



ABOUT THE
CALIFORNIA
WATER BOARDS



55,000

Acre-Foot of Groundwater used per day

630

Miles of Coastal Beaches

1,600,000

Acres of Lakes

1,100

Miles of Coastline

211,000

Miles of Rivers & Streams

1,300,000

Acres of Bays & Estuaries

WORKING WITH ALL CALIFORNIANS

We encourage all Californians to get involved in our decision-making process. Public input and involvement is important to ensure that all sides of an issue are considered, and that decisions reflect public input. From attending a board meeting or hearing to providing public comments, there are many opportunities the public has to get involved in the decision-making processes used by the Water Boards to protect California's water quality.

In 2012, California became the first state to enact a Human Right to Water law (HRTW). The law declares that "every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." The human right to water is a core value of the Water Boards and fully integrating the HRTW law into our programs, plans, and policies is a high priority.

The Water Boards believe that environmental justice will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree

of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

We at the Water Boards are committed to continuously strengthening our relationships with federally and non-federally recognized California Native American Tribes by improving overall communication, transparency, and government-to-government engagement through consultations, and the Regional Boards are working to identify and designate waterbodies with Tribal Beneficial Uses.

ABOUT THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD



DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

The State Water Board works in coordination with the nine Regional Water Boards to preserve, protect, enhance, and restore water quality. The State Water Board sets statewide water quality standards, issues statewide general permits, conducts statewide surface and groundwater monitoring and assessment, and issues orders for cleaning up contaminated sites. The State and Regional Water Boards also work with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as other environmental agencies to ensure a coordinated approach to protecting human health and the environment.

WATER QUALITY | 916.341.5455



DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

Anyone wanting to divert water from a stream or river not adjacent to their property, or anyone wanting to store water, must first apply for a water right permit from the State Water Board. The State Water Board issues permits for water rights specifying amounts, conditions, and construction timetables for diversion and storage. Decision-making stems from water availability, senior water rights, flows needed to preserve instream uses, such as recreation and fish habitat, and whether the diversion is in the public interest.

The State Water Board's Bay-Delta Program facilitates the development and review of plans and policies to protect beneficial uses of the San Francisco Bay / Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta Estuary.

WATER RIGHTS | 916.341.5300

OUR MISSION: To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.



ABOUT THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

Created by the State Legislature in 1967, the five-member Board protects water quality by setting statewide policy, coordinating and supporting the Regional Board efforts, and reviewing petitions that contest Regional Board actions. Together with the regional boards, the State Board is authorized to implement the federal Clean Water Act in California. The Water Boards are housed within state government and are part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

Each of the five full-time salaried board members fills a different specialized position (representing the public, engineering expertise, water quality expertise, and water supply). The members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

ABOUT THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

There are nine regional water quality control boards statewide. The nine Regional Boards are semi-autonomous and are comprised of seven part-time Board members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Regional boundaries are based on watersheds and water quality requirements are based on the unique differences in climate, topography, geology, and hydrology for each watershed. Each Regional Board makes critical water quality decisions for its region, including setting standards, issuing waste discharge requirements, determining compliance with those requirements, and taking appropriate enforcement actions.



DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The State Water Board provides loans and grants for constructing drinking water treatment and distribution systems, municipal sewage and water recycling facilities, remediation for groundwater contamination and underground storage tank releases, stormwater capture and use, and for nonpoint source pollution control projects. The State Water Board has several financial programs to help local agencies, public water systems, California Native American Tribes, non-profit organizations, and individuals prevent or clean up pollution of the state's water and provide safe drinking water.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE | 916.341.5700



DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

The Division of Drinking Water's twenty-four Field Operation Branches are responsible for the regulation of public water systems to provide safe water to all Californians. The field offices conduct inspections, issue permits, determine compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, and conduct enforcement activities. DDW's Program Management Branch develops regulations, approves innovative treatment technologies, accredits environmental laboratories, maintains water quality databases and websites, integrates recycled water with potable water uses, and maintains quality assurance systems.

DRINKING WATER | 916.449.5577

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Office of Public Affairs | 916.341.7365

Office of Legislative Affairs | 916.341.5251

Office of Public Participation | 916.341.5254

www.waterboards.ca.gov

REGIONAL WATER BOARDS

NORTH COAST REGION (1)

www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast
707.576.2220

SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION (2)

www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay
510.622.2300

CENTRAL COAST REGION (3)

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast
805.549.3147

LOS ANGELES REGION (4)

www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles
213.576.6600

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION (5)

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley
916.464.3291

Fresno Branch | 559.445.5116

Redding Branch | 530.224.4845

LAHONTAN REGION (6)

www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan
530.542.5400

Victorville Branch | 760.241.6583

COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION (7)

www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver
760.346.7491

SANTA ANA REGION (8)

www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana
951.782.4130

SAN DIEGO REGION (9)

www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego
619.516.1990