Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Strategic Plan

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

DISCLAIMER: *The following FY 2025-26 Strategic Plan, including priorities, goals, and actions, is for discussion by the Central Coast Water Board and should not be construed as commitments or policy statements as presented in this document. Any priorities, goals, and actions herein are subject to change. The Strategic Plan is not intended to, and does not, list all Central Coast Water Board activities.*

September 25, 2025

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Strategic Plan - Fiscal Year 25-26

Introduction

This strategic plan provides a general overview of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Coast Water Board) authority and mandate, describes the status of our workforce, and sets regional and program-specific priorities to guide our work towards achieving meaningful water quality, environmental, and public health outcomes that are aligned with our mission and vision. It affirms our commitment to public service and coordination as a foundational principle of our agency and affirms our mission, vision, and measurable goals. It also discusses how our work environment is changing due to various external factors that require us to reevaluate how we prioritize our work and measure our performance. Finally, this strategic plan also recognizes our accomplishments and metrics of success to implement our regional and program priorities.

This is a living document and is intended to set the stage for biannual review of our priorities to ensure we effectively and transparently implement the mission of the Central Coast Water Board.

Mission Statement

The Central Coast Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Strategic Narrative – Evolving Work Environment

Our work environment is evolving rapidly in a way that requires us to continually reassess and adjust our priorities and expectations to ensure we can effectively maintain our programmatic functions and implement our mission. In response to this evolving work environment, a key component of this strategic plan is to identify and provide transparency about our high-priority programmatic functions and initiatives. This strategic plan provides a framework to evaluate and prioritize planned and unplanned work while highlighting the importance of workforce planning and development to support staff to successfully complete that work.

Our workload continues to increase and the work is becoming more technical, complex, and challenging due to an increase in the number and types of facilities and cleanup cases we regulate and the manner we regulate them in response to new regulatory mandates and statewide policies, and increased public outreach and engagement. Other challenges include the emergence of new contaminants that require us to take action to protect public health such as 1,2,3-trichloropropane (TCP), per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and harmful algal blooms (HABs). Aging wastewater infrastructure is making regulatory oversight of municipal wastewater facilities and collection systems more imperative and time critical, particularly with respect to a more hands-on and coordinated approach in support of underrepresented and disadvantaged

communities lacking technical, managerial, and financial capacity to operate, maintain, and upgrade failing wastewater systems.

Climate change is also a factor that has required more attention from staff across many program areas with respect to fire, drought, and flood impacts and the associated regulatory and emergency response actions to support impacted communities in coordination with multiple Water Board offices and divisions and other state and local agencies. This emergency work often requires us to divert staff resources away from other programmatic work and requires development of adaptive strategies to address and mitigate climate related impacts and help facilitate water supply resiliency. Although we are developing proactive mitigation and adaptation strategies, there is still a high level of uncertainty associated with knowing when and how extreme weather events will occur and predicting what the associated needs and capacity will be for our staff resources.

Collaboration and Public Service

The effectiveness of our work requires collaboration and partnerships with various entities with shared goals. Coordination with and leveraging of other entities' expertise and resources can inform and streamline our work to achieve meaningful water quality outcomes. Similarly, we can help facilitate actions implemented by other entities by providing them with supporting expertise and resources to achieve shared goals. To this effect, we actively participate at local, regional, and state levels with other regulatory agencies, cities, counties, special districts, and coordinate with academic and scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, service providers, consultants, regulated entities and individuals, elected officials, and the general public. Our board members are also instrumental in helping staff connect as necessary and act as a bridge between communities and staff. We also value our continued coordination with the State Water Board and the other regional water boards to implement our shared mission.

Public engagement is critical to the Central Coast Water Board's success in restoring and protecting water quality, and we are dedicated to serving the public as a fundamental component of our mission. We serve the public by building trust and long-term relationships through service excellence, proactive communication, education, public workshops, accessibility, transparency, and collaboration.

Regional Priorities and Actions

We have identified four regional priorities including Workforce Planning and Development, Programmatic Functions, Environmental Justice, and Climate Change. Our Programmatic Functions are the foundation of the organization and are supported by the other three regional priorities that are incorporated into our office culture and programmatic work. Our regional priorities include a mix of specific and general actions and in some cases are also incorporated as part of specific programmatic priorities.

Workforce Planning and Development

We are committed to supporting our employees to ensure they have what they need to do their best work, including effective opportunities to 1) gain skills and knowledge, 2) focus on priorities and have a reasonable workload, and 3) prepare for professional growth.

We prioritize professional development and succession planning of our workforce and create space for our work to be done in a meaningful way. To create space for the very important work of developing a strong workforce, we adjust our priorities in other areas. We continue to recruit, hire, and retain high-quality staff, support staff engagement, and facilitate and encourage staff professional and personal growth through implementation of deliberate and consistent hiring and recruitment processes, staff onboarding, training and mentoring, and succession planning. The following actions are intended to address this priority:

1. Continue to improve our internal hiring practices and recruitment strategies.
2. Continue to implement and build on our core curriculum for scientists, engineers, and geologists to support professional growth and development.
3. Support a staff-led Workforce Planning and Development Committee to consider feedback from staff, help the organization prioritize actions, and develop recommendations for implementation to ensure that staff have what they need to be successful and do their best work.
4. Create, implement, and support mentoring opportunities for staff.
5. Continue to encourage and provide opportunities for collaboration, teamwork, and leadership growth.
6. Continue to coordinate with the State Water Board to expeditiously implement recruitment processes and to develop budget change proposals in support of additional staff resources.
7. Implement succession plans to anticipate workforce changes and maximize effective transfer of institutional knowledge and history.

Programmatic Functions

Implementation of our mandate to protect and restore water quality and beneficial uses is predicated on effectively implementing our regulatory programs and planning and assessment programs. Our waste discharge regulatory programs (i.e., Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Stormwater, Land Disposal, 401 Certification, Irrigated Lands, Cannabis) regulate dischargers using various permits.[1] Our Site Cleanup, Underground Storage Tank, and Department of

[1] Key examples include individual and general waste discharge requirements orders (WDRs) for various types of waste discharges to groundwater and surface water (in the form of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits, which are also WDRs), including municipal (wastewater and solid waste), industrial and agricultural discharges, municipal, industrial and construction stormwater discharges, federal Clean Water Act section 401 certifications for dredge and fill work or other activities with surface water bodies, etc.

Defense regulatory programs issue orders (e.g., cleanup and abatement orders, California Water Code section 13267 orders, etc.) directing dischargers (i.e., responsible parties), including private parties, corporations, and state and federal agencies, to investigate and clean up sources of pollution and provide replacement water to affected individuals or communities when needed. Other regulatory programs are focused more on general oversight roles in coordination with the State Water Board and/or other agencies like that of our Active Oilfields Program, or to support and facilitate projects to ensure safe drinking water, wastewater system consolidation, water supply resiliency, vegetation management to reduce fuel load fire risks, implement the state's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, and provide outreach and technical support for grant projects.

Regulatory program staff coordinate with dischargers to facilitate compliance, evaluate and respond to information included in monitoring reports and other submitted documents, conduct compliance verification inspections, and coordinate with other agencies to help facilitate compliance or provide technical assistance. Regulatory programs also coordinate with the Enforcement Program to pursue progressive enforcement as may be required in response to significant issues of noncompliance, and coordinate with affected communities or individuals.

Our planning and assessment programs are non-regulatory in nature but essential in implementing the federal Clean Water Act's water quality based approach by maintaining an up-to-date and effective Basin Plan, conduct water quality monitoring and assessments through the implementation of ambient water quality monitoring programs and Integrated Report water quality assessments, and develop plans (e.g., Total Maximum Daily Loads [TMDLs]) to document and address sources of impairment and reduce pollutant loading.

Prioritizing our programmatic work is an iterative process in response to input from the public, dischargers and interested parties, policy or legislative changes, or other agency needs, requests, issues of noncompliance, emergency response, etc. This may sometimes require us to redirect resources from previously identified high-priority work to emergent tasks based on need. This strategic plan is intended to highlight the priority programmatic functions we must continue to focus on to achieve our mission. Each of our programs are described briefly in the Program Priorities section below and include a list of priority actions for this fiscal year.

Our primary actions associated with Programmatic Functions are:

1. Continue to identify program priorities and implement actions to focus on addressing the highest priorities, as well as identify and implement program efficiencies, in consideration of program capacity and available resources.
2. Continue to conduct regular programmatic workload updates during weekly management meetings to adjust priority actions and workload as needed in

response to emerging or emergency issues and engage with upper management when changes in priorities are needed.
3. Continue to provide periodic program updates during regularly scheduled public meetings to inform the board and public about priorities, accomplishments, and emerging issues.
4. Consider progressive enforcement, as necessary, to maintain discharger compliance with permit requirements.
5. Continue to work with the State Water Board to identify orders that apply statewide to avoid the need to develop orders at the regional level.
6. Continue to consider climate change and environmental justice with respect to how we evaluate, prioritize, and implement our work.
7. Continue to coordinate with the State Water Board to identify and track various annual performance targets (e.g., numbers of inspections conducted, permits issued/updated, etc.) and align them to the extent possible with our regional priority actions.
8. Continue to improve public access to information and improve community outreach and engagement.
9. Continue to respond to public records act requests (PRAR) for information in a timely manner.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Climate change related issues are becoming increasingly prevalent, and it is a priority for the Central Coast Water Board to engage both on reactive and proactive levels with respect to adaptation and mitigation strategies. The increased frequency and magnitude of climate change related disasters associated with droughts, severe storms, floods, and fires affecting communities and regulated entities[2] require increased levels of local and statewide coordination to develop various strategies or otherwise help facilitate the implementation of statewide efforts and guidance. A key example of this implementation is State Water Board Resolution No. 2017-0012[3] which describes how the Water Boards are responding to integrate climate change into all Water Boards' actions, and the Governor's Office 2020 Water Resiliency Portfolio and 2022 Water Supply Strategy in response to ongoing drought conditions in California.[4] Regional Board have limited resources to address the increasing coordination and regulatory needs created by climate change. As such, this work will need to be triaged by our existing programs and through creative capacity building strategies; this will impact our ability to address other high-priority programmatic work. The following includes our proposed actions associated with this priority:

1. Continue to evaluate how climate change affects our region, communities, regulated entities, and water quality in coordination with others.

[2] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2023/feb/item11_stfrpt.pdf (see Flood Incident Response section of the report)
[3] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2017/rs2017_0012.pdf
[4] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2022/oct/item13_stfrpt.pdf

2. Continue to coordinate with State Board regarding fire and flood related emergency response and recovery activities (e.g., assessment of watershed level risks, such as for debris flows, permitting for recovery work, fire and flood debris disposal, etc.).
3. Continue to include climate change adaptation provisions in our individual and general WDRs (including NPDES permits).
4. Continue to support the technical and regulatory permitting oversight of an increasing number of water supply resiliency projects (e.g., desalination, recycled water advanced treatment and associated indirect and direct potable reuse, aquifer storage and recovery and other recycled water uses, and stormwater capture).
5. Continue to identify and leverage climate change related capacity building opportunities.
6. Continue to coordinate with the State Water Board to fund, advertise for, and hire interns and pursue additional staff resources to implement regionally specific climate change focused projects.
7. Continue to coordinate with the State Water Board, California Coastal Commission, and local agencies, as well as other entities (e.g., California Association of Sanitary Agencies, Association of California Water Agencies, and CalReuse) to develop and leverage coordinated strategies and funding to implement projects that result in water supply resiliency and coastal/flooding retreat, wastewater consolidation, recycling, etc.

Environmental Justice

One of our historical values dating back over a decade is a focus on environmental justice through the development of strategies to identify and address water quality related issues impacting underrepresented and disadvantaged communities in the Central Coast Region. A primary focus of our environmental justice efforts has been on integrating environmental justice into our regulatory program implementation, improving community outreach and engagement, and implementing the state's human right to water policy and associated State Water Board and Central Coast Water Board resolutions.[5] Although we have been successful through creative and coordinated strategies to leverage the work of community partners and other agencies to increase environmental justice capacity in the region and facilitate the development of programs like the Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing Program,[6] this discretionary effort (i.e., with no dedicated staff resources) has come at the expense of not being able to implement as much programmatic work. Over the last several years we have focused on evaluating and aligning our programmatic work with respect to our environmental justice priorities, providing resources to staff to support effective community outreach and engagement during project implementation, and coordinating with the State Water

[5] State Water Board Resolution No. 2016-0010 (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2016/rs2016_0010.pdf) and Central Coast Water Board Resolution No. R3-2017-0004 (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2017/2017-0004_hrtw_fnl.pdf)

[6] https://sites.google.com/view/ccgroundwater

Board Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA). We will continue to implement this strategy in support of this priority with the following actions:

1. Continue to prioritize the human right to water and implement the Central Coast Water Board's Human Right to Water Resolution No. R3-2017-0004.7
2. Continue to implement the Central Coast Water Board's Environmental, Racial Equity, and Tribal Engagement Action Plan consistent with our regionally specific Racial Equity Resolution No. R3-2023-0002.8
3. Continue to engage with tribal governments and tribal communities, consistent with the State Water Board's Tribal Consultation Policy9 and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-15-19.10
4. Continue to support a regional Environmental Justice Leadership Team, including Environmental Justice and Tribal Coordinators to provide resources to effectively integrate environmental justice into our regulatory programs.
5. Continue to improve our community outreach and engagement resources and strategies (e.g., using internal outreach and community engagement resource materials) to incorporate Assembly Bill (AB) 210811 provisions and associated State Water Board guidance.
6. Continue to identify and leverage environmental justice related capacity building opportunities.
7. Continue to identify and leverage technical and financial assistance programs for underrepresented and disadvantaged communities and federal and non-federal tribes in our region.
8. Continue to coordinate with and leverage State Water Board OPEETA and others (e.g., local agencies, community-based partners, nongovernmental organizations) to develop and implement effective and equitable outreach strategies.
9. Continue to improve public transparency, outreach, and engagement, particularly with respect to the most impacted and difficult to reach communities and individuals to improve awareness of and participation in our public decision-making processes.
10. Continue to support the implementation of the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay's Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing Program through the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program – Groundwater Assessment and Protection (CCAMP-GAP) Program and associated replacement water efforts, to ensure all communities have access to safe drinking water.
11. Continue to coordinate with State Water Board and other agencies to conduct outreach to impacted or in-need underrepresented and disadvantaged communities

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[7] Central Coast Water Board Resolution No. R3-2017-0004 (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2017/2017-0004_hrtw_fnl.pdf)

[8] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2023/r3-2023-0002.pdf

[9] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/docs/california_water_board_tribal_consultation_policy.pdf

[10] https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/6.18.19-Executive-Order.pdf

[11] https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2108

and identify and facilitate funding and technical assistance opportunities in support of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs.

Program Priorities

This section includes descriptions of our programs along with specific program priorities and tasks. For some of our programs the State Water Board measures specific programmatic performance targets. Where applicable, the following program summaries identify the specific performance measure and target.

Waste Discharge Requirements Program

***Program Narrative*:** The Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Program protects the region's groundwater quality and public health by providing regulatory oversight of many of the region's waste discharges to land. The WDR Program covers various wastewater types including domestic, municipal, vegetable processing, and wineries, and also covers recycled water, aquifer storage and recovery, and collection systems through the issuance and enforcement of order/permit requirements including water quality and other monitoring and reporting requirements, and through the implementation of periodic inspections, compliance evaluations and assistance, and progressive enforcement actions as may be appropriate. Currently, the WDR Program manages oversight of 150 individual facility WDR orders and 610 enrollments under various statewide and regional general WDRs. The WDR Program prioritizes tasks and projects by considering threat to groundwater quality and beneficial uses, age of existing requirements, environmental justice, climate change related risk, and legal requirements.

Staff Resources: The WDR Program currently consists of 6 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:

1. Protect beneficial uses of groundwater by minimizing impacts from wastewater discharges from domestic and industrial discharges.
2. Consider threat to groundwater quality and beneficial uses, age of existing requirements, environmental justice, and legal requirements.
3. Ensure facilities are operated in compliance with permit conditions.
4. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Enroll facilities into current applicable updated permits and monitoring programs that are protective of beneficial uses.
2. Conduct permit oversight for permitted facilities (e.g., inspections, compliance assistance, enforcement).
3. Share information about funding resources for facility improvements.
4. Implement efficiencies including the statewide WDR data management strategy enhancements (e.g., support facilities reporting to GeoTracker, develop electronic application tools).

5. Continued strengthening of relationships with outside entities and stakeholders (e.g., local agencies and industry groups).
6. Provide support for recycled water, septic to sewer conversion, and known water quality issues/threats.
7. Help protect groundwater quality by developing additional strategies and permit language to appropriately regulate discharges of salts and nutrients to groundwater.
8. Onboarding of new staff and continued training, development, and growth of all team members.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Number of WDR facility inspections: 15
2. Number of individual orders adopted: 0[12]

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program

Program Narrative: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program issues and enforces permits to protect surface water quality and beneficial uses from point source discharges to waters of the United States. USEPA has authorized the State and Regional Water Boards to implement the NPDES program in California to protect inland surface waters and the Pacific Ocean (within three miles of the coast).

Permittees in the Central Coast Region include 31 individual facilities (19 major facilities[13] and 12 minor facilities[14]), over 20 dischargers enrolled in two regional general permits, over 80 dischargers enrolled in various statewide general permits, and several dozen sanitary sewer systems that discharge to NPDES facilities. Individual NPDES permits provide coverage to a variety of facility and discharge types, including domestic waste from publicly owned treatment works (POTW) and privately owned facilities; industrial waste from power plants, refineries, quarries and mining operations, and manufacturing and food processing facilities; and discharges associated with desalination and recycled water projects. Development of individual permits presents additional complexity by incorporating outreach, coordination, and requirements related to pretreatment, biosolids, climate change adaptation, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) monitoring, and updates to statewide policies such as the Ocean Plan and the Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries (ISWEBE) Plan.

Staff prioritizes permit reissuance on threat to water quality, opportunities to encourage and facilitate recycled water projects, climate change adaptation needs, and impacts to underrepresented and disadvantaged communities. Staff conducts enforcement

[12] WDR program focus is on enrolling existing and new facilities under regional or statewide general orders.
[13] Major facilities include municipal dischargers with design flows of greater than one million gallons per day and facilities with approved industrial pretreatment programs. Major industrial facilities are determined based on specific ratings criteria developed by USEPA/State.
[14] Minor facilities include discharges with a design flow of less than one million gallons per day that have not been determined to have an actual or potential adverse environmental impact classifying the discharge as major.

activities including assisting with mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) when dischargers exceed their effluent limitations, responding to spills and sanitary sewer overflows, responding to complaints, developing time schedule orders (TSOs), and coordinating with the enforcement unit on additional enforcement actions when needed. Additionally, staff inspects facilities; reviews technical reports; provides compliance assistance to dischargers with various questions related to their permits, planning, and monitoring and reporting; and provides outreach related to funding opportunities.

Staff Resources: The NPDES Program consists of 3 engineers and a supervisor.

General Program Priorities:

1. Permit renewals and updates for facilities that are undergoing substantial upgrades, particularly related to recycled water capacity and for high-priority water and energy resilience projects.
2. Facilities facing risks related to climate change and that need to begin climate change adaptation planning efforts.
3. Making progress on permit backlog and performing inspections.
4. Providing compliance assistance and conducting enforcement actions when necessary.
5. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Renew six permits and terminate two permits, including renewal of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant permit.
2. Make significant progress on updating Monterey One Water's permit to include waste discharge requirements for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (Cal Am desal).
3. Include recycling and climate change adaptation provisions and consider impacts to Underrepresented Communities in all applicable proposed permits.
4. Inspect facilities and review reports to identify areas of non-compliance.
5. Develop strategy for implementing Supreme Court receiving water limitations decision.
6. Develop and streamline California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) electronic self-monitoring report (eSMR) review process and tools.
7. Coordinate with the State Water Board and USEPA on compliance assessment for sanitary sewer system requirements and pretreatment program implementation.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Renew or terminate four major facility permits.
2. Renew or terminate two minor facility permits.
3. Inspect ten major facilities.
4. Inspect four minor facilities.

Wastewater Consolidation Program

Program Narrative: The Wastewater Consolidation (WWC) Program is a relatively new program developed pursuant to Senate Bill 1215 (Hertzberg, 2018) that facilitates the consolidation of inadequate onsite wastewater treatment systems with centralized wastewater treatment systems, with a focus on assisting disadvantaged communities (DACs). Inadequate onsite wastewater treatment systems are a source of bacteria and nitrate pollution to surface water and groundwater. Disadvantaged communities may lack the resources necessary to treat or secure alternate sources of domestic water supply and are particularly vulnerable to public health impacts from bacteria and nitrate in groundwater.

Program staff identify and prioritize potential consolidation opportunities through geospatial and water quality analysis, leveraging current drinking water consolidation projects, and increasingly through community outreach and engagement. Staff coordinate closely with key program partners including sewer providers, city and county public works departments, city and county environmental health departments, consultants, environmental justice groups, and communities. Staff also coordinate closely with the State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA).

Staff Resources: The WWC Program currently consists of 2 staff.

General Program Priorities:

1. Increase outreach to and engagement with communities, sewer system entities/municipalities, nonprofit partners, and partnering local and state agencies.
2. Increase coordination with the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) and Office of Public Participation (OPP).
3. Continue to identify and prioritize new projects and make progress on current projects.
4. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Hacienda Apartments consolidation into City of Soledad sewer system.
2. Bear Creek Estates consolidation into Santa Cruz County Community Service Area 7.
3. Outreach meetings to increase community engagement in support of Bolsa Knolls consolidation efforts.
4. Chualar Wastewater Treatment Plant consolidation with Monterey One Water’s regional treatment and recycling facility.
5. Listening sessions throughout the region to identify additional consolidation projects.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

Not Applicable.

Recycled Water Program

Program Narrative: The Water Boards recognize the importance of recycled water as a critical water supply for communities throughout California. By developing new and underutilized water resources—including recycled water—communities are better able to diversify local supplies and mitigate the effects of extended drought, climate change, and water supply uncertainty. The State Water Board's *Recycled Water Policy* includes numeric goals for the use of recycled water, narrative goals to encourage recycled water use in over-drafted groundwater basins and coastal areas, and annual reporting requirements statewide for the volume of recycled water. The purpose of the Recycled Water Program is to encourage the use of recycled water, consistent with state and federal water quality laws and with state and federal laws to protect public health and help streamline regional planning and permitting for new water supplies and storage.

Development of new water supplies from recycled water is a complex process involving years of planning, design, and construction, and the regulatory landscape governing the production and use of recycled water involves the State Water Board and regional water boards from project inception to commissioning. The Recycled Water Program facilitates the production of new water supplies from recycled water by streamlining the State Water Board and Central Coast Water Board permitting processes through the following actions:

Cross-Agency and Stakeholder Coordination: The recycled water unit serves as primary point of contact for recycled water permit applicants, state and federal agency partners, communities, and other interested partes related to permit application review, development, implementation, and tracking.

Permit Development and Implementation: Program staff will facilitate cross-function coordination within the Central Coast Region and with the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) associated with recycled water permitting, including the development of individual waste discharge requirements and NPDES permits for the production and use of recycled water, general permit enrollments for direct reuse, and general permit enrollments for secondary discharges (e.g., aquifer storage and recovery well tests, construction and well development discharges, and operation and maintenance discharges).

Board Meetings: Prepare permits and other materials for Board adoption (e.g., public noticing, staff reports, response to comments) and conduct applicable stakeholder outreach.

Planning and Outreach: Conduct community engagement and stakeholder outreach related to planning and promoting recycled water implementation. Communicate processes and activities required in permitting recycled water projects to interested parties.

Cross-Program Coordination: Define and facilitate coordination among wastewater units within the Central Coast Region.

Staff Resources: The Recycled Water Program currently consists of 1 technical staff.

General Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26

1. Review and process recycled water permit applications and renewals, including updating permits to be consistent with recycled water regulations to protect public health and the environment.
2. Evaluate permit and monitoring plan compliance. Improve reporting efficiency through electronic reporting.
3. Coordinate with the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water, Division of Water Rights, Division of Water Quality, and stakeholders on facility permits, consistent with the Water Boards' racial equity resolution and related actions.
4. Provide support and outreach to Central Coast communities, consultants and other interested parties related to recycled water planning and permitting.
5. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26 Priorities

1. Serve as central point of contact and facilitate permitting coordination and support for potable reuse and non-potable reuse recycling projects, such as permitting for Pure Water Monterey expansion, City of Morro Bay, Carpinteria and Cal Poly.
2. Track recycled water projects, facilitate information sharing, and cross-program collaboration with WDR and NPDES units, and DDW.
3. Review and process enrollments for WQ 2016-0068-DDW, including several high priority projects including Soledad, Pasadera, CSIP, and SCRWA.
4. Evaluate producer/user compliance with recycled water permits.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:
Not Applicable.

Site Cleanup Program

Program Narrative: The Site Cleanup Program (SCP) regulates the investigation and cleanup of sites where recent or historical unauthorized releases of pollutants to the environment, including soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediments, have occurred. SCP sites are varied and include, but are not limited to, dry cleaners, pesticide and fertilizer facilities, rail yards, ports, airports, equipment supply facilities, metals facilities, industrial manufacturing and maintenance sites, airports, bulk petroleum transfer facilities, and refineries. Pollutants encountered at SCP sites are diverse and commonly include solvents (e.g., trichloroethylene [TCE] and perchloroethylene [PCE]), petroleum hydrocarbons (e.g., gasoline, diesel, crude oil), pesticides, and heavy metals. The SCP also addresses emerging contaminants, such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Most SCP sites are focused on addressing groundwater contamination issues that often take years or decades to clean up.

The SCP prioritizes its work using a ranking system that emphasizes site risk, complexity, and need for public outreach. This helps program staff and management to emphasize program resources where risks to and interest from the public are highest. This is increasingly important due to caseload increases with staffing reductions to the SCP (145 cases with 6.3 PYs as of August 14, 2025, compared to 120 cases with 8.6 PYs on September 11, 2017).

SCP staff regulate dischargers' (i.e., responsible parties') activities pertaining to the assessment and cleanup of pollution at sites to ensure that the dischargers clean up and abate the effects of discharges in a manner that promotes attainment of either background water quality or the best water quality which is reasonable if background levels of water quality cannot be restored. SCP data, including site information, case management and regulatory information, and groundwater monitoring data are managed in GeoTracker and available to the public online.

Staff Resources: The SCP currently consists of 5.4 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:

1. Protect human health and the environment by reducing risk through the investigation and cleanup of SCP cases that threaten water quality.
2. Ensure safe drinking water by evaluating impacts to drinking water and requiring the provision of replacement water or treatment for impacted drinking water supply wells, if appropriate.
3. Reduce and mitigate chemical vapor intrusion risks to indoor air for residential and commercial buildings.
4. Provide technical review and quality assurance to ensure that proposed plans for investigation and remediation will succeed.
5. Support responsible parties in obtaining grants.
6. Recommend enforcement actions for significant non-compliant cases.
7. Identify high-risk SCP sites that may affect underrepresented communities.
8. Conduct community outreach.
9. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport Area – PFAS water replacement
2. Moss Landing Power Plant, Moss Landing, Lithium-ion battery and electronics fire
3. PFAS investigations of sources (including three airports)
4. Buckley Road Area, San Luis Obispo County, TCE Cleanup and Abatement
5. Investigate source(s) of impacts to supply wells near Salinas – 1,2,3-TCP
6. Investigate source(s) of impacts to supply well in Gilroy – PFAS
7. Investigate source(s) of impacts to supply well in Solvang – Perchlorate
8. Dutch Maid Cleaners, Santa Barbara – PCE
9. Scotts Valley Dry Cleaners, Scotts Valley – PCE
10. Fairway Cleaners, Santa Cruz – PCE

11. SEMCO, Santa Maria – Industrial solvent site with supply well impacts

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:
1. Number of sites new into active remediation: 4
2. Number of cases closed: 5

Department of Defense Program

Program Narrative: The Department of Defense (DoD) Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of DoD sites at active and former military facilities with historical releases of pollutants to the environment (including soil, groundwater, surface water, soil gas, indoor air, and sediment). The DoD Program follows the investigation, cleanup, and closure process laid out by the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The former U.S. Army Fort Ord facility in Monterey County is a DoD Superfund site in the Central Coast Region and DoD Program staff coordinate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to oversee investigation and remediation. In addition to former Fort Ord, DoD Program staff oversee investigation and cleanup activities at Vandenberg Space Force Base and former Lompoc U.S. Army Disciplinary Barracks (Santa Barbara County), U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett (San Luis Obispo County/Monterey County), and California Army National Guard Camp San Luis Obispo and Camp Roberts (San Luis Obispo County). Pollutants encountered at DoD facilities include petroleum hydrocarbons (gasoline, diesel, aviation gas, motor oil), various solvents (trichloroethene [TCE], tetrachloroethene [PCE], carbon tetrachloride), heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, perchlorate, unexploded ordinance, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). DoD data, including military facility information, investigation and remediation documents, and groundwater monitoring data is documented in GeoTracker and is available to the public online.

Staff Resources: The DoD Program currently consists of 2.9 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:
1. Support the federal government's efforts to reduce risks to public health and the environment and minimize environmental liability.
2. Ensure safe drinking water by assessing, remediating, and/or monitoring groundwater pollution relative to water supply wells.
3. Cleanup impacted soil vapor to reduce the potential mass transport to groundwater, and to reduce the potential impact to human health via vapor intrusion to indoor air. Ensure buildings are adequately mitigated for vapor intrusion, if needed.
4. Remove wastes affecting soil or sediment to prevent negative impacts to human health and aquatic or terrestrial habitat, and to prevent wastes in soil from leaching and impacting groundwater.

5. Clean up wastes in all media to the maximum extent practicable, so that property owner(s) and occupant(s) will have unrestricted site use, or appropriately restricted site use with protective land use controls.
6. Clean up groundwater and surface water pollution that in some cases will take decades or centuries to reach water quality objectives due to site complexity, release type, and magnitude.
7. Support military facilities with outreach, engagement, and collaboration to maximize the opportunities for all community members to participate and provide input on water quality decisions.
8. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Former Fort Ord – Review and evaluate groundwater plume conditions and remediation progress at Sites 2 and 12, former Operable Unit 2 (OU2) Landfill, and Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride Plume (OUCTP).
2. Former Fort Ord – Review and evaluate groundwater, soil gas, and landfill gas monitoring requirements in Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) at Sites 2 and 12, OU2, and OUCTP.
3. Former Fort Ord – Re-evaluate potential vapor intrusion risk to buildings at Sites 2 and 12.
4. Vandenberg Space Force Base - Close one underground storage tank cleanup case (761-1 at WP005).
5. Vandenberg Space Force Base – Support the Air Force and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with onboarding the recipient of the 10-year contract for site remediation and implementation of the Basewide Groundwater Monitoring Program (BGMP).
6. Vandenberg Space Force Base – Review and evaluate data gap work plans for cases DC142, SD015, SD019, SD024, and SS004.
7. Vandenberg Space Force Base – Review and evaluate remediation progress, based on BGMP and soil vapor rebound data, for cases PL351, SD015, SD024, SS003, SS004, SS050, ST042, WP005, WP008, and WP013.
8. Vandenberg Space Force Base – Review and evaluate remediation progress and provide technical support for cases SA545, MY255, and SA217 contracted with the USACE/OTIE.
9. Vandenberg Space Force Base – Provide technical support for finalization of the Remedial Action Completion Report for Basewide Munitions Response Areas
10. Former Lompoc U.S. Army Disciplinary Barracks – Support decision document development (e.g. Record of Decision) for remedial actions at the Washrack and Farm Fuel Site and document the Land Use Controls in place at the Wood Dump and Former Army Landfill sites.
11. Provide cross-program support to the Waste Discharge Requirements Program on rocket launch waste discharges.
12. Provide cross-program support to the Land Disposal Unit for DoD facility landfills.

13. Vandenberg Space Force Base, Former Fort Ord, Fort Hunter Liggett, and Former Lompoc U.S. Army Disciplinary Barracks – Review and evaluate PFAS investigation progress and reports.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:
Not applicable.

Underground Storage Tank Program

Program Narrative: The Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program provides technical and regulatory oversight for the investigation and cleanup of sites with leaks from USTs. Leaking USTs are a significant threat to groundwater and pose a risk to human health, safety, and the environment. The pollutants encountered at UST sites include petroleum hydrocarbons (e.g., gasoline, diesel, heating oils, jet fuels, and waste oils) and their constituents like benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, naphthalene, fuel oxygenates, 1,2-dichloroethane, and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Most UST sites are focused on addressing groundwater contamination issues that often take years or decades to clean up. Over time, the number of UST cases is decreasing statewide, with the most complex sites or otherwise challenging sites remaining open.

USTs have a long history of environmental regulation. California has been regulating USTs containing hazardous substances since 1983, applying federal and state laws, regulations, and policies. The UST Program has four main program elements: Leak Prevention Program (including tank integrity testing), UST enforcement, UST cleanup, and the UST Cleanup Fund. In addition, the UST Program implements a Low Threat Closure Policy, which is a streamlined process that uses established criteria to close UST cases that present a low threat to human health, safety, and the environment.

The Central Coast Water Board coordinates with one remaining local agency that implements a certified local oversight program (LOP) to oversee corrective action for leaking USTs. In the Central Coast Region, the State Water Board has certified Santa Clara County as a qualified LOP. Santa Barbara County had a certified LOP that was terminated on June 30, 2023, due to a shrinking caseload and Central Coast Water Board UST staff have absorbed their caseload. UST data, including site information, case management and regulatory information, and groundwater monitoring data is managed in GeoTracker and is available to the public online.

Staff Resources: The UST Program currently consists of 0 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:
The Underground Storage Tank Program recently lost all of its dedicated staff due to recent FY 24-25 budget cuts. Active Oilfields Program staff are currently assisting with UST as time allows for the 24 active remaining cases (as of August 28, 2025). General case priorities are on moving “stalled cases” forward.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:
1. Identify additional resources as they become available.

2. Work with State Water Resources Control Board on “stalled cases” initiative to gain progress on cases that have not had significant movement for various reasons.
3. Review and potentially establish new cases as remaining single-walled underground tank systems are upgraded.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:
1. Number of sites new into active remediation: 1
2. Number of cases closed: 2

Land Disposal Program

Program Narrative: The Land Disposal Program regulates landfills, surface impoundments, and other waste disposal to land operations including compost operations. This includes both active and closed facilities. The primary goal of the Land Disposal Program is to ensure that wastes contained in these facilities do not impact surface or groundwater. The Land Disposal Program regulates landfills using prescriptive technical design standards for liners, covers, leachate collection and removal systems, stormwater drainage systems, and gas collection systems.

The Land Disposal Program oversees 56 waste disposal sites (i.e., landfills, solid waste management units and historical dumps) throughout the region. Disposal sites in the region range in size from active, hundred-acre, multi-cell, state-of-the-art facilities to small, unpermitted one- to two-acre closed sites. To improve programmatic efficiency and allow limited staff resources to focus on landfill activities with the greatest potential impact on water quality and help dischargers maintain compliance with requirements, the Land Disposal Program regulates active landfills using a general order for active Class III landfills (Order No. R3-2020-0001) and a general order for closed landfills (Order No. R3-2024-0036). The program also oversees nine compost facilities enrolled in the statewide general compost order. All Land Disposal Program data, including facility information, case management and regulatory information, and groundwater monitoring data is managed in GeoTracker and is available to the public online.

Staff Resources: The Land Disposal Program currently consists of 2.3 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:
1. Address water quality impacts that affect human health and minimize impacts to surface waters and groundwater.
2. Regulate facilities to ensure proper waste disposal and handling.
3. Review all land disposal monitoring reports and data.
4. Review all land disposal design reports (liner and cover projects) and conduct inspections during landfill project construction.
5. Conduct outreach and engage with external stakeholders (CalRecycle, County Environmental Health Departments, Air Districts), interested parties, and internal stakeholders (Stormwater, WDR, 401 Certification).
6. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Develop site specific Monitoring and Reporting Programs and enroll closed landfill facilities in the Closed Landfill General Order (R3-2024-0036).
2. Review emerging contaminant (e.g., PFAS) data for landfills and evaluate priority sites for follow-up.
3. Conduct construction oversight (e.g., new modules, final covers, etc.)
    a. Johnson Canyon Landfill New Module Project (Monterey County)
    b. Cold Canyon Landfill Liner Project (San Luis Obispo County)
    c. Tajiguas Landfill Liner Project (Santa Barbara County)
    d. Chevron Guadalupe Landfill Liner Project (San Luis Obispo County)
    e. Z-Best Compost Pond and Site Upgrades Project (Santa Clara County)
    f. Monterey Peninsula Compost Site Improvement Project (Monterey County).
4. Review wet weather preparedness plans for landfills and composting facilities and conduct inspections to verify implementation.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Land disposal inspections: 52

Active Oilfields Program

Program Narrative: The Active Oilfields Program regulates oilfield activities that have the potential to impact surface or groundwater, in close coordination with the State Water Board, California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) and the US EPA. Specifically, the Active Oilfields Program protects groundwater and surface water beneficial uses, especially underground sources of drinking water (USDW), by reviewing aquifer exemption applications, reviewing, and regulating underground injection control (UIC) projects. In addition, the Active Oilfields Program administers General Order No. R3-2020-0006 to regulate the management and beneficial reuse of petroleum-impacted soils produced at active oilfields and oversee several oilfield-related clean-up sites.

There are twenty-two active onshore oilfields in the Central Coast Region. The Active Oilfields Program has reviewed aquifer exemption applications for ten oilfields, in close coordination with the State Water Board and CalGEM. Of these, five have been forwarded to the US EPA for review with three subsequently approved by the US EPA. The Active Oilfields Program reviews UIC non-expansion projects, reviews aquifer exemption applications including associated conduit analyses, reviews well-casing integrity failure reports as needed, and manages seven facilities enrolled in General Order No. R3-2020- 0006. All Active Oilfield Program data, including facility information, case management and regulatory information, and groundwater monitoring data is managed in GeoTracker and is available to the public online.

Staff Resources: The Active Oilfields Program currently consists of 4 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:

1. Address potential water quality impacts from active oilfield activities that affect human health and minimize impacts to surface waters and groundwater, especially sources of drinking water.
2. Review all aquifer exemption applications (including associated conduit analyses), and UIC projects to evaluate the protection of sources of drinking water.
3. Investigate all well casing integrity failures for potential impacts to groundwater and conduct follow-up as needed.
4. Support oilfield lease restoration and decommissioning of orphaned oilfield assets.
5. Coordinate with State Water Board and CalGEM staff on all active oilfield projects and participate in public meetings.
6. Protect surface water and groundwater resources by regulating waste pile management facilities and beneficial reuse projects, produced water pond facilities, and conducting inspections regularly.
7. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Cat Canyon Aquifer Exemption (Santa Barbara County) – In conjunction with State Water Board and CalGEM staff, evaluate Conduit Remediation and Monitoring Plans and alternative demonstrations for potential conduit wells in the proposed Aquifer Exemption area.
2. Lynch Canyon D Sand Aquifer Exemption application (Monterey County) – In conjunction with State Water Board and CalGEM staff, conduct a conduit analysis to evaluate for potential conduit wells in the proposed Aquifer Exemption area.
3. Support CalGEM and State Water Board in the Project-by-Project Review of Arroyo Grande Oilfield (San Luis Obispo County) Cyclic Steam and Steam Flood UIC Projects and any forthcoming Project-by-Project Reviews for additional oilfields.
4. Aera Energy Cyclic Steam UIC Project, San Ardo Oilfield (Monterey County) – Evaluate area of review (AOR) submittals for proposed cyclic steam wells.
5. Aera Energy Water Disposal Project, Sections 17 & 30, San Ardo Oilfield (Monterey County) – Review UIC projects including potential release of produced water to groundwater.
6. Begin implementing SB 1137 primarily through review of sampling proposals and resultant data.
7. Address active and historic produced water ponds.
8. Support CalGEM and other agencies with well abandonment, facility decommissioning, and lease restoration of former oilfield leases.
9. Review and provide feedback to CalGEM on new aquifer exemption applications, including the associated conduit analysis.
10. Oversee a portion of the cleanup sites associated with oil and gas facilities.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

Not Applicable.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program

Program Narrative: The Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification Program (401 program) regulates projects placing dredged or fill material in waters of the state. The discharge of fill material is essentially any activity that alters the bottom elevation of a waterbody or otherwise substantially relocates sediment and other material within a waterbody. Typical types of projects regulated by the 401 program include transportation, flood control, and development projects. The primary goal of the 401 program is to protect beneficial uses from impacts resulting from projects occurring within waterbodies, with a focus on protection of wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat. Staff achieves this goal by working with applicants to first avoid and minimize direct impacts to waterbodies, since leaving waterbodies unaltered is generally the most effective way to protect them. Once impacts have been avoided and/or minimized, staff focuses on mitigation of remaining impacts, typically requiring establishment or restoration of waterbody habitat equivalent to that which was impacted.

Staff Resources: The 401 Program consists of 6 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:

1. Protect beneficial uses of waters of the state by minimizing project-related direct impacts.
2. Optimize mitigation for project-related direct impacts to waters of the state.
3. Ensure projects are implemented in compliance with permit conditions.
4. Ensure responsible parties take corrective actions for unauthorized impacts to waters of the state.
5. Process applications and issue orders within all timeframes stipulated by law.
6. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Issue water quality certifications that are protective of beneficial uses of waters of the state and include minimization of direct impacts to waters of the state and optimization of mitigation for direct impacts to waters of the state where appropriate.
2. Conduct inspections of 15 high priority projects to confirm or attain compliance with water quality certifications.
3. Review annual reports for 20 high priority projects to confirm or attain compliance with water quality certifications.
4. Conduct application completeness reviews within 14 days of receipt of applications.
5. Issue certifications within one month of receiving all supplemental application information.
6. Facilitate incorporation of aquatic habitat and wildlife habitat beneficial use features into the Pajaro River levee flood control project.
7. Present for Board adoption a water quality certification for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant license renewal.
8. Present for Board renewal waste discharge requirements for the City of Paso Robles' vegetation management program for fire and flood risk reduction program.

9. Make continued progress towards compliance on all currently active enforcement cases addressing unauthorized work in waters of the state.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Issue an initial regulatory action within 30 days of receipt of an individual 401 application.
2. Issue a final action on an individual 401 application within 60 days of receipt of all supplemental application information.
3. Tracking the number of applications received.
4. Tracking the number of active projects.
5. Tracking the total number of days between receipt of an individual 401 application and the final 401 certification issuance or denial.

Stormwater Program

Program Narrative: The Stormwater Program addresses water quality effects of stormwater runoff from urbanized areas, construction and industrial sites, and the state highway system. The overall goal of the program is to protect water quality from stormwater discharges, prevent alteration of watershed processes resulting from stormwater management, and facilitate use of stormwater as a resource.

Construction and industrial sites produce water quality impacts when they are not adequately protected to control pollutant discharges during rain events or when discharges of non-stormwater occur. To eliminate or reduce these impacts, the program regulates construction and industrial sites through general permits that require site-specific pollution prevention plans, discharge monitoring, and annual reporting.

Stormwater runoff from urbanized areas can contribute to receiving water impacts, alteration of watershed processes, and impairment of beneficial uses. To manage these issues, the program regulates municipal stormwater management programs, which include management of stormwater runoff from construction projects, new development, and municipal facilities, development of public education campaigns, and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads. Stormwater capture and use represents a multi-benefit approach to addressing municipal stormwater runoff issues.

Staff Resources: The Stormwater Program has 4 full-time staff, including a newly established position intended to focus on facilitation of stormwater capture and infiltration.

General Program Priorities:

1. Reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater.
2. Preserve, restore, and enhance natural watershed processes.
3. Facilitate use of stormwater capture and use.
4. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Inspect 10% of enrolled construction and industrial sites and review site reports to ensure compliance with pollutant discharge reduction requirements. Incorporate environmental justice datasets into inspection prioritization rubric.
2. Conduct audits of municipal stormwater programs, including execution of Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plans, to ensure compliance with pollutant discharge reduction requirements.
3. Enforce the Construction General Permit.
4. Hire and onboard 2 new staff, including a Water Resource Control Engineer to focus on development of action plan to incentivize stormwater capture and use through municipal stormwater programs and an Environmental Scientist to work on industrial, construction, and municipal stormwater permitting.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Conduct 6 municipal stormwater program audits annually.
2. Conduct 72 construction stormwater inspections annually.
3. Conduct 90 industrial stormwater inspections annually.

Wildfire Resiliency Program

Program Narrative: The Central Coast Water Board's Wildfire Resiliency Program is focused on oversight of three primary wildfire-related activity types: wildfire fuel (vegetation) management, emergency wildfire response, and post-wildfire assessment and recovery. Regarding wildfire fuel management, staff focuses on reviewing projects being conducted under existing regulatory frameworks, while also developing a new general order to address fire fuel reduction projects occurring in waters of the state that fall outside existing regulatory frameworks. Central Coast Water Board staff's role during wildfire emergencies includes providing timely responses to inquiries about regulatory requirements affecting first responders' operations, with an emphasis on facilitating emergency response. As emergency conditions transition into the wildfire recovery phase, Central Coast Water Board staff expedite permitting that is needed to address impacts of the fire. In the aftermath of a wildfire, Central Coast Water Board staff provides compliance assistance to regulated parties affected by the fire and facilitates coordination between affected stakeholders and other state and local agencies to address watershed recovery in a timely manner.

Staff Resources: The Wildfire Resiliency Program consists of 1 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:

4. Minimize impacts to waters of the state resulting from fire-related activities.
5. Minimize pollutant generation and transport from fire-related activities.
6. Increase best management practice implementation and effectiveness for fire-related activities.
7. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

8. Conduct regulatory oversight of fire-related activities.
9. Participate in development of statewide wildfire-related orders.
10. Provide prompt facilitation activities for wildfire response and recovery.
11. Review 100% of submitted vegetation treatment project plans.
12. Review 100% of projects proposed under the Governor's emergency proclamation to expedite fire fuels reductions.
13. Present for Board renewal waste discharge requirements for the City of Paso Robles' vegetation management program for fire and flood risk reduction program.
14. Conduct 10 inspections annually of vegetation treatment projects.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:
Not Applicable.

Irrigated Lands Program

Program Narrative: The Irrigated Lands Program (ILP) regulates discharges from irrigated agricultural lands to protect surface water and groundwater under the authority of Order No. R3-2021-0040, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (commonly referred to as the Agricultural Order). The ILP was established with the issuance of the first Agricultural Order in 2004. The Agricultural Order underwent subsequent revisions in 2012, 2017, and 2021.

The requirements in the Agricultural Order protect human health, protect and restore the beneficial uses of surface water and groundwater, and achieve the water quality objectives specified in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin by minimizing nitrogen discharges to groundwater, and minimizing nutrient, pesticide, and sediment discharges to surface water. The Agricultural Order also requires the protection of riparian and wetland habitat to prevent loss or degradation.

The Agricultural Order regulates both landowners and operators of commercial irrigated lands on or from which there are discharges of waste or activities that could affect the quality of any surface water or groundwater or result in the impairment of beneficial uses. Landowners and operators may choose to comply with portions of the Agricultural Order by participating in approved third-party groups or programs, such as Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. (also called Preservation, Inc.). As of May 2025, enrollment in the Agricultural Order included 1,432 agricultural operations and 3,831 ranches, covering more than 401,166 acres of agricultural land.

Staff Resources: The ILP consists of 7 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:

1. Implement the Agricultural Order (outreach, education, dashboards, guides, instructions). Priority is to minimize nitrogen discharges to groundwater, minimize nutrient, pesticide, and sediment discharges to surface water, and protect riparian and wetland habitat to prevent loss or degradation.
2. Increase enrollment in the Agricultural Order (identify and enroll non-filers).

3. Track and increase compliance with the Agricultural Order or pursue enforcement (maintain high compliance for all requirements).
4. Develop a region-wide alternative water supply program.
5. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Coordinate with the approved third-party program, including reviewing and commenting on annual reports and work plans.
2. Conduct outreach and education efforts to landowners, operators, technical assistance providers and interested parties, including responding to routine public record act requests.
3. Revise and create new ILP Dashboards to provide transparent information on grower irrigation and nutrient management reporting.
4. Issue semi-annual ranch reports and TNA/INMP summaries to all growers that provide feedback on compliance and irrigation and nutrient management.
5. Prioritize enrollment in areas with disadvantaged communities and/or surface water and groundwater impairments. Targeted outreach to non-filers to increase enrollment (internal performance targets: enroll at least 50 operations and 5,000 acres this fiscal year).
6. Assess compliance with requirements, track violations, follow-up on complaints, follow-up using progressive enforcement as needed to increase compliance and enforce against dischargers that fail to comply.
7. Facilitate development and implementation of an alternate water supply program.
8. Revise Agricultural Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program to address remands in WQ 2023-0081 and to incorporate draft requirements for an AWS Program and release for public comment.
9. Provide an annual update to the board, including staff report.
10. Prioritize field training so that each staff member can participate in program specific field events.

***State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26*:**

1. Percent of total acres enrolled.
2. Percent of total operations enrolled.

Cannabis Regulatory Program

Program Narrative: The Cannabis Regulatory Program protects water quality and beneficial uses by regulating discharges of waste associated with cannabis cultivation operations. The program implements the statewide Cannabis Policy by 1) requiring compliance with the Cannabis General Order for enrolled sites and 2) coordinating with law enforcement and other regulatory agencies to require remediation actions at unenrolled sites. The program focuses on reducing impacts to water quality and the environment from legal and illegal cannabis operations through requirements related to riparian area management and restoration, winterization, sediment and erosion control,

chemical storage and use, and domestic waste, as well as assessing and managing other discharges of waste including reverse osmosis concentrate.

Program staff perform site inspections of enrolled and unenrolled sites, review technical reports and remediation plans, provide compliance assistance, and pursue progressive enforcement actions as necessary. The program coordinates closely with other agencies including counties, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Division of Cannabis Control (DCC), district attorneys, local law enforcement, and others. Staff also coordinate closely with Cannabis Program staff at other regional Water Boards, and the State Water Board's Division of Water Quality, Office of Enforcement, and the Division of Water Rights.

Staff Resources: The Cannabis Program currently consists of 2 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:

1. Unenrolled sites: identify, inspect, and require enrollment and/or remediation.
2. Enrolled sites: inspect, review technical reports, respond to questions, and provide compliance assistance.
3. Enforcement in coordination with Office of Enforcement and local law enforcement agencies.
4. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Identify and inspect unenrolled sites and require enrollment/remediation.
    a. Assist law enforcement with at least 7 warrant operations. Issue notice of violation letters for sites with discharges or threatened discharges to waters of the state and coordinate with other agencies on cleanup actions and enforcement as necessary.
        i. Prioritize sites that have perennial or intermittent water bodies, have disturbed area within riparian setbacks, and have discharges that contain constituents with higher threat to water quality.
    b. Coordinate aerial imagery analyses with State Water Board and CDFW to identify additional unenrolled sites.
        i. Maintain Computer Vision Annotation Tool (CVAT) training and request aerial imagery within priority watersheds.
    c. Conduct coordination meetings with CDFW, DCC, counties, and other statewide cannabis task forces.
    d. Conduct enrollment checks based on law enforcement inquiries.
2. Inspect and provide compliance assistance and oversight to enrolled sites.
    a. Prioritize sites designated as high risk due to disturbance within the riparian setback.

   i. Conduct site visits for sites that have not implemented disturbed area stabilization.
   ii. Review Disturbed Area Stabilization Plans and coordinate with other agencies on guidance.
   iii. Review annual Disturbed Area Stabilization Plan monitoring reports and inspect sites once maintenance/monitoring is complete.
   b. Review Notices of Intent and aerial imagery to confirm risk characterization for new enrollments.
   c. Review other plans required by the Cannabis General Order to authorize cultivation for new enrollments.
3. Follow up on issued Notices of Violation for both enrolled and unenrolled sites to ensure identified water quality threats are remediated.
4. Improve program coordination by conducting a joint site visit and training with the North Coast Water Board.
5. Onboard one Environmental Scientist program staff.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:
Not Applicable.

Nonpoint Source Program

Program Narrative: The Nonpoint Source Program is an important component of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) framework to restore and protect our nation's waters. CWA section 319 requires all states to have an approved management program for controlling nonpoint source pollution to waters of the state and for improving the quality of such waters. In addition, the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) of 1990 requires coastal states to have a Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program in partnership with the California Coastal Commission. California's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program works to reduce discharges of NPS pollution to waters of the state and to mitigate impacts from NPS pollution.

The general goals of the NPS Program are to:

- Implement and enforce waste discharge requirements, waivers of waste discharge requirements, and waste discharge prohibitions to control and reduce nonpoint source pollution to waters of the state;
- Collaborate with other agencies on initiatives to control and reduce nonpoint source pollution to waters of the state;
- Protect beneficial uses of groundwater in agricultural areas and ultimately attain water quality objectives in agricultural areas of the Central Coast Region, aligned with the vision for clean groundwater.
- Support NPS pollution control projects, with focus in agricultural areas, to improve water quality, restore degraded aquatic habitats and ecosystems, and protect all beneficial uses and the human right to water.

- Coordinate with other state and regional programs and TMDL responsible parties to prioritize work in disadvantaged, underrepresented, and/or tribal communities and to promote environmental justice.
- Support projects that adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Research, investigate, and employ traditional and nontraditional mechanisms for reducing, regulating, and/or otherwise decreasing nonpoint source pollution to waters of the State; and

Staff Resources: The NPS Program consists of 0 technical staff. The NPS Program is implemented by Irrigated Lands Program staff and the Grants Program.

General Program Priorities:

1. Implement the Irrigated Lands Program to control and reduce nonpoint source pollution to waters of the state.
2. Solicit and fund grant projects that protect and restore water quality and aquatic/riparian habitats.
3. Support projects that advance environmental justice and adapt to or mitigate the effects of climate change.
4. Report to the USEPA on all our actions and progress toward managing NPS pollution.
5. Evaluate success of the NPS Program through tracking program activities, nonpoint source pollutant load reductions, and water quality improvements.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:
Current projects to be completed by June 2026 as defined in the USEPA approved NPS FY 2025-2026 Annual Program Workplan:

1. Track and report on the Irrigated Lands Program implementation that address NPS goals.
2. Review total nitrogen applied and removed reports for enrolled ranches.
3. Provide summary reports to ~4,000 ranches.
4. Enroll non-filer farming operations.
5. Solicit and fund grant projects that protect, restore, or improve water quality and aquatic/riparian habitats and protect the human right to water.
6. Restore degraded ecosystems in high priority areas: Support one or more project proponents to apply for funding for projects that will restore degraded ecosystems, benefit underrepresented communities, and/or benefit groundwater used for drinking water.
7. Mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change: Utilize NPS Grant Program funds for projects that mitigate the effects of climate change; and solicit one or more NPS grant projects with co-benefits that mitigate the effects of climate change.

8. Identify one or more NPS grant projects that protect the human right to water: Solicit one or more projects with co-benefits to restore or protect groundwater used for drinking water and support underrepresented communities.
9. Demonstrate grant funded practice effectiveness in improving water quality: Evaluate effectiveness of grant funded implementation to track improvements to waterbodies.
10. Report actions to USEPA in semi-annual reports and annual reports.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26*:*
Not Applicable.

Basin Planning Program

***Program Narrative*:** The California Water Code (CWC) directs each regional water board to formulate and adopt water quality control plans for areas within their region (CWC section 13240). The federal Clean Water Act (section 303(c)) and CWC (section 13240) require water quality control plans to be reviewed and updated periodically.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) is the Central Coast Water Board's master water quality control planning document. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses and water quality objectives for waters of the state, including surface waters and groundwater, and includes programs of implementation to achieve water quality objectives. The focus of the Basin Planning Program is to review and update the Basin Plan to continue to improve its effectiveness and to protect and restore water quality and aquatic habitats. Additional program goals include:

- Update and maintain the Basin Plan so that it is aligned with the goals and priorities of the Central Coast Water Board and organized to provide a clear structure that identifies beneficial uses and water quality objectives for all waters of the state.
- Facilitate the effective use of the Basin Plan by Water Board programs to achieve tangible results in water quality protection and restoration.
- Facilitate understanding of Basin Plan information for Central Coast Water Board staff and any persons interested in the water quality of the Central Coast region.

Staff Resources: The Basin Planning Program consists of 1 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:
1. Facilitate office wide evaluation of program needs for future Basin Plan amendments (BPAs) and incorporate those needs into the Triennial Review (TR) of the Basin Plan.
2. Conduct TRs and revise or affirm the prioritized list of future BPAs.
3. Develop high priority BPAs identified in the TR, in coordination with technical partners.
4. Develop and maintain appropriate tools to track and share Basin Planning Program information.

5. Promote cross-program collaborative opportunities.
6. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Current Basin Plan projects and milestones to be completed by June 2026, as defined in the USEPA approved FY 2025-2026 Annual Program Workplan:
2. Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) incorporating Title 22 maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and maximum residual disinfectant levels (MRDLs): Complete Project Report, facilitate CEQA scoping, conduct outreach and prepare for Board adoption, and begin administrative record. This BPA will also incorporate editorial revisions to further clarify and improve the accuracy of the Basin Plan.
3. Tribal Beneficial Uses (TBUs) outreach: Conduct external outreach and relationship building with Tribes in the Central Coast region to inform readiness and development of TBUs.
4. Point Sur ASBS Nomination: Draft an ASBS Nomination Report.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. No Basin Plan amendments are expected to be adopted by the Central Coast Water Board in the Fiscal Year.

Total Maximum Daily Load Program

Program Narrative: The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program is an important component of implementing the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) framework (section 303(d)) to protect and restore our Nation's waters. The TMDL Program develops watershed-based pollution control strategies in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations, (title 40, sections 130.6(c)(1) and 130.7) and (California Water Code, section 13242).

A TMDL report is a written plan which describes how an impaired waterbody will achieve water quality standards and California Water Code requirements, to address surface water quality pollution and protect high quality waters. TMDLs are implemented by regulatory programs (when TMDL allocations are established as limits in permits that regulate pollutant sources) and by non-regulatory actions such as grant project implementation. The TMDL Program's goals are to protect and restore water quality and designated beneficial uses by:

- Developing TMDLs and numeric targets for high priority surface water pollution problems (i.e., those affecting human health and/or aquatic life uses).
- Developing effective implementation strategies.
- Collaborating with interested parties and supporting their efforts to improve water quality in the region.
- Developing water quality data tools that support and inform program staff who develop permits and facilitate non-point source control actions.

- Promote field work and cross-program collaborative opportunities specifically with programs doing TMDL implementation.

Staff Resources: The TMDL Program consists of 3.3 technical staff, a reduction of 1 staff position due to recent FY 24-25 budget reductions.

General Program Priorities:

1. Develop implementation strategies to address and prevent water quality threats to human health and aquatic habitats.
2. Address multiple and related pollution problems (e.g., watershed scale projects for nutrients and biostimulatory effects or toxicity and toxic pollutants).
3. Have multi-benefit outcomes (e.g., coordination with existing work or permits, building upon past work, protection of other beneficial uses such as groundwater recharge, and grant funding opportunities).
4. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Biostimulatory water quality impairments in the Elkhorn Slough watershed
    a. Initiate Scientific Peer Review process
    b. Develop CEQA documents
    c. prepare documents for public comment, respond to comments, and prepare documents for Regional Water Board Approval
2. Toxicity and organophosphate pesticide additive toxicity in the lower Salinas River watershed
    a. Present to the State Water Board for consideration of approval
    b. Submit to OAL and USEPA for consideration of approval
3. Neonicotinoid pesticide aquatic toxicity impairments in the Santa Maria River watershed
    a. Initiate Scientific Peer Review process
    b. Develop CEQA documents
    c. Prepare documents for public comment, respond to comments, and prepare documents for Regional Water Board Approval
4. Gabilan Creek Turbidity TMDL Implementation:
    a. Obtain Executive Officer approval of discharger-proposed Nonpoint Source Pollution Plans

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. No TMDL projects are expected to be completed and proposed for Central Coast Water Board adoption this Fiscal Year.
2. No Clean Water Act section 303(d) listings (impaired pollutant & waterbody combinations) are expected to be addressed by new TMDLs since no TMDL project(s) are anticipated to be considered for adoption.

Integrated Report Program

***Program Narrative*:** The Integrated Report Program is an important component of implementing the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) framework to protect and restore our Nation's waters. Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to evaluate all available water quality data and make a list of waterbodies that do not attain water quality standards (the 303(d) List). Section 305(b) requires states to report on the condition of all waters (the 305(b) Report). The California Integrated Report includes both the 303(d) List and the 305(b) Report and is submitted to USEPA every two years.

The workload of the Integrated Report varies year to year, with three Regional Water Boards being on-cycle every two years. The Central Coast Water Board data will be on-cycle for the 2028 Integrated Report resulting in a comprehensive assessment for Central Coast data. In off-cycle years, staff workload is significantly lower than in on-cycle years. For the 2028 cycle, staff will assess readily available data from providers and identify whether waterbodies meet standards or are impaired.

The Integrated Report Program goals include the following:

- Comprehensive water quality data assessments to determine if beneficial uses are supported or impaired by pollutants.
- Reporting on the status of water quality standards attainment in accordance with State Water Board's Policy for complying with the schedule set forth in CWA section 303(d).

Staff Resources: The Integrated Report Program utilizes TMDL technical staff positions. This year, the Integrated Report program will utilize approximately 2.5 TMDL PYs.

General Program Priorities:

1. Develop comprehensive water quality data assessments including the use of numeric evaluation guidelines to interpret narrative water quality objectives (e.g., pesticides, water temperature, turbidity, and nitrate for aquatic life uses).
2. Develop and customize data assessment outputs to inform other program actions.
    a. Prioritize 303(d) List for future TMDL development.
    b. Use 305(b) Report to inform grant funding priorities.
    c. Use 305(b) Report to identify waters in need of protection from degradation.
    d. Use 305(b) Report to inform healthy aquatic habitat assessments.
3. Collaborate with State Water Board to continually improve the usefulness of the Integrated Report.
    a. Consolidate and update mapping layers.
    b. Make map layers available on our websites and in databases used by staff and the public (i.e., GeoTracker).
    c. Determine appropriate evaluation guidelines to interpret narrative objectives and evaluate water quality standards attainment.
4. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:
Current projects to be completed by June 2026 that are included in the USEPA approved FY 2025-2026 Annual Program Workplan.

1. Complete data organization, QAPP Review, ReLEP tables, and mapping.
2. Data analysis to inform development of lines of evidence (LOEs) and Decisions.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:
Not Applicable.

Grants Program

Program Narrative: The Grants program aims to fund and leverage actions that demonstrate water and habitat quality improvements aligned with Water Board programs. In particular, utilize federal Clean Water Act section 319(h) and 205(j) grant funding for projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution (nonpoint source grant funds). Environmental justice efforts primarily focus on implementing the state's human right to water law. Contaminated surface water and groundwater that is a source of drinking water are often co-located in agricultural areas. The Grants Program goals include the following:

- Support NPS pollution control projects in agricultural areas to improve water quality, restore degraded aquatic habitats and ecosystems, and protect the human right to water, aligned with the vision for sustainable land management.
- Support NPS pollution control projects that protect high quality waters and improve aquatic habitat in watersheds supporting anadromous fisheries in Critical Coastal Areas, such as Scott Creek, Morro Bay, and San Lorenzo River watersheds, aligned with the vision for healthy aquatic habitat.
- Advance environmental justice in tribal lands, and underrepresented communities, such as those in the lower Salinas River watershed.
- Support projects that mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.
- Facilitate the successful implementation of grant projects aligned with the Vision, measurable goals, and water quality priorities
- Integrate grant project data and products into Water Board programs
- Provide easy access to grant information to internal and external

Staff Resources: The Grants Program consists of 1 technical staff person with limited additional staff from other programs assisting in grant management.

General Program Priorities:
1. Prioritize outreach to solicit projects and in disadvantaged, underrepresented, and/or tribal communities and to promote environmental justice.
2. Support projects, that adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change (e.g. wetland carbon sequestration; post fire rehabilitation)

3. Advance equity in funding through increasing translation of funding notices into Spanish and advocating for financial assistance to underrepresented communities for racial equity and environmental justice.
4. Support projects in high priority watersheds (e.g., Elkhorn, Pinto Lake, lower Salinas, Santa Maria, and Pajaro), and/or in other irrigated agriculture areas.
5. Support projects to reduce impacts from microplastics to surface and groundwater, and evaluate alternatives to non-biodegradable plastics
6. Support projects to restore or protect groundwater used for drinking water.
7. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including a field training component where each employee participates in program-specific field events.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Identify and solicit one or more projects on irrigated lands to reduce NPS pollution.
2. Support and evaluate efforts to address impacts from microplastics on irrigated lands.
3. Identify and solicit one or more projects that protect the human right to water.
4. Identify and solicit one or more projects that protect and/or restore aquatic and riparian habitats adjacent to irrigated lands and rural roads in high priority polluted watersheds.
5. Identify and solicit one or more projects that improve aquatic habitat in watersheds supporting anadromous fisheries.
6. Identify and solicit one or more projects that prevent and/or correct threats to high quality waters.
7. Identify and solicit one or more projects that improve riparian and aquatic habitat in watersheds used for rangelands and grazing.
8. Report counts of management practices implemented and pollutant load reductions

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

Not Applicable

Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program

Program Narrative: The Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) is the central coast's regionally scaled surface water monitoring program. The CCAMP Program is implemented by the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay (Bay Foundation), in close coordination with the Central Coast Water Board. CCAMP has collected tens of thousands of data measurements related to surface water quality since 1998, creating one of the largest water quality data sets in the region. CCAMP's primary goal is to collect, assess, and disseminate scientific information, collected through robust surface water quality monitoring and design, to aid decision-makers and the public in maintaining, restoring, and enhancing water quality and associated beneficial uses in the Central Coast Region. CCAMP also serves as a regional component of the State Water Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP).

CCAMP's current monitoring strategy is to conduct continuous monitoring at coastal confluence sites, which involves long-term trend monitoring at the lower ends of all the larger coastal streams and rivers in the region. In addition, CCAMP also partners with

SWAMP and the Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom (FHAB) Program to conduct seasonal monitoring for harmful algal blooms (HAB) at inland surface waterbodies prior to high-use recreation weekends, and coordinates with water body managers to share data and provide public health advisories, where appropriate. Due to increasing laboratory analytical costs and the elimination of State Regional Monitoring funds (notified November 2024), and Regional Discretionary funds (notified June 2025), CCAMP has suspended the five-year watershed rotation area monitoring, effective January 2025.

CCAMP data is available to all users in the California Environmental Data Exchange Network[15] (CEDEN) and CCAMP's "Data Navigator[16]", a public web-based interpretive tool that provides easy and informative access to maps, graphs, and charts of regional surface water quality-related data. CCAMP data is routinely used by program staff to inform programmatic implementation and water quality decisions. For example, the TMDL, ILP, and Basin Planning Programs all rely on CCAMP data for programmatic surface water quality assessments. In addition, CCAMP is an important data source to inform the 303(d) list and Integrated Report.

Staff Resources: The Bay Foundation provides 1 full-time monitoring coordinator, one to two part-time field technicians, and one part-time data management coordinator to implement CCAMP. Resources at the Central Coast Water Board consist of one senior technical specialist to direct field monitoring activities and coordinate with Water Board programs and other partner agencies and organizations.

General Program Priorities:

1. Ongoing CCAMP coordination with the Bay Foundation to evaluate priorities, manage resources, contracts, personnel, and program implementation.
2. Direct CCAMP field activities to ensure robust surface water quality monitoring and results.
3. Manage surface water quality data and maintain Data Navigator to provide access to maps, graphs, and charts of regional surface water quality-related data.
4. Coordinate with Central Coast Water Board programs and statewide SWAMP and FHAB Programs.
5. Conduct data sharing and outreach to staff, partner agencies and organizations and interested parties.
6. Coordinate with Bay Foundation to ensure recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Revise CCAMP Program surface water quality monitoring strategies and study designs to continue long-term monitoring, address program priorities, and maximize data quality, given available resources.

[15] California Environmental Data Exchange Network https://ceden.org/
[16] Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) Data Navigator http://www.ccamp.org

2. Conduct Long-term Trend Monitoring – Coastal Confluences Monitoring
3. Conduct Seasonal Monitoring - Conduct Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom Pre-Holiday Assessments, in coordination with FHAB Program.
4. Manage CCAMP data collection and submittals for upload to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN).
5. Implement cross-program coordination and field training opportunities for water board staff to participate in at least one program-specific field event with the CCAMP monitoring team.
6. Seek opportunities to collaborate on projects using shared resources, and to pursue additional and sustainable funding sources.
7. Develop a CCAMP resource to include in the Central Coast Water Board onboarding toolbox to help new staff learn about watersheds and relevant water quality issues.
8. Improve Data Navigator to share water quality data and tools with program staff, water quality partners, and the public.
9. Support Integrated Report Program.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:
Not Applicable.

Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program – Groundwater Assessment and Protection Program

Program Narrative: The Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program – Groundwater Assessment Program (CCAMP-GAP) focuses on regional groundwater monitoring programs and implementation of groundwater-related projects that evaluate, restore, and protect the beneficial uses of groundwater, especially drinking water. The CCAMP-GAP Program is an integral component of CCAMP, and is implemented by the Bay Foundation, in close coordination with the Central Coast Water Board.

Over ninety percent of the people living on the Central Coast rely on groundwater for their drinking water and other uses, and regional groundwater monitoring data is essential to identify areas of potentially unsafe drinking water supply, measure individual groundwater basin health, and determine the effectiveness of efforts to protect and improve groundwater quality. Consistent with the Central Coast Water Board's environmental justice and racial equity goals described in Resolution R3-2023-0002 and human right to water described in Resolution R3-2017-0004, CCAMP-GAP prioritizes water quality monitoring programs and projects that protect safe drinking water, and that provide water quality benefits to underrepresented communities. An important example is the Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing Program. Additionally, CCAMP-GAP also prioritizes projects that implement climate change mitigation or climate change adaptation strategies and projects that develop or implement activities to achieve sustainable water supplies.

CCAMP-GAP data is available online in the State Water Board's GeoTracker and GAMA GIS databases. Stakeholders who routinely use this data include local water agencies and water purveyors, local environmental health agencies, groundwater sustainability

agencies, community organizations, and the public. The Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing Program data is especially important to identify and evaluate where communities may be exposed to unsafe sources of drinking water. Program staff also use this information to inform program prioritization and implementation.

Staff Resources: The Bay Foundation provides administrative resources to implement CCAMP-GAP. Resources at the Central Coast Water Board consist of 1 senior technical specialist to advise and assist with project management, and coordinate with Water Board programs and other partner agencies and organizations.

General Program Priorities:

1. Ongoing CCAMP-GAP coordination with the Bay Foundation to evaluate priorities, manage resources, contracts, personnel, and program implementation.
2. Implement regional groundwater monitoring programs and groundwater-related projects that evaluate, restore, and protect the beneficial uses of groundwater, especially drinking water.
3. Implement environmental justice, racial equity, and Human Right to Water goals.
4. Coordinate with Central Coast Water Board programs and State-wide GAMA program.
5. Conduct data sharing and outreach to stakeholders.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Implement the Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing Program in two focus areas, in coordination with the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA), local agencies and community partners.
    a. Santa Barbara County
    b. Santa Cruz County
2. Support Regional Groundwater Monitoring Projects
    a. Technical Assistance for Limited Resource and Socially Disadvantaged Growers to Conduct On-Farm Domestic Well Monitoring and Reporting.
3. Share groundwater quality data and tools with program staff, water quality partners, and the public.
4. Coordinate with the Division of Drinking Water (DDW), Division of Financial Assistance (DFA), Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program, local government, and community organizations to support safe drinking water programs (e.g., the Central Coast Bottled Water for Households Program, Santa Cruz County Water Quality Assistance Services, replacement water programs, drinking water pilot projects, etc.).
5. Coordinate with the Rose Foundation to implement the Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program.
6. Initiate the establishment of a groundwater quality long-term trend monitoring program for at least one groundwater basin.
    a. Conduct an analysis that prioritizes groundwater basins within the region for trend monitoring in alignment with stated CCAMP-GAP priorities.

   b. Based on the prioritization list developed in 6.a., collaborate with local agencies and organizations to strategize and plan actions for groundwater quality long-term trend monitoring.
   c. Initiate an update of the Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing Program Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) with an expanded list of analytes.
7. Supplemental Environment Project (SEP) Funds Tracking and Reporting
   a. Coordinate with the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay to track SEP funds generated via Resolution 2024-0022.
   b. Report status of Resolution 2024-0022 SEP funds via Executive Officer's Reports.
8. Develop a CCAMP-GAP resource to include in the Central Coast Water Board onboarding toolbox to help new staff learn about groundwater basins and relevant water quality issues.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:
Not Applicable.

Enforcement Program

Program Narrative: The Enforcement Program implements and enforces water quality laws, regulations, policies, and plans to promote compliance, deter future violations, and protect waters of the State. Timely, fair, and consistent enforcement is essential to the success of the Central Coast Water Board programs in restoring and protecting beneficial uses of the Central Coast region's water resources. Enforcement is an important component of the Water Boards' authority to encourage the regulated community to anticipate, identify, and correct violations and the Water Boards have a variety of enforcement tools to use in response to non-compliance by dischargers. The Central Coast Water Board follows a progressive enforcement approach and contemplates an escalating series of actions beginning with notification of violations and compliance assistance, followed by enforcement orders compelling compliance, and potentially a complaint for civil liabilities as appropriate and necessary.

Enforcement Program staff are responsible for assisting regulatory program staff with their established program-specific enforcement priorities and evaluating violations to ensure compliance with State and Federal laws, regulations, policies, plans, and permits. Enforcement Program staff also address mandatory enforcement obligations imposed by law and coordinate with other Regional Water Boards, the State Water Board, and other federal and state agencies in pursuing multi-region or state-wide enforcement actions.

Staff Resources: The Enforcement Program consists of 2 technical staff.

General Program Priorities:
1. Address violations that pose an immediate and significant threat to water quality or result in significant detrimental impacts to human health and/or the environment.

2. Prioritize violations associated with discharges that impact water quality in Underrepresented Communities.
3. Prioritize violations associated with discharges that result in drinking water supplies exceeding drinking water standards for individuals and/or small communities.
4. Address violations involving falsification of information, recalcitrant dischargers, and non-compliant dischargers realizing a significant economic benefit and/or competitive economic advantage over compliant members of the regulated public.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Support the development of regulatory compliance determinations to facilitate potential enforcement actions.
2. Develop technical staff and management to increase enforcement knowledge and skills within programs for preparing and implementing effective enforcement strategies and documentation to compel dischargers to correct violations, and to build the foundation to escalate to formal enforcement, if necessary.
3. Coordinate with program staff and State Water Board Office of Enforcement to prepare and implement formal enforcement actions for priority enforcement cases. Address mandatory enforcement obligations imposed by law.
4. Use Central Coast Water Board Settlement Project Priorities and Considerations[17] to help inform dischargers and Enforcement Program staff in their selection of settlement projects, including supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) and enhanced compliance actions (ECAs), during settlement negotiations.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Number of MMPs[18] that require enforcement within 18 months from the date of violation: 116
2. Number of Class A priority violations[19] with formal enforcement or an Investigative Order pursuant to Water Code section 13267 within 18 months of discovery: 2

Administrative Program

Program Narrative: The Administrative Program provides administrative business services, database, and website management support for approximately 80 staff of the Central Coast Water Board. Administrative Program staff serve a key role in ensuring the success of the Central Coast Water Board's mission by managing day to day operations and providing administrative support to technical staff and management. The program staff also act as liaisons between Central Coast Water Board staff and State Water Board Division of Administrative Services staff for all administrative functions.

Staff Resources: The Administrative Program consists of 4 administrative staff.

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[17] Enforcement Program Priorities and Settlement Project Priorities and Considerations; https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/enforcement/

[18] MMPs = mandatory minimum penalties

[19] Class A Priority Violation = violations that potentially pose an immediate and substantial threat to beneficial uses and/or that have the potential to individually or cumulatively cause significant detrimental impacts to human health or the environment.

General Program Priorities:

1. Manage business operations and services (e.g., travel, training, budgets, contracts, coordination of information technology equipment and services)
2. Coordinate with State Water Board to address facility maintenance and property management issues
3. Develop and implement Health and Safety Plan
4. Manage human resources activities
5. Complete Request for Personnel Actions (RPAs) to complete recruitment for vacant positions, employee separations, and other personnel issues
6. Coordinate with program managers to maintain Direct Charge Budget and monitor spending
7. Manage procurement and accounts payable
8. Provide database management and website support
9. Recruitment and retention of qualified, well-trained staff, including training on administrative duties and cross-program opportunities for admin staff to learn about regulatory program activities.

Project/Task Specific Priorities for Fiscal Year 25-26:

1. Re-evaluate administrative program priorities to align with highest organizational needs. Identify and leverage State Water Board resources to improve efficiencies of administrative staff current workload.
2. Develop/update procedures to increase efficiency of business operations and services and develop criteria to determine and prioritize work assignments.
3. Finalize Building Emergency Plan
4. Provide staff training on health & safety requirements and procedures, including Injury Illness and Prevention Program (IIIP) and emergency drills.

State Water Board Program Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 25-26:

Not Applicable.

Accomplishments and Metrics of Success

We've accomplished a lot with respect to our regional priorities and programmatic work to achieve our vision and mission. Attachment 1 summarizes our accomplishments achieved during Fiscal Year 24-25. Moving forward, we will also continue to build on existing and develop new quantitative water quality evaluation tools like the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay's CCAMP data navigator,[20] the State Water Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program Groundwater Information System (GAMA-GIS),[21] Clean Water Act section 305(b) condition report and Clean Water Act section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies and associated Integrated

[20] www.ccamp.org

[21] https://gamagroundwater.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/gamamap/public/

Report,[22] and TMDL report cards,[23] and Irrigated Lands Program dashboard tools[24] to more effectively and transparently measure our performance with respect to achieving improved water quality outcomes.

Summation

The Central Coast Water Board is a state regulatory agency with critical responsibility for protecting the quality of the waters of the state in the Central Coast Region. We are committed to implementing our mission and vision in accordance with our stated regional and regulatory program priorities and in coordination with our many partners. This document is intended, in part, to clearly document this commitment and the framework by which we will evaluate and prioritize our work. Our staff are our most valuable asset, and we will continue to focus resources on our workforce planning and development efforts to build a positive work environment that will attract and retain high quality staff. As a regulatory agency, the Central Coast Water Board is committed to effectively implementing regulatory requirements and engaging impacted communities, stakeholders, California Native American Tribes and the public in our decision-making processes to protect water quality. We take this public service responsibility very seriously, and public engagement and transparency continue to be foundational priorities of the Central Coast Water Board.

[22] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/2020_2022_integrated_report.html

[23] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/report-cards.html

[24] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ilp/dashboard.html

Appendix - Background

Authority and Mandate

The Regional Water Quality Control Boards' primary mandate is the protection and restoration of water quality and the beneficial uses of water for existing and future generations. This includes protection of the environment and public health. California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (1969),[25] which became division 7 ("Water Quality") of the California Water Code (Water Code), establishes the responsibilities and authorities of the nine regional water quality control boards and the State Water Resources Control Board. The Porter-Cologne Act names these boards "... the principal state agencies with primary responsibility for the coordination and control of water quality" (section 13001). Each regional board is directed to "...formulate and adopt water quality control plans for all areas within the region." A water quality control plan establishes the following for the waters of an area (e.g. Central Coast Region) : beneficial uses that are to be protected, water quality objectives that protect those uses, and a program of implementation needed to achieve those objectives (section 13050(j)).

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin* (Basin Plan)[26] is the Board's master water quality control planning document. The federal Clean Water Act (Public Law 92- 500, as amended) provides for the delegation of certain responsibilities in water quality control and water quality planning to the states. Where the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Water Board have agreed to such delegation, the regional boards implement portions of the Clean Water Act, such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), section 401 certification, and toxic substance control programs (e.g., Underground Storage Tank Program, Land Disposal Program, Superfund site cleanup oversight).

The Central Coast Water Board protects and restores water quality through the issuance of waste discharge requirements and other orders for various land use activities (i.e., municipal, agricultural, industrial), the implementation of enforcement actions, the implementation of water quality monitoring, and through facilitation and coordination with various other partnering agencies and entities.

Administrative Structure

The State Water Board and the regional water boards (collectively the Water Boards) are housed within state government and are part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

The nine regional boards[27] are semi-autonomous and are each composed of seven part-time, volunteer Board members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Each regional board makes critical water quality decisions for its region, including setting standards, issuing waste discharge requirements, determining compliance with those requirements, and taking appropriate enforcement actions.

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[25] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/portercologne.pdf
[26] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications_forms/publications/basin_plan/
[27] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.html

With limited exceptions (Water Code section 13223), the Central Coast Water Board can delegate its powers to the Executive Officer, to administer its duties pursuant to the Water Code in coordination with Central Coast Water Board staff. The Central Coast Water Board can't delegate to the Executive Officer certain duties; therefore, the Board must convene pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act for public meetings, workshops, or formal hearings to conduct its business (e.g., approve waste discharge requirements, enforcement orders, adopt water quality control plans, receive updates from staff and various stakeholders, engage with the public and regulated parties, etc.). The regional water boards are required to have at least six public meetings per year. Under the guidance of the Executive Officer and in coordination with the Board, the Central Coast Water Board staff (currently consisting of 82 staff, including management, line/technical, and administrative staff positions, and 8 student positions) implement various programs and associated actions. The bulk of the management team and technical staff consists of scientists, engineers, and geologists with expertise in various areas of water quality associated with data analysis, wastewater treatment, contaminant fate and transport and remediation, geology, hydrogeology, hydrology, and natural watershed functions and ecosystems. In addition to the administrative team, the management team and staff are distributed across various regulatory and nonregulatory programs (see Program Priorities and Actions section above).

State Water Resources Control Board

The Central Coast Water Board works closely with the State Water Resources Control Board to implement its various programs. The State Water Board consists of five full-time board members and numerous divisions and associated programs implemented by technical, administrative, and legal staff. The State Water Board develops statewide permits, policies, and regulations governing many of our programs, develops and manages information technology resources, databases, and tools we use to manage and track our programmatic work and associated documents and data, provides legal, human resources, administrative, public participation and engagement, and general support to the Regional Boards. Separate from regional water board functions and authority, the State Water Board also implements the state drinking water program, administers California's water rights program, emergency management program, and provides or administers financial assistance in the form of grants and loans for projects that clean up and protect water quality and drinking water supplies and that otherwise protect water resources. The Executive Office of the State Water Board houses the Administrative Hearing Office, Communications Office, Office of Chief Counsel, Office of Delta Watermaster, Office of Enforcement, Office of Information Management & Analysis, Office of Legislative Affairs, Office of Research, Planning, and Performance.

Regional Setting

The Central Coast Water Board regional boundaries are based on watersheds making up the Central Coast Hydrologic Unit,[28] and water quality requirements are based on the unique differences in climate, topography, geology, and hydrology for each watershed. The Central Coast Region is an 11,274 square mile area covering the entirety of the coastal, valley and upland areas of Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties, southern Santa Clara County (south of Morgan Hill), as well as very small portions of San Mateo, Kern, and Ventura Counties that collectively make up the Central Coast Hydrologic Unit. It includes 378 miles of coastline between San Mateo and Ventura Counties, 2,360 miles of streams, 99 lakes, 50 wetlands and estuaries covering 8,387 acres, and 53 groundwater basins covering 3,559 square miles.

In the Central Coast Region climate is primarily governed by proximity to the Pacific Ocean with moderate rainfall and temperatures (Coastal Mediterranean) along the coast, coastal ranges and coastal valleys with more temperature and rainfall extremes (both highs and lows) in inland valleys and mountain ranges. Approximately 90 percent of agricultural, municipal, industrial, and domestic water supply comes from groundwater with the remaining portion derived from local reservoirs and imported water from the state and federal water projects in Central California, a significant portion of which is used for groundwater recharge.

The Central Coast Region is primarily a rural agricultural region that also includes urban and industrial land uses. Major industries include agriculture, and associated food processing, oil production, power production, military installations, technology-based and industrial services and manufacturing, and tourism. Urban areas include, but are not limited to, the Monterey Peninsula and city of Salinas, the city San Luis Obispo and Five Cities Area (i.e., Pismo Beach, Shell Beach, Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, and Oceano), Santa Barbara area coastal plain (i.e., Goleta, Santa Barbara, Summerland, Montecito and Carpinteria), city of Santa Cruz and adjacent communities of Soquel, Capitola and Aptos, and the cities of Watsonville, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Hollister, Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield, King City, Paso Robles, Atascadero, Santa Maria, and Lompoc. Prime agricultural lands are dispersed throughout the region with significant areas concentrated in the Salinas, Pajaro, Santa Maria, Edna, and Santa Ynez river valleys. The Central Coast Region contains some of the most productive wine grape, berry (strawberry, raspberry, and blueberry), and vegetable agricultural areas in the state, nation, and world due to its Coastal Mediterranean climate conducive to a year-round growing season along portions of the coast for berries and various cool season vegetables such as lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, and celery.

[28] California Water Code section 13200. [Regional Board boundaries]. The Central Coast Region, which comprises all basins, including Carrizo Plain in San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties, draining into the Pacific Ocean from the southerly boundary of the watershed of Pescadero Creek in San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties to the southeasterly boundary, located in the westerly part of Ventura County, of the watershed of Rincon Creek.

The Central Coast Region also includes significant areas of open space and relatively pristine watersheds with abundant native plants and wildlife along the coast (e.g., Santa Cruz Mountains, Big Sur, Point Conception) and within State Park and National Forest lands (e.g., Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Moss Landing State Wildlife Area, Montana de Oro State Park, Pinnacles National Park, Pfieffer Big Sur State Park, Los Padres National Forest, Carrizo Plain National Monument) as well as within privately owned land or preserves.

Ten watersheds within the Central Coast Region drain into Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary,[29] one of the largest marine sanctuaries in the world. Elkhorn Slough is one of the largest remaining tidal wetlands in the United States and one of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) designated National Estuarine Research Reserves. The region also includes the Morro Bay National Estuary[30] and its extensive wetland and salt marsh habitats. Additionally, on November 30, 2024, NOAA designated the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary[31] which encompasses 4,543 square miles of coastal and ocean waters offshore. Collaboration with the national marine sanctuaries provides valuable opportunities for research, community engagement, and education and outreach activities.

Water Quality Issues

Waste discharges and associated water quality impacts are directly linked to anthropogenic land uses or activities such as agricultural production, waste management and disposal, mineral mining/extraction, oil production, industrial manufacturing, urbanized areas, energy production, construction (houses, buildings, roads), etc. The largest land use in the Central Coast Region, second only to open space, is irrigated agriculture. Consequently, some of the most significant and widespread issues of water quality impairments are associated with fertilizer nitrogen loading to groundwater and associated drinking water nitrate pollution as well as nutrient runoff causing degradation including eutrophication, toxic algal blooms, pesticide and pesticide toxicity pollution, and erosion and associated sediment discharges adversely impacting surface water and near shore aquatic habitats. Drinking water nitrate pollution is a significant problem that disproportionately impacts underrepresented and disadvantaged communities in rural areas.

Stormwater runoff to surface water and the Pacific Ocean from urbanized areas, industrial facilities, roads, and construction sites has the potential to contain various contaminants such as pathogens from pet waste, nutrients, pesticides, sediment, heavy metals, minerals, oil and grease, and numerous organic chemicals. Construction and even restoration activities within stream channels, wetlands and estuaries also have the potential to result in discharges of waste. Former and existing commercial, industrial and Department of Defense facilities have the potential to discharge various contaminants to surface water and groundwater, the most prevalent of which in the

[29] https://montereybay.noaa.gov/welcome.html
[30] https://www.mbnep.org/
[31] https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/chumash-heritage/

region are associated with the historical improper use and disposal of chlorinated solvents and other chemicals, as well as leaking above ground and underground fuel and oil storage tanks. Older landfills used to dispose of municipal and industrial waste prior to the advent of protective liner and cap design regulatory standards are also a source of waste discharges to surface water and groundwater as are the construction and operation of newer landfills but to a lesser extent with sufficient oversight. Municipal and industrial wastewater treatment and disposal and various drinking water treatment system technologies also result in waste discharges to surface water and groundwater that need to be appropriately designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to ensure waste discharges are minimized to the extent practicable and meet water quality standards.

In addition to providing technical and regulatory oversight of activities like those listed above, the Central Coast Water Board also focuses on ensuring protection of the relatively pristine areas along with supporting the establishment of additional protected areas and restoration projects.