

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

**STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Maggie Monahan and
Robert Schlipf
MEETING DATE: June 11, 2025**

ITEM: 7

**Inspections of Wastewater, Recycled Water, and Stormwater Facilities –
Information Item**

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DISCUSSION:

This informational item will focus on how we inspect wastewater, recycled water, and stormwater facilities. These facilities are regulated by NPDES permits if discharging to surface water or waste discharge requirements (WDRs) if discharging to land. The requirements specify terms and conditions a permittee must comply with to protect water quality. While most of our compliance assessments are completed by reviewing monitoring reports, we also conduct compliance evaluation inspections to assess conditions in the field.

For wastewater, we regulate about 80 municipal and industrial facilities with individual NPDES permits for discharges to surface water and 100 facilities with WDRs for discharges to land. We must inspect major facilities at least once every two years and minor facilities at least once every five years in accordance with U.S. EPA's Compliance Assessment Strategy. Each year, we aim to inspect about five percent of the sanitary sewer collection systems that route wastewater to municipal wastewater treatment plants. For other facilities that are covered under general NPDES permits (e.g., groundwater cleanup sites, aggregate mining, dry docks, fireworks, and pesticide applications), we conduct targeted inspections. We also conduct targeted inspections for facilities under our waste discharge to land program, aiming to inspect at least 10 of permitted facilities per year.

Many of our municipal wastewater treatment facilities also produce recycled water, and we inspect the recycled water treatment systems as part of the NPDES inspections. Most of the municipal-scale recycled water facilities are permitted under the statewide general order for recycled water use as recycled water administrators, and we rely on the recycled water administrators to inspect the distribution systems and use areas. We also coordinate with the Division of Drinking Water on inspections of new or expanding recycled water systems, both municipal-scale and onsite recycled water facilities.

For stormwater, our region has over 2,200 industrial facilities and between 1,200 and 1,500 construction sites each year permitted under the statewide NPDES industrial and construction stormwater general permits. With limited staff resources for over 3,000 facilities and sites, we prioritize cases to maximize our effectiveness and recognize the key role that municipal inspectors under the municipal stormwater permits play in ensuring industrial facilities and construction sites operate to control stormwater runoff.

Our target is to inspect 10 percent of permitted industrial facilities and construction sites each year in accordance with U.S. EPA's Compliance Assessment Strategy.

This informational item will provide an overview of the types of facilities we inspect, how we prepare for inspections, what we're documenting during our field visits, and highlight some key findings that we have made in the field.