submittal Date	ltem	Review Status	Notes
12/30/2024	2024 Summary Memo	Approved	

#### DAIRIES/CONFINED ANIMAL FACILITIES

#### **BIRD FLU OUTBREAK**

Avian influenza, or "bird flu" is a contagious viral disease of domestic and wild birds and has also been detected in livestock. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) tracks the detections of bird flu in poultry and livestock in the United States. For information related to the confirmed cases of bird flu at poultry facilities in California, visit Confirmations of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Commercial and Backyard Flocks | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at

(https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/commercial-backyard-flocks).

Below is a figure representing the number of poultry facilities with bird flu detections in the Central Valley Region, acquired from the above link. The first detections in California were in August 2022 (Butte, Contra Costa, Fresno, Sacramento, and Tuolumne counties). From August 2022 through February 2025, there have been 66 flocks affected in the Central Valley.

# 

#### **Dairies/Confined Animals Program Figure 1**

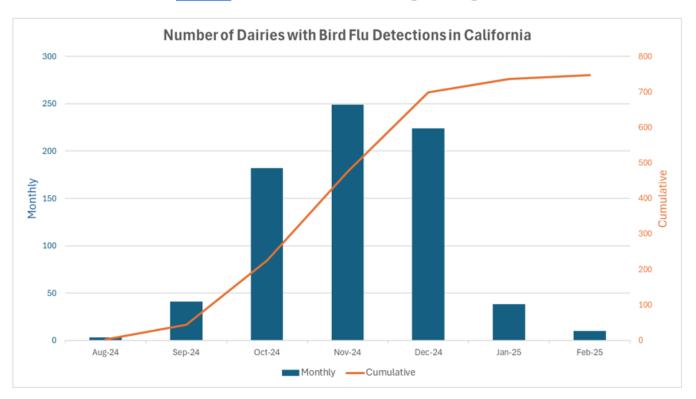
For information related to the confirmed cases of bird flu at dairy facilities in California, visit <u>HPAI</u> <u>Confirmed Cases in Livestock | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service</u> at

Monthly -

(https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/hpai-confirmed-cases-livestock).

Below is a figure representing the number of dairy cases with bird flu detections in California, acquired from the above link. The first detections in California were in August 2024. From August 2024 through February 2025, there have been a total of 747 confirmed dairy cases in California.

#### Dairies/Confined Animals Program Figure 2



#### **ANNUAL INSPECTION PROGRESS**

Since the start of the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the Sacramento Confined Animals Unit has conducted 84 inspections, and the Fresno Confined Animals Unit has conducted 86 inspections, for a total of 170. The annual performance target for fiscal year 2024/2025 is 275 inspections.

#### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

The bovine and dairy annual reports are due by 1 July of each year. Poultry reports are due 1 August of each year. The staff from the Sacramento and Fresno offices have reviewed which confined animal facilities have submitted their annual reports and those that have not. On 2 October 2024, Notice of Violations were sent from the Sacramento Office to 51 dairies, 37 poultry, and 9 bovine facilities. On 17 October 2024, Notice of Violations were sent from the Fresno Office to 18 dairies and 9 bovine facilities. Staff will continue to follow up with these facilities to ensure annual reports are submitted.

#### CV-SALTS NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS

Notices to comply with the Nitrate Control Program (NCP) for facilities in Priority 1 basins and notices to comply with the Salt Control Program (SCP) were sent to dischargers in May 2020 and January 2021, respectively. Staff have identified the dischargers that have not responded to those notices and sent follow-up notices of violation. Sacramento staff sent notices of violation to dairies on 20 November 2024 (14 NCP and 38 SCP), to bovine facilities on 20 December 2024 (12 NCP and 8 SCP), and to poultry facilities on 14 February 2025 (4 NCP and 7 SCP). Fresno staff sent notices of violation to dairies on 21 November 2024 (13 NCP and 22 SCP) and to bovine facilities on 19 and 20 December 2024 (12 NCP and 13 SCP).

#### DAIRY GENERAL ORDER PETITION

On 3 October 2013, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Order No. R5-2013-0122, Reissued Waste Discharge Requirements for Existing Milk Cow Dairies regulating discharges of dairy waste that could affect the quality of waters of the state from approximately 1,300 existing milk cow dairies within the Central Valley. The Asociación de Gente Unida por el Agua and the Environmental Law Foundation filed a petition requesting that the State Water Board review the Dairy General WDRs. On 1 October 2024, the State Water Board released the draft Dairy Order in response to the petition. On 30 October 2024, State Water Board staff held a virtual staff workshop that provided an overview of the draft order and answered questions. Central Valley Water Board staff provided written comments by 6 December 2024. The proposed draft Dairy Order may be revised before it is presented for additional public comment at a future State Water Board workshop. The proposed draft Dairy Order may be revised again before it is considered for adoption by the State Water Board at a subsequent board meeting.

#### DAIRY DIGESTERS/DAIRY POND LINER DESIGN REPORTS

Dairy digester projects usually begin as a double lined pond that once constructed is covered and converted to a digester. Staff review design reports related to double-lined ponds and digesters at dairies to ensure they are protective of water quality. Since the start of the 2024/2025 fiscal year, staff have reviewed and issued approval letters for 40 lined pond and/or digester related reports.

Staff take an active role as Technical Advisory Committee members in the review of several dairy digester project proposals submitted to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) under a competitive grant application process. CDFA's Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP) provides financial assistance for the installation of dairy digesters, which will result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions from manure generated on California dairy farms. Financial assistance for the installation of dairy digesters comes from California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that uses Cap-and-Trade program funds to support the state's climate goals. CDFA and other state agencies are investing these proceeds in projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide additional benefits to California communities.

Information about the <u>Dairy Digester Research and Development Program</u> is available at (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/ddrdp/).

#### ALTERNATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT

CDFA assembled a Manure Recycling and Innovation Product Task Force to help address the overloading of manure on crop land associated with dairies. Board Management participated in the Task Force. The Task Force released its <u>final report</u> on 10 March 2023 at

(https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/research/docs/MRIP\_FinalReport.pdf).

CDFA also administers grant funding for manure management through its Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP). Board staff participate in the program as Technical Advisory Committee members assisting in the review of grant applications. Information on the <a href="MMP Program"><u>AMMP Program</u></a> can be found at

(https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/.)

Additionally, the Dairy Plus Program, managed by CDFA, will award \$75 million from FY 23/24 to 28/29 to producers to incentivize the adoption of advanced climate-smart manure management practices that reduce both methane emissions and nutrient surplus from dairy farms in California. Board staff participate in the program as Technical Advisory Committee members assisting in the review of grant applications. Information about the <u>Dairy Plus Program</u> can be found at

(https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/dairyplus/).

#### **OIL FIELD PROGRAM**

#### WASTEWATER SURFACE PONDS

Central Valley Water Board staff (Staff) continues to work on enrolling oil field operators (operators or dischargers) under the Oil Field General Orders for Discharges to Land (General Orders) or individual waste discharge requirements (WDRs) and evaluating operator compliance with those that have been issued. Staff also continue to work on closure plans for oil field produced wastewater (produced wastewater or discharge) disposal ponds. Major items completed by Staff are identified below.

- Staff reviewed a Notice of Intent (NOI) for General Order Three for a facility in the Midway-Sunset
  Oil Field. The review found a revised NOI, with more information about the facility and the
  discharge, needs to be submitted before the NOI can be considered complete.
- Staff issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to an operator with multiple facilities in the Midway-Sunset
  Oil Field. The NOV was issued due to General Order Three violations that include unregulated
  discharges, facility maintenance issues, and non-submittal of monitoring reports.
- Staff reviewed a response to an NOV issued to an operator with a facility in the Belridge Oil Field.
   Staff concurred with the operator's corrective actions and a plan to install monitoring wells.
- Staff issued three No Further Action Letters (NFA) to operators with facilities in the Midway-Sunset and North Belridge Oil Fields. The NFA states the operators have sufficiently closed their ponds and do not need to conduct additional closure or remediation work.
- Staff reviewed a closure workplan for a facility in the North Antelope Hills Oil Field. Staff found the proposed work could continue as planned. Staff reviewed a closure workplan for an operator in the Carneros Creek Oil Field. Staff's review found the proposed work to be deficient and required the Discharger to submit a response for additional activities necessary for closure.
- Staff reviewed a hydraulic fracturing fluid assessment for facilities in the Antelope Hills Oil Field. Staff's review found that based on the information provided in the assessment, there is no apparent threat to water quality from the hydraulic fracturing fluids placed in the ponds.
- Staff reviewed a solids management plan for facilities in the Coalinga Oil Field. The facilities are regulated under General Order Three. The review found that a revised plan needs to be submitted.
- Staff reviewed a sampling workplan for an operator in the Midway-Sunset Oil Field. Staff
  conditionally approved the proposed sampling work. Staff reviewed a sampling workplan for
  several facilities in the Coalinga Oil Field with subsurface inground tanks used to store produced
  wastewater. The review concurred with the proposed work.

- Staff reviewed an assessment report for an active pond and a closure plan for inactive ponds in the Pyramid Hills Oil Field. Staff requested that a work plan be provided for additional assessment work at the active pond location and that a revised closure plan be provided for the inactive ponds.
- Staff continue to review applications for recycling produced wastewater and produced solids at oil
  field production facilities. Thus far the applications have requested to use produced wastewater for
  dust control and solids as berm and road material.
- Staff continue to review monitoring reports for drilling mud sumps regulated under the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality (Low Threat General Order).

#### SPILL RESPONSE

Staff respond to oil field spills reported to the Office of Emergency Services (OES). Between 17 January 2025 to 20 March 2025, Staff were notified of 7 new oil field-related spill events and completed two field inspections. Major events are summarized below.

On 15 March 2025, Staff received OES Spill Report # 25-1327 and subsequent updates indicating that 25 barrels of crude oil and approximately 100 barrels of produced wastewater leaked from a flowline near Chevron producing well 472 in the Midway-Sunset Oil Field. The release impacted a dry, unnamed streambed. On the same day, Staff contacted Chevron and Chevron staff informed Staff that the spill cleanup was nearly complete. On 20 March 2025, Staff requested photos of the spill before and after cleanup, as well as a map of the impacted area, and indicated that a post-cleanup inspection will be necessary.

On 14 March 2025, Staff received OES Spill Report #25-1317, indicating that E & B Natural Resources Management Corporation (E&B) field personnel had identified a crude oil and produced wastewater leak on the Loma Alta Lease in the Belgian Anticline Oil Field. E&B later determined that the spill was potentially due to the illegal dumping of approximately 200 barrels of crude oil and wastewater. On 17 March 2025, E&B provided photos of the spill-impacted area before and after cleanup and indicated that they placed the waste generated from the cleanup in six 20-yard roll-off bins and that the waste will be disposed of at a permitted facility. Additional follow up to ensure the impacted material is disposed of properly is needed.

On 4 March 2025, Staff received OES Spill Report # 25-1115 and subsequent updates indicating that approximately 47 barrels of crude oil and 50 barrels of produced wastewater were released due to a leak in a pipeline from a Chevron producing well in the Kern River Oil Field. The release impacted a dry, unnamed streambed. On 5 March 2025, Staff contacted Chevron via phone and requested before and after cleanup photos, and a map of the spill-impacted area. On 18 March 2025, Chevron staff provided Staff via email a map of the spill-impacted area and indicated that the spill cleanup was complete and indicated that they planned to dispose of the waste generated during the cleanup at a permitted disposal facility. Additional follow up to ensure the impacted material is disposed of properly is needed.

On 10 February 2025, Staff received OES Spill Report #25-0722, which indicated that an unknown amount of a produced wastewater and crude oil mixture had leaked from a 2-inch flowline connected to California Resources Corporation (CRC) well 56NW-35S in the Elk Hills Oil Field, and that the spill impacted a dry, unknown drainage (blueline). On the same date, CRC contacted Staff and indicated that approximately 3 barrels of produced wastewater containing about 0.5 barrels of crude oil had

been released. Staff requested that CRC provide photos of the spill before and after cleanup, along with waste manifests after CRC disposed of the waste at a permitted disposal facility. CRC provided photos, along with a map showing the spill-impacted area. CRC indicated that the spill traveled approximately a quarter mile in a dry streambed, and that 190 cubic yards of waste was generated during the cleanup. On 12 March 2025, CRC staff provided Staff via email the waste manifests and analytical reports. According to the waste manifests, CRC disposed of the waste at the Avenal landfill. No further action is needed.

#### **UIC PROGRAM**

During the period from 15 January 2025 to 25 March 2025, Staff of the Underground Injection Control Unit (UIC) performed the following activities:

#### **AQUIFER EXEMPTIONS**

Midway-Sunset Oil Field, Tulare Formation Aquifer Exemption – Staff and State Water Board staff met with CalGEM to discuss the conduit analysis. The conduit analysis has been completed. Staff met with the State Water Board and CalGEM to discuss expectations and requirements for remediation and monitoring of potential conduits. CalGEM requested a remediation and monitoring plan from the operators to address the conduit analysis. CalGEM provided the operators with the final Remediation and Monitoring Plan guidance document based on feedback from staff and State Water Board staff. CalGEM provided Staff and State Water Board staff with the operator's Remediation and Monitoring plan for review. Staff met with State Board staff and CalGEM to discuss the operator's Remediation and Monitoring plan. Staff continue to provide comments to the State Board and CalGEM on the Remediation and Monitoring plan.

Kern River Oil Field, Kern River Formation Aquifer Exemption – Staff and State Water Board staff met with CalGEM to discuss the conduit analysis. The conduit analysis has been completed. Staff met with the State Water Board and CalGEM to discuss expectations and requirements for remediation and monitoring of potential conduits. CalGEM requested a remediation and monitoring plan from the operators to address the conduit analysis. CalGEM provided the operators with the final Remediation and Monitoring Plan guidance document based on feedback from staff and State Water Board staff. CalGEM provided Staff and State Water Board staff with the operator's Remediation and Monitoring plan for review. Staff met with State Board staff, CalGEM, and the operator to discuss the operator's Remediation and Monitoring plan. CalGEM provided Staff and State Water Board staff with a revised AE application. Staff are reviewing the revised application. Staff continue to provide comments to the State Board and CalGEM on the operators' revised AE application.

Deer Creek Oil Field, Santa Margarita Formation Aquifer Exemption –Staff continues to provide comments to the State Water Board regarding the proposed aquifer exemption application.

Mount Poso Oil Field, Dorsey Area, Vedder Formation Aquifer Exemption – Staff and State Water Board staff met with CalGEM and the Operators to discuss the conduit analysis. The conduit analysis has been completed. Staff continue to provide comments to the State Water Board regarding the operator's revised aquifer exemption application.

North Antelope Hills Oil Field, Tulare Formation Aquifer Exemption - CalGEM provided Staff and State Water Board staff with an AE application for the Tulare Formation in the North Antelope Hills Oil Field. Staff and State Water Board staff provided a preliminary technical review for CalGEM. CalGEM provided Staff and State Water Board staff with a revised AE application. Staff are reviewing the

revised application. Staff continue to provide comments to the State Board and CalGEM on the operators' revised AE application.

#### **UIC PROJECT REVIEWS**

Staff issued one "no objection" letter and memorandum for a UIC project in the Sutter City Gas Field.

Staff sent two letters and memorandums requesting information for UIC projects in the Round Mountain and Lost Hills Oil Fields.

Staff received four responses to reviews performed for waterflood projects in Lost Hills and Cienaga Canyon Oil Fields. Staff are reviewing the information provided.

Staff received project information relating to one waterflood, one cyclic steam and steam flood, and one water disposal injection projects in the Round Mountain, Mountain View, Cymric Oil Fields. Staff are reviewing the information provided.

#### SENATE BILL 4 (SB-4) PROGRAM

Since the last Executive Officer's Report, Staff have not received nor reviewed Well Stimulation Treatment Applications, as none have been forwarded from CalGEM.

Staff provided comments to the State Water Board on the review of two groundwater monitoring reports. Staff are currently reviewing three groundwater monitoring reports.

#### **CANNABIS PROGRAM**

#### CANNABIS GENERAL ORDER ENROLLMENT AND DEVELOPMENTS

Staff continue to enroll dischargers into our General Order and process terminations, which have increased in the past several months. Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has taken over responsibilities for issuing Notices of Applicability (NOAs). Fees increased again for FY24/25, and dischargers received invoices reflecting those increases on November 20, 2024. Staff are responding to questions from dischargers related to invoices and possible termination of their permits. DWQ terminated 136 sites for non-payment of invoices on 12/17/2024.

## Cannabis Table 1. Summary of the Statewide General Order enrollments in the Central Valley Region to date

(CE = Conditionally exempt, enrolled in the Statewide Cannabis Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements.)

County	Tier 1H	Tier 1L	Tier 1M	Tier 2H	Tier 2L	Tier 2M	CE	Total Active Enrollments
Calaveras		25	2		76	5	3	111
Colusa		1			1		6	8
Contra Costa							6	6
El Dorado		3			3			6
Kern							4	4

County	Tier 1H	Tier 1L	Tier 1M	Tier 2H	Tier 2L	Tier 2M	CE	Total Active Enrollments
Kings					1		3	4
Lake		74	1	3	149	0	31	258
Fresno					5		9	14
Merced							6	6
Nevada	1	184	5		23		14	227
Sacramento							141	141
San Joaquin							7	7
Sierra								
Solano							6	6
Shasta							24	24
Siskiyou							6	6
Stanislaus		3			1		45	49
Tulare							8	8
Yolo		2			26		3	31
Yuba							0	0
Totals	1	292	8	3	285	5	322	916

#### COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT - ENROLLMENT ENFORCEMENT

- 1/30/2025 Staff issued NOV to permitted site Yong Liu
- 2/5/2025 Staff issued an NOV to permitted site Rudolf

#### **COMPLIANCE**

- 1/17/2025 Staff performed one follow up inspections in Nevada County
- 2/24/2025 Staff performed one follow-up inspection in Shasta County

#### **ENFORCEMENT**

3/14/2025 Staff performed one warrant inspection in Shasta County

#### **CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDERS**

- OE attorneys have been assigned to six new cases:
  - Soto (Yuba County)
  - o Jose Ceballos (Shasta County)
  - White/Leone (Tehama County)
  - Rochette (Shasta County)
  - Yovani Sanchez (Shasta County)

- All Pro Investments LLC (Nevada County)
- Staff are currently managing enforcement of and compliance with three active CAOs:
  - Southwick Construction LLC (Nevada County)
  - Cameron Amiri (Nevada County)
  - Barajas, Herrera, Carlile, Moffit (Shasta County)

#### **ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Enforcement is a critical ingredient in creating deterrence needed to encourage the regulated community to anticipate, identify, and correct violations. Appropriate penalties and other consequences for violations offer some assurance of equity between those who choose to comply with requirements and those who violate them. It also improves public confidence when the government is ready, willing, and able to back up its requirements with action. This section of the EO Report is intended to inform the Board and the public of enforcement efforts since the last EO Report was issued. For this reporting period, the following sections provide: 1) a summary of enforcement orders issued; and 2) a summary of all enforcement actions issued.

#### ORDERS, COMPLAINTS, AND INSPECTIONS

Enforcement Table 1, included below, provides a summary of all the Enforcement Orders (Cleanup and Abatement Orders; Cease and Desist Orders (CDOs); 13267 Investigative Orders; Expedited Payment Letters (EPLs); and Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Orders and Complaints) that have been issued by the Central Valley Regional Board or staff since the previous EO Report and that are recorded in the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) database. For the period 1 January 2025 to 28 February 2025, two Orders were issued.

#### Enforcement Table 1 – Central Valley Enforcement Orders 1 January 2025 through 28 February 2025

Action Date	Agency	County	Notes
1/2/25	Kisst Dairy	San Joaquin	Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) issued pursuant to Water Code section 13304, this CAO requires remedial action to abate threatened discharges of waste1 to surface and groundwater, which are waters of the State, from manured wastewater at the Kisst Dairy.
2/21/25	American Valley WWTP	Plumas	Settlement Agreement and Stipulation of Administrative Civil Liability for MMPs dated 12/1/2016 to 3/31/2024 of \$264,000 with the option to complete a Compliance Project.

#### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

- 13267 Water Code Section 13267 Investigation Order
- NNC Notice of Non-Compliance

- ACL Administrative Civil Liability
- CAO Cleanup and Abatement Order
- CDO Cease and Desist Order
- EPL Expedited Payment Letter
- NOV Notice of Violation
- NTC Notice to Comply
- SEL Staff Enforcement Letter
- TSO Time Schedule Order
- VER Verbal Communication

#### Enforcement Table 2 – Enforcement Actions in CIWQS 1 January 2025 through 28 February 2025

Region	13267	NNC	ACL	CAO	EPL	NOV	SEL	TSO	UNK	VER	Total
5F	0	1	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	1	14
5R	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	9
<b>5</b> S	0	0	0	1	0	50	1	0	1	1	54
Total	0	1	1	1	0	68	2	0	1	3	77

## Enforcement Table 3 – Enforcement Actions in GeoTracker 1 January 2025 through 28 February 2025

Region	13267	CAO	Letter – Notice	NOV	Staff Letter	VER	Total
5F	1	0	1	10	59	0	71
5R	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
<b>5</b> S	6	0	16	22	222	0	266
Total	7	0	17	32	290	0	346

#### Enforcement Table 4 – ILRP Enforcement Actions 1 January 2025 through 28 February 2025

The Board's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) does not upload enforcement actions into either the CIWQS or GeoTracker databases. For the period between 1 January 2025 through 28 February 2025, a summary of those enforcement actions is included in Tables 4 and 5, below.

Region	Reminder Letter for Failure to Submit Annual Member Report (Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report)	NOVs for Failure to Submit Annual Member Report (Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report)	Total
5F	0	0	0
58	0	15	15
5R	0	0	0

Region	Reminder Letter for Failure to Submit Annual Member Report (Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report)	NOVs for Failure to Submit Annual Member Report (Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report)	Total
Total	0	15	15

## Enforcement Table 5 – Region 5 ILRP Enforcement Actions 1 January 2025 through 28 February 2025

Region	Outreach Package for Failure to Enroll in ILRP	Water Code Section 13260 Letters/ Directives for Failure to Enroll in ILRP	NOVs for Failure to Respond to Directive	Total
5F	290	0	0	290
58	1,673	1	0	1,674
5R	0	0	0	0
Total	1,963	1	0	1,964

#### NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAM ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE

Since May 2022, compliance and enforcement staff have reduced the number of non-responsive nitrate control program waste discharge to land dischargers from 52 to 9. Although enforcement staff were diverted to storm-related inspections and spill response during and following recent major storm events, enforcement staff intend to meet with the Office of Enforcement in February 2023 to discuss the next steps for non-responsive dischargers. This effort is expected to lead to the next steps in enforcement which may include face-to-face meetings, inspections, pre-settlement letters, to name a few options.

#### CONFINED ANIMAL ENFORCEMENT

#### Enforcement Table 6 – CAF Inspections 1 January 2025 through 28 February 2025

Confined Animal Facility Inspections						
5S (Sacramento)	6					
5R (Redding)	(Included with Sacramento)					
5F (Fresno)	0					
Total	*6					

<sup>\*</sup>Inspections curtailed due to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks at confined animal facilities throughout the region.

#### SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

#### SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS (SSOS)

Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (SSS General Order) 2022-0103-DWQ requires enrollees to submit SSO technical report for any Category 1 SSO in which 1,000 gallons or greater are spilled to surface waters to the State of California's Office of Emergency Services. For the period between 1 January 2025 through 28 February 2025, there were **six** reported SSO incidents in which 1,000 gallons or greater spilled reached surface water. Compliance and Enforcement staff follow up with all spills where 1,000 gallons or more reached surface water to ensure compliance with the spill reporting and/or monitoring requirements established in the SSS General Order.

#### SSO SUMMARY DATA

## Enforcement Table 7 – SSO Incidents in which 1,000 Gallons or Greater Spilled and Reached Surface Water 1 January 2025 through 28 February 2025

Volume Reached Surface Water (gallons)	Responsible Agency
2,040	Georgetown Divide PUD
2,060	El Dorado Irrigation District
2,400	Georgetown Divide PUD
5,440	Placer County Dept of Facility Services
11,400	San Andreas SD
13,895	Folsom City - Environmental & Water Resources Dept

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SSOS

Additional information regarding SSOs including the current Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) can be found at the State Water Board's Sanitary Overflow Reduction Program at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\_issues/programs/sso/index.html).

Sewage Collection Agencies report SSOs on-line at the State Water Board's CIWQS database pursuant to the requirements of State Water Board Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ (Statewide Waste Discharge Requirements, General Order for Sanitary Sewer Systems).

#### COMPLAINT RESPONSE TRACKING

Central Valley Regional Board staff are responsible for responding to complaints related to water quality within the Central Valley Region as they are received. From 1 January 2025 through 28 February 2025, Central Valley Water Board staff have received a total of **46 complaints** from phone calls, emails, and from the CalEPA Complaint database. To date, **42 (91%)** complaints have been investigated and closed or referred to other environmental enforcement agencies. Investigation into **four** complaint remains ongoing.

#### CalEPA Complaint database

(https://calepacomplaints.secure.force.com/complaints/).

#### ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY ACCOUNTING

The Water Board has the authority to impose administrative civil liabilities for a variety of violations under Water Code section 13323. All the monetary liability of an ACL penalty goes to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA); however, the monetary penalty may be directed toward a compliance or environmental project. These projects are as follows:

#### **COMPLIANCE PROJECT (CP)**

The Regional Water Boards may allow a small community publicly owned treatment works that has a financial hardship to spend an amount equivalent to the MMP toward a CP that is designed to address problems related to the mandatory minimum penalties (MMP) violation(s) and bring the discharger back into compliance in a timely manner.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT (SEP)

A settling party may offset a portion of the monetary liability of an ACL penalty by voluntary choosing to fund SEP that enhances the beneficial uses of the waters of the State, provides a benefit to the public at large, and that, at the time they are included in an ACL action, are otherwise not required of the discharger. State provides a benefit to the public at large, and that, at the time they are included in an ACL action, are not otherwise required of the discharger.

#### **ENHANCED COMPLIANCE ACTION (ECA)**

ECAs are projects that enable a discharger to make capital or operational improvements beyond those required by law and are separate from projects designed to merely bring a discharger into compliance. The Water Boards may approve a settlement with a discharger that includes suspension of a portion of the monetary liability of an ACL for completion of an ECA.

For the fiscal year period between 1 July 2024 through 28 February 2025, the chart below summarizes total monetary penalties that were issued by the Central Valley Water Board. A total of \$949,000 in monetary penalties (Liability payable to CAA, CP and SEP) were issued during this period, of which \$333,000 was allocated for CPs and \$325,000 was allocated for SEPs (see Enforcement Figure 1 below).



Enforcement Figure 1: Region 5 – Sum of Total Monetary Penalties Issued during the fiscal year 1 July 2024 through 28 February 2025

#### **CLEANUP SUCCESSES**

Enforcement Table 8 Summary of Cleanup Successes for the period covering 1 January 2025 through 28 February 2025

Programs	Actuals Achieved	% Complete = Actuals/ Original Target	Annual Achieved	% of Annual Target
New DoD Sites into Active Remediation	0	0%	0	0%
New SCP Sites into Active Remediation	0	0%	9	56%
Cleanup Program Sites Closed	2	45%	14	50%
New UST Sites into Active Remediation	2	86%	4	29%
Underground Storage Tank Sites Closed	0	0%	24	55%

#### **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS – ACTIVE REMEDIATION**

#### **FRESNO**

MARROQUIN PROPERTY, 12589 AVENUE 416, OROSI, TULARE COUNTY

19 February 2025

#### POND MERCANTILE, 29310 POND ROAD, POND, KERN COUNTY

30 January 2025

#### **SACRAMENTO**

#### **UNOCAL BULK PLANT #0161, 129 EAST F STREET DIXON, SOLANO COUNTY**

22 January 2025 (Not counted as a new active remediation site)

#### SHELL SS CASE #2, 1800 A STREET ANTIOCH, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

27 January 2025 (Not counted as a new active remediation site)

#### **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS - CONTRACTS**

#### **FRESNO**

## CHOWCHILLA TIRE (FORMER), 235 WEST ROBERTSON BOULEVARD, CHOWCHILLA, MADERA COUNTY

An Orphan Site Cleanup Fund Grant was executed on 4 February 2025 to reimburse the site investigation.

#### **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS - ORDERS**

#### **SACRAMENTO**

#### GEORGE JANDERA,1600 EAST 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET DAVIS, YOLO COUNTY

Staff reissued a Health and Safety Code 25296.10 Directive to Complete Corrective Actions to Proceed with Case Closure on 22 January 2025, which rescinds a previous directive that staff issued on 30 June 2022.

#### SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM SUCCESSES

#### REDDING

#### SST TANDEM TRUCK OVERTURN, REDDING, SHASTA COUNTY

On 21 January 2022, a tandem truck owned by Shasta-Siskiyou Transport and hauling approximately 7,750-gallons of transmix (a combination of gasoline and diesel fuel), rolled over within the City of Redding. A total of 6,126 gallons of transmix were released to the environment. The released transmix entered two storm drains, one that eventually discharged into Calaboose Creek and ultimately the Sacramento River and the second that discharged into the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District canal.

Under the supervision and direction of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Office of Spill Prevention and Response, emergency response included establishing BMPS and performing cleanup activities at all affected areas. Cleanup efforts included high pressure hydro jetting, absorbent and hard booms, topwater skimmers, excavation, vacuum operations, confirmation

sampling, and creek monitoring. Regulatory and remedial oversite was transferred to the Central Valley Water Board once initial emergency cleanup efforts were complete.

Based on remedial activities conducted to date, and review of the CDFW Natural Resource Damage Assessment dated 25 April 2023 and the USEPA Consent Agreement signed 20 March 2024, Staff have determined conditions in the affected areas to not pose an on-going threat to water quality or public health and that no further action is necessary. The case was administratively closed on 24 January 2025.

#### OVERLOG, INC. TRUCK WRECK, HAT CREEK RIM, SHASTA COUNTY

In August 2023, a truck wreck caused the release of approximately 150 gallons of diesel fuel, a combined total of 25 gallons of transmission fluid and oil, and 3,500 gallons of beer. The impacted area was a 350 ft long stretch of decommissioned dirt road and an approximately 30ft x 30ft area of forest floor (Site) within Lassen National Forest.

The case was transferred to the Regional Board after the Discharger was unresponsive to USFS requests. Staff issued a 13267 Order on 1 May 2024. On 18 June 2024, contaminated soil was excavated to bedrock. Confirmation sampling indicated that some diesel range organics remained, however bedrock prevented further excavation. Approximately 32.9 tons of impacted soil were removed and transported to a licensed disposal facility. Staff estimates approximately 474 pounds (67 gallons) of diesel-range hydrocarbons were removed.

There are no known water supply wells within one mile of the Site. Depth to groundwater at the Site is unknown, but groundwater was not encountered during the removal action and springs and seeps were not observed during site visits. Staff determined that the remaining hydrocarbons do not present a threat to sensitive receptors and will degrade within a reasonable time frame. The case was closed on 27 January 2025.

#### **SACRAMENTO**

## NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED, DUTCH SLOUGH DEHYDRATOR STATION, PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

On 4 February 2025, the Federal Cleanup Unit issued a No Further Action Required determination for the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Dutch Slough Dehydrator Station (Site). Operations at the Site began in 1961 and PG&E utilized the Site to remove condensate liquids from natural gas and odorize natural gas prior to commercial distribution. Subsurface impacts from petroleum hydrocarbons, likely associated with previous Site operations, were identified during the initial Site assessments in 1996. Soil and groundwater samples revealed concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) as gasoline, TPH as diesel, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and total xylenes. Additionally, naphthalene and methyl tert-butyl ether were detected in groundwater samples. Remedial activities have primarily included monitored natural attenuation and active remediation by dual-phase extraction, enhanced biodegradation, and in-situ chemical oxidation. Groundwater monitoring also occurred at the Site pursuant to the Monitoring and Reporting Program between 2015 and 2024. As a condition of closure and due to residual petroleum impacts remaining on Site, PG&E agreed to place a land use covenant (LUC) on the property to protect human health and the environment. To further mitigate exposure risks to residual impacts remaining off-Site, Central Valley Water Board staff coordinated with the adjacent property owners, including two residential homes owners and the Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD), to obtain LUCs restricting the future use of groundwater.

#### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

The Central Valley Water Board routinely receives and responds to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) Hazardous Material Spill Reports (Spill Reports). The Redding office has tasked four staff in our office in receiving and if necessary, responding to these OES spill reports. Table 1 provides a summary of spill reports received by the Central Valley Water Board's Redding office between 1 January and 28 February 2025.

# Emergency Response Activities Table 1 Spill Reports Received by the Central Valley Water Board's Offices Between 1 January and 28 February

	Total Spill Reports Received	Total Spill Reports that Required No Action	Total Spill Reports that Required Follow up	Total Spill Reports that Required Further Actions
Sacramento	135	80	10	1
Redding	32	21	2	9
Fresno	89	89	1	12
Totals	256	190	13	22

## SPECIAL FOCUS AREAS

## **DELTA ACTIVITIES**

## **DELTA REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM (DELTA RMP)**

Board staff continued to attend Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and other Delta RMP meetings to provide support for the program and implementation of Board Resolution R5-2021-0054.

## **DELTA NUTRIENT RESEARCH PLAN**

Board staff are implementing the Delta Nutrient Research Plan (Resolution R5 2018-0059) through special studies and in coordination with the Delta Regional Monitoring Program's focus on nutrients.

- Board staff are working with the State Board Division of Water Rights, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), Bend Genetics LLC and others to assess overwintering of cyanobacteria cells in sediment at different locations in the Delta. Board staff participates in monthly sampling and provides boat use. The purpose is to better understand cyanobacteria overwintering to inform management and mitigation strategies. This project continues through 2025.
- In October 2024, the Delta Stewardship Council released the final <u>Cyanobacteria Harmful</u>
   <u>Algal Bloom Monitoring Strategy for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta</u> which can be viewed
   at

(https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/science-program/2024-10-21-final-delta-chabs-monitoring-strategy.pdf).

Staff supported this effort by providing information and reviewing materials. Board staff participated in the first annual meeting about efforts to implement the Strategy.

## NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAM – EARLY ACTION PLAN DRINKING WATER IMPLEMENTATION

The Salt and Nitrate Control Program (SNCP) Basin Plan Amendment with supporting Staff Report and Substitute Environmental Documentation was adopted on 31 May 2018 (Resolution R5-2018-0034). The SCNP Basin Plan Amendment with revisions was adopted on 10 December 2020. The Adoption Resolution with Final Staff Report and Basin Plan Amendment language can be found at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/cvsalts/salt\_nitrate\_bpa\_revisions/).

## PRIORITY 1 GROUNDWATER BASINS

Management Zones in the Priority 1 groundwater basins submitted Management Zone Implementation Plans (MZIPs) to the Central Valley Water Board on 5 September 2023. Staff reviewed these documents to determine if they meet the Basin Plan requirements and the Executive Officer issued a letter finding that all six Priority 1 MZIPs are complete. An Informational Hearing regarding the MZIPs was held on the 19 April 2024 Central Valley Water Board Meeting.

Additionally, the MZIPs incorporate the respective Early Action Plans (EAPs) as part of the Management Zones' Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Program. The Priority 1 Management Zone Implementation Plans at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/salinity/nitrate mz/).

As required by the Nitrate Control Program, EAP implementation to provide safe drinking water to impacted communities began on 07 May 2021. As of February 2025, Priority 1 Management Zones have collectively reported the following metrics:

Table 1. Priority 1 Management Zone (MZ) Program EAP Implementation Totals (as of February 2025)

EAP Metric	Total (all MZs)	Turlock/ Modesto	Kings	Kaweah	Tule	Chow- chilla
Initial Estimate of Impacted Wells	~13,000	>5,000	>5,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000
Testing Applications Submitted	5,938	1,416	3,272	594	547	109
Eligible Wells Tested	2,786	845	1,228	332	298	83
Wells Above 10 mg/L	1,437	561	501	255	106	14
Households receiving water	1,825	609	750	302	144	20
Fill Station Locations	8	0	3	2	3	0
Gallons of water distributed via bottles	2,680,259	995,615	1,019,3 85	450,973	174,759	39,527

EAP Metric	Total (all MZs)	Turlock/ Modesto	Kings	Kaweah	Tule	Chow- chilla	
Gallons of water distributed via Fill Stations	1,169,525	0	435, 610	248,413	485,502	0	

The Priority 1 Management Zones are coordinating its Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Program with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) Drinking Water Well Monitoring Program as there are overlaps between both programs. As of February 2025, the ILRP Drinking Water Well Monitoring Program has collectively reported the following metrics within Priority 1 Management Zone areas:

Table 2. Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Drinking Water Well Monitoring within Priority 1

Management Zone Areas

(as of February 2025)

Wells sampled	7,157
Wells above 10mg/L	2,338
Needing provisions of replacement water	806
Residents receiving replacement water	691
Wells potentially needing replacement water (>7.5mg/L - 10mg/L)	659

#### **PRIORITY 2 GROUNDWATER BASINS**

On 29 December 2023, Notices to Comply were sent to dischargers in Priority 2 groundwater basins to begin Nitrate Control Program implementation. There are eight Priority 2 groundwater basins: Yolo, Merced, Kern County (Westside South), Tulare Lake, Kern County (Poso), Delta Mendota, Eastern San Joaquin, and Madera.

Notices of Intent, indicating compliance pathway selection, were due to the Central Valley Water Board no later than 26 February 2025. For permittees that elected to participate in a Management Zone, a Preliminary Management Zone Proposal and Early Action Plan were due to the Central Valley Water Board on 28 December 2024. However, as that date was on a non-business day (Saturday), the due date was extended to the next business day, 30 December 2024.

On 29 October 2024, postcards were sent to dischargers in Priority 2 areas with a reminder of upcoming deadlines for the Nitrate Control Program.

The Central Valley Water Board received Priority 2 groundwater basin Preliminary Management Zone Proposals (PMZPs) and the associated <u>Early Action Plans</u> (EAPs) for each of the eight Priority 2 groundwater basins on 30 December 2024 at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/salinity/nitrate mz/#p2 submittals).

On 30 December 2024, the Central Valley Water Board published a Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment period for the Priority 2 groundwater basin PMZPs and EAPs and a Notice of a Public Workshop to discuss the PMZPs/EAPs and receive any additional public comments. The Public

Comment Period was held from 30 December 2024 to 27 January 2025. <u>Three public comment letters</u> were received on 27 January 2025 and reviewed by Board staff. Those letters are located at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/salinity/nitrate mz/#comment letters).

Additionally, a virtual-only Public Workshop regarding the PMZPs and EAPs was held on Friday, 31 January 2025, from 9 am to 12 pm. The Public Workshop consisted of presentations by Board staff, Priority 2 Management Zones, and Environmental Justice advocates. The notices for the Public Workshop are located at

## **English**

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\_issues/salinity/nitrate\_mz/cvsalts\_notice\_p2\_workshop.pdf) and

## Spanish/español

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\_issues/salinity/nitrate\_mz/span\_cvsalts\_notice\_p2\_workshop.pdf).

Videos of the Public Workshop can be viewed at

## **English**

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnUE4nvEzt8) and

## Spanish/español

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmrglgzBDwo).

Board staff reviewed the Priority 2 EAPs and found that all three Priority 2 EAPs are complete. The Executive Officer issued a Conditional Approval letter to each Priority 2 Management Zone on 25 February 2025. Conditional Approval means the Management Zones must keep meeting the Nitrate Control Program requirements as the EAPs are implemented. The Conditional Approval Letters are located at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/salinity/nitrate mz/#p2 submittals).

As required by the Nitrate Control Program, Priority 2 EAP implementation to provide safe drinking water to impacted communities began on 26 February 2025.

Board staff are currently reviewing the Priority 2 PMZPs.

## SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM (SWAMP)

## LOWER AMERICAN RIVER BENEFICIAL USE ASSESSMENT

The Lower American River has been listed as impaired due to fecal indicator bacteria on California's 303(d) List. SWAMP is conducting monitoring to investigate the elevated indicator bacteria. To keep the public and local agency partners informed about current conditions, SWAMP monitors swimming beaches and recreation areas along the Lower American River during the recreation season (April to October).

In December 2024 SWAMP released an updated <u>interactive online map</u> that can be viewed at (https://arcg.is/0ea0zq).

In January 2025 SWAMP released a Spanish version of the <u>online map</u> that can be viewed at (https://arcg.is/ObCTa0).

New *E. coli* results will be posted on the maps each week during the recreation season. The updated maps include information on why SWAMP monitors *E. coli* bacteria and how the recreational water quality status is determined.

Both maps and additional information on monitoring activities are available on the <u>Lower American</u> River webpage at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/swamp/lar/).

The webpage includes information on the Lower American River Bacteria Study, which investigated sources of fecal pollution contributing to elevated bacteria levels in the river. Study findings are highlighted in a <u>final data summary</u> at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\_issues/swamp/lar/lar\_summary.pdf) and in videos

## **English**

(https://youtu.be/EKzTEVvK-wE) and

#### Spanish

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4I8SC\_xTAA) summarizing the basis, design, and results of the study.

#### SUMMER 2024 RECREATIONAL BENEFICIAL USE ASSESSMENTS

Each summer since 2007, the Central Valley Water Board has conducted Recreational Beneficial Use Assessments in popular recreational areas. Recreational beneficial uses are assessed using *E. coli* as an indicator of fecal pollution. Limited monitoring was conducted in 2023 due to high river levels and unsafe conditions. However, similar impacts to monitoring did not occur in 2024, allowing monitoring in the Upper San Joaquin and Lower Kings River basins from June to September.

Online maps and more information on these SWAMP projects are available at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\_issues/swamp/rbua/).

## **WOLF CREEK MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING (MST)**

Wolf Creek, a Sierra Foothills watershed in Nevada County, is listed as impaired due to indicator bacteria on California's 303(d) List. Wolf Creek is also identified in the State Water Board's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Policy as likely to be impacted by OWTS discharges and requiring TMDL. This study will collect information to identify the sources of fecal pollution, initially

focusing on anthropogenic sources. Sacramento SWAMP staff will collect samples, analyze all *E. coli* samples in-house, and will process and archive samples for microbial source tracking analysis.

Staff initiated monitoring for this study in June 2024 and concluded sample collection on 4 September 2024. Draft *E. coli* results are available in an interactive online map at

(https://arcg.is/q0mii1).

All twelve weeks of sample results have been received from the contract lab and are currently being summarized and analyzed. SWAMP staff anticipate that a summary report of the results will be available in Spring 2025.

More information and a link to the interactive *E. coli* map for this project can be found on the <u>SWAMP</u> Recreational Water Quality <u>Monitoring website</u> at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/swamp/rbua/).

## CYANOBACTERIA AND HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS UPDATE

Cyanobacteria and harmful algal blooms (HABs) are a common occurrence in surface waters across California. To address this issue, a Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom (FHAB) Program was developed and implemented by the State Water Resources Control Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program. The Central Valley Water Board participates in this statewide FHAB Program by investigating and responding to reports of suspected HABs. In 2021, the FHAB program released the California Water Boards' Framework and Strategy for Freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring (FHAB Monitoring Strategy). Board staff have begun implementing the FHAB Monitoring Strategy in the Central Valley through the development of partner monitoring efforts.

As part of the FHAB program, a California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal

(https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/)

was developed and is located on the California Water Quality Monitoring Council's My Water Quality webpage at

(https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/index.html).

The FHAB Monitoring Strategy full report can be found at

(https://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/TechnicalReports/1141\_FHABStrategy\_FullReport.pdf)

And the FHAB Monitoring Strategy Executive Synthesis and Factsheet can be found at

(https://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/TechnicalReports/1141\_FHABStrategy\_Synthesis.pdf)

(https://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/FactSheets/1141 FHABStrategy FactSheet.pdf).

The purpose of the HABs Portal is to provide readily accessible and easy-to-understand information to the public on the environmental and human health effects from HABs. Resources available include a map showing locations where HABs have been reported, fact sheets on identifying cyanobacteria

blooms, and guidance on healthy habits the public can take to protect themselves and their pets from HABs. For health departments and water body managers, the portal includes guidance documents on sampling and posting advisory signs, sign templates, and information on control and treatment options.

When human or animal illnesses or deaths are reported, an interagency HAB illness team investigates each case. The team is comprised of the California Department of Public Health, the Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment, the State Water Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Using case specific information, the team determines whether each case may have been caused by HABs or whether the incident was due to other causes. This process includes interviewing the reporting party, consulting the doctor or veterinarian, conducting follow-up sample collection, and/or analyzing carcasses. Cases that are suspected to be HAB related are reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) One Health Harmful Algal Bloom System at

(https://www.cdc.gov/habs/ohhabs.html).

## CENTRAL VALLEY CYANOBACTERIA AND HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Cyanobacteria and HABs typically occur from summer through late fall when temperatures are at their highest. However, blooms can occur in the winter and spring, especially if temperatures are mild and nutrients are introduced from rainfall runoff.

A summary of HABs reported as of 24 March 2025 is provided in Cyanobacteria Table 1 below.

HABs Table 1. Bloom Summary of active advisories (as of 24 March 2025)

Category	Count
Number of locations with active caution advisories <sup>1</sup>	1
Number of locations with active warning advisories <sup>1</sup>	0
Number of locations with active danger advisories <sup>1</sup>	0

#### Table Notes:

<sup>1</sup> The FHAB Program defines an active advisory as one with a confirmed observation within the last 30 days, in this case, all observations since 22 February 2025. Advisory levels are based on the FHAB Trigger levels for signage posting.

## **OUTREACH**

(An asterisk in front of an entry below denotes "Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities" or "Outreach to Tribes.")

\*On 26 January 2025, Adriana Ross participated in a community meeting for Perry Colony, an unincorporated community in Fresno County. During the meeting, community members were updated on the SAFER Domestic Well Consolidation projects by CCEJN representatives. The meeting included residents facing issues with dried-up domestic wells.

On 29 January 2025, George Low, a Senior Engineering Geologist with the Central Valley Water Board's Redding office, participated in a quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Region III meeting. LEPC Region III is comprised of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas,

Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba counties. The purpose of the LEPC meetings is to provide a forum for emergency management agencies, responders, industry, and the public to work together to evaluate, understand, communicate, plan, and provide training for emergency response incidents resulting from chemical hazards within the Region. Mr. Low serves as the primary environmental member of the committee. The meeting discussed CalOES grant updates, upcoming California Specialized Training Institute and other regional trainings. There was also a presentation by Anna Burkholder with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the Klamath River Geographic Response Plan. The meeting also included a discussion with participating agencies providing brief reports on incidents of interest to LEPC members.

On 30 January 2025, staff from the Rancho Cordova Land Disposal Program participated in a site visit to the Thunderbolt Wood Treatment Facility in Riverbank. The purpose of the visit was to conduct a pre-permitting inspection in anticipation of permit revision next fiscal year.

\*On 30 January 2025, Adriana Ross participated in the monthly meeting of IVAN Tulare Task Force Meeting, where community and Environmental organizations report on issues affecting Central Valley communities.

\*On 31 January 2025, a public workshop was held regarding Priority 2 groundwater basin Preliminary Management Zone Proposals and the associated Early Action Plans. The workshop consisted of presentations by board staff, Priority 2 Management Zones, and Environmental Justice advocates.

In February 2025, staff in the Federal Cleanup Unit coordinated with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to conduct per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) domestic supply well sampling for residents near the California Army National Guard Stockton Army Aviation Support Facility in San Joaquin County (Site). The State Water Resources Control Board identified the Site as a potential priority site after obtaining feedback from Central Valley Water Board staff and evaluating the number of nearby municipal wells that may be threatened by PFAS emanating from the Site. In addition to the USEPA efforts, staff drafted a letter to each targeted homeowner requesting them to allow the USEPA to sample their domestic drinking water well. The letter included applicable background information regarding PFAS and links to the USEPA PFAS Fact Sheets. Prior to the field effort, several homeowners contacted staff and agreed to have their well sampled because of the staff letter. Over the three-and-a-half-day field effort, USEPA and Central Valley Water Board staff engaged and educated the public about PFAS, which resulted in 26 homeowners agreeing to have their private domestic wells sampled. The USEPA collected and analyzed the samples at no charge to the residents.

\*On 5 February 2025, Wastewater Consolidation (WWC) staff Scott Perrou and Jesse Milliken-Callan had a meeting with Nataly Escobedo Garcia of the Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability and staff from the State Water Board Division of Water Quality to discuss the Fuller Acres and Lamont Public Utilities District water & wastewater consolidation projects.

On 5 February 2025, Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy (OWTS Policy) Implementation Lead Chad Neptune and WDRs Unit Manager Scott Armstrong participated in a meeting with Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources staff to discuss the results of an informal review of the County's WQA Report to provide informal comments and requests for revisions. OWTS Policy staff discussed reporting requirements for the 5-Year WQA Report, as well as resources available to aid the County in revising the report. OWTS Policy staff discussed the challenges the County faces in implementing its OWTS permitting program. Coordination and follow-up outreach

was performed to sewer and wastewater treatment facility operators within the County to support efforts toward wastewater consolidation for properties with failing OWTS in Stanislaus County.

On 5 February 2025, staff held the Grasslands Bypass Project annual meeting.

On 7 February 2025, staff attended the Northern California Water Association Annual Meeting in Chico, California.

\*On 10 February 2025, WWC staff Scott Perrou, Jesse Milliken-Callan, and WDR Unit Manager Scott Armstrong participated in the monthly project meeting for the Sunset Vista Estates community in Kings County. Attendees at the meeting included representatives from the City of Lemoore, Kings County, Self Help Enterprises (SHE), QK engineering, Grainger Water, and the State Water Board Division of Water Quality.

On 11 February 2025, Jennie Fuller attended a meeting for the CV-SALTS Regulatory and Policy small group regarding the CV-SALTS Prioritization and Optimization Study. Discussion topics included salt management area beneficial use designation processes and archetype study policy issues.

\*On 11 February 2025, Adriana Ross participated in the IVAN Fresno Task Force monthly meeting. Discussion continued concerning the unincorporated Perry Colony community in Fresno County, specifically focusing on its domestic dry wells.

\*On 13 February 2025, WWC staff Scott Perrou and Jesse Milliken-Callan participated in the monthly project meeting for the Antelope Blvd community consolidation project in Red Bluff. The meeting was organized by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation and was attended by representatives from the City of Red Bluff, PACE Engineering, Tehama County, and staff from the State Water Board.

\*On 13 February 2025, Patrick Pulupa, Adam Laputz, Jennie Fuller, Cindy Au-Yeung, True Khang, Charlie Johnson, Bethany Soto, and Nate Willow attended the CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting regarding implementation of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs. Topics included updates for implementation of the Nitrate Control Program, including Management Zone activities. Topics also included updates for implementation of the Salt Control Program, with updates on the Archetype Study #2 and recent Regulatory and Policy small group discussions.

\*On 19 February 2025, WWC staff Jesse Milliken-Callan, Scott Perrou, and WDR Unit Manager Scott Armstrong participated in the monthly project meeting for the Dos Palos JPA Wastewater Consolidation project in the City of Dos Palos. The meeting was organized by Self Help Enterprises and attended by representatives from the City of Dos Palos, Dos Palos Utilities, Midway CSD, South Dos Palos County Water District, Blackwater Engineering, QK Inc, USDA, and staff from the State Water Board.

On 20 February 2025, Cannabis staff presented on indoor cultivation.

\*On 21 February 2025, Adriana Ross participated in the Clear Lake Hitch Implementation Team. This monthly meeting brings together the Clear Lake Tribes and various state agencies to collaborate. The implementation team is focused on Clear Lake Hitch, but the scope has expanded to include additional water quality concerns.

On 21 February 2025, Jeremy Hughes, a Senior Engineering Geologist with the Central Valley Water Board's Rancho Cordova office, participated in a quarterly California Abandoned Mine Lands Agency

Group (CAMLAG) meeting. CAMLAG is a group comprised of professionals from all levels of government in California to share knowledge, resources, technical, and financial solutions that lead to remediating the physical, human health, water quality, and ecological hazards of abandoned mines. The group discussed Federal updates related to the Abandoned Hardrock mine Reclamation State Grants Program, the National Hardrock Abandoned Mine Lands Report, Good Samaritan Legislation, and the California Agency 2023 Abandoned Mines Priority list.

On 21 February 2025, staff presented an informational item to the Board outlining possible regulatory options for the Pit River Sub watershed, which is part of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition. Based on feedback, staff intend to bring an exemption proposal to the Board later in 2025.

\*On 24 February 2025, WWC staff Scott Perrou participated in the monthly project meeting for the City of Chico regionalization project along with representatives from the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), City of Chico, Chico WWTP, and representatives from three mobile home parks (Chico Creek MHP, Rancho Chico MHE, and Mountain View Acres MHP). State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality staff Dania Jimmerson also participated in the meeting. WWC staff were asked by the City of Chico and RCAC to communicate with and encourage Pleasant Valley Estates MHP in Chico to join the effort for acquiring a consolidation grant.

\*On 25 February 2025, WWC staff Jesse Milliken-Callan, Scott Perrou, and WDRs Unit Manager Scott Armstrong participated in the Crows Landing Septic to Sewer monthly project meeting for the community of Crows Landing in Stanislaus County. The meeting was organized by the Self-Help Enterprises and attended by representatives from Crows Landing, Blackwater Engineering, and State Water Board staff.

On 25 February 2025, Geoff Rader provided a presentation titled "Aerojet Superfund Site Investigation and Cleanup" to undergraduate and graduate students at the Sacramento State Geology, Environmental Studies, and U.S. Geological Survey Colloquium. The presentation summarized historical industrial operations, chemical releases, site geology & hydrogeology, investigation and cleanup activities, and regulatory framework.

\*On 25 February 2025, WWC staff Scott Perrou participated in the monthly project meeting for the Stanislaus Elementary School drinking water and sanitary wastewater consolidation project. Attendees at the meeting included representatives from Self Help Enterprises, Stanislaus Unified School District, Stanislaus County, City of Modesto, Ardurra Engineering, RGM Kramer Construction, and State Water Resources Control Board. The meeting focused on updates to plans and continued work on the Preliminary Engineering Report.

\*On 26/27 February 2025, Adriana Ross participated in the Eleventh Annual Eccles Family Rural West Conference People and Places: Unlocking the Central Valley's Potential in California's Climate Future organized by the California Water Institute. The conference examined the Central Valley's critical challenges and opportunities as it sits at the nexus of environmental sustainability and economic resilience.

On 26 February 2025, staff held a quarterly meeting with several environmental justice non-governmental agencies to discuss acceptable ratios of nitrogen applied relative to nitrogen removed (A/R) for enrolled farms.

On 26 February 2025, Staff from the Fresno office met with Yosemite National Park staff. Attendees from the Central Valley Water Board included representatives from the WDR Program, NPDES

Program, and Compliance and Enforcement Unit: Alex Mushegan (Supervising WRCE), Matt Scroggins (Senior WRCE), Bryan Rock (Senior EG), Omar Mostafa (Senior EG), Mario Jaramillo (WRCE), Jeff Pyle (EG), Lovdeep Singh (WRCE), and Jennifer Dolores (WRCE). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss recent vacancies at Yosemite National Park and to reestablish relationships between staff, ensuring that the Yosemite National Park Service complies with various permits issued by the Central Valley Water Board.

\*On 27 February 2025, WWC staff Jesse Milliken-Callan, Scott Perrou, and WDR Unit Manager Scott Armstrong participated in the Dunnigan Water & Wastewater Consolidation project meeting for the community of Dunnigan in Yolo County. The meeting was organized by the San Bell design & consulting firm and attended by representatives from Dunnigan, California American Water Company, Yolo County, and State Water Resources Control Board staff. This was the second Stakeholder Workshop for both water and wastewater consolidation.

\*On 28 February 2025, WWC staff Jesse Milliken-Callan and WDR Unit Manager Scott Armstrong participated in the monthly project meeting for the Monterey Park Tract Community Services District septic to sewer project near the City of Ceres in Stanislaus County. The meeting was organized by Self-Help Enterprises and attended by representatives from Monterey Park Tract, Allgeier Martin Engineering, Stanislaus County, and staff from the State Water Resources Control Board.

On 3 March 2025, staff from the Rancho Cordova Land Disposal Program met with the Yolo County Division of Integrated Waste Management to discuss the ongoing challenges of groundwater separation and the development and issuance of new Waste Discharge Requirements at Yolo County Central Landfill.

\*On 4 March 2025, Adriana Ross participated in the CalEPA Liaison EJ Enforcement Task Force meeting with various members of CalEPA, Department of Toxic Substance Control, CalRecycle, Department of Pesticide Regulation, State Water Resources Control Board, and Air Resources Board to collaborate and address environmental justice issues affecting underserved communities and local concerns. A monthly meeting is planned to provide progress updates.

\*On 6 March 2025, WWC staff Scott Perrou and Jesse Milliken-Callan participated in the monthly project meeting for the Cross Road and Villa Colonia community in the City of El Centro in Imperial County. The meeting was organized by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation and attended by representatives from the City of El Centro, Imperial County, and LAFCO, as well as staff from the State Water Resources Control Board.

\*On 6 March 2025, Meredith Howard, Dana Shultz, and Janis Cooke participated in the 2025 Delta Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Bloom Workshop in Sacramento. Participants, including the Water Boards, Delta Regional Monitoring Program, Restore the Delta, and Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, described current projects and remaining needs for implementation of the Delta Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms strategy.

\*On 11 March 2025, Adriana Ross participated in the Monthly IVAN Fresno task Meeting to continue addressing concerns in Perry Colony, as well as working with a new unincorporated community of Five Points. The report addresses the elevated levels of TTHM, as indicated in the most recent CCR report. Staff are actively working with the community to resolve this issue.

\*On 12 March 2025, WWC staff Scott Perrou, Jesse Milliken-Callan, and WDR Unit Manager Scott Armstrong participated in the monthly project meeting for the Islander Mobile Home Park community

in San Joaquin County. Attendees at the meeting included representatives from the City of Manteca, Oakwood Lake Water District, the San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department, Self Help Enterprises, and representatives of the Islander Mobile Home Park community. The proposed project is to consolidate wastewater discharge from Islander Mobile Home Park though Oakwood Lake Water District's sewer connection to the City of Manteca.

\*On 13 March 2025, WWC staff Scott Perrou and Jesse Milliken-Callan participated in the monthly project meeting for the Antelope Blvd community consolidation project in Red Bluff. The meeting was organized by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation and attended by representatives from the City of Red Bluff, PACE Engineering, Tehama County, and staff from the State Water Resources Control Board.

On 13 March 2025, WWC staff Scott Perrou and WDR Permitting staff Lixin Fu, OWTS Policy Implementation Lead Chad Neptune, and WDR Unit Manager Scott Armstrong participated in a meeting with Amador County Environmental Health Department staff to discuss the reporting requirements under the OWTS Policy for the 5-Year Water Quality Assessment Report (WQA Report) and resources available to aid the county in developing the report.

\*On 13 March 2025, Patrick Pulupa, Adam Laputz, Jennie Fuller, Cindy Au-Yeung, True Khang, Charlie Johnson, Bethany Soto, and Nate Willow attended the CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting regarding implementation of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs. Topics included updates for implementation of the Nitrate Control Program, including Management Zone activities. Topics also included updates for implementation of the Salt Control Program, with updates on the Archetype Study #2, an archetype analysis flow chart, the CVHM2 model, a salt management technology review, and recent Regulatory and small group discussions.

\*On 14 March 2025, Adriana Ross attended the water seminar, Undamming the Klamath. This seminar focused on the Lower Klamath Project, which is the largest salmon restoration project of its kind. The Project addressed the impact of the dam and its environmental factors in two states. It also took into consideration the effects on Tribal Nations and on the surrounding underserved communities.

On 19 March 2025, OWTS Policy Implementation Lead Chad Neptune participated in a meeting with Fresno County Environmental Health Department and Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning staff to discuss the reporting requirements under the OWTS Policy for the 5-Year WQA Report and the resources available to aid the County in developing its report.

\*On 19 March 2025, WWC staff Jesse Milliken-Callan and WDR Unit Manager Scott Armstrong participated in the monthly project meeting for the Dos Palos JPA Wastewater Consolidation project in the City of Dos Palos. The meeting was organized by Self Help Enterprises and attended by representatives from the City of Dos Palos, Dos Palos Utilities, Midway CSD, South Dos Palos County Water District, Blackwater Engineering, QK Inc, USDA, and staff from the State Water Resources Control Board.

On 19 March 2025, WDR permitting staff Lani Andam, OWTS Policy Implementation Lead Chad Neptune, and WDR Unit Manager Scott Armstrong participated in a meeting with Yolo County Environmental Health Department staff to discuss the results of an informal review of the County's WQA Report and to provide informal comments on and requests for revisions to the report. OWTS Policy staff also discussed reporting requirements under the OWTS Policy for the 5-Year WQA Report and the resources available to aid the county in revising its report.

On 20 March 2025, Adam Laputz and Jennie Fuller attended a meeting for the CV-SALTS Regulatory and Policy small group regarding the CV-SALTS Prioritization and Optimization Study. Discussion topics included Salt Management Area beneficial use designation processes and defining connectivity between SMAs and other water bodies.

\*On 20 March 2025, Adriana Ross participated in the Water Boards Environmental Justice Roundtable quarterly reporting meeting. EJ Coordinators collaborate, learn, and are accountable across regions, divisions, and offices into furthering the environmental justice goals within the State Water Boards decision-making process.

\*On 21 March 2025, Adriana Ross participated in the Clear Lake Hitch Implementation Teams monthly meeting. This is a collaboration of the Water Boards and several Clear Lake tribal nations. Discussions included efforts to protect the Clear Lake hitch (Chi), which is only found in the Clear Lake region and its tributary creeks. The fish is ecologically important to the watersheds and culturally significant to Native American tribes.

On 24 March 2025, Janis Cooke attended the San Francisco Bay Nutrient Management Steering Committee's quarterly meeting. The group discussed science program priorities and options for adjusting allocations if federal funding is delayed.

\*On 25 March 2025, WWC staff Scott Perrou participated in the monthly project meeting for the Stanislaus Elementary School drinking water and sanitary wastewater consolidation project. Attendees at the meeting will include representatives from Self Help Enterprises, Stanislaus Unified School District, Stanislaus County, City of Modesto, Ardurra Engineering, RGM Kramer Construction, and State Water Resources Control Board staff. The meeting focused on updates to plans and continued work on the Preliminary Engineering Report.

## PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

## STAFFING UPDATES – 1 JANUARY 2025 – 28 FEBRUARY 2025

## **PROMOTIONS**

Ashley Hernandez – SR. ES (SUP)

## **NEW HIRES**

Layla Hernandez – Seasonal Clerk Sean Marks – Sci Aid

## RETIREMENTS

None

## **SEPARATIONS**

Isabel Ortega – Sci Aid Carla Landrum - EG

## **SUMMARY OF POSITIONS**

Total Authorized Positions: 272 Total Temporary Positions: 20 Total Vacant Positions: 24

## Sacramento

Authorized Positions: 147.0 Temporary Positions: 11.0 Vacant Positions: 15.0

## **Fresno**

Authorized Positions: 78.0 Temporary Positions: 4.0 Vacant Position: 4.0

## Redding

Authorized Positions: 47.0 Temporary Positions: 5.0

Vacancies: 5.0

## TRAINING UPDATES - 1 JANUARY 2025 - 28 FEBRUARY 2025

Class Title	Number of Attendees
8-Hour HAZWOPER Refresher	14
Advancing Racial Equity at the Waterboards Pre-Work	1
Agile Leadership	5
Anti-Harassment Training (SB1343) for Board Members, Supervisors, Managers, and C.E.A.s	1
Anti-Harassment Training (SB1343) for Non-Supervisory Staff	5
Ask Effective Questions	1
Basic GeoTracker Training	2
Brain Bites: Time Management	1
Build Productive Communication Norms on Your Team	1
Business Analytics Course	1
Clear Communication is Inclusive Communication	1
Coaching and Skill Transfer Workshop	1
Coaching Crash Course: Coaching Basics	1
Coaching Crash Course: Coaching Like a Pro	1
Coaching Crash Course: Doers	1
Coaching Crash Course: Experts	1
Coaching Crash Course: Novices	1
Coaching Crash Course: Performers	1
Communication Toolkit: Connecting Over the Phone	1

Class Title	Number of Attendees
Communication Training for Managers	1
Contaminants of Emerging Concern in California: Toxicity, Transport, Fate, Remediation, and Regulation	8
Cornerstone Academy 101 for Non-Supervisory Staff	1
Cornerstone Academy 101 for Supervisors and Managers	1
Create a Communication Plan	1
Creating a Mindset for Change	1
Customer Service: Your Wait Time is ApproximatelyForever	1
Define Your Five-Year Plan	1
Develop Your Personal Narrative	1
DNA: It's Okay to Not Be Okay	1
DNA: Politalking at Work	1
Employee Engagement Essentials	1
Ergonomics Awareness	1
Excel 365 Beginner	1
Feedback & Difficult Conversations	1
Field Safety Training	31
Get Started as a New Manager	1
Google Sheets - Beginner	1
Heat Illness Prevention	1
How to be More Productive	1
How to Lead a Remote Team	1
How to Motivate Employees (So That Productivity Increases)!	2
How to Start and End a Professional Email	1
Identify Gaps in Your Skills and Experiences	1
Injury and Illness Prevention and Hazard Communication Awareness	1
Intro to Microsoft 365 (2021)	1
Introduction to CEQA: Part 1	5
Introduction to CEQA: Part 2	1
Introduction to CEQA: Part 3	1
Introduction to CEQA: Part 4	1
Introduction to R for Water Resources Data Science Pre-Work (Software Setup)	1
Keep Emails Clear and Focused	1
Lead Now!	2
Leadership Behaviors Holding You Back	3
Leadership Feedback	2
Leadership: Practical Leadership Skills	3
Leading For Results: Engage, Empower & Enable Others   Andy Hanselman	3
Leading For Results: Maximizing People, Performance & Profits	3
Learn Data Visualization with Python	1
Learning Python	1

Class Title	Number of Attendees
Managerial Problem Solving	3
Mastering Leadership and People Skills	2
Mastering the Art of Crucial Conversations	1
Maximizing Collective Potential (LEAN-based)	4
Microsoft 365 Power BI Desktop - Beginner	1
Microsoft 365 PowerApps - Beginner	1
Negotiation Tactics: Respond to Prospects Who Defer Responsibility	1
Online Meeting Etiquette	1
Oracle 11g PL/SQL Part 1	1
Outlook 2019 Advanced	1
Outlook 2019 Beginner	1
Outlook 365 - Beginner	1
People Aren't Born Confident	1
PFAS Transport, Fate, and Remediation in Soil and Groundwater	9
Phone Etiquette: Take and Leave Phone Messages Like a Pro	2
Practice the Follow-up Process	1
Procurement Training	3
Professional Engineer and Geologist License Examination Preparatory	1
Course Request Overview	'
Project Management: Framework and Processes	1
Proofread Your Writing	1
Provide Feedback to Protégé	1
Providing Constructive Feedback	1
Recover from a Rejection	1
Reduce the Harm of Microaggression in the Workplace (Part 1 of 8): Introduction	1
Reduce the Harm of Microaggression in the Workplace (Part 2 of 8): Explore Power Dynamics at Work	1
Reduce the Harm of Microaggression in the Workplace (Part 3 of 8): Examine Microaggression	1
Reduce the Harm of Microaggression in the Workplace (Part 4 of 8): Nurture Psychological Safety	1
Reduce the Harm of Microaggression in the Workplace (Part 5 of 8): Use Microaffirmation Proactively	1
Reduce the Harm of Microaggression in the Workplace (Part 6 of 8): Address Microaggressions Through Feedback	1
Reduce the Harm of Microaggression in the Workplace (Part 7 of 8): Restore the Harm	1
Reduce the Harm of Microaggression in the Workplace (Part 8 of 8): Conclusion	1
Selling You	1
Set an Inclusive Tone	1
Set an Inclusive Tone as a Manager	1
Seven Tips for New Leaders - Avoiding Common Mistakes	1

Class Title	Number of Attendees
Simple Actions to Support LGBTQ Inclusion	1
Statewide Enforcement Training: Inspections Start to Finish	1
Stronger Together: Delegation and Task Management	1
Supervisor's Safety Training	1
Talking about Asian Stereotypes: A Seat at the Table	1
The Five Most Common Diversity Gaps	1
The Impact of Disability Inclusion on Workplace Productivity	1
The Importance of Clear Communication in Any Project	1
The Leader's Role in Meeting Execution	1
The Qualities of a Compelling Story	1
Understanding the Scars of Diversity	1
Use Cultural Intelligence to Preempt Disagreements on Your Cross-Cultural	1
Team	
Use Your Personal Narrative to Perform Better During Interviews	1
Vehicle Safety and State Travel	1
Water Leadership Program 300C Cohort Workshop 4: Thinking Fast	4
Water Leadership Program 300C Cohort Workshop 5: Leading and Managing Change	3
Water Quality Goals: Part 1	1
What Does Inclusion Really Mean?	<u>.</u> 1
What to Do When Someone Interrupts Your Deep Work	1
Why It's Hard to Talk About Bias – and Why You Should	1
Why Leadership Isn't About the Leader	1
Why Stories Work	1
WLP102: Interpersonal Communication Skills	5
WLP104: 'Can we talk': An Introduction to the Complexity of	6
Communication	
WLP201: Emotional Intelligence in Leadership	4
WLP204: Working and Leading in Complex Organizations	5
Word 365 - Beginner	2
Workplace Attitude and Behavior	1
Write Valuable Email Subject Lines	1
Your Impact in Building an LGBTQ Inclusive Culture	1

## **FISCAL UPDATE**

A fiscal update cannot be provided at this time due to the Water Board's implementation of the Fi\$Cal accounting system. This information will be provided once budget reports become available.

## CONTRACTS

## **Operational Support Services**

Contract Number	Contractor Name	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount
22-026-150	Department of Water Resources	Drone Aerial Surveillance (Rancho Cordova Office)	7/1/2022	6/30/2025	\$59,999.60
23-026-150-1	Air Shasta Rotor & Wing, Inc.	Helicopter aerial surveillance services (Redding office – SB 901 funds)	7/1/2023	6/30/2026	\$105,000
24-003-150	Capitol Helicopters	Helicopter aerial surveillance services (Rancho Cordova office – SB 901 funds)	7/1/2024	6/30/2027	\$60,000

## Water Quality Study/Planning

Contract Number	Contractor Name	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount
22-028-150	Department of Water Resources	Support for Sacramento Water Coordinated Monitoring	10/1/2022	9/30/2027	\$875,000
23-005-150	66 Training Service, LLC	NPS Training Module Development	7/26/2023	3/31/2026	\$195,150
23-007-150	Regents of UCCE Fresno	Assist small-scale, diversified, and socially disadvantaged farmers in Fresno County with compliance with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)	7/1/2023	6/30/2026	\$149,998
24-002-150	United States Geological Survey	Study of fate and transport in post-fire watersheds	7/1/2024	6/30/2027	\$149,500
24-009-150	UC Davis	Study of fate and transport in post-fire watersheds	7/1/2024	6/30/2027	\$139,500

Contract Number	Contractor Name	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount
24-018-150	The Regents of the University of California, Santa Cruz	Laboratory analyses of cyanobacteria toxins in water, passive sampling media, algal samples, and associated metrics	12/1/2024	11/30/2027	\$200,000

## **FUTURE BOARD ACTIVITIES**

The following are significant Board meeting actions anticipated for the next three Board meetings. This is not a complete listing of all the Board meeting items. This listing is tentative and subject to change for many reasons. The listing is intended to give a longer-range view of planned Regional Board activities per program.

## **JUNE 2025 BOARD MEETING**

## WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDR) PROGRAM – DISCHARGE TO LAND

- City of Modesto WWTF (Revised WDRs)
- Mission Bell Winery (Revised WDRs)
- Redding Regional Septage Disposal Facility (Revised WDRs)
- Sunsweet Dryers Red Bluff (Revised WDRs)

## **TITLE 27 PROGRAM**

- Foothill Landfill Consideration of Amended Waste Discharge Requirements
- Simpson Dersch Road Class III Landfill Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements
- Yolo Central Landfill Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements

#### NPDES PERMITTING

- City of Davis WWTP Permit Renewal
- City of Stockton Regional WWCF Permit Renewal
- City of Vacaville, Easterly WWTP Permit Renewal
- Cold Water Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production (CAAP) General Order Permit Renewal
- USDI National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, El Portal WWTF Permit Renewal
- Wheelabrator Shasta Energy Permit Renewal

## **AUGUST 2025 BOARD MEETING**

## WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDR) PROGRAM – DISCHARGE TO LAND

- Lodi White Slough WWTF (Revised WDRs)
- O'Neill Beverages Company, LLC, Reedley Winery and Distillery (Revised WDRs)
- Trinity River Lumber Log Storage Yard (New WDRs)

#### **TITLE 27 PROGRAM**

Sierra Conservation Ctr - Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements

## NPDES PERMITTING

- City of Merced WWTF Permit Renewal
- City of Woodland WPCF Permit Renewal

## **OCTOBER 2025 BOARD MEETING**

## WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDR) PROGRAM – DISCHARGE TO LAND

- City of Firebaugh WWTF (Revised WDRs)
- Treehouse California Almonds, Earlimart Almond Plant (Revised WDRs)

## PENDING ACTIONS BUT NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR A BOARD MEETING

## WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDR) PROGRAM – DISCHARGE TO LAND

- Basalite Concrete Block Cutting Facility (Revised WDRs)
- California Dairies Inc., Tipton Milk Processing Facility (Revised)
- CDCR Mule Creek State Prison (Revised)
- Central California Women's Facility & Valley State Prison WWTF (Revised)
- City of Arvin WWTF (Revised)
- City of Ceres WWTF (Revised)
- City of Dixon (Revised)
- City of Ione Tertiary Treatment Plant (Revised)
- City of Lindsay WWTF (Revised)
- City of Patterson (WDRs Amendment)
- City of Tracy and Leprino (Revised WDRs)

- Del Rey WWTF (Revised)
- Fowler Packing (Revised)
- General Order for Large Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities (New)
- General Order for Fruit and Vegetable Packing (New)
- General Orders for Nut Hulling & Processing (New)
- Morning Star Packing Company (Revised)
- Porterville WWTF (Revised)
- Setton Pistachios Terra Bella (Revised)
- Teichert Hallwood (Revised)
- Teichert Vernalis (Revised)
- Teichert Woodland (Revised)
- Touchstone Pistachios (Revised)
- Tucson Ridge Development WWTF (New)
- UC Davis USDA Aquatic Weed Facility (WDRs Amendment)
- Ventura Coastal Corporation (Revised)
- Wasco State Prison WWTF (Revised)
- Woodbridge Winery (Revised)

## **TITLE 27 PROGRAM**

- Altamont/Resource Recovery Class II & III Landfills, Class II Surface Impoundment -Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements
- Chateau Fresno Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements
- Clean Harbors Buttonwillow Facility Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements
- Dixon Pit Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements
- Fink Road LF Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements
- McCourtney Road LF Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements
- North Cnty Recycling Center and Sanitary LF Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements
- Sulara Drilling Mud Disposal Facility Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements
- Teapot Dome SWDS Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements
- Thunderbolt Wood Treating Class II Surface Impoundment Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements
- Twin Bridges Class II Landfill Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements

• Washington Mine – Consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements

## **NPDES PERMITTING**

- Aerojet General Corporation, Aerojet Interim GW Extraction & Treatment System Permit Renewal
- City of Sacramento Combined WW Collection/TRT System Permit Renewal