

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Derek Beauduy
MEETING DATE: December 15, 2021

ITEM: 9

California Department of Transportation, Update on the Department's Clean California Program and Compliance with Cease and Desist Order No. R2-2019-0007 Implementing Trash Requirements of the Statewide Stormwater Permit, Order No. 2012-0011-DWQ, as amended, NPDES Permit No. CAS000003

DISCUSSION

This item provides an update on the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') [Clean California Initiative](#) and compliance with the subject [Cease and Desist Order](#) (CDO) the Board issued to Caltrans in February 2019 to control trash discharges.

Clean California Initiative

Caltrans has embarked on the Clean California Initiative, a three-year, \$1.1-billion program authorized in the 2021 state budget to increase trash removal from state highways, fund local beautification and litter abatement projects, and implement a public education campaign. This statewide initiative dedicates approximately \$418 million to litter abatement and over \$580 million to support state and local beautification projects and municipal coordination. The local Caltrans district, District 4, will receive funds from the program to hiring additional maintenance staff and to deliver beautification projects.

Clean California will significantly increase Caltrans' funding commitments to control trash, which could expedite Caltrans' CDO compliance by increasing trash pick-ups and funds for cooperative implementation projects that implement green stormwater infrastructure and trash capture with local municipalities. This investment would also support improved monitoring of trash conditions by Caltrans maintenance staff, which will support the CDO's visual trash assessment requirements.

Caltrans staff will provide a presentation on the Initiative.

Cease and Desist Order Compliance Update

Caltrans continues to implement trash control measures as required by the CDO, which provides enforceable acreage benchmarks and a schedule for their achievement, as well as planning and reporting requirements sufficient to demonstrate that Caltrans will substantially control trash discharges from the significant trash generating areas (STGAs) of its right-of-way (ROW) by 2026, and fully control those discharges by 2030.

The [August 2021 Executive Officer's Report](#) (EOR) described the progress that Caltrans has made toward meeting CDO requirements. As noted in the EOR, Caltrans achieved the CDO's 2020 benchmark of 2,000 acres of ROW controlled for trash through a combination of on-ROW retrofit projects, cooperative implementation projects with local municipalities, and ROW

treated by existing municipal structural trash controls. The next benchmark requires control of trash discharges from 4,000 acres of ROW by June 30, 2022. Caltrans projects it will meet that through on-ROW and cooperative projects, and also by demonstrating trash control via regular and enhanced maintenance actions in areas where roadside vegetation detains trash before it can discharge to the storm drain or surface waters. Caltrans is conducting pilot studies on enhanced maintenance measures and vegetation trash controls and expects to demonstrate their effectiveness in controlling trash in time to meet the 2022 benchmark.

The CDO requires submittal, by December 31, 2021, of an updated Trash Control Implementation Workplan that describes how Caltrans will plan, fund, and implement trash control measures sufficient to meet CDO benchmarks, and a Feasibility Study Report that assesses the feasibility of implementing trash controls over no less than 50 percent of Caltrans' STGA ROW in the region by December 31, 2021. These submittals will provide staff with important information to assess progress and projections toward meeting the 2022 and future trash control benchmarks.

We continue to meet regularly with Caltrans staff to discuss CDO compliance. This has resulted in progress toward identifying additional trash control project opportunities both on-ROW and with local municipalities, solidifying funding commitments, further developing trash control implementation feasibility criteria, and assessing and demonstrating the effectiveness of trash control measures other than full trash capture, such as enhanced maintenance and vegetation controls. The upcoming Workplan and Feasibility Study submittals will allow staff to further assess Caltrans' projected compliance with the CDO's 2022 and future benchmarks to ensure progress continues toward meeting the benchmarks and controlling trash from Caltrans ROW.