

# California Stormwater Quality Association



## Who We Are

The California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) has been a leader since 1989 when the field of stormwater management was in its infancy. CASQA's membership is comprised of a diverse range of stormwater quality management organizations and individuals, including over 180 cities, 23 counties, special districts, federal agencies, state agencies, ports, universities and school districts, wastewater agencies, water suppliers, industries, and consulting firms throughout the state.

On a weekly basis, CASQA communicates directly to more than 1,850 individuals, including the CASQA membership, State Water Board, Regional Water Board, and EPA staff.

## CASQA's Mission

On behalf of California stormwater permittees, CASQA advances sustainable stormwater management protective of California water resources.

## Vision for CASQA

CASQA advances the stormwater field through a network of highly engaged professionals that:

- **Lead:** CASQA provides leadership that results in sustainable statewide stormwater policies, regulations, and programs
- **Collaborate:** CASQA provides a forum for stormwater professionals to share ideas and identify solutions for regulatory, technical, and scientific challenges
- **Educate:** CASQA produces resources and hosts events that inform, educate, and train stormwater professionals, regulators, and the public on the value, challenges, and scientific and technical aspects of stormwater management
- **Support:** CASQA tools and guidance promote implementation of sustainable stormwater programs
- **Develop:** CASQA provides opportunities for the growth of stormwater professionals and development of current and future stormwater leaders

# CASQA represents over 26 million Californians

## How We Operate

From its founding, CASQA has a long history of serving as an advisor and partner to regulators. CASQA has therefore developed a culture of collaboration and cooperation, working with permittees, regulators, and other stakeholders to develop solutions to complex challenges.

## CASQA Members Include:

### • Counties: 23

San Diego	Santa Cruz
Riverside	Stanislaus
Los Angeles	Lake
Orange	San Mateo
San Bernardino	Placer
Santa Barbara	Monterey
Ventura	San Luis Obispo
Sacramento	Fresno
Alameda	El Dorado
Marin	San Joaquin
Contra Costa	Santa Clara
Napa	

### • Cities: more than 180

### • Ports:

Los Angeles, Oakland, Stockton, Long Beach, San Diego

### • Government Agencies:

US Army Corps of Engineers, Caltrans, California Department of Parks and Recreation, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

### • Educational Facilities:

UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Riverside, Stanford, California Lutheran University, CSU Sacramento, CSU Channel Islands, CSU Northridge, San Diego Unified School District

### • Conservation Organizations:

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Monterey Bay Aquarium

### • Water Suppliers / Wastewater Agencies:

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Orange County Sanitation District

### • Utilities Providers:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas & Electric

## CASQA's Vision for Stormwater

### What It Is

In 2014, CASQA developed the first version of a Vision for Stormwater, with the latest update occurring in 2019. CASQA's Vision for Stormwater was developed to address the primary issue for stormwater management: The lack of consensus on how best to meet the goals of the Clean Water Act. CASQA developed this Vision for Stormwater for itself, its members, and the public to pursue a comprehensive plan for stormwater that will achieve the goals of the Clean Water Act and sustainable stormwater management.

CASQA's Vision for Stormwater aims to: **Manage stormwater as a vital component of California's water resources in a sustainable manner, to support human and ecological needs, to protect water quality, and to enhance and restore our waterways.**

### 3 Principles

The guiding principles to support this vision are:

 **1** Sustainable stormwater management uses runoff as a resource, protects water quality and beneficial uses, and efficiently minimizes pollution.

 **2** Policies, regulations, guidance, training, and funding need to support sustainable stormwater management.

 **3** Public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the value of stormwater is essential to sustainable stormwater management.

## Stormwater Priorities

Each year, CASQA undertakes an extensive prioritization process to identify the priorities for stormwater for the coming year.

The priorities are based upon CASQA's Vision for Stormwater as well as organizational goals.

## CASQA's 2019 Priorities

Priority / Level	Description	Lead
<b>Vision Action 2.2</b>	Articulate Stormwater Program Priorities	EPC / ED
<b>Vision Action 2.7</b>	Create Funding Opportunities	ED / BoD
<b>Vision Action 1.3</b>	Provide Effective and Efficient Solutions through True Pollutant Source Control	EPC
<b>Vision Action 2.5</b>	Establish Guidance/Tools to Support Sustainable Stormwater Programs	EPC / ED
<b>Vision Action 3.1</b>	Create Opportunities for Multiple Agency and Collaborative Efforts to Demonstrate the Value of Stormwater to the Public	EPC
<b>Org Goal 1</b>	Develop Comment Letters and Testimony (Regulatory Support and Legal Counsel Contracts)	EPC
<b>Org Goal 2</b>	Provide Leadership for Statewide Permit Renewals / Amendments	EPC
<b>Vision Action 1.1</b>	Develop Guidance for Integrated Management of Water Resources that Promotes Stormwater as a Resource	ED / BoD
<b>Vision Action 1.4</b>	Work with DPR to Control Toxicity in Receiving Waters from Pesticide Application	EPC
<b>Vision Action 2.3</b>	Augment and Implement Basin Plan Amendment Process	ED
<b>Vision Action 2.4</b>	Develop Policies and Permitting Framework to Support Sustainable Stormwater Management	ED

- *Color coding reflects the priority level for each priority:*  
**Red** = Mission Critical  
**Orange** = Important  
**Canary** = Medium  
**Gray** = Medium (but minimal expectation of resource allocation; more opportunistic approach)
- ED = Executive Director / Association Management Contract  
 BoD = Board of Directors  
 EPC = Executive Program Committee
- **Vision Action 2.3 and Vision Action 2.4** are included for 2019, but minimal work (compared to the other priorities) is anticipated

The CASQA Vision document is available at: [www.casqa.org/about/strategic-plan-vision](http://www.casqa.org/about/strategic-plan-vision)

## Key CASQA Projects

### Funding for Stormwater

Sufficient resources need to be dedicated to water quality. Most stormwater programs are funded through municipal general funds. The current funding structure presents a major challenge for elected officials as they must balance the funding of the stormwater program with other programs supported by the general fund, including such things as law enforcement, fire protection, and other essential services. CASQA is actively working on short-term opportunities (SB 231 Implementation; California Funding Website; California Stormwater Authority), with the goal of identifying long-term solutions (e.g. dedicated funding sources for stormwater programs).

### Statewide Bacteria Effort

The goal of this project is to work with the State Water Board to establish and implement a statewide effort to address technical and regulatory issues related to bacteria, similar to the effort implemented to develop and adopt the Sediment Quality Objectives (SQOs). The statewide effort would include all stakeholders (State Water Board, Regional Boards, EPA, stormwater permittees, wastewater permittees, NGOs), working collaboratively through one unified process. It would replace the existing scenario where stormwater programs are addressing bacteria on a permit by permit (or even permittee by permittee) basis. The final desired outcome is to collaboratively resolve the technical and regulatory challenges related to bacteria in order to sustainably achieve REC-1 objectives.

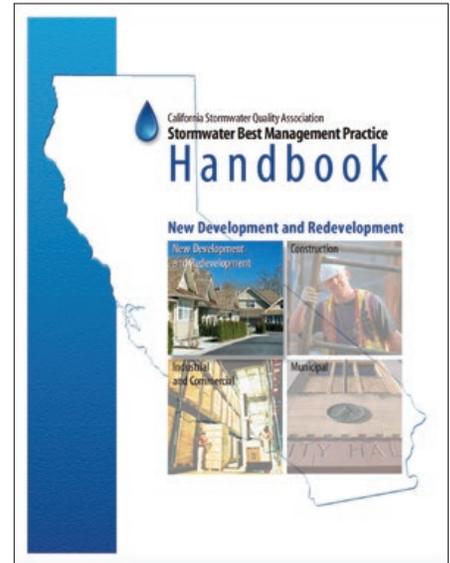
## Source Control

A sustainable stormwater program will implement controls that are recognized as effective and economical. The control of some pollutants in stormwater is beyond the direct control of the municipality. Source control and the use of alternative products and green chemistry may ultimately offer the most effective and economical approach to the elimination of many pollutants that impair the beneficial use of waters. CASQA is actively working on several projects to address source control issues, including zinc in tires, copper in brake pads, and pesticide regulation.

## Regulatory Support

CASQA actively tracks, comments, and provides testimony on state and federal regulatory issues. As many stormwater programs do not have resources or staff to engage on the breadth and depth of these issues, CASQA's regulatory efforts are a key benefit for our membership and a helpful resource for State Water Board, Regional Board, and EPA staff. In the past year, CASQA has provided comment letters / testimony on issues including toxicity, selenium, biological objectives, Waters of the United States (WOTUS), pesticide registrations, bacteria objectives, statewide permit amendments (Industrial General Permit; Phase II MS4 Permit), and stormwater permit fees. In 2019, CASQA will actively engage with the State Water Board on the development of the Biointegrity / Biostimulatory Policy and the renewal of the Phase II MS4 Permit (for communities with populations less than 100,000). The Phase II MS4 Permit will likely enroll school districts throughout California and CASQA is actively working to provide support for that new category of permittees.

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Images top to bottom: BMP Handbook; Training video; Improving source control

(Key CASQA Projects, continued)

## Tools and Resources

- **Guidance for Trash:** Stormwater programs have identified trash as a top water quality priority. In 2019, CASQA will develop guidance for member agencies to aid with successful planning and implementation of the Statewide Trash Amendments, including Track 1 and Track 2 approaches and stormwater trash control measures (full capture systems and other trash controls).
- **Online Pollutant of Concern (POC) Reduction Guidance Manual:** This project will create an online pollutant reduction guidance manual for one POC. The manual will assist MS4 program managers in developing reduction strategies and selecting best management practices in a consistent way based on the most current information available. It will also help managers new to a particular POC get-up-to-speed quickly and efficiently by providing access to the same information experienced managers are using.
- **BMP Handbooks:** CASQA develops and publishes four Best Management Practices (BMP) Handbooks generally matched to the three kinds of stormwater permits, (1) Construction, (2) Industrial and Commercial, (3) Municipal, and (4) New Development and Redevelopment. These handbooks provide the information program managers need to stay in compliance with California stormwater regulations.
- **Training Videos:** Training staff on good housekeeping best management practices is a required component of all municipal stormwater permits. CASQA has produced five videos to help with the challenge of providing this training. Topics include: Annual Hotspot Comprehensive Inspections, Concrete Work and Saw Cutting, Minor Spill and Leak Cleanup, Storm Drain Maintenance, and Surface Cleaning and Pressure Washing. Five new training videos will be developed in 2019.

## How You Can Support CASQA

- Partner with CASQA in developing solutions for stormwater priorities
- Provide funding to support CASQA's projects
- Become a member

## Join CASQA

Regular or affiliate membership in CASQA is open to organizations and individuals in the stormwater field, whether holders of NPDES permits or not. If you are not currently a member, by joining now, you can receive substantial reductions on future CASQA annual conferences. Additional member benefits include exclusive access to the Bi-Weekly Update, Water Quality NewsFlash, Member Library, and Member Forum, as well as member discounts to online and downloadable products, and events. CASQA membership provides substantial benefits even if you are based outside California.

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Photo by Daniel Apt

**CASQA Assistant Executive Director, Karen Cowan and Executive Director, Geoff Brosseau**

## 2019 Board of Directors

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