



State Water Resource Control Board Grazing Guidance

Jessica Leonard, Environmental Scientist

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality

History

1995

Developed Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan (RWQMP)

1999

Developed Plan for California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (NPS Program Plan)

2014

Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) to develop strategy for water quality impacts related to grazing

University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) starts short course education program to help ranchers complete water quality plans and meet RWQMP objectives

1995–1996

Adopted Policy for Implementation and Enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Program (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, section 2915)

2004

Discontinued GRAP

2015

2015: Discontinued GRAP

Resolution 2015-0062

1. Discontinued statewide approach to grazing
2. Directed Regional Water Board staff to work with stakeholders on best approach for addressing water quality impacts
3. Directed State Water Board staff to work to update the 1995 RWQMP



Current Efforts

- April 2020: Contacted a focused group of stakeholders to introduce the project
- July 7, 2020: Conducted a virtual meeting to present the background, context, and goals for the project
- July-August 2020: Asked stakeholders to complete a survey to provide background information for the guidance. Seventy-nine responses received.
- Now: Engaging stakeholders on management practices and ways to promote implementation

Targeted Stakeholder Organizations

- California Farm Bureau Federation
- California Cattlemen's Association
- California Woolgrowers Association
- California Public Lands Council
- University of California
- UC Cooperative Extension
- California State University
- US Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- US EPA Resource Conservation Districts
- Point Reyes National Seashore
- California Land Stewardship Institute
- California Coastkeeper Alliance
- Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
- Point Blue
- California Rangeland Conservation Coalition
- The Grazing Reform Program
- Western Watershed Project
- Society for Range Management

Goals of the Grazing Guidance

Promote

Promote effective grazing management practices through a non-regulatory approach to reduce or eliminate impacts to water quality

Educate

Educate on potential impacts to water quality from grazing and the roles and requirements of the Water Boards in addressing water quality

Update

Update the 25-year-old Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan

Thank You!

For more about the Water Board's Grazing Guidance
please visit our webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grazing_guidance.html

For additional information, assistance or copies of presented
materials please contact:

Jessica Leonard

Grazing Liaison State Water Board

jessica.leonard@waterboards.ca.gov

(916) 341-5980