

*...working together...*

**Citizen's Guide**  
to working with the  
**California**  
**Water Boards**

*...get involved...*



CALIFORNIA

**Water Boards**

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS



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# Introduction to the Guide

## Welcome to the Water Boards

Under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and the state's pioneering Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the State and Regional Water Boards have regulatory responsibility for protecting the water quality of nearly 1.6 million acres of lakes, 1.3 million acres of bays and estuaries, 211,000 miles of rivers and streams, and about 1,100 miles of exquisite California coastline.

The Guide provides an overview of the Water Boards and the many opportunities that all Californians have to participate with the Water Boards in decisions and activities that affect the state's water resources. While some of the public participation opportunities are formal, e.g., at a Water Board hearing, others are less formal, but just as important, e.g., a stakeholder process implemented by a Regional Board. Although the Guide doesn't contain information about specific water quality decisions that are before the Boards, it will direct you where you can find that information. We look forward to updating this Guide periodically to assure its continuing usefulness to you, the public.

## You Can Make a Difference - Get Involved!

The Guide contains many references to websites as well as weblinks to many sites. The Boards recognize that not all Californians have access to the internet. Thus, any member of the public may contact the Water Boards by telephone or US Mail to communicate concerns, ask questions, request information, or inquire about public participation opportunities. The Water Boards are interested in hearing from all Californians.

### **THE STATE WATER BOARD** **Office of Public Participation (OPP)**

916 341-5254

[www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about\\_us/contact\\_us/opp\\_contacts.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/contact_us/opp_contacts.shtml)

[info@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info@waterboards.ca.gov)

# Citizen's Guide



**Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor**  
State of California



California Environmental Protection Agency



**STATE WATER BOARD**  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

**[www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)**  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about\\_us/contact\\_us/opp\\_contacts.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/contact_us/opp_contacts.shtml)  
[info@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info@waterboards.ca.gov)

*Disclaimer: This publication is current as of the date of publication. It presents only a summary of relevant provisions of law and practice related to the Water Boards.*



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