

# OUR MISSION, VISION, VALUES, & OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Our mission, vision, values and operating principles provide the foundation for our organization. These critical elements describe who we are, what we want to achieve, and what will guide our decision-making and approach to business on a daily basis. The mission of Cal/EPA is "to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality." As Cal/EPA Boards, we have aligned our mission, vision, values and operating principles with Cal/EPA's mission.

**OUR MISSION** To preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

**OUR VISION** A sustainable California made possible by clean water and water availability for both human uses and environmental resource protection.

**OUR VALUES** As we strive to realize our vision of the future, all our actions and efforts will be guided by a certain set of values:

- ◆ **Protection:** We are responsible for the protection of California's water resources.
- ◆ **Service:** We serve the public as a whole. Our job is to protect water for beneficial uses, and to ensure that pollution, misuse and overallocation do not impair those uses, now and in the future.
- ◆ **Integrity:** We continually earn the trust of those we serve, making an active commitment to truth, accuracy and fairness, including a commitment to environmental justice.

- ◆ **Leadership:** California strives to be a national and international leader in innovative approaches to water resource protection. We foster and recognize leadership actions at all levels of our organization.
- ◆ **Professionalism:** We are professionals committed to our mission and vision. We provide career development and professional growth opportunities for our staff.

**OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES** Operating principles clarify how we intend to interact with internal and external stakeholders, defining our roles and responsibilities and approaches to decision-making. These operating principles address several areas that we aim to strengthen over the next five years in order to improve our effectiveness. A complete list is provided in Appendix D.

The following are highlights from the list.

- ◆ The State and Regional Boards (Boards) will seek consistent approaches to policy and program implementation, recognizing the distinct obligations, issues, and authorities of each Board.
- ◆ The Boards will enforce water laws and regulations in a consistent, predictable, fair, and equitable manner.
- ◆ The Boards will collaborate with agencies and other key stakeholders to effectively address cross-media issues.
- ◆ The Boards will provide education and outreach opportunities so that Californians understand their responsibilities and abilities to protect water quality.
- ◆ The Boards will take a watershed approach to decision-making and program development.



*Performing maintenance on one of the many Sun servers. Kumcha Neely, Office of Information Technology, State Board.*

- ◆ The Boards will make timely decisions based on:
  - Input from fair and open public processes;
  - Consideration of a decision's impact on stakeholders and the environment;
  - Best available scientific and technical data;
  - Best judgment;
  - Clear findings and conclusions based on a developed record.
- ◆ The Boards will balance collaboration with enforcement.
- ◆ The Boards will utilize technology to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of its limited resources.
- ◆ The Boards will provide staff with clearly defined and prioritized expectations.