

**GROUP:** WATER RIGHTS ALLOCATIONS

**MEASURE:** NUMBER OF PERMITS  
 NUMBER OF LICENSES  
 ACRE- FEET OF WATER ALLOCATED  
 NEW APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

**MESSAGE:** Although the number of actions processed reflects less than 4% of total water right holders, it requires a significant level of effort.

*KEY STATISTICS FOR FY 2009-10*

ACRE FEET OF WATER ALLOCATED: 429,830,965  
 NUMBER OF NEW PERMITS: 18  
 NUMBER OF NEW LICENSES: 29  
 APPLICATIONS RESOLVED: 75

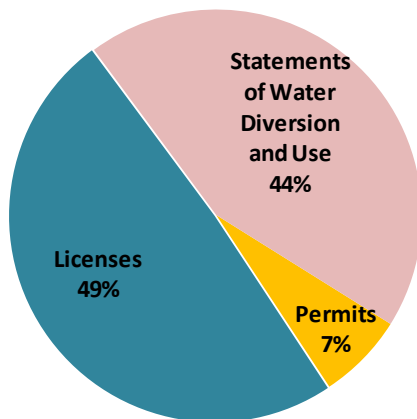
**MEASUREMENTS:**

Type of Water Right Allocation	Total Active Number of Water Right Holders	Number Issued In FY 09-10	Number Revoked In 09-10	Amount of Water Rights (Acre-Feet)
Permits	1,518	18	20	215,383,231
Licenses	10,897	29	23	97,963,999
Statements of Water Diversion and Use*	9,770	283	285	116,371,260
Other Water Rights	13,269	45	463	112,475
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,454</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>429,830,965</b>

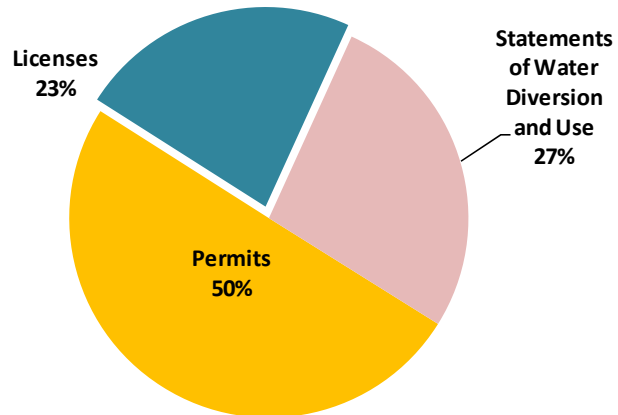
Number of New Water Right Applications	Total Pending (as of June 30, 2010)	Received in FY 09-10	Closed/ Resolved
New Applications	430	60	75

\* Not including the approximately 6,500 Statements filed on or before July 1, 2010.

Number of Water Rights Holders by Type



Amount of Water Rights (Acre-Feet) by Type



**WHAT THE MEASURE IS SHOWING:**

The data shows that compared to the number of water rights holders regulated by the State Water Board, the number of actions being processed is fairly low. The largest amount of water rights is allocated through permits with almost 50% of the total amount of acre-feet of water rights allocated on any given year. During Fiscal year 2009-2010 the State Water Board issued or revoked 1,166 water right records.

**WHY THIS MEASURE IS IMPORTANT:**

The State Water Board has an obligation to conduct water rights processes efficiently and responsibly. The State Water Board has made changes to its practices in processing water rights applications and petitions to ensure improved response time and reduce the backlog of pending applications. Processing applications and petitions is currently a significant portion of the work conducted by the Division of Water Rights. The data presented describes the number of records and the amount of water rights in acre-feet that the State Water Board manages and regulates. While this workload is very significant it is important to consider that this workload ultimately affects less than 1% of the acre feet of water regulated by the State Water Board.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Data Source: eWRIMS. Period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Extracted in August, 2010.
- Unit of Measure: Number of Water Right records active FY 09-10. And amount of Water Right (Acre-feet).
- Data Definitions: Pending applications, licenses, permits, etc as described in e-WRIMS.
- References: More information on the Water Boards' Water Rights program is available at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/>
- Public reports and data are available at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ewrims/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ewrims/)
- Monthly progress reports are available at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/publications\\_forms/available\\_documents/progress\\_reports/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/publications_forms/available_documents/progress_reports/index.shtml)

**GLOSSARY:****Applications for Water Rights**

Anyone who wants to divert water from a stream that is not adjacent to their property must first apply for a water right permit from the State Water Board. Filing of the application initiates the water rights process, which includes administrative and environmental reviews by State Water Board staff and public participation.

**Permits**

A water right permit is an authorization to develop a water diversion and use project. In deciding whether to approve applications and impose certain conditions in permits, the State Water Board is required to consider water quality control plans, including the protection of the beneficial uses of water, the public interest, reasonableness, and the public trust (protection of resources held in trust for all citizens, such as commerce, navigation, fisheries, and recreational and ecological values). Before issuing a water right, the State Water Board must find that "unappropriated" (unclaimed) water is available to supply the applicant, considering the water flows needed to remain in the stream (instream flows) for the protection of other beneficial uses, including municipal supply, agricultural supply, and fish and wildlife habitat. The water right permit specifies how much and during which season water can be diverted, and other conditions, such as special terms to protect instream flows. The right to use water is obtained through actual use of water within the limits described in the permit.

**Licenses**

A water right license is a certificate issued to confer a vested water right under certain conditions (a vested water right is established through beneficial use of water) and constitutes the final confirmation of the water right. The State Water Board issues a license, which is issued to the appropriator when the water development

project is completed, the terms of the permit have been met, and the largest volume of water under the permit is put to beneficial use. A license is issued for only that water that has been reasonably and beneficially used.