

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9-10, 2006

Prepared on January 17, 2006

ITEM NUMBER: 31

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.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Dominic Roques 805/542-4870]

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 pages lists applications received from October 1, 2005 to November 30, 2005.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2005

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Received	Action
Don Talley - Biddle Ranch Co.	East Biddle Cluster Project	To facilitate a single-family rural residential development within the County of San Luis Obispo, northeast of the City of Arroyo Grande.	2.5 miles northeast of Arroyo Grande	San Luis Obispo	Un-named ephemeral drainages	12-Oct-05	Pending
Irish Hills Plaza West, LLC	Irish Hills Plaza West Project	To install one culvert crossing for the construction of a driveway and the extension of an existing culvert crossing at Froom Ranch Way	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Un-named drainage of Froom Creek	5-Oct-05	Pending
City of Arroyo Grande	Tally Ho Drainage Channel	Repair and maintenance of the existing cement-lined portion of the Tally Ho Drainage Channel	Arroyo Grande	San Luis Obispo	Tally Ho Creek	6-Oct-05	Pending
City of Carpinteria	Carpinteria Winter Protection Berm	To prevent ocean storm wave damage to private and public property along the Carpinteria City Beach by placing sand berms.	Carpinteria City Beach	Santa Barbara	Pacific Ocean	20-Oct-05	Pending
David Graves - DLG Development, LLC	Graves single Family Residence Driveway Project	To construct a residential driveway across a "blue Line" creek using a 48" culvert with Earthen bottom.	City of Atascadero	San Luis Obispo	Un-named tributary to Atascadero Creek/Salinas River	21-Nov-05	Pending
Count of San Luis Obispo - Department of Public Works	Geotechnical Surveys for the Nacimiento Water Project	To conduct surveys within the bed and bank of jurisdictional streams and the Salinas River.	Camp Roberts/ Rabbit Ridge Winery/Paso Robles/Templeton	San Luis Obispo	Nacimiento River/San Marcos Creek/Salinas River	2-Nov-05	Pending

Union Oil Company of California	Guadalupe Restoration Project	Excavation/fill work in wetland area.	Guadalupe sand dunes	San Luis Obispo	Interior dune slack wetlands	2-Nov-05	Pending
Castlerock Development	Oak Ridge Estates, Phase II - IV Public Improvements	Improvements to Highway 41 and Los Altos intersection.	Atascadero	San Luis Obispo	Tributary to Atascadero Creek	3-Nov-05	Pending
Department of Transportation	Cuyama Rehabilitation Project	Rehabilitation roadwork on Route 166 in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.	New Cuyama and unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties	San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara	Un-named drainages, Branch Canyon Bridge, Salisbury Canyon Bridge, all tributaries to Cuyama River	4-Nov-05	Pending
Department of Transportation	Highway 41: Line Culverts Project	Repair two corroded metal culverts with a new lining and place energy dissipation rock at the outlets to prevent scour.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Morro Creek	9-Nov-05	Pending
San Luis Obispo County Office of Education	Water Pipeline Repair and Enhancement Project	To relocate a 6" waterline below grade of a riverbed within Chumash Creek. The project includes removing a damaged bridge crossing.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Chumash Creek	14-Nov-05	Pending
Daniel Beck - San Ardo Pipeline Company	San Ardo Pipeline Maintenance, Sites 6 & 7	To protect a gas pipeline from potential harm	Monterey	Monterey	Canton Creek	14-Nov-05	Pending
Don Dey - City of Gilroy	Farrell Avenue Bridge Widening and Roadway Improvements	To widen and improve Farrell Avenue Bridge.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	West Branch of Llagas Creek, tributary to Pajaro River.	14-Nov-05	Pending

Joel Neel - Cal Poly State University	Cal Poly Student Housing North/Poly Canyon Village	Construct student housing for 2,700 students with buildings and attendant transportation features.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Brizzolara Creek, and unnamed Drumm Reservoir drainage tributary to Stenner Creek.	21-Nov-05	Pending
The Cannery Row Company, Pacific Hotel Management, LLC, and Cannery Row Hotel Development Venture,	Cannery Row Hotel	Addition of foundation bases and columns to support the publicly accessible walkway to Building A.	Monterey	Monterey	Monterey Bay	21-Nov-05	Pending
County of San Benito, Arman Nazemi	Cienega Road Bridge Replacement at Pescadero Creek	Replace the existing bridge over Pescadero Creek with a bridge twice as wide.	Hollister	San Benito	Pescadero Creek	30-Nov-05	Pending
E. James Murar - Orcutt Associates	Tumbling Waters Development Plan	Residential development and roadway improvement	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Alrita-Carla Creek, Sydney Creek, Escorp Drainage (trib to Acacia Creek and San Luis Obispo Creek)	23-Nov-05	Pending
Pacific Gas and Electric Company	Line 103 San Benito River Erosion Project	Repair the West Bank of the San Benito River (erosion) to protect PG&E's 12.75-inch high pressure natural gas	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	San Benito River	8-Nov-05	Pending

Watershed Reports

Storm Water Municipal General Permit [Ryan Lodge 805/549-3506]

The cities of Lompoc, Buellton, Santa Maria, and King City all recently submitted revised Storm Water Management Programs (SWMP) for review. Water Board staff is currently reviewing the King City SWMP. With minor modifications to each, the Lompoc, Buellton, and Santa Maria SWMPs were approved by Water Board staff and are currently posted on the State Board web page for 60-day public comment periods. The current status of the Region's Phase II SWMP review is shown in Attachment A.

[See Attachment A]

Arthur R. Wilson Quarry Permit Petition Dismissal [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

[See Attachment B]

Cleanup Reports

Underground Tanks Summary Report dated January 4, 2006 [Burton Chadwick 805/542-4786]

[See Attachment C]

Regional Reports

Regional Monitoring Report [Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

The Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program is moving monitoring activities into the Salinas watershed in 2006. We will be finishing up the Pajaro and North Coast rotation over the next few months. Multiple species toxicity testing has been completed at 24 sites for wet weather sampling, and bioassessment will be conducted in March. We have now completed two full monitoring rotations of the Pajaro watershed. We are beginning development of tools to examine the data for evidence of significant change in water quality since we last visited the watershed in 1998.

CCAMP staff organized a Salinas stakeholder meeting for December 5th to discuss our monitoring plans for 2006, to coordinate with other programs, to get input on environmental issues and needs, and to be updated on other monitoring activities in the watershed. The meeting was attended by major monitoring interests in the watershed, including the Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture, City of Salinas storm water staff, major volunteer programs, the Monterey Department of Water Resources, and university researchers. We received excellent input on site locations, and discussed coordination of the four major monitoring programs in the watershed (CCAMP, agricultural monitoring, Salinas storm water monitoring, and a grant funded volunteer effort). Following the workshop we joined City staff on a tour of the Salinas storm drain system, to discuss where to locate the City's required storm water sites to work best with both our program and the Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture.

The Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture completed site selection for Phase 2 monitoring, which includes 25 new sites in the Pajaro watershed, San Luis Obispo County, and southern Santa Barbara County; initiation of monitoring at these sites will bring the program's site total to 50. The program will be collaborating with university researchers in sampling several of the new sites in the Pajaro watershed. CCAMP staff has supported the Cooperative Monitoring Program by developing tools to allow them to handle electronic data more effectively. This has resulted in improved data deliveries, in terms of accuracy, timeliness, and completeness.

CCAMP staff delivered 103,901 lines of data to Tetrattech in a newly finalized batch format, for incorporation into the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS). This delivery included most of the data that we have collected through our monitoring efforts from 1998 through 2003. The same format will be used to upload data into SWAMP once we have added in additional quality assurance information. We have introduced Tetrattech staff to our web-based data upload tool and both Region 3 and SWAMP staff are considering it and the associated batch formats as a model for moving grant data into SWAMP/CIWQS. Dave Paradies met with Tetrattech, Surface Water Ambient Monitoring

Program (SWAMP) staff, Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) staff and CIWQS staff on Monday, December 12th, to discuss data transfer and coordination between agency programs and CIWQS. Both Karen Worcester and Dave Paradies are working with the Ambient Monitoring Module (AMM) development team for CIWQS, to provide input on functional requirements related to storage and use of ambient data.

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

Staff recently completed the following TMDL tasks or reports:

- Aptos and Valencia Creek Pathogen TMDLs- Data Collection and Analysis Reports
- Watsonville Sloughs Pathogen TMDL - Draft Basin Plan Amendment

Staff will continue work on the following TMDL tasks or reports:

- Carbonera Creek Pathogen TMDL- Data Collection and Analysis Report
- Corralitos Creek Pathogen TMDL- Data Collection and Analysis Report
- Monterey Harbor Lead TMDL- TMDL Project Report or Delisting Proposal
- Salinas River Nutrient TMDL- Final Project Report
- Salinas River Pesticides TMDLs -Final Project Report
- Salinas River Pathogens TMDL- Data Collection and Analysis Report
- San Lorenzo River Estuary TMDL- Preliminary Project Report
- Soquel Lagoon Pathogens TMDL- Preliminary Project Report

All of the projects listed above are progressing towards development and/or approval of a TMDL or a delisting proposal.

The State Water Resources Control Board is currently accepting public comments on proposed revisions of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) list of water quality limited segments. The State Water Board will not make any decision regarding the 303(d) list at the workshops. The 303(d) list will be considered for adoption at a future State Water Board meeting.

They held a public workshop on December 6, 2005, in Sacramento to hear comments on the recommendations for North Coast, San Francisco Bay, Central Coast, Central Valley, and Lahontan regions and will hold a public workshop on January 5, 2006 to hear comments on the recommendations for Los Angeles, Lahontan, Colorado River Basin, Santa Ana, and San Diego regions.

The State Water Board only received one comment on the recommendations for listing in the Central Coast Region. The commentor generally mentioned evidence of pathogens found in marine mammals in ocean waters off the Central Coast, but did not comment on any specific listing recommendations. Many of the streams and coastal areas are already listed for impairment due to bacteria. Most of the current recommendations include new listings for unionized ammonia and nitrate.

Vision Update [Michael Thomas 805/542-4623]

Water Board Vision and Measurable Goals

As we discussed with the Board last year in our off-site meeting, our vision statement will be based on our desired physical condition of the Central Coast. We want to answer the question: "What will the Central Coast be like in 20 years?" We are answering that question, and developing measurable goals to achieve the desired future condition. The great challenge is to draft language that is simple but not simplistic. We have held several internal meetings to develop measurable goals for the Central Coast Water Board. We were sidetracked over the past few months due to other work commitments, but are back on track now. We plan to bring our draft vision statement and measurable goals to the Board on March 24, 2006, along with an outline of the next steps toward implementing the goals and tracking our success.

Protecting Riparian Habitat

Staff presented information to the Board during 2005, about our plans to improve protection for riparian areas on the Central Coast. Our efforts are evolving into a proposed Basin Plan amendment that would provide unprecedented protection for "critical habitat." We define critical habitat as habitat that is essential to protect and maintain water quality, including riparian areas, wetlands,

and their buffer zones. Chris Rose, a project manager with the Water Board's TMDL unit, will lead the effort to develop this major Basin Plan amendment.

The amendment will be based on protecting functioning habitat, so we have to define the ecological systems and their functions via a multi parameter approach (biological, chemical, physical). Some questions we will address are: How are water quality and habitat linked? What is critical habitat (habitat critical to the protection of water quality)? How will we measure it? How do we know when degradation occurs? How will we protect it? This effort represents a fundamental shift away from considering single parameters on their own (dissolved oxygen, temperature, nitrates, etc.), and toward a multi parameter approach that defines properly functioning natural systems.

Over the next few months we will identify the internal and external resources necessary to develop the Basin Plan amendment, describe the interim tasks, and develop a schedule. The goal is a scientifically, legally, and economically defensible Basin Plan amendment that will provide long-term protection for critical habitat. We will provide a comprehensive update on this effort at the Water Board's March 24, 2006 meeting.

Low Impact Development

On September 9, 2005, the Central Coast Water Board approved \$250,000 for the funding of a Low Impact Development (LID) pilot project and other LID outreach actions within the Central Coast Region. The following is a list of recent developments and actions taken by Water Board staff.

1. LID Workshop – On November 18, 2005, the Regional Water Board hosted a workshop titled "Moving Toward Sustainability: Advancing Low Impact Development, Smart Growth, and Integrated Regional Water Management on the Central Coast." There were 12 presenters from around the U.S., eight demonstration tables, and approximately 110 attendees. Attendees included individuals representing municipalities, non-profit organizations, consultants, and the general public. We used Water Board approved funding to put on this workshop.
2. City of Santa Maria - Water Board staff and management met with City of Santa Maria representatives from their Engineering, Planning, Utilities, Community Development, Parks and Recreation, and Legal departments on December 14, 2005. The purpose of the meeting was to explain what LID is and why it is beneficial to the City, to answer questions and concerns, and to discuss conceptual LID projects. The City was receptive, and stated their commitment to pursue a LID pilot project and LID design standards.
3. City of Salinas – Water Board staff issued a letter on December 23, 2005, to the City of Salinas explaining that LID meets the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) standard required in the Salinas Storm Water Permit, and consequently the City must incorporate LID methodology into its ordinances and design standards to comply with their Phase I municipal storm water permit, or demonstrate that its desired alternative is at least as effective as LID.
4. Ordinance and Design Standards Review and Revision – The Board-approved funding included monies to hire a consultant to work with a Central Coast municipality to review and align development ordinances with LID design standards. Staff issued a Request for Proposal to four firms for this work. Regional Board staff, in conjunction with City of Salinas representatives, reviewed the submitted proposals, and then concluded that the project scope needed to be expanded. A second, expanded Request for Proposal was issued to the top two firms. We received the expanded proposals on January 13, 2006. We will provide an update on this project at the Water Board's March 24, 2006 meeting.

We also compiled the Proposition 40 and 50 State Board grant information that is applicable to LID projects. We distributed this information to municipalities, developers and other LID interested parties on December 22 and 27, 2005, with a letter encouraging the parties to submit conceptual LID grant proposals by the January 2006 submittal deadline. Water Board staff is conducting ongoing outreach, via face-to-face meetings and correspondence with municipalities, consultants, developers, and educators in an effort to encourage any one of these groups to pursue LID pilot

projects. We will provide regular updates to the Water Board on our success in implementing LID design standards in our Region.

A recent letter to the Ocean Protection Council provides another summary of efforts and direction, and it is attached for the Board's additional understanding and perspective. We will also continue reporting to the Board on all aspects of our vision and measurable goals development, and provide an update on the other "miscellaneous" topics that we discussed with the Board over a year ago (e.g., how to limit plastics in receiving waters, pharmaceutical chemicals in our waters, etc.).

Administrative Reports

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

Karen Worcester presented a talk at the California Nonpoint Source Conference (November 7-9, 2005) in Sacramento, entitled "Agricultural Water Quality on the Central Coast: a new approach to Monitoring and Implementation Tracking". The talk described the several unique aspects of our agricultural waiver monitoring program, and various lessons learned in its development. The program is structured to work with our own Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program, and includes a management practice reporting component that is unique to the State. It is

designed to detect change over time at long-term monitoring sites, to associate those changes with management practice implementation data from sub-watersheds, and use follow-up monitoring to aid in problem-solving. It also has an unusual data management approach that involves web-based feedback to ensure accurate and complete file submittals. The talk was very well received.

Mary Adams organized a Salinas stakeholder meeting on December 5, 2005, for organizations and agencies with an interest in water quality monitoring and data use. This meeting is held annually prior to initiation of work in a new watershed rotation area. The intent of the meeting is to gather information about environmental issues of concern, receive input on site selection and other aspects of planned monitoring activities, and to coordinate interactions with other monitoring programs.

On December 15, 2005, Mary Adams gave a presentation to a Cal Poly engineering class on the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program and how data is used to support Regional Board activities.

On November 19, 2005, Carol Hewitt took a Notary Public class and passed the exam at Cal Poly. Carol will receive her Notary Commission from the Secretary of State within a couple of months.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Phase II SWMP Review
- B. State Board Ltr dtd 1/6/06 re Petition Dismissal
- C. Underground Tanks Summary Report dated January 4, 2006