

2024 State Board Strategy Discussion

For full items, [please see the 2024 State Board Strategic Work Plan](#).

Starred items expected to be done by the end of 2024

Division of Drinking Water

1.2.1. Chrome VI.

- The Board adopted a maximum contaminant level for hexavalent chromium. Waiting for OAL approval. Expect it to become effective October 1, 2024, if approved.

Division of Financial Assistance

3.2.1. Infrastructure funding programs.

- DFA has committed around \$948 million of the \$1.1 billion general fund infrastructure funding for drinking water/wastewater. The remaining \$152 million reverted (is no longer available), however, the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget provides over \$225 million of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds. DFA has committed \$400 million of general fund provided for SRF match; all \$228 million in water recycling general funds; all \$24 million in State PFAS funds; all \$19.8 million in groundwater cleanup general funds; and all \$35 million border river funds. With the commitment of State general fund resources, DFA will be focusing on committing available SRF/BIL funds through the rest of the calendar and fiscal year. DFA has been meeting with its SRF stakeholder advisory group to discuss potential SRF policy changes. The proposed policy revisions are anticipated to be brought to the Board in October/November 2024.

Division of Water Quality

2.1.12. High-priority water quality petitions.

- DWQ staff is working with OCC and anticipate release of the draft water quality order addressing the Central Valley Water Board's general dairy waste discharge requirements in 2024.

3.4.1. Statewide Utility Wildfire General Order.

- The Draft EIR and General Order was released for public review on June 28, 2024. The public comment period runs from June 28 until August 30, 2024. The Board hearing to accept oral comments is scheduled for August 20, 2024. Consideration of Adoption is expected as early as December 2024. For Fiscal Year 2024-25, staff propose to complete adoption of the permit and begin implementation activities including development of staff and permittee training.

3.5.2. Cost of municipal stormwater permit implementation.

- DWQ staff anticipate presenting a Final Draft Water Quality Control Policy for Standardized Cost Reporting in Municipal Stormwater Permits to the Board for consideration of adoption in Fall 2024.

Office of Research, Planning, and Performance

3.2.2. Urban water use efficiency framework.

- The Board adopted the conservation regulation on July 3. Staff is working to complete OAL processes.

Suggestions for changes from the 2024 work plan for 2025

Division of Financial Assistance

1.1.1. Water and wastewater affordability. The focus of this item will need to change. The arrearages program has ended and the O&M pilot has produced limited interest. If SB 1255 passes (establishing a water rate assistance program), then the State Water Board's workload associated with that program will be described. The Board may want to consider State Revolving Fund policy changes to prioritize loans in communities with affordability challenges and/or low-income rate assistance programs.

1.1.2. SAFER. With the program at its mid-point, the action should be updated to reflect new program goals and available funding.

1.1.3. PFAS: Investigations. The 2025 workplan will be updated to reflect next steps associated with the PFAS testing in DAC water systems. Complete testing will take two years. Also, any next steps associated with the non-targeted analysis work and total PFAS mass testing will also be identified. This work will help inform the PFAS MCL work for expected prevalence beyond suspected locations tested to date.

3.2.1. Infrastructure funding programs. The description of the infrastructure funding programs will be edited to reflect available funding and Board priorities.

1.3.1. Prioritize Funding of SCAP projects in disadvantaged communities and environmental justice communities. This can be removed for 2025. The most significant work in implementing the item will be completed.

1.3.2. Orphan Site Cleanup Fund (OSCF) projects and stalled case initiative. This can be removed for 2025. The amount of funds available for the Orphan Site Cleanup Fund exceeds the demand, so there is no need to prioritize projects in DAC/EJ communities. DWQ coordinates with the Regional Boards to focus the stalled case initiative on DAC/EJ communities. Efforts with the stalled case initiative often leads to RPs applying for Orphan funds.

4.4.3. DFA process improvements. This can be removed for 2025. The most significant DFA process improvements have been developed and implemented. DFA will continue to train staff on new processes, update procedures manuals, where needed, and track key performance indicators.

Potential New Item: Hexavalent chromium assistance. Depending on pending Board actions on the Drinking Water SRF IUP and Fund Expenditure Plan for the SADW Fund, DFA anticipates providing technical assistance and planning support to small community water systems that are likely to have hexavalent chromium violations.

Division of Water Rights

2.1.2. Clear Lake Hitch. Potentially edit so the language reflects direction from the Board on whether to adopt a revised emergency regulation in 2025.

Office of Enforcement

2.1.5. Cannabis enforcement. Review is done; the action will be updated to reflect the program report.

4.2.2. Enforcement performance. Edits may be proposed later depending on what progress is made in 2024.

Office of Research, Planning, and Performance

Potential Edit: Urban water use efficiency framework. Update the action related to adopting the regulation with one related to implementing it, as directed in the resolution.

Potential New Item: Proposed updated climate change resolution.