

Appendix D: Water Quality Priorities and Targeted Projects and Activities

Water quality priorities are developed from water quality data, legislative mandates, statutes, regulations and through staff priority-setting exercises, and reflect an attempt to balance competing demands, while at the same time adhering to the Regional Boards' mission to protect, restore and enhance water quality. Region 3 has undertaken a series of priority-setting exercises, in order to make more efficient use of decreased staffing levels (fifteen staff have left over the past two years and have not been replaced due to budget problems and the hiring freeze). In addition, amendments to the sections of the California Water Code pertaining to waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements have necessitated redirection of significant staff effort, especially in the area of irrigated agriculture.

The information in list D-7 below (also included in the Chapter), reflects a synthesis of a number of documents developed to refine priorities, and includes both priorities that will be addressed by regional board staff and priorities that may be best addressed by partners and stakeholders. Table D-7 below identifies targeted projects and activities that may be funded through statewide grant funds and local settlement funds.

List D-7: Water Quality Priorities

- **Agriculture** - Addressing water quality impacts from irrigated agriculture, a major land use in the region that has been identified as a potential source of impairment for many of the waterbodies on the 303(d) list (constituents of concern include nutrients, pesticides and sediment) by implementing the conditional waiver for irrigated lands
- **Total Maximum Daily Loads** – Developing and implementing TMDLs throughout the region
- **Urban Runoff** –Addressing beach closure issues, implementing Phase II of the NPDES Stormwater Program
- **Point Source Regulatory Programs** – Streamlining permit writing, renewing major permits and several existing Waste Discharge Requirements, performing inspections
- **Basin Planning** – Developing a riparian corridor policy, revising or developing water quality objectives
- **Monitoring** – Maintaining the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program, integrating data from the agricultural cooperative monitoring program
- **Clean-up** – Overseeing perchlorate, MTBE, military base, hazardous waste, and underground storage tank cleanups

Table D-7: Targeted Projects and Activities

Watershed	Targeted Projects and Activities
Regionwide	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Projects that support implementation of the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands (“agricultural waiver”), including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Projects that support implementation of the Cooperative Monitoring Program b. Projects that support development and implementation of farm water quality management plans for irrigated operations to address irrigation management, nutrient management, pesticide management and erosion control c. Projects that implement and test the effectiveness of management practices 2. Projects that implement approved or developed TMDLs 3. Projects that support development of scheduled TMDLs
Pajaro	agricultural waiver implementation (monitoring, education, BMP implementation) riparian and wetland protection and restoration
San Lorenzo	sediment TMDL implementation (sediment reduction from private and public roads, timber harvest activities, and urban runoff)- http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/TMDL/documents/RBResolutionandAmendment_002.pdf riparian and wetland protection and restoration
Salinas	agricultural waiver implementation (monitoring, education, BMP implementation) riparian and wetland protection and restoration urban runoff reduction/increase infiltration
Elkhorn Slough	agricultural waiver implementation (monitoring, education, BMP implementation) riparian and wetland protection and restoration
Morro Bay	agricultural waiver implementation (monitoring, education, BMP implementation) sediment TMDL implementation (sediment reduction from urban runoff, roads, agriculture and grazing) http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/TMDL/documents/RBResolutionandAmendment_001.pdf pathogen TMDL implementation (pathogen reduction from boats, pets, urban runoff, agriculture and grazing)

	http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/TMDL/documents/MorroBayPat hSBresoln_000.pdf land acquisition for watershed/water quality protection riparian and wetland protection and restoration
San Luis Obispo	agricultural waiver implementation (monitoring, education, BMP implementation) riparian and wetland protection and restoration mitigate groundwater overdraft/increase infiltration pathogen TMDL implementation (pathogen reduction from urban runoff and grazing)
Santa Maria	agricultural waiver implementation (monitoring, education, BMP implementation)
Santa Ynez	agricultural waiver implementation (monitoring, education, BMP implementation)
South Coast Watersheds	agricultural waiver implementation (monitoring, education, BMP implementation) riparian and wetland protection and restoration