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## State Water Resources Control Board

**June 29, 2020**

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF WATER QUALITY DATA AND INFORMATION FOR THE 2024 INTEGRATED REPORT CYCLE FOR THE CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 305(b) SURFACE WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND THE 303(d) LIST OF IMPAIRED WATERS**

This notice commences the statewide data solicitation period for the 2024 California Integrated Report. The Integrated Report is composed of California's surface water quality condition report in accordance with Clean Water Act section 305(b) and the list of impaired surface waters in accordance with Clean Water Act section 303(d). Data and information received will be used to assess overall surface water quality conditions and to identify impaired waters (i.e., waters not meeting or not expected to meet water quality standards).

To be considered for the 2024 California Integrated Report:

- Data and information must be successfully submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Water Board") via the California Environmental Data Exchange Network ("CEDEN"), except as otherwise noted, at the time and date identified below.
- Data submissions must include the data elements required for assessment. Required data elements and instructions for submitting data are detailed in Enclosures 1-4 below.

The 2024 California Integrated Report listing cycle will be conducted for the "on-cycle" Regional Water Quality Control Boards ("Regional Water Boards") for the San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Santa Ana regions. The Central Valley Regional Water Board will be conducting "off-cycle" assessments for waters within the Sacramento River sub-area. The Sacramento River sub-area is defined as the Sacramento River watershed. It includes the mainstem of the Sacramento River above the legal boundary of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and all surface waters tributary to the mainstem. The other five Regional Water Boards would be considered "off cycle" for the 2024 Integrated Report but the listing process may be administered for one or more waters at the Regional Water Board's or the State Water Board's discretion. As a result, the State and Regional Water Boards encourage continuous submittal of data for any surface waterbody in California because any Regional Water Board may conduct listing or

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delisting assessments using data and information at its discretion. A map of the Regional Water Boards is available here:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_assessment/regional\\_assessments.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/regional_assessments.html)

**All submittals must be received by the State Water Resources Control Board no later than 12:00 p.m. noon on October 16, 2020.**

See Enclosures 1-4 below for additional instructions and information about requirements elements for assessment and how to submit data and information:

- Enclosure 1: An overview of the data and information submittal process and a description of CEDEN compatible and non-CEDEN compatible data
- Enclosure 2: Instructions for submitting CEDEN compatible data
- Enclosure 3: Instructions for submitting non-CEDEN compatible data and information
- Enclosure 4: Instructions for submitting Quality Assurance Documentation

## **UPDATE REGARDING THE 2020 AND 2022 CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED REPORTS**

Additionally, the California Integrated Reports for the 2020 and 2022 will be developed in one listing cycle. The 2020 Integrated Report shall now be referred to as the 2020/2022 Integrated Report but will otherwise be developed in accordance with the 2020 Revised Notice of Solicitation in all respects. As a result, the 2020/2022 Integrated Report is being conducted for the Regional Water Boards for the Central Coast, Central Valley, and San Diego regions. No additional data is being solicited for the 2020/2022 Integrated Report listing cycle. The 2020 Revised Notice of Solicitation serves as the data solicitation notice for the 2020/2022 Integrated Report listing cycle and is available here:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_assessment/docs/2020\\_rev\\_solicitation\\_notice\\_final.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/docs/2020_rev_solicitation_notice_final.pdf)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

This notice, including its enclosures, and additional information about the Integrated Report is available on the Surface Water Quality Assessment webpage:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_assessment](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment).

Questions regarding data or information submittals, or about other information included in this notice, should be directed to Lori Webber at (916) 341-5736 or [lori.webber@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:lori.webber@waterboards.ca.gov).

Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

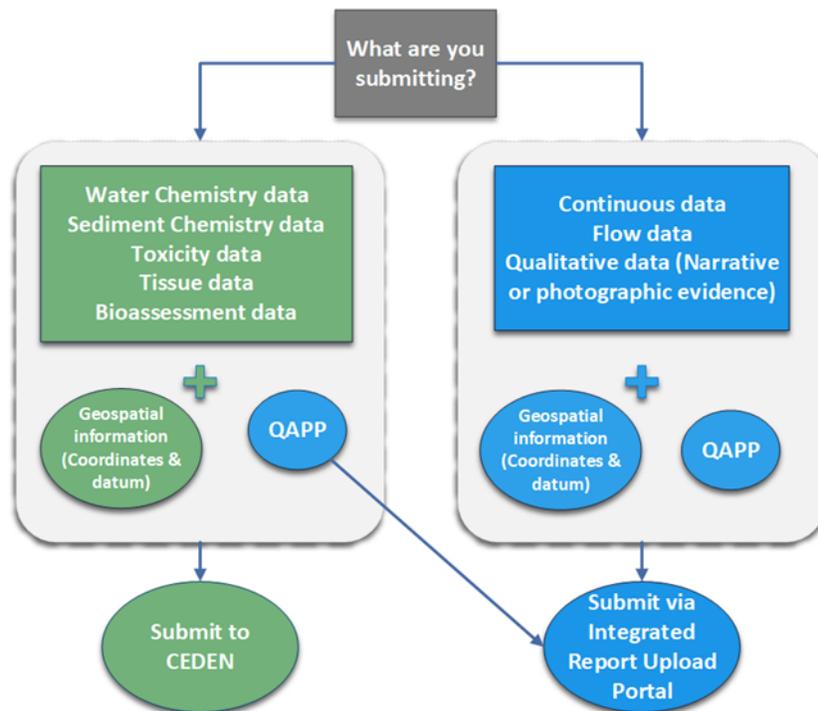
## Enclosure 1: Data Submittal Basics

### What is the overall data and information submittal process?

The figure below illustrates the process for submitting data and information for the Integrated Report. Data that can be accepted by CEDEN must be submitted to CEDEN. Data that is not CEDEN compatible can be submitted via the Integrated Report Upload Portal, which is available here:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_assessment/ir\\_upload\\_portal.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/ir_upload_portal.html).

In addition, all data submittals (both CEDEN compatible and non-CEDEN compatible) should be accompanied by a Quality Assurance Project Plan (“QAPP”) or QAPP-equivalent document. Data and information not accompanied by a QAPP or a QAPP-equivalent document cannot be used by itself to support a 303(d) listing or delisting decision. QAPPs or equivalent documents are also submitted via the Integrated Report Upload Portal.



### ***CEDEN Compatible:***

CEDEN compatible data sets include water chemistry, sediment chemistry, toxicity, tissue and bioassessment data, along with associated geospatial information (i.e., latitude, longitude, and datum). CEDEN compatible data must be submitted through CEDEN.

CEDEN accepts the following data types:

- Chemistry: laboratory results from water samples or sediment samples
- Field collection: measurements collected in the field, including field probes and habitat
- Toxicity: results from water column or sediment toxicity tests
- Tissue: laboratory results from fish tissue or other tissue samples
- Bioassessment: habitat measures and observations, benthic macroinvertebrate and algae taxonomy

For instructions on submitting data to CEDEN, see Enclosure 2.

CEDEN data submissions are required to have a QAPP to be used as a primary line of evidence. QAPPs cannot be submitted through CEDEN. QAPPs must be submitted through the Integrated Report Upload Portal.

***Non-CEDEN Compatible:***

If you are submitting a data type that is not CEDEN compatible, you must follow the instructions for submitting non-CEDEN compatible data. This includes continuous monitoring data, and narrative or photographic evidence. Detailed instructions for submitting non-CEDEN compatible data are found in Enclosure 3.

All data submissions, including non-CEDEN data, require geospatial information. Non-CEDEN data submissions require a QAPP or QAPP-equivalent document for the data to be used as a primary line of evidence, submitted via the Integrated Report Upload Portal.

For QAPP requirements and submittal instructions, see Enclosure 4.

**When should data be submitted?**

Data can be uploaded to CEDEN at any time and should be submitted as it is ready to ensure timely processing and to avoid backlogs in data uploading. However, data must be submitted by noon on October 16, 2020, to be evaluated for the 2024 California Integrated Report. Data submitted after noon on October 16, 2020, will be considered in future integrated reports.

**Who can submit data?**

Any person or entity (including but not limited to private citizens; local, state, and federal governmental agencies; non-profit organizations; and businesses) possessing information regarding the quality of California's waters may submit data and information.

## **Which Regional Water Boards are administering the 2024 Listing Cycle?**

The 2024 California Integrated Report listing cycle will be conducted for the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (“Regional Water Boards”) for the San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Santa Ana regions. The Central Valley Regional Water Board will be conducting “off-cycle” assessments for waters within the Sacramento River sub-area. The Sacramento River sub-area is defined as the Sacramento River watershed. It includes the mainstem of the Sacramento River above the legal boundary of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and all surface waters tributary to the mainstem. The other five Regional Water Boards would be considered “off cycle” for the 2024 Integrated Report but the listing process may be administered for one or more waters at the Regional Water Board’s or the State Water Board’s discretion. As a result, the State and Regional Water Boards encourage continuous submittal of data for any surface waterbody in California because any Regional Water Board may conduct listing or delisting assessments using data and information at its discretion.

## **How do we define data and information?**

“Data” are considered a subset of information that consists of reports detailing measurements of specific environmental characteristics (i.e., measurements of physical, chemical, or biological characteristics in aquatic environments).

“Information” is any documentation, such as narrative or photographic evidence, describing the water quality condition of a surface water body.

Standards include beneficial uses of water and water quality objectives/criteria as listed in the Regional Water Quality Control Plans (which are also known as Basin Plans), statewide water quality control plans (e.g., the California Ocean Plan), the California Code of Regulations, and pertinent federal laws and regulations.

Data and information submitted may pertain to individual waterbody segments, entire waterbodies, or whole watersheds in California.

## **How do we define “readily available data and information?”**

“Readily available data and information” is defined in Section 6.1.1 of the Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California’s Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List (“Listing Policy”). This includes data that are submitted to CEDEN. If CEDEN is unable to accept a subset of data and information, we will accept that data and information if submitted via the procedure described in Enclosure 3, and described here, [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_assessment/data\\_requirements.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/data_requirements.html).

**What kind of data should be submitted?**

Any new data and information that contribute to a more complete understanding of the quality of the state's surface waters should be submitted. This includes data that show water quality standards are being attained or not attained. Any data not captured in the previous data solicitation periods should be submitted. This includes data collected since the end of the last solicitation period (June 14, 2019) as well as data collected prior to that date but not submitted.

The California Integrated Report uses both quantitative and qualitative information. The bulk of the data used in the California Integrated Report is quantitative, or numeric. These data provide the basis for primary lines of evidence ("LOEs"). Qualitative information consists of non-numeric evidence such as photographs or narrative data. These are used as ancillary evidence in the development of LOEs. For greater detail on how different data types are used to develop the Section 303(d) list, see Section 3 of the Listing Policy.

**What kind of data should not be submitted?**

Please do not submit:

- Data previously submitted as part of a past Integrated Report listing cycle
- Data already submitted into CEDEN
- Data pertaining to groundwater

**What if I have already submitted data to federal systems like the Water Quality Exchange data system?**

We recognize that federal agencies, tribes, and other entities submit data directly to the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("U.S. EPA") following the water quality exchange framework and it is not feasible to require that those datasets also be uploaded into CEDEN. Consequently, Water Board staff will pull data directly from the National Water Quality Portal (<https://www.waterqualitydata.us>) which connects to the Water Quality Exchange and attempt to translate that data into a CEDEN compatible format for use in the Integrated Report process. Datasets will only be used for the California Integrated Report if they conform to the minimum data elements and quality requirements outlined in Enclosures 2 and 4.

## Enclosure 2: Instructions for Submitting CEDEN Compatible Data

The California Environmental Data Exchange Network (“CEDEN”) is a central location to locate and share information about California’s waterbodies, including streams, lakes, rivers, and coastal ocean waters. Many groups in California monitor water quality, aquatic habitat, and wildlife health to ensure good stewardship of ecological resources. CEDEN aggregates these data and makes it accessible to environmental managers and the public.

The CEDEN website provides information about preparing and submitting data to CEDEN, including data templates that prescribe the CEDEN formats; detailed documentation that defines data elements; and lists that contain the current controlled vocabulary values that can be used in your submittals. Vocabulary that isn't currently listed can be requested through a vocabulary process, which is also outlined on the website.

Click here to access the CEDEN website: <http://ceden.org/index.shtml>

CEDEN accepts the following data types:

- Chemistry: laboratory results from water samples or sediment samples
- Field collection: measurements collected in the field, including field probes and habitat
- Toxicity: results from water column or sediment toxicity tests
- Tissue: laboratory results from fish tissue or other tissue samples
- Bioassessment: habitat measures and observations, benthic macroinvertebrate and algae taxonomy

Prior to submitting your data, please review the minimum data elements required for your data type(s). Click here for more information about CEDEN data templates: [http://ceden.org/ceden\\_submitdata.shtml](http://ceden.org/ceden_submitdata.shtml)

Note that the following data elements are required for Integrated Report assessments. Data submitted without this information may not be assessed:

- Latitude, longitude, and datum of site locations. Note that the **Target Latitude** and **Target Longitude** fields in CEDEN are used by assessment staff to map waterbodies and ***if these coordinates are inaccurate the data may not be assessed.***
- Minimum detection limit (MDL) and reporting limit (RL). These are especially important if data results include “non-detect” (ND), “detected not quantified” (DNQ), or “too numerous to count” (TNC).
- Quality assurance (QA) codes, when applicable
- Batch verification codes, when applicable

### **Assistance with uploading Data to CEDEN**

Any party collecting water quality data in California can work with staff at the State Water Resources Control Board to submit data to CEDEN. To request assistance, please send an email to [ceden@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ceden@waterboards.ca.gov).

### **Enclosure 3: Instructions for Submitting Non-CEDEN Compatible Data and Information**

Data and information that cannot be uploaded into CEDEN must be submitted directly via the Integrated Report Upload Portal, which is available here: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_assessment/ir\\_upload\\_portal.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/ir_upload_portal.html)

Numeric data must be in electronic format that can be manipulated by Water Board staff for assessment (e.g., spreadsheet, comma separated text file). Numeric data will not be assessed if submitted in portable document format ("PDF") or as a web link reference. Qualitative information (such as a photograph) can be submitted in a PDF.

#### Submit the following with each data set:

- Contact information of person/organization submitting the data
- Applicable regional water board
- Applicable pollutant categories
- Time-period over which the data were collected
- Summary of submittal or list of submittal contents and any instructions required for assessment, which may include:
  - a) Definitions for codes or abbreviations used
  - b) Whether additional summaries or instructions are attached to the cover sheet or where they are included in the submittal
- Sampling location information:
  - a) Station Name(s)
  - b) Station Code(s) (if available)
  - c) Latitude, longitude, and datum

#### Numeric data must include:

- Date and time of measurements
- Number of samples
- Analytes
- Units of measurement
- Methods, detection limits, and reporting limits
- Supporting or associated analytical data (e.g., hardness data with dissolved metals samples; temperature, salinity, and pH data with ammonia measurements)
- Other relevant factors

#### Qualitative information must:

- Describe events or conditions that indicate impacts on water quality
- Provide linkage between the measurement endpoint (e.g., a study that may have been performed for some other purpose) and the water quality standard of interest
- Be scientifically defensible
- Provide analyst's credentials and training
- Be verifiable by Water Board staff

Photographic documentation must include description of:

- Date and time photograph(s) were taken
- The spatial representation of the photographs, (e.g., reach, location)
- The temporal representation, (e.g., time of year)
- The linkage between photograph-represented condition and condition that indicates impacts on water quality
- The rationale for area photographed and camera settings used
- Any additional pertinent information about the photograph(s) to support assessment

## **Enclosure 4: Instructions for Submitting Quality Assurance Documentation**

All data should be accompanied by a Quality Assurance Project Plan (“QAPP”) or equivalent document. If the data are not supported by a QAPP or equivalent document, the data would not be used by itself (as a primary line of evidence) to support a listing or delisting of a water segment. Each QAPP must be signed by the person who is responsible for the quality of the data submitted for the assessment. Data and information not accompanied by a QAPP or equivalent document can be used as part of a weight of evidence determination (see sections 3.11 or 4.11 of the Listing Policy).

The QAPP or equivalent document must be submitted via the Integrated Report Upload Portal, which is available here:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_assessment/ir\\_upload\\_portal.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/ir_upload_portal.html)

The QAPP or equivalent document must contain the following:

- Objectives of the study, project, or monitoring program
- Descriptions of monitoring locations
- Monitoring schedule and frequency
- Methods used for sample collection and handling
- Field and laboratory measurement and analysis
- Data management, review and validation, and recordkeeping (including chain of custody) procedures
- Quality assurance and quality control requirements
- A statement certifying the adequacy of the QAPP plus name of person certifying the document
- Dates for which the QAPP is applicable
- Description of final data storage location (e.g., CEDEN)

For CEDEN compatible data, the CEDEN Parent Project Name and the dates for which the QAPP applies must be included.

For non-CEDEN compatible data, the QAPP must be submitted along with the data via the Integrated Report Upload Portal.