

### **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

(June 5, 2007)

#### **Office of Enforcement**

##### **Enforcement Actions**

**People v. Shirley Environmental Testing.** On May 27, 2007, the San Joaquin Superior Court entered a stipulated judgment against Shirley Environmental Testing for not properly conducting annual monitoring certification testing on underground storage tanks.

The investigation and joint enforcement action was brought by the California Attorney General's Office, the San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department, the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office and the State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Enforcement (UST Enforcement Unit).

The judgment orders Shirley Environmental Testing to pay \$125,000 in civil penalties and those penalties will be allocated as follows:

- \$60,000 to the State Water Board Underground Storage Tank Tester Account;
- \$32,500 to the San Joaquin District Attorney's Office; and
- \$32,500 to the California Department of Justice.

Also, Shirley Environmental Testing has agreed to reimburse the agencies \$26,957.20 for their costs of the investigation.

##### **Workshops**

A workshop soliciting comments on the water quality enforcement policy and related water quality enforcement issues has been scheduled for June 28, 2007.

#### **Division of Water Quality**

##### **Suction Dredge Workshop:**

The State Water Board will hold a workshop on recreational suction dredge mining to get public input on the impact of this activity on water quality. This workshop is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, June 12 at the Department of Fish and Game auditorium. Comments are requested by noon on Friday, June 22.

**Ocean Plan Amendments:**

The State Water Board will hold a public scoping meeting to seek input on proposed amendments to the 2005 California Ocean Plan. The scoping meeting will be held on June 26, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in San Francisco. The agenda and the scoping document will be posted on the State Water Board's web site by June 8, 2007. The comment deadline is July 27, 2007.

**Low Impact Development Training Sessions:**

The State Water Board's Storm Water Program will sponsor a series of two-day training sessions for Water Board staff and members of the development community on Low Impact Development. Low Impact Development is a storm water management approach to address pollution from urban residential and commercial development. It is based on preserving or restoring watershed hydrologic function. These training sessions will cover the limitations of current storm water management strategies; how Low Impact Development can play an important role in storm water management; and the types of enhancements of existing storm water strategies when Low Impact Development techniques are applied. There will be three training sessions in this series:

- One is in Folsom on June 14-15
- The next is in Marina Del Rey on June 28-29
- The last is in Rohnert Park on July 19-20

Signups are available through the Water Board's Training Academy website, <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/academy/>

**Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program:**

GAMA recently held a successful "sampling wrap-up" meeting. The meeting was held on May 23rd in Modesto for the Central Eastside study unit. The study unit includes the Modesto, Turlock and Merced groundwater basins.

The next public meetings for GAMA are two "results wrap-up" meetings. The first is for the Central Sierra study unit on June 6th in Fresno. This study unit encompasses the Upper Fresno River watershed and the upper north fork of the San Joaquin River (located outside of DWR-defined groundwater basins). The second scheduled meeting is for the Southern Sierra study unit on June 12th in Tehachapi. This study unit includes the Tehachapi, Cummings and Kern River Valleys.

**Division of Water Rights**

**San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary:** There has been a recent dramatic decline in the abundance of delta smelt. The State Water Board held a workshop on March 22 and 23 at which it received information and conducted discussions regarding the decline of delta smelt and other species in the Delta.

State Water Board staff has continued to participate in discussions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and California Department of Fish and Game, regarding actions that can be taken to stop and reverse this decline. One action identified as potentially beneficial to delta smelt is reduced Delta pumping by the State and federal water projects during June.

The State Water Board is scheduling a workshop for later this month to obtain input on the delta smelt decline and potential actions that would be beneficial to the delta smelt population. More information for this workshop, as it becomes available, can be found at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/wksmtgs/2007/schedule.html#june>

## **Office of Research, Planning and Performance**

**Update on the Strategic Plan outreach sessions in the Regions.** We have completed seven of the nine regional sessions, with Central Coast scheduled for June 6, and San Francisco scheduled for June 13. The sessions continue to be very successful outreach efforts collecting valuable information for our strategic plan efforts.

## **Division of Administrative Services**

### **Budget Update:**

Both houses have finished budget hearings and the majority of the Water Board's budget has been closed. The Conference Committee met May 31, through June 3, and our items heard included:

Both Proposition 84 BCPs (Water Bond and Basin Planning)

The Assembly's augmentations for the following:

- \$650K GF and 5.0 PYs for North Coast TMDLs
- \$650K GF and 5.0 PYs for a Groundwater Project
- \$7.5 million Environmental Protection Trust Fund (EPTF) for the AST Program
- CIWQS Budget Language
- Trailer bill language to eliminate the sunset date for the Petroleum UST Program (Orphan Sites)

With the exceptions noted above, the remainder of the Water Boards' budget has been approved as budgeted, with the exception of our NPDES BCP, which both houses approved with 100% (\$4 million) Waste Discharge Permit Fee funding.

## **Division of Financial Assistance**

### **Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watershed Authority (LESJWA) Field Visit:**

On Wednesday, May 30, 2007, DFA staff participated in a media tour and conducted a final project inspection visit on the recently completed \$14.1 million Prop 13 LESJWA project, funded by a grant from the Board. This was followed by a dedication ceremony for the Lake Elsinore Aeration Project. The goal of this multi-faceted project was to rehabilitate and improve the Lake Elsinore Watershed and the San Jacinto Watershed and the water quality of Lake Elsinore. Specific Project activities included:

- Lake Elsinore monitoring and axial flow pump destratification system
- Aeration system design, construction and monitoring
- Canyon Lake dredging and monitoring
- Ecosystem restoration, including striped bass stocking and construction of a wetlands pipeline

All of the work has been completed and all installed systems are operational.

**Huntington Beach Project Final Inspection:** On Friday, June 1, 2007, DFA staff conducted a final site visit for the recently completed City of Huntington Beach NPS, Urban Runoff and Coastal Remediation project. The City received a \$4 million grant from the Board, using Proposition 13 funds, to address coastal nonpoint source pollution. This multi-objective project accomplished the following tasks:

- Installed diversion systems to prevent up to 75,000 gallons per day of urban runoff from entering the ocean.
- Completed a Citywide Urban Runoff Master Plan
- Installed catch basin screens and gross pollutant separators to intercept over 1,500 cubic feet of trash and debris from reaching the ocean and Huntington Harbor.