

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 30-31, 2015**  
Prepared July 7, 2015

**ITEM NUMBER: 21**

**SUBJECT: Strategic Planning, Priorities, and Challenges**

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**THIS ACTION: Informational**

The challenges facing California and the Water Boards have increased significantly in the past three years. We are in the fourth year of a devastating drought, the State Water Board is now responsible for the State's Drinking Water Program, accounting for climate change in our actions is now required, and the Water Boards are taking on increasing regulatory responsibilities related to oil production and marijuana cultivation in California.

From 2000 to 2010, the Central Coast Water Board staffing levels decreased about 25% (losing about twenty positions), while the workload increased dramatically. Recently, the State's budget has improved, and we've been able to add about ten positions. We also reorganized and added two new senior positions.

The Water Boards are also implementing hundreds of millions of dollars in Proposition 1 bond funding to address water and wastewater infrastructure issues—the State Water Board plans to hire 57 additional positions (at the State Board) to implement this funding program.

This agenda item is an opportunity for the Central Coast Water Board to discuss and determine its priorities. This is a critical discussion because the Water Boards are responsible for far more work than they can accomplish. The table below shows our current programs, current staff funded by those programs, staff being redirected, staff needed to do all tasks, and staff being hired, which provides some context—we can only do a fraction of the potential workload before us, and we must redirect staff resources constantly. We currently have 65 staff, and we need about 26 more staff to reasonably do our current workload. Irrigated Agriculture is the most underfunded program.

During this agenda item, each program manager will provide a brief overview of their programs and challenges. The Water Board and staff can then discuss our challenges and priorities. A main question is whether the “big picture” priorities established by the Central Coast Water Board in 2011/12 are still current:

- 1. Preventing and Correcting Threats to Human Health*
- 2. Preventing and Correcting Degradation of Aquatic Habitat*
- 3. Preventing Degradation of Hydrologic Processes*
- 4. Preventing/Reversing Seawater Intrusion*
- 5. Preventing Further Degradation of Groundwater Basins from Salts*

Given the changing challenges facing California over the past three years, the Water Board may want to revise these priorities.

**TABLE 1: Staff Resources**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Staff Funded for this Program</b>	<b>Current Staff working in this Program</b>	<b>Additional Staff Needed to do all Tasks in this Program</b>	<b>Additional Staff Being Hired into this Program</b>
Underground Tank Cleanup	3.3	2.8 (0.5 PY redirected to Site Cleanup Program)	0.5	0
Total Maximum Daily Load	4.1	5.65 (0.2 PYs borrowed from Non Point Source Program and 1.35 PYs borrowed from Basin Planning)	2	0
401 Certifications	3.0	3.2 (0.2 PYs borrowed from Basin Planning)	2	0
Regional Monitoring	0.8	2 (0.2 PYs borrowed from Waste Discharge Requirements, and 1.0 PY borrowed Basin Planning)	1	0
Storm Water	4.8 (Stormwater: 105-01)	6 (1 PY borrowed from Basin Planning, and 0.2 PY borrowed from 401 Certification)	4	0
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)	2.2	2.2	2	0
Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)	7.8	4.1 Other PY resources redirected to Irrigated Ag and Enforcement	2	0

Program	Total Staff Funded for this Program	Current Staff working in this Program	Additional Staff Needed to do all Tasks in this Program	Additional Staff Being Hired into this Program
Site Cleanup	7.3	6.5 Other PY resources redirected to Irrigated Ag and Enforcement	2	0
Land Disposal	2.6	2.6	1.0	0
Oilfield Regulation	3.0	1	3	2
Irrigated Lands	2.2	7.5 (1.3 PY borrowed from Non Point Source, 1.6 PYs borrowed from Basin Planning, 2.4 PYs borrowed Waste Discharge Requirements)	3	0
Department of Defense	4.6	4	0.6	
Basin Planning	8.7	2.9 Redirected staff resources to: 1.6 PYs to Total Maximum Daily Load, 1.6 PYs to Irrigated Lands. 1 PY to Stormwater, 1 PY to Monitoring, 0.2 PY to Non Point Source	2	0
Enforcement	0	2.5+ as needed. All enforcement work is charged to other programs, usually Waste Discharge Requirements	0	0
Administrative Services	5	5	0	0
Executive Staff and Managers	5	5	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>26 (rounded)</b>	<b>2</b>