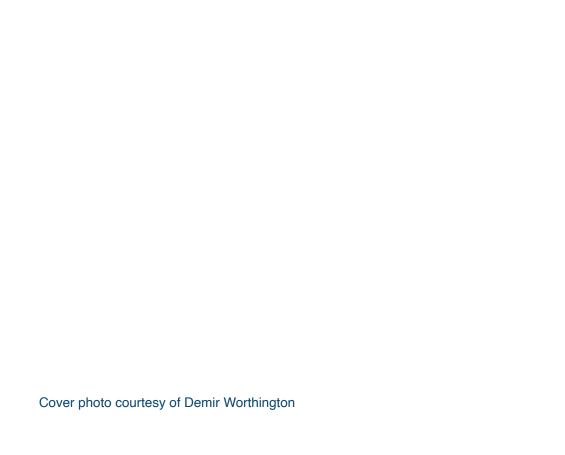


San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Strategic Workplan

March 2023



San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Strategic Workplan

Board Members

Jayne Battey, Chair
Alexis Strauss-Hacker, Vice Chair
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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board protects and restores surface and groundwater for the benefit of the people of California by regulating discharges from industrial, commercial, municipal, agricultural, and other sources and by developing and overseeing water quality programs and policies. We implement a regulatory program that is collaborative, has a strong scientific basis, and is appropriately flexible in achieving beneficial water quality outcomes. In 2022, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA), which, together with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, provides the legal and regulatory framework for protecting water quality.

While there has been significant progress to improve water quality since the enactment of Porter-Cologne and the CWA, the harmful algal bloom and massive fish kills in San Francisco Bay during the summer of 2022 were a reminder that our work is not complete. We face new and ongoing water quality challenges such as those from climate change, contaminants of emerging concern, urban runoff pollution, and contaminated sites. We address those challenges within the context of a growing Bay Area population and the need to support multi-benefit solutions that recognize the key role San Francisco Bay and our region's waters play in the Bay Area quality of life and as waters of local, regional, national, and international significance.

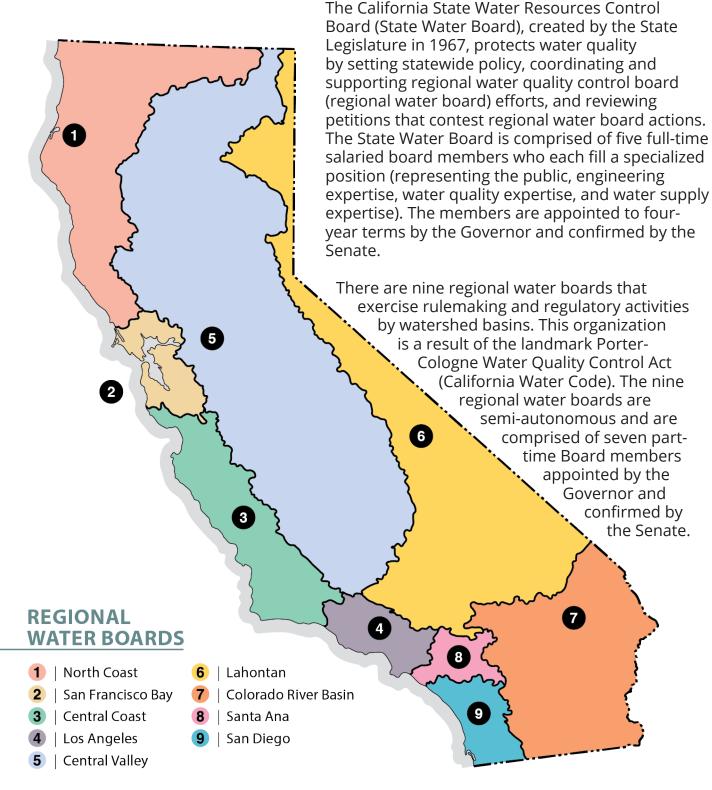
The Strategic Workplan is a roadmap that guides the Water Board in achieving its mission to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of the Bay Area's water resources. This mission is strengthened by our commitment to racial equity and environmental justice. We will prioritize assessing the impacts of our programs on affected communities, particularly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities, with a goal of promoting environmental equity. While the work of the Water Board and our partners has resulted in many successes, notably cleaning up wastewater discharges to the Bay in the 1970s, supporting Bay wetland restoration, and implementing a robust, risk-based cleanup program for contaminated sites, our work continues as we collaborate with our partners to maintain existing progress and address new challenges.

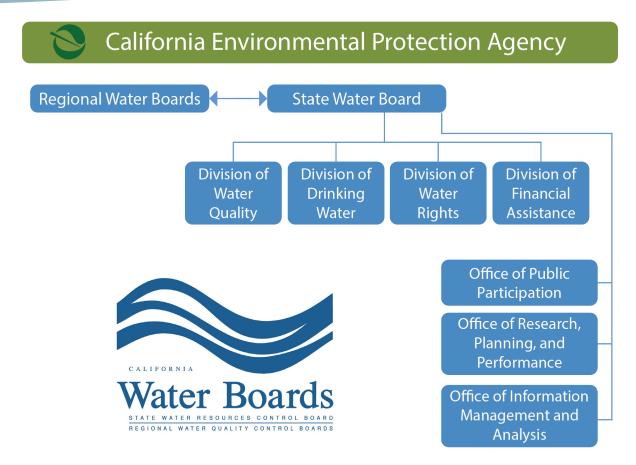
Eileen M. White Executive Officer

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WATER BOARDS OVERVIEW





The State Water Board and the regional water boards (collectively the Water Boards) are housed within State government and are part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

STATE WATER BOARD

The State Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board protects and restores surface and groundwater, including sources of drinking water, by regulating discharges from industrial, commercial, municipal, agricultural, and other sources, and by developing and overseeing programs and policies. Our programs, regulations, and policies also address other complex issues, such as climate change adaptation, sea level rise, racial equity, and environmental justice.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of the San Francisco Bay Region's water resources for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial water uses.

We work across the nine Bay Area counties – Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Solano Counties – to protect water quality and the environment for the Region's over seven million residents.

Photo below: Our staff gathered at our annual field trip



STRATEGIC WORKPLAN OVERVIEW

The Strategic Workplan outlines our priorities and specific targets and milestones to measure our progress in advancing and achieving our priorities. It is intended to provide an overview of what we do and to create transparency about our work to the public we serve. It also guides staff in setting priorities and allocating resources.

The Workplan reaffirms our mission and describes our overarching organizational priorities that we strive to incorporate into all our work. It outlines what we do and the programs we implement to serve the public and protect water quality (pages 10-23). It presents our performance measures and targets, as well as our priorities by program and associated targets or milestones for each priority (pages 24-35).

The Strategic Workplan is dynamic, enabling us to respond to future challenges and changing priorities. It will be reviewed annually to incorporate the next fiscal year's performance targets and updated on a bi-annual basis. It will also be used to report out on annual achievements.

COLLABORATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE

COLLABORATION

We actively participate at the local, state, and national levels with regulatory agencies, publicly owned treatments works, professional organizations, cities, counties, and academic and other science institutions to protect water quality and San Francisco Bay.

At the local level, we collaborate with the local cities and counties, wastewater agencies, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, Bay Area Municipal Stormwater Collaborative, San Francisco Estuary Institute, San Francisco Baykeeper, Save the Bay, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Bay Planning Coalition, the Bay Area Regional Collaborative, the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, the Bay Area One Water Network, and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership.



Photo above: A meeting of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), which works with State, federal, and non-governmental organizations to enhance the San Francisco Bay environment

At the state and national levels, we collaborate with the State Water Board, the California Department of Transportation, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Environmental Protection Agency and its Departments, such as the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Department of Pesticide Regulation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, and many other state and national organizations.

PUBLIC SERVICE

We are dedicated to serving the public as we work towards our mission. We serve the public by building trust and long-term relationships through service excellence, proactive communication, education, and collaboration. We strive to consistently provide professional, high-quality, timely service to the public.

WHAT WE DO

To achieve our mission, we conduct and implement multiple water quality programs and initiatives, as well as overarching organizational activities that cut across numerous programs and align with the State Water Board's and our Board's initiatives. Our highest priority organizational activities include implementing climate actions, addressing environmental justice and advancing racial equity, and advancing our workforce planning and development efforts.

Our water quality programs are organized under four categories presented below: Plan and Assess, Regulate, Clean Up, and Enforce. The programs implement legal mandates, direction, and funding appropriations made by the State Water Board, the State Legislature, the Governor, and/or the federal government (most commonly, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).



PLAN AND ASSESS

We adopt plans and policies to carry out federal and State water quality protection laws. The plans and policies contain water quality standards and regulations, which form the basis of our regulatory actions for protecting the quality of the State's waters. We monitor and assess the condition of the waters to determine if they are supporting their uses, detect long-term trends, and focus and evaluate regulatory efforts.

	By the Numbers
200	Creek, Wetland, & Bay Habitat Protection water quality certifications per year
83	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits
58	Recycled Water Programs and Projects
2,200	Permitted Industrial Facilities
1,500	Permitted Construction Sites
67	Regulated Landfills
855	Site Cleanup Cases
411	Military Cleanup Sites



REGULATE

We identify the discharges of pollutants that threaten the quality of the State's waters and regulate those discharges by imposing requirements to control the pollutants, based on laws, regulations, plans, and policies designed to protect water quality.



CLIMATE ACTION

We incorporate climate actions into all of our program activities and utilize our authority to advance climate adaptation planning, coordination, technical assistance, and permitting. We recognize that addressing climate change is critical for the long-term protection of water quality.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY

We prioritize program activities to protect water quality and beneficial water uses in communities who have experienced historical racism and environmental injustices. These communities are currently faced with complex water quality challenges such as the mobilization of contamination from sea level rise and groundwater rise.



WORKFORCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

We create an environment that attracts, retains, and engages a talented, diverse, and inclusive workforce in support of our mission.



CLEAN UP

We direct and oversee clean up of contaminated sites throughout the Bay Area from former industrial activities, leaking underground petroleum tanks, and other chemical spills or leaks. We regulate and oversee clean up activities based on laws, regulations, plans, and policies so sites are remediated to protect public health and the environment. We focus on protecting and restoring groundwater for drinking water and other beneficial uses.



ENFORCE

We enforce the pollution control and clean up requirements that are established for discharges and contaminated sites with the goal of achieving compliance with requirements to protect water quality. When we identify violations of regulatory requirements, we may take enforcement actions of varying types and levels of stringency. When warranted, we assess financial penalties. We also collaborate with federal, State, and local law enforcement, as well as other environmental agencies, to address violations.



PLAN AND ASSESS

BASIN PLANNING PROGRAM

We develop, adopt (after public hearing), and implement the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan is the master policy document that contains descriptions of the legal, technical, and programmatic bases of water quality regulation in the San Francisco Bay Region. Every three years, with public input, we review the Basin Plan and consider what updates are needed to address new or changing water quality issues. This is the Triennial Review and was last completed in 2021.

INTEGRATED REPORT AND TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD PROGRAM

We assess the condition of our region's water bodies and report that information to U.S. EPA as part of an Integrated Report. The Integrated Report identifies impaired waters and the pollutants causing those impairments. The list of impaired water bodies is referred to as the 303(d) List, referencing the identification requirement in section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. We establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address water body impairments. TMDLs are water body and pollutant specific plans to restore water quality. We develop a problem statement, identify sources of pollutants, and specify actions to restore water quality. We have developed and are implementing 24 TMDLs.



Photo to right: Seagulls at Venice Beach, covered by the Pillar Point Harbor and Venice Beach Bacterial TMDL



Photo to left: Staff from Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program sample water temperature in Coyote Creek

SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM

The purpose of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) is to monitor the ambient condition of waters throughout the State. SWAMP data support many Regional and State Water Board activities, including: (1) providing data used for the 303(d) List and water quality assessments; (2) determining regional reference conditions; (3) supporting TMDL development; and (4) providing background information for permits. SWAMP also monitors water quality in Bay Area watersheds and contaminants in fish from lakes to support fish consumption advisories issued by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The program focuses on monitoring inland waters, while the Regional Monitoring Program monitors San Francisco Bay.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM

We require monitoring of San Francisco
Bay through the San Francisco Bay Regional
Monitoring Program (RMP). The RMP collects
data and communicates information about
water quality in the Bay in support of
management decisions. The RMP was created
in 1993 to replace individual receiving water
monitoring requirements for dischargers
with a comprehensive Regional Monitoring
Program.

The Water Board established and continues a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) to oversee and implement the RMP. The RMP is funded by fees paid by participating dischargers. The RMP provides an open forum for a wide range of participant groups and other interested parties to discuss contaminant issues (including contaminants of emerging concern), prioritize science needs, and monitor potential impacts of discharges on the Bay.



PLAN AND ASSESS

WETLAND REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM

We participate on the Steering Committee and lead the Technical Advisory Committee for the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP). The WRMP is a collaborative effort of scientific organizations, regulatory agencies, land managers, restoration funders, tribes, and other stakeholders. The WRMP supports effective wetland restoration projects by providing regional scientific data to improve project designs, evaluate project performance, identify regional restoration needs, and reduce data redundancy and monitoring pressure on individual restoration projects.

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

In 2014, the State enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requiring local agencies to develop thresholds and criteria for the priority groundwater basins to avoid degradation of water quality and surface water depletions. We evaluate groundwater conditions in our Region and recommend alternatives to address adverse impacts. This includes: 1) engaging local groundwater agencies and reviewing their groundwater management plans, 2) comparing current conditions to baseline, including assessing beneficial uses, supply well impacts, localized salt and nutrient areas of concern, and other water quality/habitat threats, and 3) documenting and sharing findings amongst our programs and with stakeholders.



Photo to right: Gallinas Creek, inundated during a king tide, one of the many wetlands that will be monitored by the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program



Photo to left:
The San José-Santa Clara
Regional Wastewater Facility,
the largest facility in the
Bay Area, is planning major
improvements, including
upgrades to treatment
performance and flood
management

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

We evaluate and identify groundwater basins where salts and/or nutrients are a threat to water quality and require management plans that quantify salt and nutrient sources and evaluate the basin's capacity to assimilate them. We conduct salt and nutrient assessments of groundwater quality in basins with significant groundwater reliance.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

We evaluate data to understand impacts to drinking water supply wells in our Region, with a current focus on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). After identifying supply wells with contaminants that exceed regulatory screening levels, we work to identify and clean up pollutant sources affecting the public supply wells. We also coordinate with the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and local well owners and operators to ensure that drinking water is safe and public health is protected.

WASTEWATER AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

As many wastewater collection and treatment systems and flood management systems are aging beyond their intended lifetimes, significant investments in infrastructure renewal are needed to maintain existing performance. To improve wastewater treatment, we encourage infrastructure renewal that includes "green" solutions such as nature-based solutions (e.g., wetlands) and wastewater recycling. This type of infrastructure renewal can provide multiple benefits (e.g., nutrient removal, protection against sea level rise, and removal of contaminants of emerging concern).



Pollutant discharges come in various forms and amounts, and from a variety of sources. A permit is required for a pollutant discharge to a water body, whether a surface water body or groundwater. Such permits are called waste discharge requirements (WDRs). We regulate waste discharges to both surface waters, such as rivers and estuaries, and groundwaters (via discharge to land). The type of permits we issue to control these pollutant sources depends on the type of waste, where the waste is discharged, and State and federal laws and regulations.



WASTEWATER PROGRAMS

DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATERS

Under the federal Clean Water Act, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits control water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into the surface waters of the United States. Water Board-issued WDRs for discharges to surface waters serve as NPDES permits required under the Clean Water Act. Typically, NPDES permits are issued for five-year terms.

Individual NPDES Permits

We have issued about 75 individual NPDES permits covering more than 80 facilities. 55 of these permits cover municipal wastewater facilities, and 20 cover industrial and other types of facilities.

Regional Watershed NPDES Permits

We issued two watershed NPDES permits that cover numerous dischargers. The Mercury and PCBs Watershed Permit implements the TMDLs for mercury and PCBs in San Francisco Bay. The Nutrient Watershed Permit addresses municipal wastewater discharges of nutrients to San Francisco Bay and is funding studies to inform nutrient control levels and management actions to protect San Francisco Bay's beneficial uses.



Photo to left:

Secondary clarifier at Novato Sanitary District's wastewater treatment plant, covered under a NPDES permit

Photo below:

Dry docks at Mare Island, covered under the Dry Docks NPDES general permit



General NPDES Permits

We issued six general NPDES permits that cover roughly 100 facilities. These permits cover discharges of groundwater treated to remove fuels and volatile organic compounds, and brackish extracted groundwater, filter backwash water from potable water treatment systems; and discharges from public fireworks displays, dry docks, aggregate mining, sand washing, and sand offloading facilities.

We oversee compliance with general NPDES permits the State Water Board issues, including permits for discharges from community drinking water systems, pesticide applications, and utility vaults.

We oversee compliance with general WDRs the State Water Board has issued for sanitary sewer collection systems.

Pretreatment Program

The Clean Water Act requires municipal wastewater treatment facilities with discharges above 5 million gallons per day to implement pretreatment programs to control discharges from industrial facilities within their service areas. These pretreatment programs are well-established and our NPDES permits provide a backstop to ensure surface water quality is protected.

Pollution Prevention Program

The Pollution Prevention Program seeks to minimize pollutant discharges from residential and commercial sources within municipal wastewater treatment facility service areas. Controlling pollutant sources can be more effective than providing endof-pipe treatment. We participate in Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group meetings, comment on U.S. EPA pesticide registration activities that could affect water quality, and sponsor a pharmaceutical take-back bin in the lobby of the State Office Building at 1515 Clay Street in Oakland.

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DISCHARGES TO LAND

Under this program, we permit discharges of waste to land that have the potential to affect surface or groundwater quality. This category of discharges is diverse and includes domestic, industrial, commercial, and other wastewaters and wastes.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), commonly known as septic systems, are useful and necessary systems that allow habitation at locations that are removed from centralized wastewater treatment systems. We have delegated oversight of most OWTS to counties under memoranda of understanding, but must update these delegations consistent with the State Water Board's OWTS Policy. The mechanism laid out in the OWTS Policy for this delegation is the development, by each county, and approval, by each regional water board, of a Local Agency Management Program (LAMP). We have approved LAMPs for Alameda, San

Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. We coordinated with the Central Valley Region on its review and approval of Solano County's LAMP. We are continuing to work with Contra Costa, Marin, and Napa county staff, and are coordinating with the North Coast Regional Board, which has responsibility for approval of Sonoma County's LAMP.

Waste Discharge Requirement Permits

We have issued about 65 individual WDR permits. 40 of these permits cover domestic wastewater facilities, and 25 cover industrial and other types of facilities. We utilize statewide general WDRs when appropriate for new discharges, and we are transitioning individual WDRs to general WDRs to improve consistency and to streamline permitting. We began enrolling wineries in the statewide Winery General Order in early 2022 and estimate up to 800 wineries in our region will enroll.

Photo below: Wastewater pond at Olema campground





Photo to left: SIMS Metal Management Redwood City, a scrap metal shredding facility covered under the Industrial Stormwater Program

STORMWATER PROGRAMS

We, in coordination with Municipal Stormwater Programs, prevent adverse water quality impacts from discharges from our Region's municipal storm drain systems, industrial facilities, and construction sites.

MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PROGRAM

We oversee municipal storm drain system discharges via three permits. The Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (MRP), which our Board reissued in May 2022, covers municipal storm drain discharges from 79 cities, counties, and flood control districts. Caltrans' Statewide Stormwater NPDES permit, issued by the State Water Board, covers discharges from 24,000 acres of Caltrans right-of-way within our region. The Statewide Small and Non-traditional Municipal Stormwater NPDES Permit, issued by the State Water Board, regulates storm drain discharges from 47 permittees in our region, including smaller towns and nontraditional dischargers like the Port of San Francisco, BART, universities, and prisons.

INDUSTRIAL AND CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER PROGRAM

Our region has over 2,200 industrial facilities and between 1,200-1,500 construction sites each year covered under two statewide NPDES stormwater general permits. The Industrial Stormwater General Permit regulates stormwater discharges from industrial facilities including manufacturers, landfills, mines, hazardous waste facilities, transportation facilities, and recycling facilities. The Construction Stormwater General Permit regulates construction projects that disturb one or more acres of soil.



CREEK, WETLAND, & BAY HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM

Our Creek, Wetland, and Bay Habitat Protection Program reviews and authorizes discharges of dredge and fill material to creeks, wetlands, other waters, and the Bay. Typical projects include Bay navigational dredging, stream maintenance for flood management, Bay shoreline wetland restoration for climate change adaptation, and fill for new development and redevelopment or infrastructure projects. We develop several general permits, participate in coordinated multi-agency review efforts, and develop the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program. We issue about 200 individual permits each year.

In addition, we work with our federal, state, and local partners in the Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region to manage dredging and disposal activities in the Bay Area, with emphasis on beneficial reuse of dredged sediment. We also manage WDRs for two large scale dredged material beneficial reuse sites, sand and oyster shell mining, and several small dredge disposal areas associated with marinas.



LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM

We oversee the treatment, storage, and disposal of non-hazardous wastes within waste management units (WMUs) to address discharge of waste to land. WMUs include active and closed municipal landfills, waste piles associated with mining operations, and industrial surface ponds or landfills (such as those found at refineries and chemical manufacturing plants). We oversee 11 active landfills and 56 closed landfills.

Our objective is to ensure wastes are properly contained and do not degrade surface water or groundwater quality. We enforce regulations that consist of design standards for base liners, covers, environmental monitoring, and cleanup when necessary. We prepare WDRs and include provisions that require dischargers to review and update their long-term flood protection plans to ensure that climate change impacts are considered when designing and maintaining disposal areas for waste containment.





Photos from left to right: Potrero Hills Landfill in Fairfield, covered under the Land Disposal Program

A dairy cow from Drake's View, covered under the Agricultural Lands Program

AGRICULTURAL LANDS PROGRAMS

Our Agricultural Lands Programs (ALPs) consist of five programs, Non-point Source (NPS) and Grants, Vineyards, Grazing, Cannabis, and Confined Animal Facilities. We currently manage over 12 federal NPS grants to address NPS pollution and implement TMDLs. The Vineyard Program implements the Napa River and Sonoma

Creek sediment TMDLs. Through general WDRs, permittees assess and document the erosion potential of their farmed areas, and install and maintain best management practices to reduce surface erosion and fine sediment discharges to receiving waters. The Grazing Program implements the Conditional Waivers of WDRs in the Tomales Bay, Napa River, and Sonoma Creek watersheds. The Cannabis Program implements State Water Board's Cannabis Policy and related statewide WDRs to ensure the diversion of water and discharge of waste associated with legal cannabis cultivation does not have a negative impact on water quality, aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, wetlands, and springs. The Confined Animal Facilities program regulates operations where animals are confined including dairies, horse facilities, egg, chicken, and/or turkey production facilities. It implements the general WDRs for all types of confined animal facilities.

RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM

We support water supply resilience by permitting recycled water projects and programs in close coordination with the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and also by overseeing permit compliance. We implement the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy and encourage the safe use of recycled water to protect public health and the environment. We have permitted about 58 recycled water programs and projects, of which 27 programs are covered under the statewide recycled water general permit.



CLEAN UP

The discharge of pollutants can contaminate the soil and underlying groundwater. Volatile organic compounds, common in industrial solvents, can pose a threat to human health by volatilizing from the soil into indoor air spaces, such as living or workspaces. Contaminants in soil can act as long-term continuing sources of groundwater pollution, leaching into the groundwater for years where it is not feasible to excavate. Stormwater running over and/or eroding contaminated soil can also be a significant source of surface water pollution. We work to restore groundwater and surface water quality and abate adverse impacts from contaminated soil, soil vapor, and sediment where releases may affect public health or the environment at contaminated sites.

SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM

Our Site Cleanup Program manages contaminated sites from all sources except underground storage tanks, which are managed in a separate program. Contaminants such as solvents and metals may be released from spills and current and former industrial and commercial facility operations, such as dry cleaners, manufacturing, refineries, pipelines, and bulk storage terminals. We oversee the investigation and cleanup of these sites. We use our authorities, e.g., Water Code sections 13267 (investigate and report) and 13304 (cleanup and abate), to compel parties to investigate and clean up sites, and we prioritize sites in disadvantaged communities. We oversee 855 Site Cleanup Program cases (626 active and 229 inactive).

SPILL RESPONSE

We track complaints and spills of sewage, potable water, petroleum products, other hazardous materials, and serve as a resource for emergency responders. We notify appropriate staff of significant incidents to ensure that we properly assess impacts and follow up to ensure cleanup and, if warranted, enforcement.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP PROGRAM

Underground storage tanks (USTs) can leak petroleum and other hazardous substances into soil and groundwater, posing a risk to drinking water quality and human health. We oversee the investigation and cleanup of UST cases and support various local agencies that also oversee UST cases. We currently oversee 233 UST cases.

Photo below: Excavation at the Phillips 66 Line 200 site, a Site Cleanup Program site



Photo to right: Removal of mercury from soil at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, a DoE site

DEFENSE AND ENERGY

We oversee cleanup at over 30 former and active Department of Defense (DoD) facilities and 4

DEPARTMENT OF

PROGRAM

Department of Energy (DoE) laboratories. We focus on overseeing cleanup of military facilities, including those that have transferred from the military to State or local entities for redevelopment or reuse. Areas of concern include soil and groundwater contamination, stormwater and surface water discharges, and contaminated sediments. We work cooperatively with other State and federal agencies in both lead and support roles.

There are over 30 military-related facilities in the Region comprising about 411 individual cleanup sites. Most are former bases that were closed under the Base Realignment and Closure Program first instituted in 1991. Six military facilities in the Region continue to operate today. Some facilities are Formerly Used Defense Sites, which were owned, operated, or leased by the DoD for various uses such as missile silos, gun batteries, listening posts, and radar stations.

We oversee the investigation and cleanup of four operating federal DoE laboratories in our Region: Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Sandia National Lab, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.



ENFORCE

Our approach to enforcement for water quality protection is outlined in the State Water Board's Water Quality Enforcement Policy. This policy describes the framework for identifying and investigating noncompliance, for taking enforcement actions that are appropriate to the nature and severity of the violation, and for prioritizing enforcement resources to achieve maximum environmental benefit.

Each program assesses compliance with waste discharge and other requirements and tracks violations. We take both informal and formal enforcement actions utilizing a progressive enforcement approach as outlined in the Enforcement Policy.

We pursue formal enforcement for violations that significantly threaten beneficial uses or harm human health or the environment, or involve recalcitrant parties who deliberately avoid compliance. We also seek mandatory minimum penalties for certain NPDES permit violations.

PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

The following sections present our:
Organizational priorities and actions (page 24)
Priorities by program and the associated targets or milestones (pages 25-34)
Performance measures and targets, tracked by the State Water Board (page 35)

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY Priority Action

CLIMATE ACTION

Participate in multi-agency and stakeholder groups to develop long-range planning efforts and specific projects to facilitate San Francisco Bay shoreline adaption to projected sea level rise, e.g., wetland restoration

Use regulatory tools to require wastewater plants, landfills, biosolids land application sites, refineries, and industrial cleanup sites to conduct climate vulnerablity assessments and prepare adaption plans

Coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other stakeholders to increase beneficial reuse of dredged sediment to restore Bay tidal wetlands and adapt to a rising Bay

Promote, plan, and permit complex and large projects that use nature-based solutions and green infrastructure for shoreline adaptation, wastewater treatment, and stormwater management

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY

Prioritize assessing the impacts of our water quality programs on affected communities, particularly Black, Indigenous, People of Color communities, with a goal of promoting environmental equity

Engage with communities who have experienced historical racism and environmental injustices and prioritize program activities in these communities

Provide technical, planning, and permitting assistance in communities planning and implementing climate adaptation projects, such as wetland restoration, horizontal levees, and other nature-based solutions

Ensure industrial facilities and dischargers near these communities are frequently inspected and in compliance

Revise requirements for cleanup cases in areas most vulnerable to flooding and mobilization of contamination from sea level and groundwater rise

WORKFORCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Develop employees to meet evolving workforce needs and provide career and professional development opportunities to expand their skills

Implement organizational measures that promote and value employee contributions, safety, employee wellness, diversity and inclusion, and a learning culture

Engage employees in continuous improvement initiatives

Support leadership development and practice

Include racial equity, diversity and inclusion practices to support our hiring, promotion, and retention goals

PLAN AND ASSESS

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY22/23 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY23/24 TARGETS & MILESTONES
BASIN PLANNING		
Implement the Climate Change and Wetland Policy Basin Plan amendment	Obtain State Water Board adoption	Secure Office of Administrative Law approval
Designate Tribal Tradition and Culture and Tribal Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses in the Basin Plan	Conduct outreach and consultations with Tribes Establish spatial scope	Collect and analyze subsistence fishing survey data Draft Staff Report and Basin Plan Amendment Conduct formal AB 52 consultation with tribes
Develop Regional Stream Protection Policy		Draft Project Plan for scope
Support the Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) and development of dissolved oxygen assessment framework	Engage with NMS to develop a dissolved oxygen assessment framework in South Bay sloughs	Work with NMS to develop assessment framework 2.0 to support next nutrient watershed permit
Refine Temperature Limits to Protect Salmonids	Work with Valley Water, other regulatory partners, and the public to identify scientific needs to refine temperature thresholds	
INTEGRATED REPORT AND TMDLs		
Prepare the 2024 Integrated Report	Coordinate with State Board, complete all Lines of Evidence, create new decisions, and write regional staff report sections	Participate in public review, including response to comments
Develop high priority TMDLs	Complete TMDL Prioritization Project	Begin developing priority TMDLs
Develop PCBs TMDL revision strategy	Draft strategy for PCBs TMDL reopening/revision	Oversee data collection, modeling, and analysis for PCBs TMDL reopening/revision

PLAN AND ASSESS

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY22/23 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY23/24 TARGETS & MILESTONES
SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITO	RING PROGRAM	
Monitor in support of the TMDL Program	Collect sediment impairment data in Napa River and Sonoma Creek	Collect baseline sediment impairment data in Butano Creek
Collect Nutrient data to inform the Statewide Biostimulatory Policy		Sample nutrients at reference sites to document best attainable conditions
Support tools to understand subsistence fishing		Collaborate with State Board Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program to realign work in our Region
Bolster relationships with underrepresented communities	Conduct East Bay pathogen sampling and community partnership training in underrepresented communities	Conduct East Bay pathogen sampling and community partnership training in underrepresented communities
Communicate water quality data to staff and the public	Write short reports and fact sheets, and develop web portals presenting results from previous sampling	Write short reports and fact sheets, and develop web portals presenting results from previous sampling
WASTEWATER AND FLOOD MANAGE	MENT INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL	
Ensure climate change resiliency (e.g., related to sea level rise, groundwater rise, and wildfires) in wastewater infrastructure renewal projects	Participate in forums to encourage infrastructure renewal that provides multiple benefits Facilitate infrastructure renewal through other permit-related tasks	Participate in forums to encourage infrastructure renewal that provides multiple benefits
Understand and control potential water quality impacts of nutrients	Coordinate with the Nutrient Management Strategy to study the Bay's response to nutrient loads under different scenarios and work to develop load allocations for municipal wastewater treatment plants that are protective of San Francisco Bay	Facilitate infrastructure renewal through other permit-related tasks
Understand and control potential water quality impacts of contaminants of emerging concern	Work through the Regional Monitoring Program's Emerging Contaminants Workgroup to identify potential impacts of constituents of emerging concern on water quality Conduct monitoring at select municipal wastewater treatment plants and San Francisco Bay to better understand sources and pathways	
Reduce sanitary sewer overflows	Inspect facilities and review Sewer System Management Plans	

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY22/23 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY23/24 TARGETS & MILESTONES
WASTEWATER DISCHARGES TO SURF	ACE WATERS	
Reissue NPDES permits every five years and maintain our backlog of expired permits below 17 percent	Reissue 13 permits	Reissue 13 permits
Inspect major facilities at least every other year and minor facilities at least once every five years	Inspect 30 facilities	Inspect 28 facilities
Implement wasteload allocations from mercury and PCBs TMDLs	Reissue Mercury and PCBs Watershed Permit	
Understand and control effects of nutrients discharges	Work through the Nutrient Management Strategy to better understand the effect of nutrient discharges under different loading scenarios and antecedent conditions	Reissue Nutrient Watershed Permit
Oversee compliance with both regional and statewide general NPDES wastewater permits	Issue and rescind authorizations to discharge Inspect at least 2 facilities	Issue and rescind authorizations to discharge Inspect at least 2 facilities
WASTEWATER DISCHARGES TO LANI	<u> </u>	
Implement the statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Winery Process Water	Enroll at least 5 wineries under the Winery General Order	Enroll at least 10 wineries under the Winery General Order
	Conduct outreach with county environmental health departments and/or planning departments	Conduct outreach with county environmental health departments and/or planning departments
Implement the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Policy	Work with Marin County on its revised Local Agency Management Program (LAMP)	Work with Napa County on its LAMP and Winery General Order Local Agency Oversight Program
	Provide updates to OWTS Policy for list of impaired water bodies for bacteria and nutrients with OWTS contributions	
Manage new and existing waste discharges to land	Enroll Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District's biosolids land application project under the statewide general order for biosolids	Establish research, monitoring, and reporting expectations for existing biosolids land application projects in or adjacent to the baylands to assess potential current and future water
	Inspect 12 facilities	quality threats
		Inspect 12 facilities

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY22/23	FY23/24
Priority Action MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PROGRA	TARGETS & MILESTONES	TARGETS & MILESTONES
Reduce trash discharges	Inspect trash capture devices and verify Permittees' attainment of the MRP-required 90 percent trash load reduction by June 30, 2023	Report to Board on Permittee attainment of required 90 percent trash load reduction and propose follow-up actions leading into the MRP's required 100 percent trash load reduction by June 2025
Continue to reduce discharges of pollutants that impair receiving waters, including discharges of PCBs to San Francisco Bay	Review Permittee progress on identification of PCBs source properties, referral to agencies for cleanup, and implementation of cleanup measures	Report to Board on Permittee progress and next steps
Support municipal implementation of multi-benefit green stormwater infrastructure designs that address polluted runoff and achieve co-benefits such as climate change resilience and water supply resilience	Engage with stakeholders via workgroups to consider flexibility in MRP requirements for new and redevelopment project runoff treatment controls for: road reconstruction projects, affordable housing, and low impact development treatment options	Report to Board on workgroup outcomes and, as appropriate, propose MRP amendment language for the Board's consideration
Work with Caltrans to support its achievement of trash reduction in the 2019 Cease and Desist Order issued by the Board	Verify Caltrans' attainment of the Cease and Desist Order (CDO)- required control of trash discharges from 4,000 acres of right-of-way by June 30, 2022 and report to Board on status and next steps	Work with Caltrans on progress towards CDO-required control of trash discharges from 6,000 acres of right-of-way by June 30, 2024 and report to Board on status
Coordinate with Caltrans and Bay Area municipalities to support implementation of projects to reduce discharges of trash and other impairing pollutants	Complete project-specific and programmatic coordination consistent with CDO implementation	Complete project-specific and programmatic coordination consistent with CDO implementation
Coordinate with State Water Board staff on permit reissuance of the Small and Non-Traditional Municipal Stormwater Permit	Incorporate updated TMDL language into the reissued permit	Incorporate updated TMDL language into the reissued permit

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY22/23 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY23/24 TARGETS & MILESTONES
INDUSTRIAL AND CONSTRUCTION S	TORMWATER PROGRAM	
Prioritize cases and coordinate with municipal inspectors to maximize our effectiveness in protecting water quality	Incorporate environmental justice data into our facility/site inspection and review prioritization framework by adding environmental justice data, and sync to ArcGIS Online Map to facilitate staff use	Add layer to ArcGIS Online Map for industrial facilities that have not filed for stormwater permit coverage
Ensure permit compliance through targeted inspections and in-office desktop reviews	Inspect 10% of permitted facilities/ sites (222 industrial facilities; 126 construction sites)	Inspect 10% of permitted facilities/ sites
Process permittee submittals in a timely and consistent manner	Develop guidelines for processing notices of termination of permit covverage and change of information requests	
Support efforts to continuously improve the program	Provide content to the statewide Construction Stormwater General Permit Training Team	Support roll-out of Construction Stormwater General Permit Training
	Provide regional input to State Water Board staff for permit reissuance	Provide regional input to State Water Board staff for permit reissuance
CREEK, WETLAND, AND BAY HABITA	T PROTECTION PROGRAM	
Review and process applications in a timely and consistent manner	Respond to initial applications within a median of 30 days, and issue or deny certification within a median of 60 days after receiving all necessary information	Respond to initial applications within a median of 30 days, and issue or deny certification within a median of 60 days after receiving all necessary information
Participate in the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) to improve alignment among regulatory agencies for permit-driven monitoring requirements	Provide feedback to the San Francisco Estuary Partnership on our monitoring requirements for wetland restoration projects	Participate in multi-agency meetings to inform the WRMP's goals to improve alignment on permit monitoring requirements
Participate on the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) team to facilitate timely issuance of Certifications for Measure AA-funded projects geared toward sea level rise adaptation	Support legislative action to allow continued funding of the Board's BRRIT position	Complete grant agreement with the SF Bay Restoration Authority for continued funding of the Board's BRRIT position

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY22/23 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY23/24 TARGETS & MILESTONES
CREEK, WETLAND, AND BAY HABITA	T PROTECTION PROGRAM	
Implement and update existing stream maintenance authorizations for Bay Area flood management agencies	Update programmatic stream maintenance authorization for Marin County	Update programmatic stream maintenance authorization for Livermore
Provide support to projects that involve significant climate change risks	Participate in multi-agency Planning and Environmental Linkages team developing a corridor-wide vision to rebuild State Highway 37	Participate in coordinated agency efforts to review submitted proposals for an interim project to adapt State Highway 37 to rising tides.
DREDGING PROGRAM		
Promote the beneficial reuse of dredged sediment	Promote Oakland Federal Channel Beneficial Reuse Pilot Project Conduct CEQA process for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Strategic	Start CEQA/NEPA process for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2025-2029 maintenance dredging 401 Certification/WDRs
	Placement Pilot Project, coordinate on 401 application materials	Issue 401 Certification/WDRs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Strategic Placement Pilot Project
LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM		
Update landfill and land disposal WDRs as necessary, including to address PFAS and require new vulnerability assessments for sites that are vulnerable to sea level rise and groundwater rise	Update at least 3 WDRs and issue general WDR amendment requiring long-term flood protection planning at 16 bayfront landfills	Consider developing new general WDRs amendment regarding PFAS at landfill and land disposal facilities at sites not covered by the Statewide PFAS landfill order
leverrise and groundwater rise		Update WDRs as needed to require Long-Term Flood Protection Plans
		Work with land diposal sites to ensure acceptable flood protection plans are prepared
Oversee redevelopment of closed landfills for commercial and recreational purposes	Review and comment on documents that pertain to aspects of development with the potential to impact groundwater and surface water quality	Review and comment on documents that pertain to aspects of development with the potential to impact groundwater and surface water quality
Regulate bayfront land disposal facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise	Finalize list of unregulated Bayfront sites vulnerable to sea level rise	Bring new sites under regulation as needed

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY22/23 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY23/24 TARGETS & MILESTONES
AGRICULTURAL LANDS PROGRAMS		
Reissue Grazing Waiver	Work on developing one Conditional Waiver for Grazing to apply to all TMDL watersheds with option to bring in special areas of concern	Reissue/Revise Grazing Waiver
Manage existing grants	Manage 10 Non-Point Source Program (NPS) grants, facilitate new grant proposals, and participate in statewide grant selection process	Manage 8 NPS grants, facilitate new grant proposals, and participate in statewide grant selection process
Enroll facilities in Confined Animal Facilities (CAF) WDRs	Outreach to enroll facilities in CAF WDRs and coordinate education via support organizations	Support development of Ranch Plans and Monitoring Plans for new and existing enrollees
	Manage CAF program for all dairies and other CAFs in impaired watershed via report review, non-filer follow-up, interagency coordination, compliance assistance, and enforcement	Manage CAF program for all dairies and other CAFs in impaired watershed via report review, non-filer follow-up, interagency coordination, compliance assistance, and enforcement
Increase inspection presence for all programs	Inspect at least 10 grazing operations and 5 CAF operations	Inspect at least 10 grazing operations and 5 CAF operations
	Inspect 6 high-risk outdoor cannabis operations based on water quality risk	Inspect 6 high-risk outdoor cannabis operations based on water quality risk
RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM		
Review new recycled water applications and authorize projects in coordination with the Division of Drinking Water	Enroll the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's recycled water program, which includes the new Westside Recycled Water Facility, in the statewide general order for recycled water use	Enroll the City of Livermore's recycled water program in the statewide general order for recycled water use
Engage in collaborative efforts that promote increases in recycled water in the Region	Engage with recycled water stakeholders to share resources, reduce barriers, and support the broader use of recycled water	Engage with recycled water stakeholders to share resources, reduce barriers, and support the broader use of recycled water
Identify opportunities to standardize and streamline recycled water permitting	Engage with State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and the Recycled Water Roundtable to provide input on the development of new and updated recycled water regulations	Engage with State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and the Recycled Water Roundtable to provide input on the development of new and updated recycled water regulations

CLEAN UP

PROGRAM	FY22/23	FY23/24
Priority Action	TARGETS & MILESTONES	TARGETS & MILESTONES
SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM		
Address potential adverse impacts from sea level rise (SLR) and groundwater rise (GWR)	Map groundwater rise vulnerable areas with cleanup sites	Continue implementation and tracking
	Develop implementation resources for staff to request/require vulnerability/adapatation plans, modify remedial action plans, and accelerate cleanups	Evaluate progress on sites conducting SLR/GWR vulnerability assessments, modeling, and/or monitoring
	Conduct community and stakeholder outreach	Incorporate research findings and refine requirments
Assess and investigate potential per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) discharges	Conduct follow-up from State Board PFAS orders requiring PFAS sampling	Continue implementation and tracking
	Request/require PFAS sampling at facilites where PFAS likley used, stored, or released and where potential discharge	Integrate anticipated PFAS drinking water standards into the prioritization approach
Continue applying Environmental Justice lens to inform site cleanup priorities	Develop implementation resources for staff to inform case management decisions and coordination on commuity engagement Develop case actions and time frames considering community concerns and program metrics to stop ongoing exposure to and spreading of toxic contaminants	Conduct training, outreach, implementation, and coordination Track and report progress toward metrics
Update the July 2009 low-threat case closure assessment tool to incorporate climate change considerations, groundwater basin priorities, vapor intrusion assessment and mitigation guidance, and factors for assessing cleanup feasibility	Develop draft update and conduct internal review	Finalize update, publish externally, conduct training and outreach
Assess, investigate, and cleanup polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) discharges at upland source sites and creek/Bay sediments and known TMDL hotspots	Identify potential upland source properties Assess PCBs in conveyance systems including private and municipal storm drains and identify responsible parties Stop upland discharges and cleanup creek and in-Bay sediments Coordinate with stormwater and	Continue implementation, tracking, and coordination
22	TMDL programs and local agencies	

CLEAN UP

PROGRAM Priority Action	FY22/23 TARGETS & MILESTONES	FY23/24 TARGETS & MILESTONES
SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM	MINGE IS & INITES FOR ES	MINGE IS & IMPERIOR
Update the Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) to be consistent with the latest science (e.g., toxicity criteria), incorporate PFAS chemicals into the Workbook, and add a PFAS chapter to the User's Guide	Scope the update and begin update	Publish the update
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND EN	RGY PROGRAM	
Ensure the investigation and clean up of the Region's former and active Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Energy (DoE) facilities to protect water quality, human health, and the environment prior to property transfer	Facilitate timely site investigation and cleanup by reviewing and commenting on draft, draft final, and final documents in accordance with site schedules Actively participate in resolving formal disputes to expedite site	Facilitate timely site investigation and cleanup by reviewing and commenting on draft, draft final, and final documents in accordance with site schedules Actively participate in resolving formal disputes to expedite site
	cleanups	cleanups
Continue to oversee privatized DoD sites under the Site Cleanup Cost Recovery Program to ensure that redevelopment activities do not undermine selected remedies and that any additional cleanup for new land uses is protective of human health and the environment	Review and provide timely comments on draft, draft final, and final documents for privatized DoD sites	Review and provide timely comments on draft, draft final, and final documents for privatized DoD sites
Ensure the investigation and clean up of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)	Continue providing oversight to the military PFAS cleanup program	Continue implementation and tracking
	Integrate anticipated CERCLA hazardous substance designation into the cleanup oversight process	Integrate anticipated PFAS drinking water standards into the cleanup oversight process
Apply environmental justice lens to inform priorities	Support work to develop internal guidance	Implement internal guidance to prioritize sites and conduct community engagement based on environmental justice considerations
Address potential adverse impacts from climate change, such as sea level rise (SLR) and groundwater rise (GWR)	Support work to develop internal guidance Notify Navy that it needs to consider the latest climate change science in its cleanup process and five year reviews to ensure remedies remain effective	Implement internal guidance to prioritize sites and require climate change vulnerability assessments based on climate change considerations Anticipate providing comments during five year reviews and feasiblity studies for Hunters Point Shipyard and Treasure Island

ENFORCE

PROGRAM Priority Action

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Our enforcement priority is to prosecute violations that cause significant harm to water quality or program integrity, targeting particularly culpable or recalcitrant parties. Cases may include the following:

- Discharges that result in fish kills or other acute aquatic impacts;
- Illegal fill of streams or wetlands, including violation at permitted stream or wetland projects;
- · Violations of site cleanup requirements; and
- Violation of construction, industrial, and municipal stormwater permits

We will also continue to maintain a near-zero backlog of mandatory minimum penalty assessments and will assist emergency response and recovery efforts associated with spills, wildfires, and vessels.

OUR PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS

Our Region's performance measures and targets, tracked by the State Water Board, are presented in the table below. These measures and targets are annual indicators of progress and completion of our routine program activities to protect water quality and beneficial uses. This table will be updated with the fiscal year 23/24 targets once those have been finalized, shortly after the beginning of FY 23/24.

	PROGRAM Performance Measure	FY22/23 TARGET
	TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD AND BASIN PLANNING	
DI ANI O ACCE	Basin Plan Amendments Adopted	1
PLAN & ASSE	Pollutant/Waterbody Combinations Addressed	0
	TMDLs Adopted/Reconsidered	0
	NPDES WASTEWATER	
	Major Individual Facilities Inspected	26
	Major Individual Permits Issued or Reissued	12
	Minor General Facilities Inspected	2
	Minor Individual Facilities Inspected	6
	Minor Individual Permits Issued or Reissued	0
	WASTE DISCHARGE TO LAND — WASTEWATER	
	Individual Waste Discharge Requirements Updated	1
	Waste Discharge to Land Inspections	12
REGULATE	NPDES STORMWATER	
	Stormwater Municipal Inspections	12
	Stormwater Industrial Inspections	222
	Stormwater Construction Inspections	126
	LAND DISPOSAL	
	Landfill Individual Permits Updated	3
	Landfill Facilities Inspections	36
	All Other Inspections - Land Disposal	16
	All Other Individual Permits Updated - Land Disposal	0
	CONFINED ANIMAL FACILITIES	-
	Confined Animal Facilities Inspections	5
	CLEAN UP	
	Underground Storage Tank Sites Projected Closed	37
CLEAN UP	New Underground Storage Tank Sites Into Active Remediation	6
CLEAN UP	New Department of Defense Sites Into Active Remediation	0
	New Cleanup Sites Into Active Remediation	15
	Cleanup Sites Closed	20
	ENFORCEMENT	
ENFORCE	Respond to serious priority violations with formal enforcement or investigative order within 18 months	80%
	Assess mandatory minimum penalties within 18 months	80%

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