

GROUP: STATE WATER BOARD
POLICIES AND PERMITS

KEY STATISTICS FOR FY 2009-10

MEASURE: STATEWIDE POLICIES AND PERMITS RELEVANT TO WATER BOARDS' "REGULATE" FUNCTION

NUMBER OF STATEWIDE POLICIES: 18

NUMBER OF STATEWIDE POLICIES ADOPTED IN FY 2009-10: 3

MESSAGE: *In addition to the adoption of three statewide waste discharge permits, one of three State Water Board policies adopted in FY 2009-10 focused on regulatory issues.*

MEASUREMENTS:

Statewide Policies

Once-Through Cooling (316b) Policy

Statewide Permits

Landscape Irrigation/Incidental Runoff Permit
General Storm Water Construction Permit
Storm Water Linear Permit

WHY THIS MEASURE IS IMPORTANT:

While California’s diverse geography, landscape, population, social, cultural, and economic conditions and issues are mostly addressed by the Regional Water Boards’ individual water quality protection efforts, such as through basin planning and permitting, there is also a need for policy and permitting on a statewide basis. Statewide policies and permits adopted by the State Water Board address concerns and issues for surface waters and groundwaters that overlap Regional Water Board boundaries, are statewide in scope, or are otherwise considered significant on a statewide level. By adopting statewide policies and permits to address specific issues, in lieu of each Regional Water Board taking action individually, the State Water Board helps to promote effectiveness, efficiency, and appropriate consistency. Consistency in policies and permits helps to ensure that stakeholders receive equitable treatment, clearly understand requirements, and work towards common water quality and water rights goals.

Statewide Policies

The State Water Board adopts overarching policies to provide guidance and a framework from which the Regional Water Boards can appropriately tailor their actions for their regions. The State Water Board has developed and adopted a number of statewide policies to help guide the Water Boards planning and permitting processes. Statewide plans, adopted by the State Water Board, and regional water quality control plans (basin plans), adopted by the Regional Water Boards, must adhere to statewide policies. Policies have the force and effect of regulation, and are subject to approval by the Office of Administrative Law. In addition, state policies that implement water quality standards must be approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Statewide Permits

Statewide general permits, as opposed to permits issued to individual dischargers, establish requirements for groups of discharges under specific categories, such as storm



water runoff. All permit requirements must comply with applicable policies and water quality control plans. Where a statewide permit is appropriate, it can be an effective and efficient means of streamlining the permitting process while promoting fair and equitable application of laws, regulations, policies, plans, and procedures for controlling waste discharges to the State's waters.

FY 2009-10 STATEWIDE POLICIES AND PERMITS RELEVANT TO REGULATE FUNCTION OF WATER BOARDS

[Once-Through Cooling \(316b\) Policy](#)

On May 4, 2010, the State Water Board adopted the *Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling*. The Policy establishes technology-based standards to implement federal Clean Water Act section 316(b) and reduce the harmful effects associated with cooling water intake structures on marine and estuarine life. The Policy will apply to the 19 existing power plants (including two nuclear plants) that currently have the ability to withdraw over 15 billion gallons per day from the State's coastal and estuarine waters using a single-pass system, also known as once-through cooling. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/cwa316.shtml.

[Landscape Irrigation/Incidental Runoff Permit](#)

On July 7, 2009, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Landscape Irrigation Uses of Municipal Recycled Water* that allows the use of recycled water for landscape irrigation. The General Permit, which is consistent with the State Water Boards' Recycled Water Policy, facilitates the streamlining of the permitting process to reduce the overall costs normally incurred by producer, distributors, and users of recycled water. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_recycling_policy/landscape_irrigation_general_permit.shtml.

[General Storm Water Construction Permit](#)

On September 2, 2009, the State Water Board adopted a *General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity* for dischargers whose construction projects disturb one or more acres of soil or whose projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres. The General Construction Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which lists Best Management Practices (BMPs) the discharger will use to protect storm water runoff and the placement of those BMPs, as well as specific monitoring requirements. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml.

[Storm Water Linear Permit](#)

On September 2, 2009, the State Water Board adopted, as part of its *General Storm Water Construction Permit*, a permit for construction activity associated with *Linear Underground/Overhead Projects* (LUPs), such as conveyances for water or municipal wastewater, cable wires for communications or electrical energy transmission, and associated ancillary facilities. For more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml.