



# Fact Sheet

## Surface Water Quality Assessment Program

### California Integrated Report: Federal Clean Water Act Sections 303(d) and 305(b)

#### Overview

The integrated report is a non-regulatory and data-driven report that communicates the status of surface water quality in California. Surface waters include rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs, estuaries, lagoons, bays, beaches, and ocean waters, that fall within federal jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board (“State Water Board”) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (“Regional Water Boards”), collectively known as the Water Boards, work together to develop integrated report.

The Water Boards’ integrated report combines the Clean Water Act’s Section 303(d) list of impaired waters and the Clean Water Act’s Section 305(b) water quality condition report. Every two years, the integrated report reflects the analyses all available data and information from surface waters within the boundaries of three Regional Water Boards. Data from the rest of the state may be reviewed for “off-cycle” assessments. Every region is “on-cycle” and fully assessed once every six years.

#### Assessing Beneficial Uses

Waters that are used for specific purposes, (or “beneficial uses”) are designated in regional water board water quality control plans. Examples of beneficial uses are



protection and propagation of fish, recreation, and public drinking water supply. Waters are often designated with more than one beneficial use. State and regional water quality control plans establish scientifically defensible conditions, such as maximum levels of pollutants, to ensure protection of beneficial uses. When waters cannot support beneficial uses, they are identified as “impaired waters” or “303(d) listings” in accordance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California’s Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List or “Listing Policy”, as indicated by the blue shading on



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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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the map. An online interactive version of the map is available on the [program webpage](#). The 305(b) report provides information on the water quality of surface waters in California, both impaired and not impaired.

## Integrated Report Uses

Once the integrated report is approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“U.S. EPA”), the Water Boards use the data and information to inform surface water quality protection efforts, such as prioritization of regulatory programs, clean-up programs (i.e., Total Maximum Daily Loads), discharge permit monitoring, and directing grant funding. Other agencies such as the U.S. EPA and the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment also use water quality data and information for their tools and resources.

## Equity Initiatives

The State Water Board strives to ensure all residents of California have equitable access to clean water. In accordance with the State Water Board’s commitment to advancing equity and environmental justice (including the [Racial Equity Action Plan](#)), program staff are working to ensure that the integrated report represents water quality in disadvantaged and tribal communities. The integrated report timeline includes several opportunities to submit data and provide input, and staff are committed to improving outreach and engagement to ensure communities have access to the tools and resources needed to actively engage in the process. Staff are also continually working to improve transparency of information and procedures through the program website and other outreach methods.

## Integrated Report Development Process

The State Water Board administers the public process in coordination with the Regional Water Boards. The integrated report must be submitted to the U.S. EPA by April 1 of every even-numbered year. Developing the integrated report takes approximately four years to complete, as shown in the timeline below.



## Additional Resources

More information on the integrated report can be found on the following webpages:

- **Program Webpage:** [https://bit.ly/WQ\\_Assessment](https://bit.ly/WQ_Assessment)

Policies and Resolutions:

- **Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List or Listing Policy:** [https://bit.ly/2015\\_ListingPolicy](https://bit.ly/2015_ListingPolicy)
  - **State Water Board Racial Equity Program Webpage:** [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/racial\\_equity/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/racial_equity/)
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For questions on the integrated report, please contact via email at [WQAssessment@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:WQAssessment@waterboards.ca.gov).

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