



## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley)

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### Our Mission...

*To preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.*

### Who we are

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVWB) is one of nine Regional Water Boards in California. The CVWB is a regulatory Board appointed by the Governor, tasked with establishing policies and regulations to protect the quality of surface and ground waters throughout the Central Valley. The CVWB does this through issuing permits and other orders to businesses, industries, public agencies and districts that conduct activities or practices that may impact or harm water quality.



### Water in the Central Valley

The Central Valley is the largest and most diverse region in California, stretching from the Oregon border to the tip of Los Angeles County – about 60,000 square miles or nearly 40 percent of the state. It includes all or part of 38 of California's 58 counties and about 75 percent of the State's irrigated agricultural land. It includes the entire watersheds for the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and the Tulare Lake Basin. Nearly all of the legal Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta is within the CVWB jurisdictional area.

In total, water from the Central Valley provides more than 50 percent of the State's total water supply, providing drinking water for 2/3 of the State and irrigation for millions of acres of farms in and out of the valley. Many of the waterways within the Central

Valley, especially those on the valley floor, are impacted or polluted by an assortment of pollutants that pose a risk to agricultural irrigation water, drinking water, fish and wild life. These pollutants include pesticides, metals, salts, pathogens, fertilizers and industrial chemicals.

### Protecting Water Quality

To protect the quality of surface\* and ground waters, the CVWB issues permits to individuals, businesses, industries, cities, counties and local districts where their practices or activities could impact the quality of surface and ground waters. These practices or activities include treating sewage, treating water to provide drinking water, industrial processes, mining, dredging, wash waters, cooling water, construction, irrigation of crops, dairy operations, timber harvest, etc.

The CVWB has various programs that focus on specific types of practices or activities; such as, cannabis, dairies, forest activities, landfills, mining, wastewater, underground storage tanks and storm water discharges.

In 2003, the CVWB created a specific program designed to address activities associated with irrigated lands. This program is referred as the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program or ILRP.

\* Surface water includes natural waterways like lakes, rivers and streams, and man-made water collection and delivery systems like canals and drains.

