CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND PRIORITY PROJECTS FY 24/25

Contents

These descriptions of the water quality programs, identification of the Program Managers, the resources allocated to these programs, and the Program Priorities can be found at the following address: About Us - Overview of Board Programs | Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (ca.gov)

As the Board's Program Managers develop the Programs' Annual Workplans, Program Managers will also be cognizant of the Strategic Objectives envisioned in the Board's Strategic Plan, adopted in October of 2021.

This document often refers to staffing in terms of "PYs" or "Personnel Years." A PY is a unit of measurement that refers to 12 months of full-time employment for one person.

Permitting Programs

NPDES Program

Program Manager: Anne Walters

Overview of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program

The Clean Water Act's NPDES program is a federal program U.S. EPA has delegated to the State of California. This program protects beneficial uses by regulating point source discharges of pollutants to surface waters. Point sources are discrete conveyances, such as pipes, and include wastewater treatment facilities, fish hatcheries, and industrial facilities. NPDES permits are issued to facilities defined by U.S. EPA as "major" or "minor" depending on a facility's threat to water quality. General NPDES permits can regulate numerous facilities with similar types of discharges. NPDES permits are updated every five years per federal regulations.

Program Objectives

- Regulate all point source discharges to waters of the United States to ensure protection of beneficial uses;
- Permits are renewed every five years; and
- Where appropriate, the cost of compliance is considered when developing permit conditions.

Program Resources

Staff resources for the NPDES Program (~25 PYs) are allocated for permitting (63%), compliance/enforcement (26%), and management/support (11%).

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- *Statewide Toxicity Provisions* – Approved by U.S. EPA in May 2023, the new Statewide Toxicity Provisions are the biggest change to the NPDES program since the adoption of the State Implementation Plan in 2000. In FY 23/24, the program began implementing the Statewide Toxicity Provisions in permit renewals and developed related tools and template language to ensure permit consistency across the region.
- *Permitting Efficiencies, Quality, and Consistency* – Staff continued to develop and implement streamlining measures to reduce permit timelines and improve permit consistency and quality.

Priority Projects 24/25

- *Program Integration of Racial Equity Goals* – In FY 24/25 NPDES program staff will continue to ingegrate a programmatic outreach process to tribal and environmental justice stakeholders into the program workflow, ensuring consistency across the region.
- *Training and Tools Development* – In FY 24/25, the NPDES program will focus on developing tools that will increase the efficiency of its core work. Resources will also be focused on establishing and implementing an NPDES training program for staff.

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (NON-15) PROGRAM

PROGRAM MANAGER: ALEX MUSHEGAN

Overview of the Waste Discharge Requirements (Non-15) Program

The Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Program regulates waste discharges that may affect the quality of surface and ground waters of the state. The Program includes staff from all three offices, and is the oldest state water quality control program, covering a wide variety of discharges. In the Central Valley, the Program primarily regulates wastewater (sewage) treatment facilities, food processing industries (including wineries), wastewater recycling, sand and gravel mines, and other industries that discharge non-hazardous wastes. The Program currently regulates over 1,400 facilities in the Central Valley.

Program Objective

To protect the quality of the water within the Central Valley for all beneficial uses for present and future generations, the Waste Discharge Requirements Program's core activities include expediting the completion of new or revised individual waste discharge requirements (permits); the identification and enrollment of dischargers under existing general orders or waivers; and the development additional general orders to regulate similar types of dischargers in a consistent manner.

The WDR Program is implementing the CV-SALTS requirements. These tasks include coordination with CV-SALTS program staff as the teams jointly review Notices of Intent and strategize on how to turn Management Zone Implementation Plans into enforceable permit terms. This Program is also responsible for implementing the state-wide Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy (OWTS Policy) and issuing water reclamation requirements for recycled water projects.

Program Resources

There are currently 19.4 PYs in the WDR Program. Approximately half a PY of the budget is used for OWTS Policy tasks. 2 PYs are dedicated to Water Supply Strategy Implementation (i.e., Recycled Water Projects). Another 2 PYs are dedicated to the Wastewater Consolidation Program.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- 10 individual WDRs adopted
- Renewed the Low Threat General Waiver
- 56 enrollments under general orders/waivers (including 16 enrollments under the Small Domestic General Order)
- 18 Pre-Permitting Inspections
- Approximately 30 technical reports (e.g., Reports of Waste Discharge for individual WDRs) reviewed.
- Assisted CV-SALTS staff with reviewing Salt and Nitrate Control Program reports.
- Assisted NPDES staff with reviewing the groundwater land discharge components of NPDES sites.
- Issued several monitoring and reporting programs and 13260/13267 letters requesting Reports of Waste Discharge to dischargers not currently being regulated.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Implementation of Assembly Bill No. 2108 (Outreach to disadvantage/tribal communities)
- Implementation of the Nitrate Control Program
- Develop new region-wide general orders to reduce the permitting backlog
    - Mid-Sized Domestic WWTF General Order (Redding)
    - Nut Drying and Hulling General Order (Sacramento)
    - Fruit/Vegetable Packing General Order (Fresno)

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

PROGRAM MANAGER: LYNN COSTER

Overview of the Water Quality Certification Program

The Water Quality Certification program (Program) regulates removal or placement of materials in wetlands and waterways in the state. Project examples include navigational dredging, flood control, levee construction, channel clearing, fill of wetlands for development, bridge piers, docks, and habitat restoration. These types of projects generally require a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and the state's Water Quality Certification is issued to certify that the project approved by the Corps also meets state water quality requirements. Projects involving discharges to non-federal waters are regulated through the issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements.

Program Objective

The goal of the Program is to protect the integrity of all waters, but has special responsibility for maintaining high-quality waters such as wetlands, riparian areas, and headwaters. These waterbodies have high resource value, are vulnerable to filling, and are not systematically protected by other programs. The Program also implements the State and Federal Wetlands No Net Loss Policies, which seek to first avoid project impacts and then minimize and compensate for unavoidable impacts.

Program Resources

The Central Valley Water Board has 13.15 PYs to implement the Program, with resources distributed between the region's three offices based on workload.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Issued Water Quality Certifications for 275 projects, 36 of which were issued for emergency projects.
- Regulated approximately 1,300 active projects within the Region.
- Increased engagement with tribes and disadvantaged communities regarding the permitting process and enhanced noticing to improve public participation.
- Advanced certification of habitat restoration and enhancement projects through a streamlined permitting process, resulting in certification of 26 restoration projects within the Region.
- Participated in the development of State Water Board's Statewide Electric Utility General Order.
- All program staff participated in desktop analysis of wetland delineations training and increased the number of Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges to waters that are no longer subject to federal jurisdiction.

Priority Projects 24/25

- **Implement Improvements to Achieve Racially Equitable and Streamlined Permit Processing**

  Staff will continue to develop and implement tools to streamline workflow and help the public better understand and navigate the permitting process. Efforts to address both Strategic Plan and racial equity goals will be prioritized through the engagement of tribes and disadvantaged communities in the permitting process; and translation of notices into languages spoken by stakeholders.

- **Habitat Restoration Projects**

  Program staff will work to advance important habitat restoration and enhancement projects. Improvements will be made to increase the efficiency of project review, permitting, and implementation of this important work.

- **Wildfire Mitigation**

If adopted as anticipated, staff will work with the Board's other programs to implement the State Water Board's proposed Statewide Electric Utility General Order.

STORMWATER PROGRAM

PROGRAM MANAGER: BRYAN SMITH

Overview of the Stormwater Program

The Stormwater Program implements National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to regulate the discharge of pollutants in stormwater to waters of the U.S. The program is divided into three main areas of activity: construction (including Caltrans projects), industrial, and municipal. The permits require implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other program elements and controls to minimize the discharge of pollutants and require visual and chemical monitoring. Board staff reviews monitoring and other program reports, conducts compliance inspections and audits, and initiates enforcement activities as needed.

Program Objective

The objective of the Central Valley Water Board's Stormwater Program (Program) is to prevent discharges of pollutants in stormwater and non-stormwater running off of construction, industrial, and municipal areas. Pollutants frequently associated with stormwater discharges include sediment, petroleum products, pesticides/herbicides, metals, bacteria, trash and other debris. Program staff review individual projects, make site-specific recommendations, and ensure compliance with pertinent regulations and policies through inspections and enforcement. Staff pursue water quality protection at construction and industrial sites through a strong field presence and diligent review of reports and monitoring data. Staff pursue water quality protection associated with MS4 discharges by ensuring approved management plans are being implemented and are effective.

Program Resources

The Central Valley Water Board has 12.75 PYs to implement the program.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Maintained a strong field presence by conducting 454 Construction inspections, 355 Industrial inspections, and 23 Municipal inspections/audits. Industrial facilities are often located in communities with environmental justice concerns. Many of the industrial inspections, and related compliance/enforcement activities, were done in these areas.
- Participated in multi-agency trash cleanups in waterways.
- Implemented internal process improvements such as inspection report templates and pilot implementation of field tablets, to provide greater efficiency and consistency.

- Coordinated with the Planning section on implementation of the Pyrethroids Control Program and TMDLs.
- Worked with MS4 permittees on development of Stormwater Management Plan elements.
- Conducted scoping and drafted revisions for renewal of the Regionwide Municipal Stormwater General Order. Consistent with the Regional Board's Strategic Plan, this general order provides flexibility to permittees to focus limited resources on addressing the highest priority water quality concerns.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Renewal of Regionwide Municipal General Permit. The current Regionwide MS4 General Order expired in September 2021 and has been administratively extended. Board staff are working to bring a renewed permit to the Board for consideration of adoption in December 2024. Board staff will then work with the regulated permittees to finalize stormwater management plans.
- Targeted inspections of Industrial Stormwater sites.
- Implement a process to prioritize cases for follow-up. Consistent with the Central Valley Water Board's racial equity resolution, consideration of impacts to environmental justice communities will be considered in developing priority rankings, along with documented pollutant benchmark concentration exceedances, repeated failures to submit reports, and failures to collect water quality samples.

Planning, Monitoring and Assessment Programs

Basin Planning Program

Program Manager: Meredith Howard

Overview of the Basin Planning Program

Water Quality Control Plans or "Basin Plans" provide the foundation for all Central Valley Water Board regulatory actions. Basin Plans identify beneficial uses of surface and ground waters, water quality objectives to protect those uses, implementation actions to achieve objectives, and monitoring and surveillance programs to ensure implementation actions are effective. There are two Basin Plans for the Central Valley Region, one for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, and one for the Tulare Lake Basin. The TMDL, Delta, and CV-SALTS factsheets capture many aspects of the basin planning program and additional details on those programs.

Program Objective

The goals of the Basin Planning Program are to establish regulatory policies, frameworks and programs that will preserve and enhance water quality and protect beneficial uses of water. Ultimately, many Basin Planning Program projects result in amendments to the Basin Plans. The Program also oversees the Triennial Review, a

public process conducted every three years to ensure that the Basin Plans address public concerns and continue to be effective at meeting program goals in a reasonable and transparent manner.

Program Resources

The resources for this program are 9.5 PYs, 5 PYs of which are allocated to the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS), 1 PY for the Tribal Beneficial Uses project, 1 PY for biostimulatory projects and assessments and the remaining for program management, permitting support, and other projects.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Continued implementation of priority projects including CV-SALTS, Tribal Beneficial Use (TBU) Designations, and beneficial use de-designation basin plan amendments.
- Began the 2024 Triennial Review process.
- Implemented the Racial Equity Program Goals.
- Continued participation in State Water Board's development of the Biostimulatory and Biointegrity Policy and implementation of the region-wide assessment to evaluate biostimulatory and biointegrity impacts.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Continue to allocate resources to implement the CV-SALTS Program.
- Continue implementation of prioritized Triennial Review projects including Tribal Beneficial Uses.
- Develop basin plan amendments to address beneficial use de-designations where existing use designations are inappropriate.
- Complete the 2024 Triennial Review process.
- Develop a new plan to revise the Evaluation of Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) Beneficial Use in Ag Dominated Surface Water Bodies to address the State Water Board's questions and concerns.

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDL) PROGRAM

PROGRAM MANAGER: MEREDITH HOWARD

Overview of the TMDL Program

Clean Water Act section 303(d) requires States to develop a list of surface water bodies that do not meet water quality standards (called the 303(d) list), and to establish pollutant load reduction targets (total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs) or equivalent alternative control programs necessary to attain water quality standards. TMDLs establish numeric targets to attain applicable water quality standards, establish the waterbody's maximum allowable pollutant load consistent with those targets, and

allocates the allowable load among the pollutant sources. TMDLs must include an implementation plan to achieve pollutant load reductions.

Program Objective

The goal of the TMDL program is to protect and restore surface waters through water quality assessments to identify impairments. This goal is accomplished through the development and implementation of TMDLs and control programs that address 303(d) impairment listings. The program has focused on the highest priority pollutants and stressors including pesticides, mercury, salt, selenium, low dissolved oxygen, and nutrients. The TMDL program addresses and updates 303(d) listings, develops programs that prevent potential future 303(d) listings and addresses current listings, and documents when existing control programs preclude the need for TMDLs.

Program Resources

The TMDL Program has 9.8 PYs allocated that include 3 PYs for Integrated Report, 3 PYs and 1 PYs for Mercury and Pesticide TMDLs respectively. The remaining PYs are allocated to program management, permitting support, staff training and implementation of existing TMDLs.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Supported State Water Board's public process for the 2024 Integrated Report and initiated region-wide water quality assessment for the 2026 Integrated Report.
- Continued implementation of existing priority TMDL and related control programs including Pyrethroids in the Central Valley, Mercury in the Delta, Dissolved Oxygen, and Salt and Boron TMDLs in the San Joaquin River.
- Continued Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Methylmercury TMDL review.
- Continued implementation of the Pyrethroid TMDL, including review of management plans, drafted the Pyrethroid Research Plan (PRP), and held meetings to receive feedback on the PRP.
- Revised the Time Scheule Order for the Clear Lake MS4 Permit and continued to participate on the Blue-Ribbon Committee and implement the Clear Lake Nutrient TMDL.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Continue implementation of existing priority TMDLs and related control programs including those for Pyrethroids in the Central Valley, Mercury in the Delta, Nutrients in Clear Lake, Dissolved Oxygen and Salt and Boron TMDLs in the San Joaquin River.
- Continue to develop decisions for the 2026 Integrated Report, update the 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies, and prepare for the 2026 Integrated Report Board Adoption Meeting.

- Continue reconsideration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Methylmercury TMDL.
- Continue implementing the Pyrethroid Pesticide TMDL and Control Program.
- Revise the Clear Lake Nutrient TMDL based on current state of scientific knowledge and updated information received by the Board.

DELTA PROGRAM

PROGRAM MANAGER: MEREDITH HOWARD

Overview of the Delta Program

The objectives of the Delta Program are to improve and protect water quality in the Sacramento San Joaquin River Delta through Central Valley Water Board actions and coordination with other agencies. Actions are guided by the Central Valley Water Board's 2014 Delta Strategic Work Plan and the Delta Nutrient Research Plan.

The Delta Program includes the Delta Regional Monitoring Program, a stakeholder program formed to collect and evaluate data to improve understanding of Delta water quality issues.

Program Objective

- Coordinate with State and San Francisco Bay Water Boards regarding planning and permits affecting the Delta.
- Work with other agencies and entities that have jurisdiction over various actions in the Delta to ensure improvement and protection of Delta water quality.
- Manage Delta Regional Monitoring Program, including communication of management needs, participation on program committees, and development and implementation of monitoring studies.
- Implement monitoring, research, and assessments to determine water quality conditions and impacts, including pesticides, metals, and eutrophication; and apply understanding of current status to forecast future conditions and impacts.
- Implement the 2014 Delta Strategic Work Plan and the Delta Nutrient Research Plan.

Program Resources

There are 3 PYs allocated to the Delta Program, mostly allocated to the Delta Regional Monitoring Program and the Delta Nutrient Research Plan.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Continued implementation of the Central Valley Water Board Strategic Plan objective to engage with underserved and underrepresented communities through continuation of collaborative projects in Stockton.

- Continued to implement the Delta Nutrient Research Plan.
- Continued field monitoring efforts for harmful algal bloom projects in the Delta.
- Coordinated with other programs in the Delta and engaged on development of the Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Strategy.
- Continued to manage and implement the Delta Regional Monitoring Program, reviewed technical reports and monitoring plans for mercury, nutrients, contaminants of emerging concern, harmful algal blooms, and pesticides.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Continue to manage the Delta RMP, develop monitoring workplans, and review reports.
- Continue to implement the Delta Nutrient Research Plan, including data analysis of existing studies and continuation of field studies on nutrients, harmful algal blooms (HAB), and HAB toxins.
- Continue implementation of Racial Equity Resolution Program Goals, including engaging with DACs on joint projects focused on water quality monitoring.

CV-SALTS Program

Program Manager Angela Cleaver

Overview of the CV-SALTS Program

Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) is a collaborative stakeholder initiative. In 2018, the Board adopted the proposed Basin Plan Amendments, which include strategies, policies, and guidance to implement recommendations from the Salt and Nitrate Management Plan. The Salt and Nitrate Control Programs provide a framework for the Board to regulate salt and nitrate while also ensuring that groundwater users whose wells are impacted with nitrates are provided safe drinking water. The basin plan amendments were approved by the State Board in October 2019, along with a directive to make targeted revisions to the program. US EPA conditional approval of the federal jurisdictional components of the amendments was received in November 2020, followed by the Board's approval of the revised basin plan amendments in December 2020. The revisions were approved by State Board in June 2021 and became effective in November 2021 with OAL's approval.

Program Objective

The goals of CV-SALTS are to ensure and provide safe drinking water supply; reduce salt and nitrate loading so that ongoing discharges neither threaten to degrade high quality waters nor cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality objectives; and implement long-term, managed restoration of impaired water bodies.

Program Resources

The CV-SALTS program supports 5.20 total PYs (4.2 Planning PYs and 1.0 Non-Point Source PY), with 4.45 PY in the Rancho Cordova office and 0.5 PY in the Fresno office.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Sent Nitrate Control Program Notices to Comply to permittees in Priority 2 areas in December 2023
- Completed review and approval of Priority 1 Path A submittals
- Reviewed Priority 1 Management Zone Implementation Plans, issued findings of completeness, noticed opportunity for public comment, and held a public informational hearing in April 2024.
- Provided Annual CV-SALTS update to the State Board
- Developed a Transition Plan for the Nitrate Control Program

Priority Projects 24/25

- Implement the Nitrate Control Program Transition Plan
- Continue to support Permitting Program's effort on implementation of the Nitrate Control Program Priority 1 Management Zone Implementation Plans into permit updates.
- Ensure Priority 2 permittees comply with the Nitrate Control Program on permitting pathway selection and program requirements.
- Continue to support Phase 1 of the Salt Control Program, Prioritization & Optimization Study.

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)

Program Manager: Meredith Howard

Overview of the SWAMP Program

The California Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) was created to fulfill the legislative mandate for a unifying program that would coordinate all surface water quality monitoring conducted by the State and Regional Water Boards. The SWAMP program conducts water quality monitoring directly and through collaborative partnerships, and provides numerous reports, fact sheets and tools, all designed to support water resource management in California. SWAMP monitoring projects assess overall water quality status and trends, identify water quality problems and potential sources, and evaluate program effectiveness.

Program Objective

The Central Valley Water Board has four overarching goals for its SWAMP efforts; 1) Evaluate ambient water quality, beneficial use protection, and potential sources of impairment; 2) Evaluate effectiveness of the Water Board water quality improvement

policies; 3) Coordinate internal and external monitoring efforts to leverage limited resources, and 4) Ensure timely availability of monitoring results.

Program Resources

The SWAMP Program has 6.4 PYs total, comprised of 4.0 PYs of permanent staff time and the remainder fulfilled by 6 part-time scientific aids spread across all 3 offices. These allocations are used for multiple projects conducting monitoring, data management, implementation of racial equity goals, program management, reporting and staff training.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Completed study to investigate the sources of fecal pollution contributing to elevated bacteria levels in the Lower American River and released a video on the study that can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKzTEVvK-wE.
- Conducted summer recreational beneficial use assessments in the Upper San Joaquin River and lower American River.
- Began a new recreational beneficial use assessment study in Wolf Creek focused on E. coli.
- Continued to support monitoring efforts with the Delta Regional Monitoring Program and the Delta Nutrient Research Plan.
- Continued statewide Harmful Algal Bloom Program activities and the development of partnership monitoring programs, especially in underrepresented and underserved communities.
- Conducted post-fire water quality monitoring in the Caldor Fire burn areas.
- Supported the long-term coordinated trend monitoring project in the Sacramento River Watershed in collaboration with the Department of Water Resources.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Continue summer recreational beneficial use assessments in the Upper San Joaquin River, lower Kings River, lower American River, and Wolf Creek.
- Continue support for monitoring efforts with the Delta Regional Monitoring Program and the Delta Nutrient Research Plan.
- Continue statewide Harmful Algal Bloom Program activities maintenance of partnership monitoring programs.
- Support the long-term coordinated trend monitoring project in the Sacramento River Watershed in collaboration with the Department of Water Resources.
- Implement racial equity program goals.
- Review post-fire water quality monitoring data in the Caldor Fire burn areas.

- Continue maintenance of field and laboratory equipment and upload monitoring data to California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN).

NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

PROGRAM MANAGER: JENNIFER LABAY

Overview of the Nonpoint Source Program

Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality impairments in California. The primary nonpoint sources in the Central Valley include runoff and percolation from land use activities related to agriculture, timber harvests, cannabis cultivation, abandoned mines, recreation, and urban and rural development.

Program Objective

The objective of the Central Valley Nonpoint Source Program (NPS Program) is to restore waters impacted by NPS pollution and protect unimpaired water bodies by assessing problem sources and implementing management programs.

The Central Valley NPS Program implements the statewide *California Nonpoint Source Program Implementation Plan for 2020-2025* (Five-Year Implementation Plan), which was approved by US EPA in November 2020. The purpose of this plan is to improve the State's ability to effectively manage NPS pollution and conform to the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and, where applicable, the federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments. The Five-Year Implementation Plan focuses on impaired waterbodies and waterbodies that face adverse effects from NPS water pollution.

Program Resources

NPS Program activities funded by federal 319(h) resources are implemented by six different units spread across the Rancho Cordova office and Redding office in the Region. For FY24/25, 3.3 PYs are allocated amongst ten staff positions.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Harmful Algal Bloom Assessment – Began development of an assessment of HABs in the Region to better understand where HABs are occurring, what water quality issues may be driving them, and to identify data gaps.
- Clear Lake Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) – Continued to participate in BRC meetings to advance progress in developing implementation actions to improve water quality conditions in Clear Lake.
- Grant Outreach – Conducted outreach to Resource Conservation Districts within the Region to provide information on the NPS 319(h) grant process.
- Battle Creek – Prepared an annual report on the status of the Watershed Based Plan implementation efforts and plans for next steps.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Implement projects that address NPS 5-Year Plan focus areas – CV-SALTS, Wildfire Response, Harmful Algal Blooms, Agriculture, Water Quality Impacts from Homelessness. Begin development of the next 5-Year Plan, which will cover 2025-2030. One focus will be on prioritizing implementation efforts for communities based on racial equity and environmental justice concerns.

Administration

Administrative Support Program

Program Manager: Kelli Garver

Overview of the Administrative Support Program

The Regional Board employs approximately 310.7 permanent, and 29 temporary part-time employees. Of those staff, 21 serve as our Administrative Section team. The Administrative Support Program provides administrative support for the management of 19 technical and regulatory programs across three offices (Rancho Cordova, Redding and Fresno) within the Central Valley Water Board.

Our Administrative program staff play a key role in our infrastructure, not only in the day-to-day operations, but also working within the regulatory program areas to ensure that our staffing resources are used efficiently. Our team is responsible for activities that are related to budget projection and tracking, contract/grant development and management, procurement, managing laboratory services, record keeping, billing, personnel/human resources, recruitment, physical distribution of mail/electronic content management, vehicle fleet, data management, and logistics.

Program Goals

The Administrative Support Program serves to support the Region's mission, initiatives and priorities by providing constant, reliable administrative assistance to our customers, both internally and externally, while applying the highest standards and ethics.

Resources

A total of 16.8 personnel years (PYs) has been allocated between all three offices in the Central Valley Region for Fiscal Year 24/25: 4.5 PY in Fresno, 2.0 PY in Redding and 9.7 PY in the Rancho Cordova office.

Administrative Support Program staff also provide 5.8 PY program-specific support to the following program areas:

- Cannabis
- Cleanup
- CV-SALTS

- Irrigated Lands
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- Point Source Permitting
- Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Programs.
- 401 Certification

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Over 1,500 items surveyed out during the office space optimization priority project (e.g. outdated/broken office equipment, furniture, chairs and garage cleanup items).
- Rancho Cordova's executive area relocation successfully completed and with minimal disruption. One executive conference room and three executive staff offices relocated.
- Implemented and successfully rolled out shared and hoteling cubicle spaces and plans in the Rancho Cordova and Fresno offices.
- Successfully initiated and processed approximately 140 Requests for Personnel Action (RPAs) through the Water Board's electronic Bizflow system.

Priorities 24/25

- The Administrative Support Program will continue to focus its efforts on efficiency, consistency, and quality in our core activities. Administrative Support management and staff will continue to review and evaluate our internal processes to develop and enhance efficiency to meet the growing administrative needs in all three offices.
- Coordinate with State Water Board on the development of resources/guides to assist our hiring managers with recruitment efforts to ensure our Region selects the most qualified candidates while following applicable laws and rules, agency processes, provisions of relevant bargaining unit contracts, the State Water Board's Racial Equity Work Plan, and as the Central Valley Water Board's Regional Racial Equity Resolution.
- Program staff will work continue to work with State Board's Division of Administrative Services and the Department of General Service (DGS) to redesign and reconfigure the Rancho Cordova's office footprint to meet our business and operational needs per DGS' Statewide Telework Policy and the hybrid working environment.

Special Permitting Programs

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

PROGRAM MANAGER: SUE MCCONNELL

Overview of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

In the Central Valley region, there are approximately 30,000 irrigated agricultural operations on over 6 million acres of land. The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) regulates these operations to protect beneficial uses of surface and groundwater.

Growers who are part of a third-party group (coalitions) are regulated under one commodity-specific and seven geographic General Orders. There are 14 coalitions assisting growers comply with the General Orders. There is also a General Order for growers who choose to be regulated individually.

Coalitions monitor waters of the state and develop management plans to address water quality problems, while growers implement practices to protect water quality.

Program Objective

The objective of the ILRP is to prevent discharges from irrigated lands from causing adverse impacts to beneficial uses in surface and groundwater through General Order implementation, appropriate compliance, outreach, enforcement, and coordination with all interested parties. This includes working to implement the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water while also acknowledging the value of a healthy and sustainable irrigated agricultural industry in the Central Valley.

Implementation of the General Orders includes oversight of coalition and grower activities and management of water quality data. Compliance and outreach activities include maximizing grower enrollment and Order compliance. Coordination is facilitated through regular stakeholder meetings and other venues.

Program Resources

Resources capable of funding 18.3 full-time staff are dedicated to this program and distributed between the three offices of the Central Valley Water Board. About 60% of the resources fund planning, monitoring and implementation activities as well as program management. This includes implementation of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs' requirements and development of alternative regulatory frameworks for low threat irrigated agricultural activities. About 40% of the resources fund compliance and outreach activities which include oversight of the on-farm drinking water well monitoring requirements.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Approved 16 surface water quality management plan completions, based on water quality data documenting compliance, coalition outreach and grower implementation of management practices.
- Maintained 99% notification rate to users of impacted drinking water wells.
- Completion of Fish Friendly Farming Grant.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Continue implementation of drinking water well monitoring requirements and prioritize notification to users of impacted drinking water wells and coordination with Management Zones.
- Work with coalition and EJ representatives on updates of Groundwater Quality Management Plans
- Approve acceptable nitrogen applied/removed (A/R) ratios for crops within the region
- Begin work to revise TLBA and ESJ General Orders for Board consideration of CV-SALTS Priority 1 Management Zone exception requests for nitrate
- Coordinate with State Board staff on convening a second Irrigated Lands Expert Panel

Oil Field Program

PROGRAM MANAGER: ALEX OLSEN

Overview of the Oil Field Program

Most California oil production occurs in the Central Valley. Formation water produced with the oil, known as produced wastewater, comprises the largest volume of wastes generated by oil production. Produced wastewater is typically saline, and disposed of by land application, primarily ponds, or by underground injection. Some is recycled on crops. Other oil field (OF) wastes include drilling muds and solids and sludges generated when tanks and equipment are cleaned.

The Oil Field Program employes 22 staff to regulate produced wastewater disposal and reuse, underground injection control (UIC) practices, and well stimulation practices (SB4) to ensure the protection of water quality.

Program Objective

Oil Field produced wastewater is often high in salts and boron, and can contain significant amounts of organic compounds. Discharges to land have the potential to adversly impact beneficial use waters. Similarly, improperly sited underground injection control wells and stimulated wells have the potential to adversly impact benefical use waters. The objective of the Oil Field Program is to properly regulate oil field discharges and oversee monitoring activities to ensure the protection of surface and groundwaters

and human health. This includes issuing effective regulatory orders for discharges to land and reviewing proposed aquifer exemption applications, UIC permits, and SB4 related groundwater monitoring programs to ensure permitted acitvities are protective of water quality.

Program Resources

Subprogram	Person Years - Positions
Discharge to Land Activities	8.60
UIC Activities	10.05
SB4 Activities	3.35
Total	22

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- The adoption and implementation of the three Oil Field General Orders for Discharges to Land (GOs) allows the Oil Field Program to engage in the process of adaptive prioritization. Resources can be focused on projects that may be a greater threat to beneficial use waters (GO number 2) versus those projects where potential impact to beneficial use waters is much less (GO numbers 1 & 3). During FY 23/24, issued 2 Notice of Applicability (NOAs) for coverage under one of the GOs, and a notice of termination for 2 existing NOAs.
- Approved 16 pond closure plans.
- Closed 3 facilities that previously used ponds for produced wastewater disposal.
- Conducted 95 inspections.
- Reviewed 3 aquifer exemptions.
- Issued 47 UIC project review letters.
- Reviewed 17 SB4 groundwater monitoring reports.
- Issued a 13267 Order requiring a West Side operator to assess the extent of groundwater impacts associated with a groundwater mound identified in SB4 groundwater monitoring reports.

Priority Projects 24/25

For FY24/25, program staff will continue developing an inventory list to assess which sites are located near DAC and BIPOC communities. This inventory list and associated CalEnviroScreen scores will be used to identify sites for program work prioritization.

Once priority sites have been identified, program staff will then begin planning for potential outreach meetings with communities near high priority sites to provide information regarding work being performed as part of the Oil Field Program.

LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM

PROGRAM MANAGER: JOHN T. MURPHY, PG, CHG

Overview of the Land Disposal Program

The Land Disposal Program regulates the discharge of solid and liquid waste to land for treatment, storage, and disposal in waste management units at landfills, waste piles, land treatment units, and surface impoundments. Applicable regulations to these discharges are found in Chapter 15 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (Chapter 15) for hazardous wastes and in Title 27 for nonhazardous wastes. Waste discharges primarily include nonhazardous wastes comprised of municipal solid wastes (MSW), designated wastes, and inert wastes. Regulations are implemented through the issuance of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) that define prescriptive and performance standards for waste containment, monitoring, and closure.

Program Objective

The focus of the Land Disposal Program is primarily preventative in nature. In general, waste cannot be discharged directly to the ground surface without impacting groundwater or surface water quality, and therefore must be contained to isolate environmental exposure. To ensure containment, the program issues WDRs and Notices of Applicability and regulates over 225 facilities. WDRs will continue to be issued or revised based on their threat to water quality, whether compliance and enforcement concerns require permit revisions, and whether the facility's financial assurances must be updated to address potential closure costs. Success can be measured, in part, by the discharger's compliance with monitoring programs established in WDRs.

Program Resources

13.3 PY and two task IDs are assigned to Land Disposal Program staff across the Redding, Rancho Cordova, and Fresno offices. Staff charge time to either an active landfill task ID for facilities that pay active tipping fees or a closed landfill task ID with more time charged to active landfill work. Core activities include WDR or general order issuance or revision, design and construction report reviews, inspections, and general case and database management.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Issued nine WDRs and rescinded one WDR.
- Enrolled four discharges in the Composting General Order.
- Completed 20 permitting and construction related inspections.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Continue to prioritize Land Disposal Program projects for WDR updates and develop prioritization criteria, including proximity to disadvantaged communities and CalEnviroScreen Scores.
- Assess the amount of effort by staff and number of sites where composting is occurring or in development.

CONFINED ANIMAL FACILITIES PROGRAM

PROGRAM MANAGER: SCOTT HATTON

Overview of the Confined Animal Facilities Program

The Central Valley has a variety of agricultural operations that rely on animals (cows, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry). Confined Animal Facilities (CAFs) are those where livestock are held and fed for a significant part of the time, as opposed to grazing, where livestock eat forage that grows in pastures or rangeland. Federally defined Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) are a subset of CAFs that exceed certain size thresholds and that threaten to discharge to surface water. The Board has no CAFOs within its jurisdiction and instead regulates CAFs under provisions of the California Water Code.

Most CAFs in the Central Valley are dairies. There are also a significant number of feedlots (beef cattle and support stock for dairies) and poultry facilities.

Program Objective

The objective of the CAF Program is to ensure the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water; protect all beneficial uses of water potentially affected by discharges from CAFs; and preserve the benefits of a healthy and sustainable livestock industry. To achieve this, our objective is to protect surface water and groundwater resources by regulating waste discharges from CAFs.

Discharges from CAFs include manure, wastewater, and storm water runoff that may contain waste constituents. The primary constituents of concern in these discharges are salts and nitrogen (particularly nitrate leaching to groundwater). The permits regulating CAFs typically include requirements for animal housing and corrals, production areas, ponds or lagoons, and land application areas (cropland).

Program Resources

There are 12 staff working full-time in the CAF Program, supplemented by 4 staff with a percentage of their time dedicated to the Program, for a total of about 14 PYs. Staff are equally divided between the Rancho Cordova and Fresno offices. Staff from the Rancho Cordova office also oversee CAFs in the area normally covered by the Redding office.

Staff generally spend about 60 percent of their time on compliance and enforcement, and about 40 percent on permitting activities. Permitting activities include drafting or amending orders and enrolling facilities under general orders.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Worked to bring CAFs into compliance with CV-SALTS notices to comply.
- Conducted 226 inspections.
- Reviewed and issued approval letters for 50 lined pond related reports.
- Completed two enforcement orders for off-property discharges, overapplying to land application areas, or monitoring violations.
- Issued 359 domestic well nitrate exceedance letters requiring operators to notify persons that may use the wells that they exceed the drinking water standard for nitrate nitrogen.
- Issued 139 Notice of Violation letters to dairy, bovine, and poultry facilities that did not submit their annual reports.
- Participated in the California Department of Food and Agriculture's dairy digester grant program and other manure management practices that reduce climate pollutants.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Revise the Dairy General Order as directed by the State Water Resources Control Board.
- Conduct outreach and enforcement as necessary to ensure CAFs comply with CV-SALTS Salt and Nitrogen Control Programs.
- Continue to participate in California Department of Food and Agriculture's grant program facilitating digesters and alternative manure management technologies.
- Prioritize compliance with previously-issued directives to CAFs with significant compliance issues with corresponding Waste Discharge Requirements General Orders.

MINES PROGRAM

PROGRAM MANAGER: GEORGE LOW

Overview of the Mines Program

Central Valley Water Board staff regulate 109 mine sites with known or potential water quality impacts. This is a subset of the 47,000 abandoned mine sites with physical and/or environmental hazards identified throughout California by the Department of Conservation. Most mine sites regulated by the Central Valley Water Board are closed and abandoned mines that have not operated for decades, and many have not operated for more than 100 years. Discharges of waste from these mine sites can have

devastating effects on receiving waters and can significantly limit or obliterate beneficial uses for miles downstream. Primary pollutants from mine sites include low pH and heavy metals.

Program Objective

The Mines Program oversees the discharges of waste from active and inactive mines. Discharges from active mines, or mines that are closing or under post-closure care, are regulated through the issuance of waste discharge requirements (WDRs). The ultimate programmatic goal for inactive mines (including abandoned mines) is to eliminate surface water and groundwater impacts from past mining and prevent further degradation of waters of the State. Mines are regulated primarily by CCR Title 27, State Water Resources Control Board Resolution Order 92-49, and other laws and regulations for the closure of mine sites and cleanup. Cleanup actions may be facilitated using voluntary agreements, permitting mechanisms or via enforcement orders.

Program Resources

During FY24/25, a total of 6.44 PY has been allocated towards Mines Program oversight, of which 4.69 PY is directed towards permitting, compliance and enforcement.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Staff conducted 47 mine inspections to assess site conditions and compliance.
- Progress at Priority Sites
    - Afterthought Mine – May 2024 the site was proposed for listing on the National Priorities List (NPL) and will likely be listed in fall 2024.
    - Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine – A Record of Decision for Operable Unit No. 1 issued by the EPA in November 2023.
    - Walker Mine – Staff conducted multiple site visits to ensure the proper transfer and accessibility of the mine.
    - Mt. Diablo Mercury Mine – EPA Site Investigation April 2024. Initial step towards the listing of the site on the NPL.
    - Bully Hill/Rising Star Mine – August 2023 sampling project was conducted to support future planning efforts. Progress was made to secure additional funding for the site. Existing trust funds end in 2024.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Prioritize Mine Cleanup or Oversight Based on Threat to Water Quality and Disproportionate Environmental Burdens – Develop individual action plans for select mines in support of the region's racial equity goals.
- Progress at Priority Sites

- Afterthought Mine – Work with EPA on NPL efforts.
- Newton Mine – Work with Department of Conservation on funding to address water quality issues.
- Iron Mountain Mine – Support EPA in developing a final remedy and updating a Memorandum of Understanding.
- Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine – Work with EPA and stakeholders to identify, select, and implement remedies to address the mercury flux to Clear Lake.
- Walker Mine – Oversee Atlantic Richfield Company compliance with enforcement order requirements.
- Bully Hill/Rising Star Mine – Assess performance of site infrastructure and evaluate long-term corrective actions.

CANNABIS PROGRAM

PROGRAM MANAGER: JASON SCHROEDER, PG

Overview of the Program

The Central Valley Water Board's Cannabis Regulatory Program regulates waste discharges associated with cannabis cultivation and related ground disturbance activities. The Program is implemented through the Principals and Guidelines for Cannabis Cultivation (Policy) and the statewide Cannabis Cultivation General Order. Water Board staff engage in coordinated multi-agency permitting actions, compliance inspections, and if necessary, targeted enforcement actions against cultivators who fail to comply with permitting requirements. Cannabis Regulatory Program staff regularly coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, state cannabis licensing agencies, local regulatory agencies, and state and local law enforcement agencies.

Program Objectives

The Cannabis Regulatory Program focuses on four core objectives:

- Increase enrollments in the General Order;
- Perform targeted enforcement in high value watersheds;
- Continue education and outreach to cultivators;
- Coordinate with other agencies at the state and local level

Through implementation of these objectives, the Program strives to prevent cultivation activities from negatively impacting water quality. Impacts stem from: erosion and sediment discharge associated with ground disturbing activities including cultivation pads, access roads, and dam construction; use and improper storage of fertilizers, pesticides, and fuels; improper septage disposal, and poor housekeeping. Through implementation of the statewide Policy and General Order, and the Program's core

objectives and proper best management practices, impacts to water quality can be prevented.

Resources

The Central Valley Water Board's Cannabis Regulatory Program is currently supported by 7 PY in technical staff and 1.5 PY in managerial staff.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- 57 enforcement inspections and accompanying Notices of Violation and Inspection Reports,
- Issued two Cleanup and Abatement Orders,
- Conducted 12 multi-County outreach events,
- Issued 15 Notices to Enroll and 14 Water Code section 13260 Orders as part of an enrollment enforcement effort in Nevada County,
- Recorded presentations on introduction to the Cannabis General Order in Spanish and Hmong and uploaded these videos to YouTube with links on the Water Board website.

Priorities 24/25

- Conduct enrollment enforcement in priority watersheds to increase enrollment of potential legal cultivation sites,
- Case backlog reduction and prioritization, and
- Create efficiencies and improve workflow. Given the resource limitations of the program statewide, increasing enrollment is a program priority. Staff will continue to evaluate the current status of each open case, and determine an appropriate path forward for each, up to and including progressive enforcement. Improving workflow and efficiencies will allow us to optimize performance with dedicated resources and target the Strategic Plan's Internal Process Improvements objective.
- Additional effort will put forth to add a second Cannabis unit in the Redding office.

Forest Activities Program

Program Manager: Angela Wilson

Overview of the Forest Activities Program

The Forest Activities Program (Program) largely addresses nonpoint source pollution (NPS) caused by land use activities related to forestland management across roughly 16 million acres of federal and non-federal lands in the Central Valley Region. Forestland management activities include pre-fire fuels treatments, commercial timber harvesting, post-fire salvage and recovery activities, and pesticide/herbicide use.

Program Objective

The objective of the Program is to prevent discharges of waste from land management activities from negatively impacting water quality by, establishing performance standards through permitting, assessing compliance, and conducting enforcement.

Program Resources

Given the extent and variety of forestland management activities across the region, the program is organized into three sections: 1) Forest Practice; commercial forestland management activities, 2) Federal Lands; activities that are conducted by or on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and 3) Utility Vegetation Management; activities conducted by utility companies to prevent or reduce wildfire risk or impacts from wildfire. There are 17.0 PYs allocated across all three offices

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Proposed Federal NPS Permit Development/Implementation: Staff completed the development of draft permit and EIR to regulate NPS discharges of waste on USFS and BLM lands throughout the Central Valley.
- Online Training and Certification: Staff, working with a contractor, produced a high-quality multi-module training and certification program that would accompany the proposed Federal NPS Permit. The training will allow the USFS and BLM to leverage all levels of staff, including seasonal staff, for permit implementation.
- Pesticide Lab Methodology Development: Staff continued to lead and provided subject matter expertise in the development of new laboratory methods to quantify pesticides and there degradates. The resulting accredited and validated method will be available for use statewide. More detail regarding this project is below.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Pesticide Lab Methodology Development Project: Staff will continue to provide subject matter expertise in the review of new laboratory methods being developed to scan water samples for a long list of pesticides and degradates under the State Water Board's Office of Information Management and Analysis (OIMA) contract with Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). The resulting accredited and validated method will then be available for use statewide, both by regulatory agencies and the public. Project is expected to be completed March 2025.
- Commercial Timber Harvesting Regulatory System Streamlining: Staff will participate in a Lean 6 Sigma analysis of our internal administrative processes as part of a larger, multi-agency analysis, to evaluate potential for permitting system improvements and efficiencies under the multi-agency Review Team established under the California Forest Practice Act.

Enforcement and Cleanup

Compliance and Enforcement Program

Program Manager: Kari Holmes

Overview of the Compliance and Enforcement Program

The State Water Resources Control Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards protect the waters of the state by ensuring compliance with clean water laws and taking enforcement actions when violations occur. The Water Boards have authority under the Water Code to regulate and enforce any activity or factor that may affect the quality of the waters of the state. The Water Boards' compliance and enforcement actions are guided by the State Water Board's 5 October 2017 Enforcement Policy.

Program Objective

The Compliance and Enforcement (CE) Program aims to protect water quality, regulate facilities which have the potential to pollute water, and enforce state and federal laws and policies. To assess compliance with waste discharge and other requirements, staff document and track violations of the requirements in various databases. Where violations occur, staff are responsible for taking swift and fair enforcement actions. To do this, CE staff must conduct inspections, respond to complaints, identify sites requiring a permit, provide technical and regulatory oversight, issue enforcement actions consistent with the Enforcement Policy to ensure compliance and protection of human health, the environment, and water quality.

Program Resources

For Region 5, there are 310.7 employees across all three offices representing 39 personnel years (PY) working in C/E (15 PY in Fresno; 4 PY in Redding; and 20 PY in Sacramento). These resource allocations do not include the Underground Storage Tank and Site Cleanup Programs.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Inspections – Staff performed 1,688 inspections under the NPDES, WDR, Stormwater, Confined Animal Feeding Operations, Timber Harvest, Site Cleanup, and Underground Storage Tank programs.
- Enforcement Actions – Staff performed 942 enforcement actions including Notices to Comply, Notices of Violation, Notices of Stormwater Noncompliance, Technical Reports, Cleanup and Abatement Orders, Time Schedule Orders, Cease and Desist Orders, and Administrative Civil Liabilities.
- Steelhead Creek – Worked in collaboration with the City of Sacramento, flood control agencies, and watershed groups cleaned over 44 tons of trash and restore the habitat in Steelhead Creek. Over the last 5 years, this collaborated effort has removed over 247 tons of trash and debris from Steelhead Creek.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Inspections – CE staff are scheduled to perform approximately 1,500 inspections in FY 2024/2025 under the NPDES, WDR, Stormwater, Confined Animal Feeding Operations, Timber Harvest, Site Cleanup, and Underground Storage Tank programs.
- Permitting and Compliance & Enforcement Communication – Program staff will meet regularly to discuss pre-issue papers prepared by permitting and CE staff for facilities prior to WDR adoption. Direction will be provided by management and the AEO (Executive Sponsor).
- Compliance with CV-SALTS Program – CE staff will track 1000+ facilities' notice to comply responses, which will be distributed among permitting and C/E staff to review, evaluate, approve, and follow-up. Anticipate formal enforcement actions will take place this fiscal year.
- Water Quality Issues Related to Homeless Encampments – Continue engaging with stakeholders to form groups to tackle water quality related homelessness efforts by working cooperatively, leveraging resources, and coordinating efforts. Where necessary, initiate enforcement activities.

Site Cleanup Program

Program Manager: Christopher Flower

Overview of the Site Cleanup Program

The Site Cleanup Program (SCP) regulates and oversees the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites. Staff oversee investigation and cleanup actions at sites that have been impacted by releases of pollutants to soil, soil gas, groundwater, surface water, sediments, and indoor air. SCP sites include large industrial facilities, military bases, oil refineries, factories, and smaller facilities such as dry cleaners and plating shops. Many properties are in urban areas and environmental justice communities and cleanup often results in contaminant removal, reduced impacts to water resources, and economic growth. The types of pollutants encountered at SCP sites are diverse and include fertilizers, heavy metals, solvents, and more.

Program Objective

The primary objective of the SCP is to protect and restore water quality for beneficial uses, regulate practices which have the potential to pollute water, and enforce state and federal laws and policies. SCP staff also implement measures to ensure sensitive receptors are protected from contaminants in soil, soil gas, and surface water. To achieve this, SCP staff identify contaminated sites, provide technical and regulatory oversight of cleanup activities, and ensure that remedies result in site restoration and protection of human health, the environment and water quality.

Program Resources

34.9 PY are divided amongst the regulatory oversight of Private, Military, and Department of Energy (D.O.E.) sites. Some sites, such as the Aerojet Remediation site, are very large multifaceted investigation and cleanup sites that require significant staff hours.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Reviewed over 500 site characterization reports.
- Provided regulatory closure to 31 Site Cleanup projects.
- Advanced 14 Site Cleanup projects from the assessment phase to the remediation phase.
- Provided regulatory closure to nine Military projects.
- Advanced three Military projects from the assessment phase to the remediation phase.
- Enrolled five new projects for funding through the Site Cleanup Sub Account Program (SCAP).
- Oversaw the removal of over 20 million pounds of contaminants from Site Cleanup and Military projects.

Priority Projects 24/25

- Develop a Site Cleanup Program site ranking system to ensure sites are incorporated into core work appropriately. This ranking system will include elements of environmental risk, contaminant severity, and will include trackable metrics for addressing sites in overburdened communities.
- Ensure cleanup cases in overburdened communities with limited progress are nominated for or encouraged to apply for funding through the State Water Board's SCAP funding programs.

Underground Storage Tanks

Program Manager: Matthew Buffleben

Overview of the UST Program

The Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program protects and restores the beneficial uses of water and human health from the effects associated with the release of fuel hydrocarbons from UST systems. These goals are accomplished by defining the extent of the contamination, identifying potential exposure pathways, evaluating the amount of exposure occurring and, if necessary, limiting the exposure by removing or remediating the hydrocarbons.

Program Objective

Board staff provide oversight of cleanup sites. Since inception of the program, over 3,000 UST releases have been investigated, remediated, and closed at the direction of the Board. While only a few hundred sites remain open, a large portion of these are uniquely challenging or suffer from a lack of viable responsible parties to lead the investigation and remediation of the release.

Staff will continue to work with responsible parties to close active UST cases in as short of time needed to complete the work. When applicable, the Program will implement the state's Low-Threat Closure Policy and concentrate work on the remaining high-threat cases.

Program Resources

The staff resources for the UST program has been steady for several years. Currently, the Program is allocated 13.82 Person Years (PYs) for technical staff and seniors and 1.9 PYs for support and management.

FY 23/24 Accomplishments

- Closed 53 cases (exceeding the target of 47 case closures).
- Moved 8 cases into active remediation.
- Issued 7 enforcement orders.
- Issued 11 Notices of Violation.
- Reviewed 107 closure requests and work plans. Only 8 were not responded to in the 60-day timeframe (92% success rate).

Priority Projects 24/25

- Priority cases include sites with immediate threat to drinking water supplies or impacts to drinking water wells. The Sacramento office has seven priority cases, and the Redding office has three.
- As single walled tanks are removed by the 31 December 2025 regulatory deadline, staff will work with local agencies to determine if there are unauthorized releases at these sites. There are 214 facilities with single walled tanks in the Central Valley region. Based on our experience with single walled tank removals in California, approximately 25% of those facilities will become cases.