

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2012**

**ITEM 7**

**SUBJECT**

WATER BOARDS' FOURTH ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (FISCAL YEAR 2011-12)

**DISCUSSION**

This information item presents the Water Boards' Annual Performance Report, which features a variety of performance measures that offer an overview of the Water Boards' efforts to protect and allocate the State's waters.

With the adoption of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, the Water Boards continue the transition to becoming performance-based organizations where clear and measurable goals, objectives, and targets for improved performance are established and reported. Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan establishes that the Water Boards will improve transparency and accountability by ensuring that our goals and actions are clear and accessible; by demonstrating and explaining results achieved; and by enhancing and improving accessibility to data and information.

In accordance with the Strategic Plan, the web pages for the Annual Performance Report provide a report card that communicates to the public the quality of California's waters, the performance of the Water Boards in protecting those waters, and other Water Board-related issues that affect the public. The report presents numerous performance measures for specific outputs that are currently tracked through Water Board data systems. These output measures are organized under key functional categories of Water Board work.

This fourth year report updates and expands upon the performance measures established in prior years, reports results toward achieving targets that were set at the beginning of the 2011-12 fiscal year, and establishes new targets for the coming year. With each subsequent fiscal year, the report will better illustrate the work and effectiveness of the Water Boards, including more outcome measures that reflect the quality of our State's waters. To this end, twenty-five new TMDL outcome measure cards have been added to assess the effectiveness of our actions in specific waterbodies throughout the state. Additionally, this year's incorporates much of the compliance and enforcement information that was formerly reported in the Water Board's annual Enforcement Report.

The web-based FY 2011-12 Annual Performance Report will be available on the State Water Board's Internet site for the September 19, 2012 Board Meeting. The report's web pages solicit public comments for continual improvement of the information presented. In addition, improvements in the Water Boards' data systems continue to enhance routine reporting of performance. As those systems are enhanced, this report will continue to evolve in describing the water environment outcomes of our efforts.

Making more of this information available in a publicly-accessible manner is expected to build public confidence in the decision-makers, enhance the delivery of government services, and lead to greater public interest and involvement. Establishing and using measures of environmental and Water Board performance, along with adequate data and data systems, to track and report progress in meeting our goals and targets will help us to better manage and evaluate our programs, activities, and priorities, and improve efficiencies in our work processes. Thus, the Water Boards' Annual Performance Report is both a management tool and an instrument to communicate to the public our efforts and achievements during FY 2011-12, and beyond.

**POLICY ISSUE**

None. The Annual Performance Report does not set any specific policy.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None. At the present time, the Water Boards should be working within their given resource levels to provide the data and information needed for the Annual Performance Report.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

No additional impact at this time. The Regional Water Boards will be expected to continue maintaining current data and information in various databases that form the basis for periodic reporting of the performance measures in the Annual Performance Report.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None (information item only).

This information item assists the Water Boards in reaching Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to improve transparency and accountability. In particular, this item assists in fulfilling Objective 5.4 to "create ... a web-based water quality report card that will communicate to the public the quality of the State's waters, the performance of the Water Boards in protecting those waters, and other Water Board-related issues that affect the public." More specifically, Action 5.4.1. directs the development of "annual web-based reports on the effectiveness of Water Board programs, ... which track performance measures ... and allow the Water Boards to adjust priorities and strategies for the coming year."