

The banner features a scenic landscape with a large body of water in the foreground, rolling hills in the middle ground, and a clear blue sky with light clouds. The text is centered over this image.

Lahontan Water Board Program Fact Sheet FY 2014- 2015

Waste Discharge to Land ***(not under Title 27 regulations)***

Overview

The Waste Discharge to Land Program authorizes and regulates actions or discharges of waste that pose a threat to waters of the state (waters of the state includes both ground and surface water). This is the oldest state water quality control program and is performance-based. The program primarily covers regulation of wastewater (sewage) treatment facilities, but the program also covers facilities such as ski areas, golf courses, parking lots, and dairies and their associated waste discharges to land. The waste discharges covered by this program are not subject to the requirements of California Code of Regulation, title 27 requirements nor the Clean Water Act. Currently, the Water Board has about seven full-time positions working within this program.

Dischargers submit a report of waste discharge and staff prepares Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for consideration by the Water Board to adopt. The Water Board may establish numeric and/or narrative effluent and receiving water limits to protect beneficial uses of the receiving water that are included in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan). The Water Board may adopt WDRs for new discharges of waste after receiving a complete report of waste discharge. Also, the Water Board has the authority to adopt/impose WDRs for existing discharges of waste.

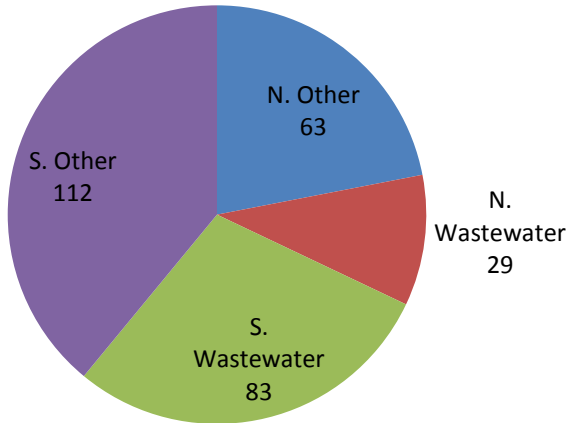
Goals

The purpose of the program is to protect ground or surface water from unreasonable degradation and pollution and to prevent nuisance. The current priority goal is focused on dischargers who are polluting or threatening to pollute groundwater. The Water Board is revising WDRs, issuing enforcement orders and ensuring progress is made to upgrade treatment facilities, install groundwater remediation systems, and improve waste management activities (e.g., manure application to crops at agronomic rates) to reverse the trend of receiving water degradation. Recent WDRs for sewage treatment facilities have included effluent limitations for total nitrogen to protect groundwater from nitrate pollution. Discharges associated with new or updated WDRs are being specifically evaluated with respect to the antidegradation policy, Resolution 68-16. The wastewater facilities range from 1,500 gallons per day to 15 million gallons per day. Other facilities include 1) ski resorts and golf courses, 2) confined animal feeding operations, 3) small construction projects, 4) onsite septic tanks managed by local agencies, 5) dredge/fill projects affecting only waters of the state, and 7) recycled water.

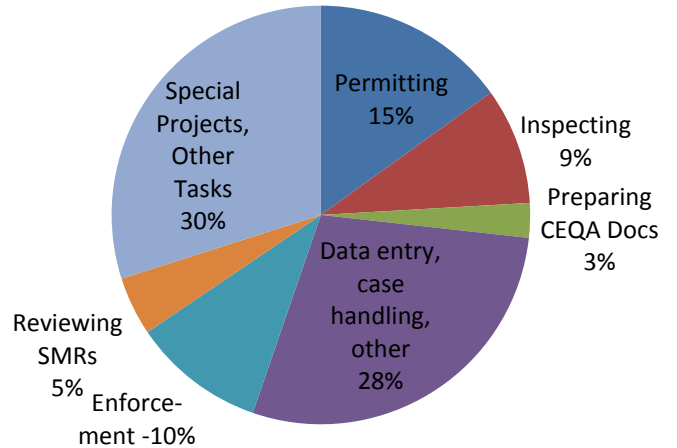
Program Evaluation

This year the program, for all regions, was evaluated by the State Water Resources Control Board. This evaluation identified that the program commonly gets tasked with new or unusual work that does not make up a core regulatory task. Examples of non-core regulatory work covered by the program include Local Agency Management Plans for permitting onsite wastewater treatment systems or conducting ground water investigations with no known discharger (such as the nitrate pollution in the groundwater near Hinkley unassociated with PG&E or operating dairies).

of Facility Type



Staff Planned Activities



Accomplishments

- Crestline CSD – Las Flores Ranch groundwater assessment completed
- Bishop/Eastern Sierra CSD groundwater assessment in progress
- Hinkley area groundwater residential well sampling begun and in-progress

Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014

	Target	Completed
Inspections Municipal Facility:	36	55
Inspections Other Facility:	17	24
Permits Rescissions:	1	46
Permits Amendments:	6	2
Permits Cat 2 WDRs:	2	2
Permits Cat 3 WDRs:	2	3

Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015

	Target	Progress to Date
Inspections:	62	19
Individual WDRs (Permits)	7	1

One WDR has been accomplished, two are still being scheduled; and several are being reviewed with the possibility of using new State Board General Orders in lieu of issuing new individual WDRs.