

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Coast Water Board Enforcement Program Priorities *Updated June 2025*

The State Water Resources Control Board's 2024 Enforcement Policy includes a request for Regional Water Board enforcement staff to seek input on general region-specific enforcement priorities from members of the public and the Regional Water Board members at a regularly noticed public meeting on an annual basis. At the June 19, 2025 Central Coast Water Board Meeting, the Board affirmed the following general enforcement priorities:

Enforcement Priorities

- *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.*
- *Prioritize violations associated with discharges that impact water quality in Underrepresented Communities (see below definition)*
- *Prioritize violations associated with discharges that result in drinking water supplies exceeding drinking water standards for individuals and/or small communities.*
- *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.*

The enforcement priorities are not in a particular order; however, Central Coast Water Board enforcement staff will typically prioritize violations associated with more than one enforcement priority.

Underrepresented Communities Definition

Underrepresented Communities include, but are not limited to, Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), Economically Distressed Areas (EDAs), Tribes, Environmentally Disadvantaged Communities (EnvDACs), and members of Fringe Communities.

- Disadvantaged Community (DACs): A community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income (Public Resources Code section 80002(e));

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- Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDACs): A community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the statewide average (Public Resources Code section 80002(n));
- Economically Distressed Area (EDAs): A municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, a rural county, or a reasonably isolated and divisible segment of a larger municipality where the segment of the population is 20,000 persons or less, with an annual median household income that is less than 85 percent of the Statewide median household income, and with one or more of the following conditions as determined by the department: (1) financial hardship, (2) unemployment rate at least 2 percent higher than the statewide average, or (3) low population density (Water Code section 79702(k));
- Tribes: Federally recognized Indian Tribes and California State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List;
- EnvDACs (EnvDACs): CalEPA designates the top 25 percent scoring census tracts as DACs. Census tracts that score the highest 5 percent of Pollution Burden scores, but do not have an overall CalEnviroScreen score because of unreliable socioeconomic or health data, are also designated as DACs (refer to the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Mapping Tool or Results Excel Sheet); and
- Fringe Community: Communities that do not meet the established DAC, SDAC, and EDA definitions, but can show that they score in the top 25 percent of either the Pollution Burden or Population Characteristics score using the CalEnviroScreen 3.0.