

California Water Boards 2025 Priorities

Bay Area Clean Water Agencies
Annual Meeting
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2025 Strategic Workplan

- [2025 Strategic Workplan](#) on the Water Board's website
- Adopted by the State Water Board
- Developed with input from the public and other agencies
- Describes actions to advance the State Water Board's four priorities
 - **Protect public health** by ensuring reliable access to **safe, affordable drinking water and sanitation**
 - **Protect and restore** watersheds, marine waters, and ecosystems
 - Increase **statewide water resiliency** in the face of climate change and other threats by expanding and integrating California's water supply portfolio
 - **Strengthen relationships, systems, and internal capacity** to accomplish the State Water Boards's mission strategically, transparently, equitably, and efficiently

2025 Strategic Workplan

Today, I will cover

- Select projects related to wastewater management
- Some address more than wastewater
 - non-wastewater sections excluded
 - suggest reviewing the Workplan for broader context

Water and Wastewater Affordability

- Project: Consider affordability in board programs.
- Goal:
 - Provide direct O&M support to assist community water systems with appointed admins and significant affordability concerns.
 - Consider affordability criteria in amending policies for State Revolving Funds (March 2025)
- Division(s) / Office(s):
 - Financial Assistance

Wastewater Needs Assessment

- Project: Evaluation of data on at-risk communities and the condition of the sanitation systems, including technical, managerial, and financial factors.
- Goal: Identify communities without adequate sanitation systems.
- Division(s) / Office(s):
 - Water Quality
 - Financial Assistance

PFAS: Investigations

- Project: Continue investigations of industrial sources of PFAS in public drinking water systems
- Goal: Develop a treatment-based MCL for PFAS
 - Continue multi-year study to monitor drinking water systems
 - Evaluating data to gain understanding
- Division(s) / Office(s):
 - Drinking Water
 - Water Quality
 - Financial Assistance

Strategy for Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC)

- Project: Statewide CEC strategic plan
- Goal: Develop a plan to prioritize and manage CECs and proactively ensure protection of drinking water supplies, public health, and the environment.
- Division(s) / Office(s):
 - Water Quality

2026 and 2028 Integrated Reports

- Project: 2026 and 2028 Integrated Reports
- Goal:
 - Hold a hearing on the Draft 2026 Integrated Report
 - Compile, organize, map, evaluate quality, and begin assessing data for the 2028 Integrated Report (likely the first to address PFAS)
 - Separate from, but coordinated with the PFAS MCL project
- Division(s) / Office(s):
 - Water Quality

Nutrient Strategy

- Project: Comprehensive strategy to begin to address nutrients
- Goal: Prioritize and coordinate work.
 - At a high level, develop a suite of short- and longer-term priorities
 - What is going on and where do we want to focus?
 - Immediate focus on HABs
 - Still in early stages
- Division(s) / Office(s):
 - Water Quality
 - Water Rights
 - Information, Management, and Analysis
 - Drinking Water
 - Regional Boards

Biostimulatory Substances, Cyanotoxins, and Biological Integrity

- **High Priority** Project: Develop statewide biostimulatory substances, cyanotoxins, and biological integrity strategies
- Goal: Develop policy options to address nutrients and other biostimulatory substances
 - Current focus includes a careful look at HABs due to immediate and growing threat to public and environmental health
 - May emphasize the work on cyanotoxins because directly linked to HABs; still under discussion
- Division(s) / Office(s):
 - Water Quality

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

- **High Priority** Project: Implement statewide HAB strategies
- Goal: Expand event response and ambient monitoring, and improve communication to Tribes and the public
 - Unify existing monitoring activities (including high beach-use holidays)
 - Standardize data
 - Make available data more timely and more accessible
- Division(s) / Office(s):
 - Information Management and Analysis
 - Water Rights
 - Communications

Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH)

- **High Priority** Project: Ocean Plan amendment to address OAH
- Goal: Develop and implement a plan to address OAH and the effects of anthropogenic sources of nutrients in ocean waters off the Southern California Bight
 - Identify a metric
 - Evaluate modeling
 - Investigate wastewater treatment technologies as well as incentives and regulatory options
- Division(s) / Office(s):
 - Water Quality

Infrastructure Funding Programs

- **High Priority Project:** Develop/amend guidelines for Prop 4 programs administered by the State Water Board
- **Goal:**
 - By December 31, 2025, develop/amend guidelines
 - Implement priorities for state- / federal-funded infrastructure programs
 - Drinking water (including PFAS/emerging contaminants/lead service lines)
 - Wastewater
 - Water Recycling
- **Division(s) / Office(s):**
 - Financial Assistance

Develop New Water Supplies

- **High Priority** Project: Develop new water supplies from recycled water, desalination, and stormwater capture
- Goal:
 - Form and manage a strike team to resolve permitting and funding obstacles for planned recycled water projects
- Division(s) / Office(s):
 - Water Quality

Thank you!

Questions or feedback?

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State Water Board

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