

Item #3

Public Hearing for the Draft 2024 California Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters

Part of the Integrated Report

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Division of Water Quality | March 21, 2023

Presentation Outline

- Integrated Report Overview
- Summary of the Draft 303(d) List
- Assessment Highlights
- Important Dates and Next Steps
- Questions
- Oral Comment

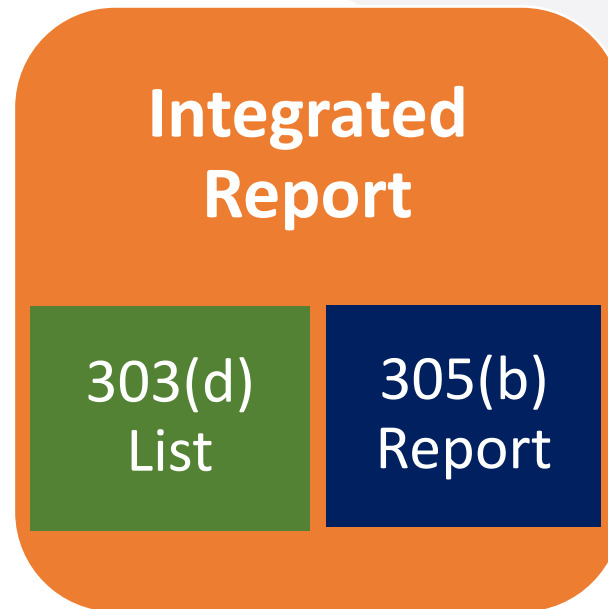


Integrated Report Overview

The **Integrated Report** addresses **Sections 303(d)** and **305(b)** requirements of the **Clean Water Act**

303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies

- Identify waters where water quality standards are not attained
- Requires approval by State Water Board and U.S. EPA



305(b) Report

- Report on the overall condition of surface water quality
- Included in the Integrated Report, but does not require State Water Board or U.S. EPA approval

305(b) Report Condition Categories

Category	Description
1	At least one core beneficial use is supported, and no beneficial uses are known to be impaired.
2	Insufficient data and/or information to determine core beneficial use support
3	Insufficient data and/or information to make a beneficial use support determination but data and/or information indicates beneficial uses may be potentially threatened.
4	<p>At least one beneficial use is not supported but a TMDL is not needed.</p> <p>4a: A TMDL has been developed and approved by U.S. EPA for at least one waterbody-pollutant combination listing, and the approved implementation plan is expected to result in full attainment of the water quality standard within a reasonable, specified time frame.</p> <p>4b: Another regulatory program is reasonably expected to result in attainment of the water quality standard within a reasonable, specified time frame.</p> <p>4c: The non-attainment of any applicable water quality standard for the waterbody is the result of pollution and is not caused by a pollutant.</p>
5	5: At least one beneficial use is not supported and a TMDL is needed.

How the 303(d) List Can Be Used

- Informational List – does not by itself directly establish new regulatory requirements
- In a separate action, a listing and associated data *may* be used to:
 - Develop cleanup efforts, such as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) or other restoration actions
 - Trigger review of beneficial uses or objectives, leading to a standards change
 - Inform permit development
 - Determining reasonable potential
 - Evaluating whether effluent limitations are appropriate
 - Monitoring requirements
 - Source analysis study requirements

2024 California Integrated Report

- On-cycle Assessments
 - San Francisco Bay (Region 2)
 - Los Angeles (Region 4)
 - Santa Ana (Region 8)
- Off-cycle Assessments
 - Central Coast (Region 3)
 - Sacramento River watershed of the Central Valley Region (Region 5)
 - San Diego (Region 9)
- Data Cut-off Date: October 16, 2020



Summary Statistics

Statistic	2018 Cycle	2020-2022 Cycle	2024 Cycle
Data Rows Assembled	1,411,000	4,587,101	5,351,531
Waterbodies with Data Assessed	532	1,630	1,591
Lines Of Evidence Assessed	38,256	112,537	95,708
Waterbody-Pollutant Combinations Assessed	6,283	24,964	20,632

Integrated Report Organization

Staff Report:

- About the Integrated Report
- Statewide assessment methods
- Regional Board specific-assessments
- Listing and delisting recommendations

(URL:https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/)



**2024 303(d)
List**

Appendix A:
(Excel
download)



**2024
Waterbody
Fact Sheets**

Appendix B
Appendix B1:
(Excel
download)



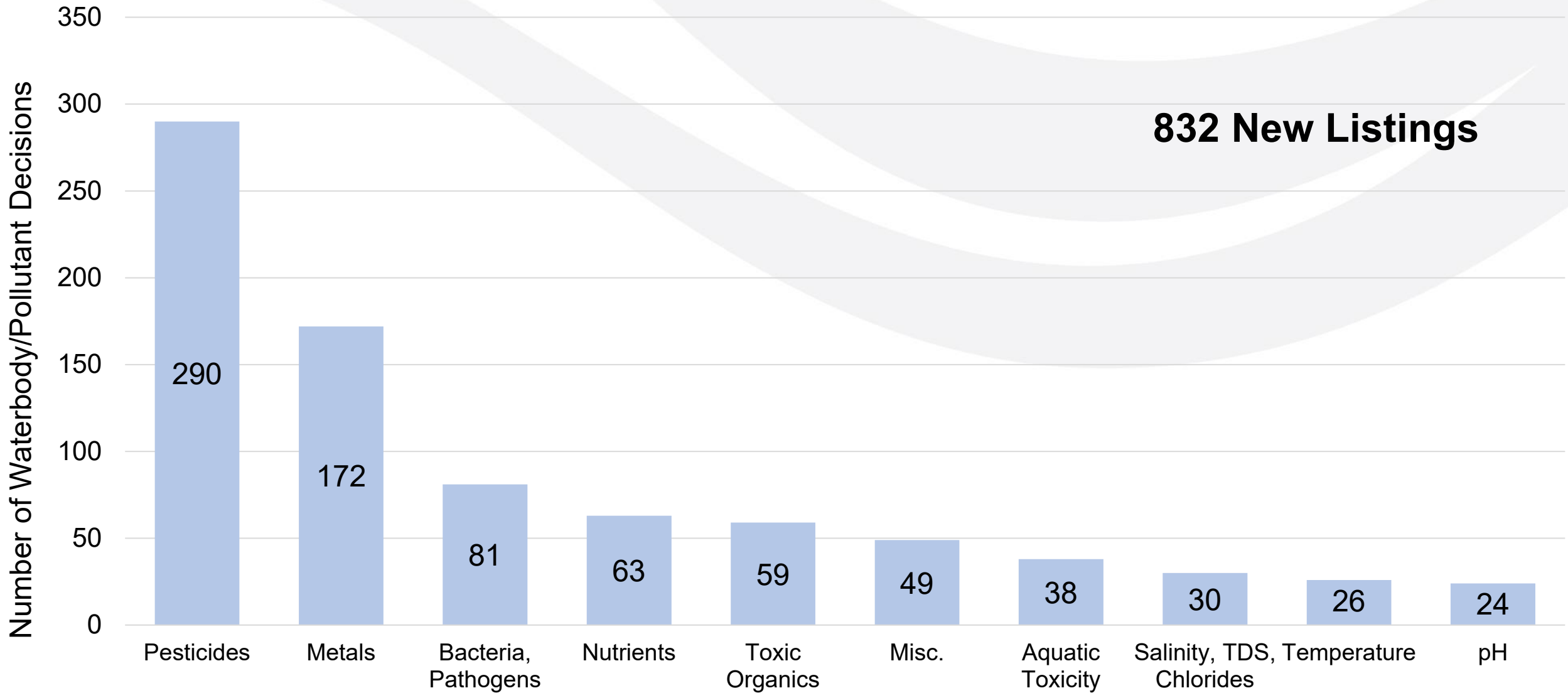
**2024 Map and
Visualization
Tool**

Appendix D

Draft 303(d) List and Delist Recommendations

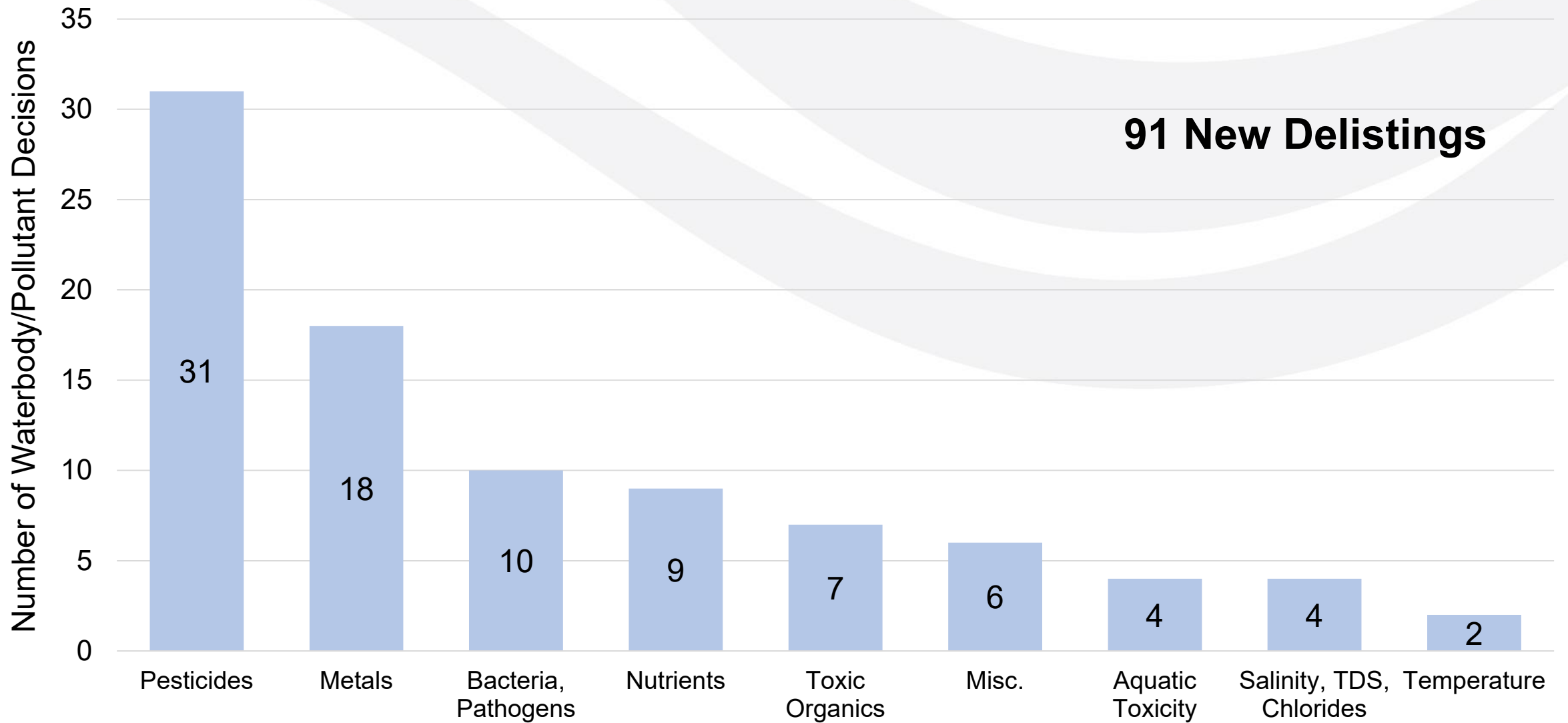
Region	2020-2022 303(d) Listings	New Listings	Delistings	Total 2024 303(d) Listings
North Coast	217	0	0	217
San Francisco Bay	348	137	0	481
Central Coast	1,177	29	1	1,204
Los Angeles	877	465	30	1,316
Central Valley	1,202	123	57	1,274
Lahontan	256	0	0	256
Colorado River Basin	110	0	0	110
Santa Ana	142	78	0	217
San Diego	844	0	3	839
TOTALS	5,173	832	91	5,914

Draft 2024 New 303(d) Listings



832 New Listings

Draft 2024 New 303(d) Delistings



Benthic Community Effects

- Assessment Methodology
 - Biology + Associated Pollutant(s) Impairment
- Stakeholder concerns that there should be more consideration about what causes degraded biology
- 2024 Integrated Report - Waterbodies placed in Category 3
- Assessments from previous Integrated Reports remain the same

Ocean Acidification

- New assessment process for 2024 Integrated Report
- Ocean acidification data compared to a numeric evaluation guideline
 - Marine habitat impacted when Aragonite Saturation State ≤ 1.4 threshold (Bednaršek 2019)
 - Waterbodies in the San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, and Central Coast Regions
- Further research is needed to increase confidence that data reflects waterbody conditions
- Recommend placing:
 - 14 waterbodies in Category 2
 - 1 segment of the Pacific Ocean of the coast of Marin County in Category 3

Microplastics

- New assessment process for 2024 Integrated Report
- 5 microplastic particles per liter threshold (Mehinto et al. 2022)
- Recommend placing
 - 4 waterbodies in Category 2
 - San Francisco Bay South, San Pablo Bay, Suisun Bay, and the segment of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Marin County
 - 3 waterbodies in Category 3
 - San Francisco Bay (Lower and Central) and San Leandro Bay
- More certainty needed in available threshold value and submitted data

Anticipated Adjustments to Draft 2024 List

- Los Angeles River – Reach 4 for Ammonia
 - Inconsistency with how data fields were populated for two data sets
 - U.S. EPA's recommended criteria applied, instead of the correct site-specific water quality objective.
- Pollutant Name Change Error
 - Impacts about 45 decisions in the Los Angeles Region
 - Do not expect any new listing recommendations

Corrections Completed Since the 2020-2022 Integrated Report Adoption Process

- Aluminum – Data reassessed using 2018 U.S. EPA Final Aquatic Life Criteria from the San Francisco Bay, Central Coast, Los Angeles, Central Valley, Santa Ana, and San Diego Regions
- Central Valley Mis-mapped Stations
- Central Coast Long-Term Environmental Assessment Network Data were assessed
- Corrections for future cycles (Central Valley Region):
 - Pesticide Data Reassessments
 - Chloride Assessments in the Delta

2024 Integrated Report – Timeline

October 16, 2020	Close of Data Solicitation Period
February 23, 2023	Released Draft Integrated Report
March 21, 2023	Public Hearing
April 3, 2023 at noon	Close of Comment Period
Winter 2023	Response to Comments & Proposed Final Staff Report Release
Winter 2023/2024	State Water Board Meeting to Consider Adoption
Before April 1, 2024	Submittal to U.S. EPA

Documents and additional information available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/

Submitting Comments and Questions

- Send comments to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
- Put “Comment Letter – 2024 California Integrated Report” in the subject line
- Questions? Contact:
 - Ana Maria Saenz, Senior Environmental Scientist
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 - Celene Udasco, Environmental Scientist
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