
State Water Resources Control Board

February 2025 State Board Liaison Report - Region 9¹

Recent Media Releases

- December 17: [As the federal Safe Drinking Water Act turns 50, California is poised to address new challenges](#)
- December 17: [State, federal agencies celebrate new Tijuana River Channel trash booms pilot project](#)
- December 18: [SAFER drinking water advisory group welcomes new appointees](#)
- January 21: [State Water Board readopts emergency flow regulation for Scott, Shasta River watershed](#)
- January 22: [Point Buckler Island sold to John Muir Land Trust for environmental restoration](#)

Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs

As of December 2024, the Office of Public Participation has transitioned to the newly formed **Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA)**. This change reflects the expanded scope of our work and the need to ensure these efforts are elevated and clearly defined within our organization. In 2021, the Board combined the Office of Public Affairs and the Office of Public Participation under the new Communications Office. While this structure made sense at the time, recent developments – such as new Executive Orders, legislative changes, and the Board’s racial equity and tribal efforts – have expanded the Office of Public Participation’s role beyond what this configuration was originally intended to support. We’re now restructuring to elevate the office’s importance and better align our operations with these developments.

Response to Los Angeles Firestorm

Since January 7, when major wildfires ignited in areas of metropolitan Los Angeles, the state board has been participating directly in response and recovery efforts through its Division of Drinking Water and Emergency Management Program (EMP), in close coordination with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. Division staff are providing technical support to impacted water systems, advising on drinking water notices and inspecting damage. EMP staff are currently deployed to the CalOES Debris Removal Task Force (removing household debris) and the CalOES Watershed Debris Flow Task Force (mitigating post-fire debris flow and contaminated runoff). State Board

¹ Report prepared by Meredith Thompson & approved by Eric Oppenheimer. Edited by Nichole Morgan on February 11, 2025.

staff are also supporting interagency coordination and external communications, and both state and regional board staff are volunteering to support recovery efforts and advise on best management practices to protect water quality during debris removal.

Making Conservation a California Way of Life

On January 6 the state board posted a frequently asked questions (FAQs) document for the *Making Conservation a California Way of Life* regulation. The document is located on the program's website under "[Fact Sheets, FAQs, and Primer](#)". The regulation is effective as of January 1, 2025, and the text is available on [Westlaw](#). Urban retail water suppliers are required to submit an annual urban water use objective report by January 1st of each year. For reports due January 1, 2025, 75% were submitted on time and as of January 7th, 2025, an additional 2% of reports have been submitted.

2026 Integrated Report

On February 11 [state board staff held](#) a remote public workshop to provide an overview of the 2026 California Integrated Report. Staff from the State and Regional Water Boards will be available to answer questions after a brief staff presentation. Visit the [program webpage](#) for more information.

Working Meetings on Draft Sacramento/Delta Updates to the Bay-Delta Plan

State board staff will hold a series of technical working meetings to receive further input from the water community, including water users, environmental groups, and California Native American Tribes, on draft updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan). The purpose of the working meetings is for staff to receive specific input on the October 2024 [draft Sacramento/Delta updates](#) to the Bay-Delta Plan, which include regulatory provisions based on the Board's September 2023 [draft Staff Report](#) and provisions based on voluntary agreements (VAs) proposed by public water agencies and state and federal agencies known as the [Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Proposal](#). For additional information, see the [letter](#) informing interested persons of the working meetings.

Administrative Hearings Office

Delta Conveyance Project

The DCP [hearing begins](#) on February 18th with policy statements and consideration of remaining procedural issues. More information can be found on the [project webpage](#).

Sites Project Authority

Sites Reservoir public hearings will continue on February 21, and 24-26. The hearing will be held by Zoom teleconference on all days. More details can be found in the [seventh amended public hearing notice](#) and the Administrative Hearings Office [program webpage](#).

CALIFORNIA WATER SUPPLY STRATEGY and IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

The Water Supply Strategy outlines California's strategy and priority actions to adapt and protect water supplies based on new data and accelerated climate change. To ensure California has the new water needed for generations to come, this strategy outlines four sets of actions the State will pursue, sets targets, and identifies specific implementation steps to prepare California for its new climate reality.

Division of Water Rights

Water Rights Modernization (*Action 4.3*)

[Telemetry Pilot Project](#). The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a contractor to install and operate water telemetry equipment for the pilot program under development in the Russian River was released for bids on 1/10/25 (contract #24-030-300). Division staff, in collaboration with the Division of Administrative Services, will host a pre-bid conference for potential bidders. Bids are due 2/20/25.

The telemetry research unit will also host a public, virtual town hall to provide additional information on the Russian River telemetry pilot project and answer questions from the public and potential participants, on February 12, 2025. Advertisements for the town hall will be provided via email distribution lists no later than 10 days before the event and will be posted on the telemetry pilot project website. The unit is also planning several targeted, in-person outreach events: 1) info table at the North Coast Research Partnership organized by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (1/29 and 1/30) and 2) meeting of Mendocino Farm Bureau in February.