STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2004

Prepared on February 23, 2004

ITEM NUMBER: 24

SUBJECT: **Executive Officer's Report to the Board**

Brief discussion of some items of interest to the Board follows. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

Watershed and Cleanup Branch Reports

REGULATION SUMMARY OF JANUARY 2004

[Sandy Holgate 805/542-4633]

Orders	
General Order ROWDs Received	15
General Order Requirements Pending	26
Individual Order ROWDs Received	3
Individual Order Requirements Pending	9
Inspections Made	11
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (WB)	195
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (CB)	4
Stormwater Reports Reviewed	5

Enforcement	
Non-Compliance Letters Sent:	
NPDES Program	0
Non-Chapter 15 WDR Program	11
Chapter 15 Program	1
Unregulated	0
Stormwater	0
CAOs Issued	0
ACL Complaints	3

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Sandy Holgate 805/542-4633]

In general, staff recommends "Standard Certification" when the applicant proposes adequate mitigation. Measures included in the application must assure that beneficial uses will be protected, and water quality standards will be met.

Conditional Certification is appropriate when a project may adversely impact surface water quality. Conditions allow the project to proceed under an Army Corps permit, while upholding water quality standards.

Staff will recommend "No Action" when no discharge or adverse impacts are expected. Generally, a project must provide beneficial use and habitat enhancement for no action to be taken by the Regional Board. A chart on the following page lists applications received from January 1, 2004 to January 31, 2004.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM JANUARY 1, 2004 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2004

County	Date Received	Applicant	Project Description	Receiving Water	Project Location	Action Taken
Santa Barbara	January 7, 2004	Detlev Peikert, Peikert Group Architects	Goleta Old Town Hotel	San Jose Creek	Goleta	Pending
Santa Barbara	January 9, 2004	Rich Hall Chevron Texaco	Texaco Hollister Ranch Pipeline Abandonment Project	San Augustine Creek, Agua Creek, Agua Caliente Creek	Hollister Ranch	Pending
Santa Barbara	January 24, 2003	Tim Hepburn Southern California Gas Company	Line 1005 Maintenance, Atascadero correlation dig	Atascadero Creek	Goleta	Pending
San Luis Obispo	January 20, 2004	People's Self-Help Housing	Canyon Creek Apartments Construct two outfalls for residential storm drainage	Salinas River	Paso Robles	Pending
San Luis Obispo	January 20, 2004	Richard Kelley and Carmen Greene	Construct two family residences	Arroyo Grande Creek	Oceano	Pending
Monterey	January 20, 2004	Paul Greenway Monterey County Public Works	Castroville Boulevard-Elkhorn Road Bicycle/Pedestrian Path	Elkhorn Slough and Moro Cojo Slough	Castroville	Pending
Monterey	January 15, 2004	Cal-Trans	Replace Culvert at Mon-1PM 27.4	Pacific Ocean	4 miles north of Lucia	Pending

WATERSHED REPORTS

Status Reports

DeLeveaga Golf Course, Santa Cruz County [Chris Adair 805/549-3761]

Introduction
The discussion below includes the text from an Executive Officer's Report at the October 2003 meeting of the Central Coast Regional Board and, in italics, an update of activities at the DeLaveaga in Santa Cruz, California.

Discussion
During the September 2003 Board Meeting, we received comments on the current status of the Delaveaga Golf Course Renovation Project in Santa Cruz County. The commenter is concerned that persistent ~~legacy~~ [note: the word 'legacy' in this context refers to specific, banned chemicals and was used in error] pesticides may be present in soil where improvements to the golf course are proposed. When this soil is disturbed, the pollutant may migrate to Arana Gulch during storm events.

Regional Board staff contacted Susan Harris of the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department. Regional Board staff has also reviewed the May 2003 "DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration." Ms. Harris indicated that there is no evidence to support the theory that pesticide levels are a concern or that soil will impact Arana Gulch during the renovation project. The Negative Declaration indicates that there is a potential for soil to erode and impact Arana Gulch, and that mitigation measures will be utilized to lower this threat to less than significant. Mitigation measures include installation of erosion control best management practices.

This project involves the disturbance of about 25 acres of soil, and therefore the project proponent is required to submit a Notice of Intent to comply with the General NPDES General Strom Water Permit for Construction Activities which includes drafting a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

Miles Hicks, Golf Course Superintendent, indicated in a telephone conversation with Regional Board staff that work on the project would not commence until Spring 2004. Regional Board staff inspected the site on October 17, 2003 and confirmed that there is no construction activity at the site. Regional Board staff will review the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the improvements at the golf course when it becomes available and will place the site on a 'watch list' for inspection after construction begins.

Recent conversations with Miles Hicks, Golf Course Superintendent, indicated that the scope of work for the planned improvements at the golf course has been reduced by approximately 75%. Regrading at the golf course will be confined to tees and greens. No regrading of the fairways is planned at this time. A consultant has been hired to finalize plans, which are at about the 35% stage. The consultant will also be responsible for obtaining a Construction Storm water Permit. Construction activities are not expected to begin before fall, 2004.

Regional Board staff has researched the two products mentioned by Ms. Hobbs at the September 2003 Regional Board meeting public forum. A brief summary follows:

- *Fumitoxin – A pesticide regulated by the Department of Pesticide Regulation whose active ingredient is Aluminum Phosphide. Aluminum phosphide is an inorganic phosphide used to control insects and rodents in a variety of settings. Aluminum phosphide will breakdown spontaneously in the presence of water to form a gaseous product, and so it is non-persistent and non-mobile in the soil environment, and poses no risk to groundwater. (US Environmental Protection Agency. 1992. Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Fact Sheet Number 118: Aluminum Phosphide/Magnesium Phosphide. Washington, DC.). Fumitoxin is used at the Golf Course to control rodents.*

- *Benval – An herbicide regulated by the Department of Pesticide Regulation whose active ingredient is Dicambia. Dicamba is a benzoic acid herbicide. It can be applied to the leaves or to the soil. Dicamba controls annual and perennial broadleaf weeds in grain crops and grasslands, and it is used to control brush and bracken in pastures. It will kill broadleaf weeds before and after they sprout. Dicamba is moderately persistent in soil. The half-life of dicamba in soil is typically 1 to 4 weeks [Wauchope, R. D., Buttler, T. M., Hornsby A. G., Augustijn Beckers, P. W. M. and Burt, J. P. SCS/ARS/CES Pesticide properties database for environmental decisionmaking. Rev. Environ. Contam. Toxicol. 123: 1-157, 1992.7-22]. Under conditions suitable for rapid metabolism, the half-life is less than 2 weeks [Howard, P. H., Ed. Handbook of Environmental Fate and Exposure Data for Organic Chemicals. Pesticides. Lewis Publishers, Chelsea, MI, 1991.7-21]. Metabolism by soil microorganisms is the major pathway of loss under most soil conditions. Banvel is used to control weeds at the golf course.*

For the proposed golf course greens regrading, these products should not pose a significant risk to receiving waters.

Downstream Harbor Information - CCAMP
Staff indicated to the Board in response to the commenter in October, that the Board's Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) may have some data on pesticides or herbicides downstream of the golf course. CCAMP Manager Karen Worcester investigated and reports that although CCAMP does not have data from the immediate vicinity of the golf course or Arana Gulch, we have examined various data sources from Santa Cruz Harbor and vicinity, to determine if there is evidence of excessive levels of persistent pesticides in the area. See Karen's report under "Regional Monitoring" in this document.

Regional Board Approach to Protecting Fish Habitat in Santa Cruz County [Chris Adair 805/549-3761]

Summary
The Regional Board staff approach to protecting and enhancing beneficial uses for fish and other aquatic life in Santa Cruz County waterbodies is shaped by the unique conditions of the County's watersheds, and by on-going efforts of other agencies and non-governmental organizations. Staff's approach:

1) Recognizes multiple, diffuse pollutant sources throughout watersheds, including: urbanized areas, areas under timber, agricultural, and recreational management, road areas, and natural sources such as streambank erosion and landslides;

2) Asserts that the most effective way to control sediment is through comprehensive and coordinated efforts designed to reach multiple land areas and landowners, to implement erosion control projects, and restore habitat and stream function;

3) Acknowledges both shared and distinct authorities of governmental agencies with regard to the protection, enhancement, and restoration of: species, habitats, water quality, and water quantity;

4) Takes the long-term, adaptive approach (more than 2-3 years) informed by watershed trend monitoring. **[see Attachment No. 1, Summary Table of Monitoring and Assessment Activities]**;

5) Recognizes the fiscal constraints inherent in addressing nonpoint source pollution, (e.g., the estimated cost of erosion control on just 40 miles of County-maintained roads in the San Lorenzo River watershed is approximately $28 million);

6) Balances California Coastal Conservancy- and Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District-lead non-regulatory activities with effective Regional Board enforcement.

Staff's approach relies on regulatory and non-regulatory strategies including the Regional Board's Timber Regulatory Framework, the San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL Implementation Plan, Phase II Stormwater NPDES permit provisions and enforcement, and grant-giving for watershed restoration and non-point pollution prevention (funded by 319(h), Propositions 13, etc.).

The Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District, city and county governments, and local nonprofits have taken major steps to address the health of Santa Cruz County's watersheds. These groups, with funding from the California Coastal Conservancy, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Regional Board, have recently completed 13 plans covering different aspects of seven key watersheds. The Coastal Conservancy's Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP), targets these seven watersheds for a range of restoration projects **[see Attachment No. 2].** Phase 1 of IWRP includes the following components:

- Designs and permits for approximately 55 watershed restoration projects,
- Rural roads erosion control technical assistance and design and permits for 20-40 projects,
- Monitoring program development and three years of monitoring,
- County lagoon assessment and management plan,
- Watershed outreach program development,
- Watershed activity guide for grades 4-12,
- IWRP coordination and communication (3 years),
- Project management /administration (3 years),

The total project cost of IWRP is $5,940,500, including $4,500,000 funded by the Coastal Conservancy. The IWRP Interagency Committee (IAC) is tasked with coordinating a voluntary, non-regulatory watershed restoration program in Santa Cruz County based on local watershed plan recommendations to improve fish and wildlife habitat. The objectives of the IAC are to:
coordinate project development; facilitate project implementation; provide technical oversight of IWRP work products; and monitor and evaluate success of IWRP. IAC members include:

National Marine Fisheries Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
Natural Resources Conservation District
Department of Fish and Game
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Coastal Conservancy
Coastal Commission
Department of Forestry
Department of Parks and Recreation
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Fishnet4C
Santa Cruz County RCD
Coastal Watershed Council
County Dept of Environmental Health
County Dept of Public Works
County Dept of Planning
City of Santa Cruz
City of Capitola
City of Watsonville

Regional Board staff considers IWRP to be a unique opportunity to bring focus to water quality protection and enhancement in the watersheds of Santa Cruz County. Staff has already coordinated with the Coastal Conservancy on identifying funding priorities for watershed projects and developing watershed-permitting strategies for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Staff will soon engage with IWRP participants to develop a monitoring strategy to evaluate project implementation effectiveness and to monitor water quality trends in the watersheds.

Monitoring and Assessment in Santa Cruz County

IWRP's monitoring program development will begin in Fall 2004. This program will present an opportunity to re-examine existing monitoring efforts and find efficiencies through improved coordination and clarified intent. Current and proposed monitoring and assessment activities in the forested regions of Santa Cruz County include those identified in **Attachment No. 1**.

Carmel Area Wastewater District Outfall Repair [Matt Thompson 805/549-3159]

During a routine inspection of its ocean outfall in June 2003, Carmel Area Wastewater District discovered a 4" by 8" hole, approximately 20 feet offshore. The cause of the damage is unknown. On two separate occasions in August 2003, divers attempted to repair the hole but were unsuccessful because the pipeline was buried under several feet of sand. After discussions with staff, the District postponed repair until spring 2004 when sand depths were expected to decrease and uncover the pipeline. As a precautionary measure, staff requested the District monitor beach water quality adjacent to the hole until it's repaired. Monitoring thus far has shown no violations of receiving water limitations.

The outfall operated normally at the District's average dry weather flow of 1.7 million gallons per day (MGD). However, increased effluent flows resulting from a large storm on December 29, 2003 revealed that outfall capacity was limited to a flow of 5.5 MGD. Sand and gravel apparently entered the hole and partially clogged the outfall diffuser.

The District declared an emergency and hired Divecon, a specialized dive team from Oxnard, to clean out the outfall and repair the hole. To prepare for the possibility of another large storm, the District planned to expand discharge capacity slightly by using the 1.8 MGD-capacity tertiary treatment facility and 3 million gallon recycled water storage tank. Regardless, if effluent flows were greater than 5.5 MGD for several days, tertiary treated wastewater would need to be discharged to the Carmel River Lagoon adjacent to the treatment plant. If sustained effluent flows were greater then 7.3 MGD, then secondary treated wastewater would also need to be discharged to Carmel River Lagoon.

Fortunately, Divecon was deployed the week of January 26, 2004, and unclogged much of the outfall before any large storms occurred. The divers removed a cap from the end of the 24" diameter outfall diffuser and found it was filled with sand. For three days, the divers used a 'water weasel', a device with several powerful water jets, to break up and remove approximately 50 feet of sand from the outfall diffuser. This restored effluent flow to all 10 diffuser ports and increased the outfall discharge capacity to approximately 6.5 MGD. The District now believes discharge of wastewater to Carmel River Lagoon will not be necessary unless a very large storm occurs.

Divecon was unable to completely clean out the outfall and repair the hole, as ocean conditions became too dangerous to continue. Fortunately,

sand depths have decreased and the hole is no longer buried, so additional sand entering the hole is less of a concern. Divecon is currently waiting for prolonged calm ocean conditions to return. This means they will likely return some time after mid-April. District General Manager Ray von Dohren may be available at the March 19 meeting to provide an update and answer any questions. Otherwise, staff will update the Board when repair work is completed.

Basin Plan Exemption for Septic Disposal, 6955 Lovers Lane, Hollister, San Benito County [Matthew Keeling 805/549-3685]

On January 26, 2003, the Regional Board Executive Officer granted a Basin Plan prohibition exemption regarding separation to groundwater for an individual sewage disposal system. The applicant proposed a mounded septic system leach field design for a single family dwelling at 6955 Lovers Lane, north of Hollister. The subject property is approximately 19.4 acres. The County of San Benito, Division of Environmental Health (County Health) approved the initial design and forwarded the application to the Regional Board for final review and approval on January 7, 2004.

The proposed system was designed to accommodate shallow groundwater conditions (approximately six feet below the ground surface) at the subject property. The system was designed in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's 1980 *Guidelines for Mound Systems*, and 1998 *Draft Guidelines for Mound Systems*. The proposed system was conservatively designed for a peak daily flow of 450 gallons per day with a 2,130 square foot (sq.ft.) mound basal area (a minimum 350 sq. ft. mound basal area was required). In addition, an equivalent reserve mound basal area of 2,130 sq. ft. was designated on the property. The owner is required to inspect the system every two years for solids buildup and pump the system as required. County Health staff will provide regular inspection and oversight of the sewage disposal system and will monitor the system after all rainfall events resulting in greater than one inch of precipitation.

The Executive Officer's exemption letter included standard approval conditions that prohibit exceeding flow limitations, and require notification of any changes in the volume, nature, or location of the discharge, or of any discharges threatening water quality or public health. County Health staff issued a final permit for the proposed system.

Basin Plan Exemption for Septic Disposal, 2250 Shore Road, Hollister, San Benito County [Matthew Keeling 805/549-3685]

On January 26, 2004, the Regional Board Executive Officer granted a Basin Plan prohibition exemption regarding separation to groundwater for an individual sewage disposal system. The applicant proposed a mounded septic system leach field design for a single family dwelling at 6955 Lovers Lane, north of Hollister. The subject property is approximately 50 acres. The County of San Benito, Division of Environmental Health (County Health) approved the initial design and forwarded the application to the Regional Board for final review and approval on January 7, 2004.

The proposed system was designed to accommodate shallow groundwater conditions (approximately six feet below the ground surface) at the subject property. The system was designed in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's 1980 *Guidelines for Mound Systems*, and 1998 *Draft Guidelines for Mound Systems*. The proposed system was conservatively designed for a peak daily flow of 450 gallons per day with a 2,130 square foot (sq.ft.) mound basal area (a minimum 350 sq. ft. mound basal area was required). In addition, an equivalent reserve mound basal area of 2,130 sq ft was designated on the property. The owner is required to inspect the system every two years for solids buildup and pump the system as required. County Health staff will provide regular inspection and oversight of the sewage disposal system and will monitor the system after all rainfall events resulting in greater than one inch of precipitation.

The Executive Officer's exemption letter included standard approval conditions that prohibit exceeding flow limitations, and require notification of any changes in the volume, nature, or location of the discharge, or of any discharges threatening water quality or public health. County Health staff issued a final permit for the proposed system.

CLEANUP REPORTS

Status Reports

Underground Tanks Summary Report dated February 23, 2004 [Burton Chadwick 805/542-4786]

[See Attachment No. 3]

REGIONWIDE REPORTS

Regional Monitoring [Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

Monitoring - CCAMP staff worked recently with Region 6 - Lahontan monitoring staff to assist them with several database management issues associated with their Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) activities. Region 6 SWAMP data is primarily collected through the U.S. Geological Survey. Dave Paradies developed a data uptake tool that will move USGS formatted data into our own CCAMP format. Mary then assisted Region 6 with entering various applicable standards and criteria specific to individual water bodies. This will enable Region 6 staff to scan the database of exceedances for use in 303(d) and 305(b) assessments.

CCAMP has responded to a number of requests for data and information. We have been interacting with U.S. EPA and Tetratech staff to provide data to be considered in the 2004 303(d) listing process. We have also provided information to researchers at Big Creek Reserve, and to consultants working on the Moss Landing Environmental Risk Assessment Peer Review process. We have provided site location data layers to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary's Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMON) with data links to our own website. The SIMON link can be accessed at http://www.mbnms-simon.org/sections/waterQuality/projects.php?sec=wq.

CCAMP has been collaborating with a consultant from the Resources Legacy Foundation and staff from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to plan a meeting on the state of monitoring in the Sanctuary on February 26, 2004. We have invited all agencies and organizations involved in aspects of water quality monitoring and related research. After several presentations, including one by Karen Worcester on CCAMP and related State monitoring activities, the group will undertake an exploratory discussion of monitoring gaps and needs. This will include a mapping exercise that displays locations of existing monitoring activities by the various participants. The Sanctuary's SIMON program will be highlighted as a mechanism to organize metadata from different monitoring programs. We are hoping to come out of the workshop with recommendations for building more comprehensive and coordinated monitoring in the Sanctuary. This will be forwarded to the Resources Legacy Foundation, and can be a potential mechanism for directing Packard Foundation funds towards monitoring activities in the Sanctuary.

CCAMP staff has completed the workplan for the 03-04 fiscal year of SWAMP funding. 03-04 SWAMP funds will be used to initiate our second round of watershed characterization monitoring, in the Pajaro and North Coast watersheds. Sampling for that effort will begin next January.

Fiscal year 02-03 funds will be used this spring to conduct a study of Central Coast harbors, using a sampling design that is consistent with the U.S. EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP). This will include randomly selected sites in each of our six harbors, with sediment chemistry, toxicity, benthic invertebrate, and water column data collected at each site. Mussel tissue data will also be collected at two of the sites in each harbor. Mussels have already been deployed for this study. 02-03 funds are also being used to reinstate Coastal Confluences monitoring, beginning in February. Delays in our commercial laboratory contract have precluded an earlier start date.

Pesticides in Santa Cruz Harbor
During the September 2003 Board Meeting, comments were received on the current status of the DeLaveaga Golf Course Renovation Project in Santa Cruz County. A commenting member of the public suggested that persistent pesticides may be present in soil where improvements to the golf course are proposed, and that these pesticides could potentially migrate to Arana Gulch during storm events.

Though the Regional Board's Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program does not have data from the immediate vicinity of the golf course or Arana Gulch, we have examined various data sources from Santa Cruz Harbor and vicinity, to determine if there is evidence of excessive levels of persistent pesticides in the area. Data sources have included sediment samples collected by CCAMP, mussel tissue data from the State Mussel Watch Program, sediment and toxicity samples by the Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program, and sediment data collected in association with harbor dredging activities by the City of Santa Cruz.

During the period from 1992 to 1996, the Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program (BPTCP) tested three sites in the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor for pesticides, PCBs and PAHs. One of these sites was also tested for sediment and pore water toxicity. Test criteria used to evaluate sediment data in this study included NOAA Effects Range Low (ERL), at which 10% of test organisms show an effect, and Effects Range Median (ERM) values, at which 50% of test organisms show an effect (Long and Morgan, 1990; Long, et al., 1995). Pollutant quotients were developed by dividing pollutant concentrations by their applicable criteria and summing scores for all pollutants for which criteria were available.

In two of the three Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor samples from BPTCP, chlordane was elevated above the ERM (6.0 ug/kg), at one of these sites by over four-fold. At the third site, concentrations of this legacy pesticide were between the ERL (0.5 ug/kg) and the ERM. Toxicity was detected at this last site, but was not measured at the other two. Other pollutants which exceeded ERM values included polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, copper, mercury and PCBs. Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor scored the highest ERM quotients for all sites evaluated in the Region.

Santa Cruz Port District sediment data collected from the inner Harbor related to dredging activities in 2001 had combined alpha- and gamma-Chlordane levels ranging between 13.0 and 14.4 ug/L, over twice the ERM for total Chlordane. In 2002, total alpha- and gamma-Chlordane levels ranged between 5.3 to 9.0 ug/kg. In both of these years, the Harbor's analytical report did not indicate any exceedances for Chlordane because no applicable ERM value was cited, in spite of the fact that these numbers are readily available for total Chlordane in marine waters. Samples taken from the Harbor entrance in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2002 did not show detectable levels of Chlordane. However, it should be noted that detection limits for data collected from 1997 through 1999 exceeded the ERM by over four-fold, making the data of limited usefulness. Toxaphene was measured at 0.221 mg/kg in the 1999 composite sample. This is a relatively high value, but for this chemical no ERMs are available for comparison. The harbor entrance is generally an area of higher energy and coarser particle size than the inner harbor, and would be expected to have lower overall concentrations of pollutants.

A single sediment sample taken from the inner Harbor by CCAMP in 1998 did not show evidence of elevated chlordane, but did have DDT levels elevated over the ERL level. Several mussel tissue samples from the State Mussel Watch Program have been taken between 1980 and 1996. These samples all showed detectable chlordane levels, but not at levels which exceed Maximum Tissue Residual Levels for chlordane in bays and estuaries. CCAMP has begun a six harbor sampling effort this spring that will include Santa Cruz Harbor. This study will place sediment and water quality of this harbor in context with that of other harbors in our Region. We will be conducting a randomized sampling effort using design criteria and sampling protocols consistent with the U.S. EPA Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP). Sampling will include evaluation of sediment and tissue chemistry, as well as sediment toxicity, benthic biota, water column chemistry, and other parameters. This study should further characterize chlordane and other organochlorine pesticides in this and other harbors in the Region.

Though these findings clearly show that there are legacy pesticides at levels of concern in Harbor sediments, no direct relationship can be drawn between these pesticides and activities at the upper watershed. Chlordane was used as a generalized pesticide for many years, but its uses were limited to termite treatment in 1983, and it was banned entirely in 1988. Therefore, it is possible that past urban uses of this pesticide are a major source of this chemical in the Harbor.

Conditional Waivers for Irrigated Agriculture
The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has held three workshops to receive public input regarding proposed conditional waivers for discharges from irrigated agriculture. Public comments and recommendations from the Agricultural Advisory Panel, a group of representatives from several Central Coast agricultural and environmental organizations, have been considered in developing the proposed conditions and proposed monitoring program. Staff will develop a complete program description, and an initial study and negative declaration under CEQA. Documents will be released for a thirty-day public comment period in early March. Comments received during that time will be addressed in a staff report to the Board and incorporated as appropriate into a resolution to be presented to the Board at its May 13, 2004, meeting.

Waiver Conditions
The intent of the Regional Board in developing conditional waivers for irrigated agriculture is to ensure that beneficial uses of surface and ground water are protected and that all irrigated agricultural operations are implementing management practices designed to protect water quality.

The Regional Board proposes to require farm operators to complete fifteen hours of water quality education, develop farm water quality management plans that identify specific practices that will be implemented to address erosion control, nutrient management, irrigation management, and pesticide management, and begin implementation immediately. Operations that have already met these requirements will be eligible for a Tier 1 conditional waiver (five years). Operations that have not yet completed fifteen hours of education or have not completed a farm water quality management plan will be eligible for a Tier 2 (one year) conditional waiver, which can be renewed for up to three years. Operations that have not met all requirements or made a reasonable attempt to do so by the end of three years may be required to apply for waste discharge requirements or be subject to enforcement actions. However, because of concerns about availability of sufficient education courses, Regional Board will evaluate the education requirement at the end of two years to see if adjustments are needed.

Operations that are causing water quality impacts without attempt at compliance may be subject to enforcement action at any time.

Water Quality Monitoring
Considerable concern has been expressed about the costs of a monitoring program. California Water Code Section 13269 requires monitoring to support the development and implementation of the waiver program, including verifying the adequacy and effectiveness of waiver conditions. Monitoring may be individual, group or watershed-based. Although staff will develop a monitoring and reporting program for both individual and cooperative monitoring approaches, individual monitoring is not recommended because of the high cost and because it is a less effective way to determine the adequacy of the waiver program in protecting beneficial uses. The cooperative monitoring program will focus on constituents applied by farmers and incorporate existing monitoring resources as much as possible. Staff is considering a low threat discharge category. Operations meeting all the qualifications for a low threat discharge will not be expected to contribute to monitoring costs.

Agricultural Advisory Panel Recommendations
The Agricultural Advisory Panel is a group representing Central Coast agricultural and environmental organizations that has been meeting over the past year to assist staff in developing the conditional waiver program. Previously, the panel reached consensus on a list of recommendations regarding the organization of the waiver program, including requirements for education and development of farm plans. Those preliminary recommendations were included in the materials prepared for the Regional Board's workshop on January 9, 2004.

At their final meeting on February 20, 2004, the panel reached consensus on a number of recommendations related to the monitoring program. The panel recommends that the monitoring program be focused on currently applied agricultural constituents, and that the program utilize a cooperative monitoring approach rather than focusing on individual or watershed group monitoring.

The panel is still working to finalize additional recommendations. The panel is considering

recommending a phased implementation of the monitoring program to allow time for an organizational structure to be established.

Once panel recommendations are complete, they will be included as part of the waiver documentation and staff report to the Board for the May 14, 2004 Board meeting.

Total Maximum Daily Load Program [Lisa McCann 805/549-3132]

Staff is progressing on the TMDL project tasks to be completed during fiscal year 2003-2004. Most of these projects focus on completion of TMDLs in development and initiation of preliminary studies for new TMDL projects. TMDLs nearing completion include San Luis Obispo Creek Nutrients and Pathogens TMDLs, Chorro and Los Osos Creeks Nutrients and Dissolved Oxygen TMDLs. New projects in the preliminary investigation phases include Salinas River Pathogens, Carpinteria Marsh multiple pollutants, Goleta Slough multiple pollutants, Santa Maria and Oso Flaco Nitrates, Santa Maria Bacteria, Pajaro River and Llagas Creek Salts, and Pajaro River Bacteria. See Table of Planned Completion Dates below.

TABLE OF PLANNED COMPLETION DATES FOR TMDL PROJECTS

PROJECT	ACTION	PLANNED COMPLETION DATE
San Luis Obispo Creek Nutrients TMDL	Recommend approval to Board	July or September 2004[2]
San Luis Obispo Creek Pathogens TMDL	Recommend approval to Board	May or July 2004[2]
Chorro and Los Osos Creeks Nutrients and Dissolved Oxygen TMDLs	Present Status Report to Board Recommend approval to Board	February 2004 September 2004 [1 & 2]
Pajaro River and Llagas Creek Salts Listings	Complete Project Plan	February 2004
Pajaro River Bacteria Listings	Complete Project Plan	February 2004
Santa Maria and Oso Flaco Nitrates Listings	Complete Project Plan	June 2004
Santa Maria Bacteria Listings	Complete Project Plan	June 2004
Pajaro River and Llagas Creek Nutrient TMDL	Complete TMDL Report	June 2004
Pajaro River Watershed Sediment TMDL	Complete TMDL Report	June 2004

1) Dependent on approval of California TMDL Guidance, *A Process for Addressing Impaired Waters in California*, and related Water Quality Control Policy to implement the Guidance.
2) Dependent on timely State scientific peer review

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Non-Point Source Consolidated Grants Process Summary [Lisa Horowitz McCann 805/549-3132]

In January 2004, Regional Board staff completed their involvement in the grant proposal ranking and selection process for the Proposition 13, Phase III and Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 grant awards. The Central Coast Region had eight projects competing within three separate funding sources; these included:

North Coastal Nonpoint Source (Propostion 13) - $7 Million available
Northern California Nonpoint Source (Proposition 13) - $6.5 Million available
Nonpoint Source (CWA Section 319) - $5.5 Million

Regional Board staff had seven projects recommended for funding, by the statewide panel, for a total amount of $4,446,339. Information on specific projects, funding amounts, and applicant information are shown in the table below.

Project Title	Applicant	Funding Amount
Morro Bay National Estuary Program's Volunteer Monitoring Program	The Bay Foundation of Morro Bay	$322, 620
Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Mgt. & Enhancement Plan	Moss Landing Marine Lab	$1,097,000
Regional Integrated Program for Irrigation and Fertilizer Management Assistance	Santa Clara Valley Water District	$899,995
Manure and Erosion Pollution from Livestock Facilities	Ecology Action of Santa Cruz	$651,400
Cost-Share Implementation of Erosion and Sediment Control BMP's in Santa Cruz Co.	Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District	$475, 324
Morro Bay On-Farm Coastal Water Quality Implementation Project	Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District	$500,000
Farm Runoff Prevention and Treatment: A Focused Technical Assistance Program	Resource Conservation District of Monterey County	$500,000
	Total	$4,446,339
Project Not Recommended For Funding:		
San Antonio Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan Implementation	Cachuma Resource Conservation District	$841,500

Unfortunately, one of the projects supported by Regional Board staff for funding, but not accepted by the statewide panel, was the Farm Water Quality Classes. Regional Board staff will continue to support the funding of these classes through various funding options, including future State Board sources. Additionally, one project was deemed uncompetitive during the technical review process and was not recommended for funding.

The seven successful projects will be recommended for funding at the State Board meetings on February 19, 2004 (Proposition 13 proposals) and at the regularly scheduled State Board meeting in April or May (Proposition 13 proposals and CWA Section 319 proposals). Once approved by the State Board to be awarded grant funds, State Board and Regional Board staff will work to establish contracts as soon as possible.

These projects are projected to have contracts established within a few months of being awarded funds, however, contract establishment has frequently been delayed due to the enormous workload associated with the bond funds. The State and Regional Board staff are still processing contracts for projects awarded funds under Proposition 13, Phase I and Phase II. Simultaneously, staff is establishing the selection

processes for subsequent grant funds in Proposition 40 and 50.

The schedules and process for future grant awards pursuant to the consolidated grants program are unclear at this time. This is partly due to the workload issues discussed above and because the Governor's budget for fiscal year 2004-2005 did not include all of the appropriated funds for the various bonds.

Proposition 13 bond funds have all been accounted for in the current process described above and should be fully awarded once the State Board approves the remaining proposed projects at the May Board meeting. (http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/agendas/2004/february/0203-01.doc)

A portion of Proposition 40 and 50 grant funds is scheduled for release in fall of 2004 or winter of 2005. This portion includes grants for Small Community Wastewater Facilities and Agricultural Water Quality projects. A committee of State and Regional Board staff is meeting to develop the criteria and selection process for the Agricultural Water Quality portion of Proposition 40 and 50 funds (~11,000,000 and ~9,500,000, respectively). The committee has agreed that the funds should be focused on irrigated agriculture, with priority given to management practice implementation and evaluation, education, integrated farming systems and leveraging other resources. Region 3 staff is participating on the committee and has identified UC Cooperative Extension's Farm Water Quality Planning short course as one of the region's highest priorities for this funding. Other regions have also expressed interest in these courses as a means to aid farmers in complying with waivers and Total Maximum Daily Loads. Other categories of grants under Proposition 40 and 50 are not likely to be released until late in 2004 or into 2005. (http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/docs/prop50hearingtables.xls)

At this point in time, State Board staff plans to solicit proposals for the watershed management and nonpoint source pollution control categories of Proposition 40 and Proposition 50 via a consolidated grants program in conjunction with the 2004-2005 CWA Section 319 grant funds. This program will probably be initiated in summer of 2005.

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Water Quality Coordinating Committee [Roger Briggs 805-549-3140]

The next WQCC meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2004 in Sacramento, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (one day only).

Presentations and Training [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

At a January 14, 2004, meeting of Regional Board watershed coordinators, WRCE Michael Higgins presented elements of problem-solving approaches identified by Dr. Malcolm Sparrow in *The Regulatory Craft* and some applications of the approaches in the Central Coast Region. Successive stages of problem identification, solution development, solution implementation, and follow-up monitoring characterize successful problem-solving efforts. The Regional Board has overseen the elimination of illegal discharges from greenhouses in the Carpinteria area using problem-solving techniques. Staff is now implementing measures developed through a problem-solving approach to improve the results of the Board's program to regulate stormwater discharges.

Pismo Creek Watershed Group Training - Mary Adams of CCAMP staff attended the first Pismo Creek watershed work group meeting. The workgroup was initiated by several landowners in the watershed, along with Central Coast Salmon Enhancement. The National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Geologic Survey gave presentations on existing data available in the watershed. Mary presented information on monitoring that we (CCAMP) have conducted in the creek and provided a brief summary of know water quality issues. She also gave a demonstration of water quality monitoring techniques, as several of the landowners are planning to initiate a monitoring program. She

will be working with the group to help them organize and interpret their data in the future.

Bioassessment Data Workshop - Mary Adams attended a three-day workshop in Sacramento (2/17/04 – 2/19/04) focused on methodologies to interpret bioassessment data. The workshop consisted of both presentations and hands-on data analysis using different statistics software packages. CCAMP has been collecting biological data for the past 5 years and has been using a metric ranking method to evaluate information collected to date. This workshop introduced us to a variety of tools that we can use to further interpret the data in the context of other bioassessment efforts, including other Regions, the U.S. EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP), U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Forest Service.

Ecological Farming Association - Alison Jones spoke about the proposed discharge waivers for irrigated agriculture at the Ecological Farming Association's Annual Conference in Pacific Grove on January 21, 2004. This was part of a day-long preconference event entitled "Farms to Fishes", which explored the connections between land activities and ocean health. Alison attended the remainder of the conference as training.

Central Coast Vineyard Team and Paso Robles Vine Growers Association - On February 6, 2004, Alison Jones presented information on the proposed discharge waivers at a meeting of the Central Coast Vineyard Team and Paso Robles Vine Growers Association in Paso Robles. Nearly 100 people attended that event. Julia Dyer presented the same information at a Central Coast Vineyard Team tailgate meeting in Santa Barbara County on February 20 and Alison Jones will make a presentation at another tailgate meeting in Monterey County on February 27.

Agricultural Exposition - Alison Jones will make a presentation on the proposed waivers at the Agricultural Exposition being sponsored by the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner. The presentation will be in both Spanish and English.

Farm Water Quality Class in Spanish - On February 18, 2004, Amanda Bern and Kimberly Gonzalez presented information on water quality issues and regulations at the first Farm Water Quality class presented in Spanish in Watsonville. All of the UC Cooperative Extension's Farm Water Quality short course materials have now been translated into Spanish. This was done by the Agriculture and Land Based Training Association (ALBA), which organized and led the effort, with help from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Monterey County Resource Conservation District, the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, and several UC Cooperative Extension offices. Other organizations that participated in developing and presenting the Spanish course include the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, University of California researchers, Santa Cruz Farm Bureau, Monterey County Water Resources Agency and the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's office. Materials taught during the course include water quality regulations, existing water quality problems in the Region (this is the Regional Board's portion of the course), hydrology, nutrient management, irrigation management, pesticide management, and erosion and sediment control. At the end of the 15-hour course, farmers have a completed farm plan.

Leading Through Change – Karen Worcester attended "Leading Through Change" on 1/28/04. This class was offered through the U.C. Davis Extension Watershed Training Academy and targeted senior management staff. The class focused on a series of recommended management tactics to guide staff through changing times.

Public Works Officers Institute
Roger Briggs will give a presentation on March 4th, in Santa Barbara at the Fess Parker Doubletree Inn at the annual state-wide Public Works Officers Institute attended by several hundred Directors of Public Works and City Engineers, and Utility Managers from cities and counties all over the State. The event is also in conjunction with the League of California Cities and the County Engineers Association of California. Roger was asked to speak on Water Quality Regulatory Issues.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Summary Table of Monitoring and Assessment Activities
2. Map of Watersheds Targeted in the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program for Santa Cruz County
3. Underground Tanks Summary Report dated February 23, 2004.

EOrptMAR04/Carol