

# CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD PROGRAM PRIORITIES 2022/23

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has 19 water quality programs. Each December, the Board considers priorities for each of these programs, which will be incorporated into the workplans for the upcoming fiscal year (which begins on July 1).



## Contents

Permitting Programs.....	1
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting Program.....	1
Waste Discharge Requirements Program .....	1
Water Quality Certifications Program.....	2
Stormwater Program.....	3
Planning, Monitoring and Assessment Programs.....	4
Basin Planning Program .....	4
CV-SALTS .....	5
Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) .....	5
Nonpoint Source Program .....	6
Administration .....	7
Administrative Support Program .....	7
Special Permitting Programs.....	7
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) .....	7
Oil Fields Program .....	8
Land Disposal (Landfill) Program .....	9
Confined Animal Facilities Program.....	10
Mines Program .....	11
Cannabis Program.....	12
Forest Activities Program.....	13
Enforcement and Cleanup.....	14
Compliance and Enforcement Program.....	14
Site Cleanup Program .....	15
Underground Storage Tank Program.....	16

Descriptions of the water quality programs, identification of the Program Managers, the resources allocated to these programs, and last year's 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.

## **Permitting Programs**

### **NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMITTING PROGRAM**

#### **CV-SALTS Program Implementation**

In FY 20/21, the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) Basin Plan amendments became effective and the Nitrate and Salt Control Programs were established. Initiation of the Salt Control Program required the Board to issue notices to comply to many dischargers regulated under the NPDES Program. In FY 21/22 NPDES program staff will continue to coordinate with and support CV-SALTS program staff to implement the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs.

#### **Data Quality Assurance**

Quality data is crucial for making sound permitting decisions. In FY 20/21 Board NPDES staff focused on implementing the USEPA's Sufficiently Sensitive Methods Rule and conducting mid-permit reviews to identify data quality issues early in permit terms. This effort to ensure quality data is submitted by dischargers will continue in FY 21/22.

#### **Permit Efficiency, Consistency and Quality**

In recent years, the federal government has reduced the amount of resources it has granted to the region to develop and issue permits under the NPDES program. In addition, the pandemic has put additional strain on staff resources. Increasing permitting efficiency will be a high priority for this program, along with an increased focus on permit consistency and quality. Program staff will continue to implement permit streamlining practices to ensure timely permit renewals and will continue to use procedures and tools to develop permits that consistently meet applicable requirements of the Clean Water Act and NPDES regulations.

### **WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM**

#### **CV-SALTS Program Implementation**

The Waste Discharge Requirements Program is at the forefront of implementing the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs. Program staff are required to review hundreds of Notices of Intent submitted under the Salt Control Program, which specify which permitting pathway permittees will comply with during Phase I of the Salt Control Program. In addition, program staff must also review dozens of technical reports and modify hundreds of existing permits under the Nitrate Control Program to add new nitrate control strategies. Implementation of the nitrate control program also requires review of the time schedules that will be proposed in various Management Zone Implementation Proposals. This work will be a priority in FY 22/23.

## **Increase Permitting Efficiency, Consistency and Quality**

Permitting efficiency will continue to be a priority, along with an increased focus on permit consistency and quality. Staff will continue to track progress in reducing the backlog of old individual WDRs that need to be updated by developing revised WDRs or by increasing the number of dischargers that get coverage under existing General Orders/Waivers. Staff are also developing strategies to increase stakeholder participation in the permitting process, particularly from underserved and underrepresented communities, consistent with the strategic objectives established in the Board's 2021 Strategic Plan.

## **Develop General Orders for Mid-Sized Wastewater Treatment Plants, Nut and Seed Drying Operations, and Food Processors**

Staff have identified three groups of discharges that are similar in nature and make up a significant number of backlogged permits that need to be updated. The three groups include: domestic wastewater treatment plants that treat more than 100,000 gallons per day, nut and seed drying operations, and food processors. Each of our offices will take the lead to develop one of these General Orders. The adoption of the new General Orders will not only result in increased regulatory consistency, but it will also significantly cut down on our permitting backlog as we enroll facilities under the new General Orders.

## **Contribute to Statewide Permit Development**

As needed, provide input on the General Orders that the State Board is working on. The adoption of statewide general orders is expected to help with reducing our permitting backlog.

## **WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS PROGRAM**

### **Timely Issuance of Certifications**

Both strict regulatory timelines and internal performance targets apply to the Water Quality Certifications program – certifications or denials must occur expeditiously after certification applications are submitted to the Central Valley Water Board. Efforts to improve on timely issuance include prioritizing staff time on projects with the highest potential for water quality impacts, streamlining the permitting process, engaging with underserved and underrepresented communities to explain the process, and workload sharing across the region. Reassessment of this process will continue to be a priority in FY 22/23.

### **Conduct Targeted Inspections and Compliance/Enforcement Actions**

Increased compliance and enforcement activities, including field inspections, has been identified as a priority since a state audit of the statewide water quality certification program identified a need to pursue violations of state-issued water quality certifications more aggressively. A target to inspect 10% of water quality certification projects is

proposed for FY 22/23. The remaining resources will be allocated to other compliance and enforcement actions, as needed.

### **Coordinate Development of Statewide General Order**

Staff will continue to coordinate with State Board in the development and implementation of a new Utility Wildfire General Order. A significant increase in workload will be required to process applications and conduct compliance and enforcement for activities generated by SB 901.

### **Implement Permit Processing Improvements for Caltrans Projects**

AB 1282 requires state agencies involved with permitting of Caltrans projects to identify and implement improvements to permitting and implementation of Caltrans projects. The new Caltrans liaison position will prioritize and streamline permitting of the surge of Caltrans projects expected.

### **Adapt to Federal/State Changes**

Staff will be required to adapt to ongoing federal changes involving the interpretation of “waters of the United States” as well as impending changes to U.S. EPA’s Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Rule. In addition, new General Orders are expected to be adopted by State Board for Large Habitat Restoration Projects and Utility Wildfire Mitigation that will require staff training and adaptation.

### **Staff Training and Development**

Many policies, regulations, and general orders that affect this program are changing. In addition, several staff have recently joined or will be joining the program in the coming months. In the coming year, there will be a critical need for additional staff training and development related to the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State, AB 1282 Caltrans work, SB 901 related work, federal rule changes, etc.

## **STORMWATER PROGRAM**

### **Renewal of Regionwide Municipal General Permit**

The current Region-wide Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit expired in September 2021 and is now administratively extended. Board staff will be engaging with stakeholders to develop a revised permit for the Board’s consideration in the first quarter of FY 2022-23. Board staff will then work with the permittees to finalize storm water management plans and seek their approval by the Board.

### **Conduct Targeted Inspections and Compliance/Enforcement Actions at Construction/Caltrans Sites**

A strong field presence has been successful at educating developers and contractors about the need for storm water pollution controls and in ensuring that they follow through with implementation of appropriate best management practices. A continued focus on field activities is proposed for the program. A target of 385 construction storm water field inspections is proposed. The remaining resources would be allocated to other compliance and enforcement actions, as needed.

### **Industrial Permit Enforcement**

A process to identify cases for follow-up has been developed. Some factors warranting a higher priority ranking for follow-up include documented pollutant benchmark concentration exceedances, repeated failure to submit reports, failure to collect water quality samples, and facilities located in disadvantaged communities identified in CalEnviroScreen. A target of 195 industrial storm water field inspections is proposed. The remaining resources would be allocated to other compliance and enforcement actions, as needed.

## **Planning, Monitoring and Assessment Programs**

### **BASIN PLANNING PROGRAM**

#### **Develop Listings/Delistings Integrated Report**

In California, Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act is implemented through a State Listing Policy that requires each Regional Board to identify water bodies in their region that do not meet, or are not expected to meet, water quality standards. With thousands of water body segments and dozens of potential pollutants, developing this list is a huge undertaking for the Planning Program. However, significant efforts at the State Water Board are being made to better integrate and analyze existing water quality data to arrive at better listing determinations. In FY22/23, continued support for the region-wide integrated report, and support for Statewide streamlining efforts, will be prioritized.

#### **TMDL Development and Implementation**

The proposed focus for the TMDL program in FY22/23 will be on implementation of current TMDLs and development of TMDLs and alternative control programs for mercury, nutrients, and/or other impairments prioritized in the Triennial Review process. Continued implementation of existing priority TMDL projects include mercury, pesticide, and nutrient TMDLs and Control Programs.

#### **Delta Strategic Plan**

The 2014 Delta Strategic Work Plan identifies priority projects that will improve water quality in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The FY22/23 proposed priorities are to continue the Delta Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) monitoring efforts for pesticides, toxicity, mercury, nutrients, and constituents of emerging concern as well as

continued implementation of the Delta Nutrient Research Plan. Additional efforts are on community outreach in Stockton and partnership building with community organizations.

## **CV-SALTS**

### **Provide Administrative Implementation Support for the Salt and Nitrate Control Plans**

In FY 22/23, staff will continue to provide support for Salt and Nitrate Control Programs' mailing efforts, tracking permittee information, and answering questions from other Central Valley Water Board program staff (e.g. Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, Waste Discharge Requirements, Confined Animals, etc.) and the public. Nitrate Control Program Notice to Comply letters for Priority 2 areas are scheduled to be mailed out in late 2022.

### **Provide Compliance & Enforcement Implementation Support**

Activities are focused on ensuring that the requirements of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are met, such as the provision of replacement drinking water to nitrate-impacted communities. Tasks include tracking program due dates, reviewing document submittals, evaluating community outreach efforts, and assessing well testing and replacement water metrics. Staff will serve as Central Valley Water Board liaisons at stakeholder implementation meetings, including Nitrate Control Program Management Zone support meetings and Salt Control Program Prioritization and Optimization meetings. Staff will also continue to support enforcement efforts directed at permittees who do not comply with program requirements.

### **Stakeholder Coordination and Public Outreach**

Staff will continue to coordinate and participate with stakeholder activities like monthly CV-SALTS Executive Committee and Public Education and Outreach Committee meetings. Staff will also participate in public workshops and meetings to educate stakeholders on the requirements of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs.

## **SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM (SWAMP)**

### **Support for Delta Monitoring Efforts**

Central Valley Water Board SWAMP will continue to fund a little over \$200,000 per year to support the Delta Regional Monitoring Program's (RMP) efforts through statewide lab contracts that offer fish tissue, toxicity, and chemistry analyses.

### **Lower American River Recreational Beneficial Use Assessment**

Central Valley Water Board SWAMP will continue to work in collaboration with various local stakeholder groups to investigate the elevated fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) levels in an area of the Lower American River that serves a disadvantaged community. The project will assess whether recreational beneficial uses are being protected,



characterize seasonal and spatial trends in FIB levels, identify potential sources of fecal contamination through the use of DNA source tracking technology, and collect data to help determine if a public health risk exists.

### **Summer Recreational Beneficial Use Assessments**

Each summer since 2007, the Central Valley Water Board has conducted Recreational Beneficial Use Assessments in popular recreational areas. Recreational beneficial uses are assessed using *E. coli* as an indicator of fecal pollution and results are posted online for the public. Targeted microbial source tracking studies will continue in several watersheds with historically high levels of *E. coli*.

### **Sacramento Watershed Coordinated Monitoring**

Central Valley Water Board SWAMP staff have coordinated with Department of Water Resource's Northern District since 2008 to monitor water quality trends in the Sacramento Watershed and will be funding ~\$175,000 during FY 22/23. The program currently monitors 56 stations throughout the watershed on a quarterly basis for a variety of constituents.

### **Freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom (FHAB) Program Support and Biostimulatory Monitoring Efforts**

SWAMP staff will continue to support the Freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom (FHAB) program and biostimulatory monitoring studies in the Central Valley region. Tasks include FHAB incident response, collaboration with partner agencies, special studies, water sampling, species identification, toxin testing and data analysis.

### **Data Management**

SWAMP staff will continue to work with State Board staff and Central Valley Water Board Program Managers to facilitate and improve the submittal process of ambient surface water quality data to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN).

## **NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM**

### **TMDL Implementation**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides funding from the Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant Program to states to implement nonpoint source (NPS) control activities, with focus on impaired water bodies. Section 319(h) Grant Program funding is used in California to support grant projects and Water Board staff time to conduct NPS control activities that are consistent with federal nonpoint source priorities. In the upcoming year, NPS Program will continue to utilize these funds for the implementation of priority TMDLs.

### **Implement NPS 5-Year Plan**

Implement projects that address NPS 5-Year Plan focus areas: CV-SALTS, Wildfire Response, Harmful Algal Blooms, Agriculture, Water Quality Impacts from Homelessness.

## **Administration**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROGRAM**

#### **Data Management and Quality Assurance**

Continue to enhance and improve administrative support in the following target areas:

- Personnel reporting
- ADA compliance/web accessibility
- Data management in the California Integrated Water Quality System (implement Phase 2 of the CIWQS FY 21/22 Workplan project).

#### **Administrative Support**

Develop additional administrative tools and/or resources to further support Central Valley Water Board staff in the following areas:

- State hiring/recruitment
- Public Records Act Requests and Records Retention.

#### **Administrative Support Survey**

The Administrative Support Program will continue to adjust priority projects and milestones as needed due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. The Administrative Support Program will continue to focus its efforts on efficiency, consistency, and quality in our core activities. Admin management and staff will continue to review and evaluate our internal processes to develop and enhance efficiency to meets the growing administrative needs in all three offices.

## **Special Permitting Programs**

### **IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM (ILRP)**

#### **Drinking Water Well Monitoring**

ILRP staff will work directly with coalition members on drinking water well monitoring requirements. Staff will continue to prioritize notifications to users of impacted drinking water wells and will work to integrate monitoring efforts under the ILRP with monitoring and replacement water efforts undertaken under the Nitrate Control Program.

#### **Implement CV-SALTS Nitrate and Salt Control Programs**

ILRP staff will be implementing requirements of the Nitrate and Salt Control Programs that have been incorporated into the ILRP coalition-based general orders. This will include participation in Management Zone meetings and provide drinking water well monitoring information to Management Zones as needed.

### **Develop Groundwater Protection Targets**

Work with coalition and Environmental Justice representatives on development of groundwater protection targets, which will be brought to the Board as an information item during FY22/23.

### **Strategic Engagement with Socially Disadvantaged Growers**

Work with UC Extension Small Farms Advisor on more targeted outreach to socially disadvantaged small growers within the region.

### **Assess Requirements in Upper Watershed/Commodity Types**

Work with UC Rangeland Watershed Specialists on potential changes to ILRP for upper-watershed areas or certain commodity types.

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

Implement outreach/enforcement tools that are most effective at achieving ILRP compliance. Prioritize compliance and enforcement for irrigation and nitrogen management reporting.

## **OIL FIELDS PROGRAM**

### **Enroll Facilities Operating Under Outdated Permits Under General Orders**

Enrolling dischargers, especially those currently operating under older Waste Discharge Requirements, under one of the three General Orders (GOs) for Discharges of Oil Field Produced Wastewater to Land will be a priority to ensure that discharges are properly regulated and protective of water quality.

### **Close/Decommission Inactive Ponds**

Staff have received many requests to close oil field produced water ponds. Staff will concentrate on closing these ponds in a manner that is protective of water quality and human health and the environment.

### **Timely Review of Aquifer Exemption Requests**

Under certain conditions, aquifers within oil fields can be designated exempt from the protections of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. This allows oil field operators to obtain project approval letters to inject fluids into these formations to enhance oil recovery and dispose of oil field wastes. The California Geologic Energy Management

Division (CalGEM), State Board, and the regional boards work together to ensure the proposed exemptions are protective of water quality (i.e., that injected wastes will not migrate out of poor-quality aquifers and potentially impact aquifers that may provide a viable source of drinking water). USEPA provides final approval of exemption projects. CalGEM issues individual project approval letters to authorize injection. Oil Field Program staff's target will be to review, in a timely manner, and make recommendations on aquifer exemption applications and underground injection control project approval letters, and to ensure that the exemptions and approvals are protective of water quality.

### **Provide Timely Review of Well Stimulation Projects**

Senate Bill 4 (SB4) regarding well stimulation activities or "fracking" resulted in changes to the Water Code that requires operators to have a groundwater monitoring program, or an exclusion therefrom, in place prior to well stimulation activities. In conjunction with State Board, the Central Valley Water Board reviews requests for exclusions, proposed groundwater monitoring programs, and submitted groundwater monitoring reports to ensure the requirements of the Water Code are being met. Staff's target will be to provide its reviews in a timely manner.

## **LAND DISPOSAL (LANDFILL) PROGRAM**

### **Revise High Priority WDRs**

Non-hazardous landfills are regulated under Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations. Permits for these facilities will continue to be 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 current potential closure costs. Adaptive management processes will be implemented to address constraints associated with limited staffing.

### **Enhance Cross-unit and Cross-Program Collaboration and Coordination**

The Program will continue to facilitate staff interests and engagement by holding internal workshops designed to enhance cross-unit and cross-program collaboration and coordination. The workshops will focus on effective techniques to address challenging, re-occurring programmatic issues to increase efficiency and consistency. In addition, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are currently being prepared which will describe the requisite procedures associated with developing Waste Discharge Requirements and the regulatory review and approval of new waste management units. Both SOPs will be completed in FY 22/23. Staff will also receive updated financial assurances training and participate in technical training related to the construction of new waste management units.

### **Support CV-SALTS Implementation**

Land Disposal Program staff will continue to coordinate with and support CV-SALTS program staff to review Notices of Intent for the Composting General Order enrollment

and requested exemptions. Specific WDRs will be revised to comply with the Nitrate and Salt Control Programs. Staff are working with industry representatives to ensure facilities in Priority 1 areas participate in the applicable Management Zones are formed and that all facilities contribute to the Prioritization and Optimization Study. This permitting effort will be integrated into the Management Zone approach. This workload will carry over from FY 22/23 into FY 23/24.

### **Collaboration and Communication with Disadvantaged Communities**

Land Disposal Program staff will increase collaboration and communication efforts with disadvantaged communities by using available data, including CalEnviroScreen, to increase outreach during the WDR revision process. The Land Disposal Program Manual will be updated to describe this effort and will include references to State Water Board's Racial Equity Resolution.

## **CONFINED ANIMAL FACILITIES PROGRAM**

### **CV-SALTS Implementation**

Notices to comply have been issued to confined animal facilities for both the Nitrate and Salt Control Programs. Staff is working with industry representatives to ensure facilities in Priority 1 areas participate in the applicable Management Zones and that all facilities contribute to the Prioritization and Optimization Study. Staff will prioritize enforcement as necessary to ensure compliance with the notices to comply. A portion of Confined Animal Facilities Program staff are helping to review Early Action Plans submitted by Management Zones.

### **Enforcement**

Cease and Desist Orders have been issued to approximately four dairies that had significant compliance issues and staff will prioritize compliance with these Orders. Staff will also prioritize the Dairy General Order's groundwater monitoring requirement for dairies and participation in the Central Valley Dairy Representative Monitoring Program. Another priority is identification of ponds where the bottom of the pond may be deeper than the highest anticipated level of groundwater. Confined Animal Facilities Program staff coordinate with staff representing the Central Valley Water Board at meetings with local IVAN (Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods) groups.

### **Dairy General Order Revision**

The Central Valley Water Board is participating in meetings with the State Water Board and petitioners as the State Water Board works to develop a precedential order potentially requiring significant changes to the Central Valley Water Board's Dairy Program. Staff will prioritize development of permit revisions based on direction from the State Water Board following the issuance of any precedential order. Any revisions to the Central Valley Water Board's General Order will include additional stakeholder outreach and proactive engagement with underserved and underrepresented communities.

## **Digesters and Composting**

As a result of grants from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, more than 100 digesters have been installed at dairies in the Central Valley over the last three or four years. Additional dairy digester projects are in the design or construction process. Staff will prioritize the review of design and post-construction reports to ensure digester projects meet Department of Food and Agriculture specifications and water quality protection standards. Staff also participates in a multi-agency workgroup to foster on-farm composting and to improve options for transport and use of composted manure by non-dairy farmers who can use the compost as a soil amendment and supplemental source of fertilizer.

## **MINES PROGRAM**

### **Develop Long-Term Management Strategy for Abandoned Mine Sites**

Program staff will continue to develop a long-term management strategy for abandoned mine sites. Consistent with Strategic Plan objectives, this effort will include internal, cross-program workgroup discussions regarding efficient oversight options and developing resources to assist staff with overcoming barriers to site stabilization and cleanup.

### **Implement Revised Water Quality Threat Prioritization Scheme**

Staff will continue ranking Central Valley Water Board mine sites using the 2020 water quality threat prioritization scheme. Staff will use the revised rankings to ensure that available resources are directed to sites posing the greatest water quality threat.

### **Review Financial Assurances for Mine Waste Management Units**

Staff will continue reviewing the financial assurances for active and closed mine waste management units to ensure each mine site has sufficient funds for closure and post-closure care and that appropriate financial assurance mechanisms are in place.

### **Assess Remaining Sites with Unknown Status on Mines Tracking List**

For mines whose status remains unknown (five sites expected to be listed as of July 2022), staff will identify the current property owner, obtain access, conduct an inspection, characterize the quality of receiving waters, assess the site's potential water quality threat, and document the findings.

### **Efforts on Key Sites**

*Rising Star Mine:* Implement projects to stabilize the site with remaining trust funds.

*Proposal to Re-Open Idaho-Maryland Mine:* Engage with project proponents, local governments, and environmental and community stakeholders on a

impending proposal to re-open mine. Consistent with Strategic Plan objectives, gain understanding of proposed project and stakeholder perspectives.

*Iron Mountain Mine Superfund Site:* Work with USEPA and other agencies to update a Memorandum of Understanding that identifies operational conditions to minimize the threat to water quality at Iron Mountain Mine. Continue implementing the USGS contract to develop a three-dimensional mixing model of Keswick Reservoir to assist with assessing the extent of impacts from Spring Creek Debris Dam discharges and developing a long-term strategy to protect water quality and fisheries in Keswick Reservoir and the Sacramento River.

*Mount Diablo Mercury Mine:* Work with California State Parks to implement remedial measures at the mine site.

*Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine Superfund Site:* Work with USEPA, other agencies, and Tribal governments to identify and select protective remedies to address the mercury flux to Clear Lake from the mine site.

*Walker Mine:* Oversee ARCO in its implementation of the Cleanup and Abatement Order requirements.

## **CANNABIS PROGRAM**

### **Increase Enrollment of Potential Legal Cultivation Sites**

Increasing enrollment in the General Order through enrollment enforcement in targeted priority watersheds, outreach and education, and coordination with local agencies is a statewide program priority. Water Code section 13260 notices to enroll will be scaled to ensure accountability. Staff will conduct outreach in priority watersheds and in the surrounding county where enrollment enforcement is occurring. Staff will continue to coordinate with local agencies to dovetail General Order enrollment and county use permit application processes.

### **Pursue Enforcement of Illegal Cultivation Sites**

Enforcement staff will conduct targeted enforcement within priority watersheds. Staff will also continue to conduct targeted enforcement in response to complaints and referrals from other agencies where evidence suggests potential or ongoing significant threats to water quality exist.

### **Create Efficiencies, Improve Workflow, and Reduce Backlog**

The program's supporting managers will continue efforts to align resources with workload. These efforts will involve evaluating and making improvements to templates, workflow, document production, and enforcement efforts to increase program efficiency and productivity regionwide and in line with the 2020 Executive Oversight Committee recommendations. The improvement to workflow will create simplified paths to compliance and more efficient enforcement processes.

## **FOREST ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

### **Compliance Oversight for Utility Companies Engaged in Vegetation Management and Post-Fire Emergency Restoration Work**

Staff will continue to prioritize compliance assistance efforts with utility companies engaged in vegetation management and post-fire emergency restoration work. Inspections, communication, identification and implementation of best management practices, and prioritization of inspection locations will continue to be the focus during FY 22/23. Staff will also continue existing efforts in working with the State Water Board to develop a statewide permit for utility corridor work not covered under the State Water Board's Construction General Stormwater Permit.

### **AB 1492 and SB 456 Reporting Requirements**

AB 1492, and now SB 456, both require agencies, including the Water Boards, produce annual reports for the legislature. Management will work closely with partner agencies to streamline data collection and analysis tools, reporting procedures, and agency recommendations to improve program efficiencies.

### **Post-Fire Response**

Program staff will continue to be highly involved in coordinating and overseeing emergency hazard tree removal projects in burn areas throughout the region. In doing so, staff will work closely with CAL FIRE, CalRecycle, and their contractors to ensure work is conducted expeditiously and in accordance with applicable permitting mechanisms and the Environmental Protection Plan.

### **Develop Federal Nonpoint Source Permit**

Program management and staff will continue to prioritize efforts to develop a proposed permit for nonpoint source activities conducted by the USFS and BLM on federal lands. FY 22/23 permitting activities will include final permit development, CEQA, public comment periods and a board hearing for consideration of adoption.

### **SB 456, and the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan**

SB 456 and the Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan has resulted in and will continue to result in increased workload on program staff to provide support, assistance and regulatory/policy solutions for pertinent Key Actions outlined in the Plan. Aligning the Board's permitting mechanisms with those of CAL FIRE and the Department of Fish and Wildlife are required under SB 456 and are important components to achieve Action Plan objectives.

### **Monitoring Activities Related to New Monitoring Techniques**

Staff will continue working with the State Water Board's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program to obtain laboratory accreditation for laboratory analysis of solid-



phase extraction media for sampling of pesticides such that the method can be used statewide.

## **Enforcement and Cleanup**

### **COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

#### **Permitting and Compliance and Enforcement Coordination**

Staff and seniors meet with Compliance and Enforcement staff on a bi-weekly basis to ascertain the status of ongoing compliance issues at facilities slated for permit revisions. Both Compliance and Enforcement and Permitting staff discuss potential compliance and permitting issues prior to permit adoption. These discussions occur at biweekly Permitting & Compliance and Enforcement Coordination meetings attended by management and Executive Sponsors.

#### **CV-SALTS Non-Enrollment Enforcement**

In FY 20/21, the CV-SALTS Basin Plan amendments became effective and notices to comply were issued to dischargers. Responses have been received in FYs 20/21 and 21/22, with program staff tracking responses in a database or spreadsheet. Responses from these 1,000+ facilities have been distributed among multiple program's staff to review, evaluate, approve, and follow-up. In FY 22/23, Compliance and Enforcement Program staff will continue to coordinate with and support CV-SALTS program staff to implement the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs in NPDES permits including issuance of Notices of Deficiency, Notices of Violation, developing permit language, and ongoing enrollment for new dischargers within the Central Valley's priority salt and nitrate control program areas.

#### **Coordinate Efforts to Address Environmental Justice Issues and Issues Faced by Disadvantaged and Underserved Communities**

Compliance and Enforcement Program staff, with assistance from the State Board's Office of Public Participation, is continuing to engage with multiple stakeholders in the Central Valley Region including Counties, Cities, Caltrans, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Central Valley Flood Control Board, to name a few, to form working groups to tackle environmental justice efforts where similar goals can be accomplished by working cooperatively, leveraging resources, and coordinating efforts.

#### **Implement Business Rules to Ensure More Accurate Tracking of Goals and Enforcement Actions**

Compliance and Enforcement staff at the Central Valley Water Board conduct inspections and issue Inspection Reports and enforcement documents like Notices of Violation (NOVs), Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAOs), and Administrative Civil Liabilities (ACLs) in efforts to achieve compliance. To track these actions and documents, staff update corresponding databases such as the California Integrated

Water Quality System (CIWQS); the California Stormwater Multiple Applications and Report Tracking System (SMARTS); and GeoTracker. While there are some guidance documents for uploading and tracking some enforcement actions, a priority for the 22/23 Fiscal Year is to ensure that there are guidance documents (or “Business Rules”) that address all entries to the databases and that the uses of these Business Rules is consistent among program staff. Program staff will continue to keep the key databases up to date while working to update guidance documents.

## **SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM**

### **Address Emerging Contaminants at Cleanup Sites**

Program staff will work with other state and local agencies and the regulated community to evaluate and analyze the extent and severity of emerging contaminant (1,2,3-TCP and PFAS) impacts to groundwater. The goal is to identify how extensive emerging contaminants are and how to prioritize them.

### **Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP)**

Board staff will continue to work to identify sources and regional groundwater plumes that will qualify for expanded SCAP resources. Based on a review of eligible cases, most SCAP sites will fall in Underserved and Underrepresented Communities.

### **Develop Tools to Coordinate Groundwater Impacts**

Central Valley Water Board staff will resume working with the GAMA database and State Board staff to update our GIS tools which can be used to identify previously unknown sources of contamination and emerging contaminants that are impacting groundwater and drinking water wells. Staff will also support the development of a Climate Change Dashboard to assess implementation of green remediation and site cleanup strategies.

### **Priority Case Projects**

The Site Cleanup Program includes several sites identified as priority sites due to the threat they pose to groundwater and human health. Several of these priority cases are in or impact underrepresented and underserved communities. These projects will require additional staff time for oversight and community engagement.

### **Develop New Staff Assigned to Backlogged Cases and Emerging Contaminants**

The Site Cleanup Program received 5 new staff persons for addressing backlogged cases and emerging contaminants. Resources have been allocated to each office to evaluate case backlog, assess emerging contaminants, and engage with the regulated community to identify funding pathways to address residual groundwater contamination. Program management will work to build interoffice consistency and identify internal processes to achieve greater efficiencies. In addition, program management will look to

increase employee engagement and identify opportunities to for staff growth into areas of interest.

## **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAM**

### **Develop Strategies for Implementing Adaptive Prioritization and Additional Community Engagement**

The Central Valley Water Board adopted a Strategic Plan that includes Strategic Objectives relating to Adaptive Prioritization and Community Engagement. As the UST Program works to prioritize cases, the Program will work to incorporate elements from the Strategic Plan into its annual work planning. This may include, for example, using tools such as EnviroScreen to help prioritize cases.

### **Leverage Existing Programs to Advance Cleanup Goals for Protecting Groundwater**

The UST program will continue to work with and use existing account and fund type programs at the State Water Board to move stalled and/or difficult UST cases forward to ensure the maintenance and restoration of beneficial uses of surface and groundwaters in the Central Valley Region, particularly for those waters in disadvantaged and/or environmental justice communities. The programs may include but are not be limited to the following:

- OSCF – Orphan Site Cleanup Fund Program
- EAR – Emergency, Abandoned and Recalcitrant Account Program
- RUST – Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Underground Storage Tanks Program
- ECAP – Expedited Claim Account Program
- Stalled Case Initiative Program – Red Horse Consultants through EPA Grant Funding
- SCAP – Site Cleanup Subaccount Program

### **Address Priority Case Projects**

The UST Program includes 11 sites identified as priority sites due to the threat they pose to groundwater and human health. These sites will require additional staff time for oversight. These sites include:

- Rancho Cordova: Franks One Stop, Strawberry Valley, Pleasant Valley Store, Woody's Gas, East Nicolaus Market, Countryside Market, and Auto King #3.
- Redding: Ed Staub and Sons Alturas Bulk Plant, Former Gil's Shell SS, Tay Van Car Wash.
- Fresno: Gas-N-Save.