

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

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 24, 2006**

Prepared on February 23, 2006

**ITEM NUMBER: 20**

**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 December 1, 2005 to January 31, 2006.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM DECEMBER 1, 2005 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2006

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Received	Action
Paul Abbott - Bridge Street Group	Tract 2560 Bridge Street Neighborhood Project	Removal and replacement of an existing bridge; concrete abutments over Meadow Creek with a concrete span bridge; the replacement of a culvert in unnamed tributary; excavation of two storm water detention ponds with placement of water control structures in the unnamed tributary.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Meadow Creek and unnamed tributary to Meadow Creek	8-Dec-05	Pending
Westpac Investments, Inc.	Atascadero T2588 and T2738	Box culvert bridge, two outfall structures, and culvert extension from El Camino Real. Riparian restoration along unnamed drainage.	Atascadero	San Luis Obispo	Tributary to Salinas River	13-Dec-05	Pending
Lin Cheng-Yang/Her-Ling	Pedregosa Area Storm Drain Project	Replace existing storm drain system Remove existing undercut concrete structures and reveg with natives as mitigation. Upstream of outfall, an entirely new alignment of the existing storm drain system is planned. The area is urbanized Santa Barbara.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Mission Creek	8-Dec-05	Pending
US Department of the Air Force	13th Street Bridge Rip Rap Repairs for 2006	Repair bridge, create temporary access road, divert water, and excavate sediment to be used for fill.	Vandenberg AFB	Santa Barbara	San Ynez River	9-Jan-06	Pending
Cambria Community Services District	Cambria Desalination Facility	Exploration activities at San Simeon State Beach to support subsequent engineering and environmental analyses on the potential application of subterranean beach collector intake system and subterranean brine discharge system associated with the CCSD's proposed desalination project.	Cambria	San Luis Obispo	Pacific Ocean	10-Jan-06	Pending

Glenn Priddy, County of SLO Public Works	Santa Rita Road at Old Creek Bridge Repair Project	Repair bridge, placement of a temporary culvert	Cayucos	San Luis Obispo	Old Creek	10-Jan-06	Pending
Department of Transportation	Highway 192 Wall Construction	Construct a wall along a tributary of Toro Creek.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Toro Creek	9-Jan-06	Pending
County of Santa Cruz	Trout Gulch Road - Stream Bank Stabilization	Stabilize the roadway embankment with installation of rock slope protection backfilled with soil	Aptos	Santa Cruz	Trout Creek Gulch Valencia Creek Aptos Creek	22-Dec-05	Pending
Jean Higaki, Caltrans	SR 152 Truck Climbing Lane	Construct a truck-climbing lane. Requires excavation of jurisdictional wetlands.	San Felipe Quadrangle	Santa Clara	Pajaro River	3-Jan-06	Pending
Di-Mac Development, Inc	Jensen's Cobblestone Outfall	Remove storm water pipe sections and relocate outfall outside of streambed.	Orcutt	Santa Barbara	Orcutt Creek	17-Jan-06	Pending
Steve Palmisano - City of Watsonville	Harkins Slough Road Bridge over Struve Slough	Replace low-water access to residential and commercial areas in the vicinity of Struve Slough. The bridge has been out since subsidence allowed inundation by Harkins Slough. The road is an important link running mostly east-west through the watershed. The bridge replacement is not associated with any new residential or commercial areas.	Watsonville	Santa Cruz	Struve Slough	18-Jan-06	Pending

### Watershed Reports

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

The public comment period for the City of Hollister ended with no comments. The City of Hollister now has Municipal Storm Water General Permit coverage. The 60-day comment periods for the Cities of Lompoc and Buellton ended with interested parties submitting hearing requests for each community's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP).

The County of Santa Barbara's SWMP was approved by Water Board staff and is currently posted on the State Board web page for 60-day public comment periods. Water Board staff is currently reviewing the King City SWMP and the revised City of San Luis Obispo SWMP.

Water Board staff reviewed the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) SWMP and sent a second review letter requesting modifications to the SWMP. Water Board staff conducted a site visit and construction inspections of UCSC on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. A NOV letter will be sent to UCSC as a result of site inspection findings. Water Board staff also submitted comments on the UCSC Long Range Development Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Finally, Soledad Unified School District (SUSD) was issued a NOV letter by Water Board staff based on SUSD's failure to file a NOI and SWMP. The current status of the Region's Phase II SWMP review is shown in Attachment A.

[See Attachment A]

### Cleanup Reports

Underground Tanks Summary Report dated February 21, 2006 [Burton Chadwick 805/542-4786]

[See Attachment B]

### Regional Reports

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

Staff recently completed the following TMDL tasks or reports:

- Corralitos Creek Pathogen TMDL- Data Collection and Analysis Report\*
- Monterey Harbor Lead TMDL- Delisting Proposal
- Salinas River Pathogens TMDL- Data Collection and Analysis Report
- San Lorenzo River Estuary (including Carbonera Creek) Pathogens TMDL- Preliminary Project Report\*
- Watsonville Sloughs Pathogen TMDL - Final Board Agenda Item

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

- Aptos and Valencia Creeks Pathogens TMDL- Preliminary Project Report\*
- Chorro Creek Nutrient TMDL- Final Project Report\*
- Pajaro River and Tributaries Pathogen TMDL- Project Plan
- Salinas River Nutrient TMDL- Final Project Report
- Salinas River Pathogens TMDL- Final Project Report
- Salinas River Pesticides TMDLs -Final Project Report
- Santa Maria River and Oso Flaco Creek Bacteria TMDL- Preliminary Project Report
- Santa Maria River and Oso Flaco Creek Nitrate TMDL- Preliminary Project Report
- Soquel Lagoon Pathogens TMDL- Preliminary Project Report\*
- Watsonville Sloughs Pesticides TMDL- Preliminary Project Report\*

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

Staff is currently developing the TMDL Program Workplan for next fiscal year. Almost all of the original TMDL projects, initiated in the first two years after the TMDL Program was created in 1999, are complete or will be completed in next fiscal year. The remaining projects to be completed are shown above with an asterisk (\*). Therefore, staff efforts in next fiscal year will shift focus to

initiating new projects and implementing approved TMDLs. To determine new projects, staff will assess the impaired water bodies on the current and updated list (scheduled for approval by September 2006) and select the highest priority impairments.

For approved TMDLs, staff will also develop and/or implement numeric target monitoring (specifically, Los Osos Creek Nutrient TMDL, Morro Bay Sediment TMDL, Pajaro River Sediment TMDL and San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL). Staff will review status of or initiate/require actions in approved TMDL implementation plans (specifically, Clear Creek and Hernandez Reservoir Mercury TMDLs, Morro Bay Sediment and Pathogen TMDLs, Pajaro River Sediment TMDLs, San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL, and San Luis Obispo Creek Pathogen TMDL). In some cases, TMDL staff will perform these tasks in coordination with staff in other programs that implement the requirements identified to correct impairments (e.g., Storm Water Program or NPDES permitting staff). In other cases, staff in the other programs will perform the tasks. The tasks include writing letters requesting technical information or water quality monitoring results from dischargers pursuant to California Water Code Section 13267, adding management practices to Storm Water Management Plans, reviewing reports from dischargers and inspecting their properties to determine if management practices are effective or need to be modified (e.g., irrigated agricultural and grazing operations).

Grants and Contracts [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

Attached [**Attachment C**] is our Region's grants/contracts for Prop 13, 40 and 50 as well as Federal 319(h) Grants, which are all managed by Regional Board staff. Also attached [**Attachment D**] is a listing of the Clean Beach projects in our Region, which are managed by State Board staff. Currently there is a total of 43 grants/contracts listed; of the 43, two are Clean Beach projects and nine represent amendments.

Total amount of projects = \$22,097,277  
Total amount expended = \$4,214,032  
Total balance = \$17,883,245

With the consolidated grant process in full swing, our goal is to ensure that all projects are moving forward effectively. We just received 56 new consolidated grant applications from all over the region and staff is evaluating those proposals now, for recommendations to the State Board.

In addition to the above grant projects, since January 1, 2004, we have 16 Supplemental Environmental Project underway or approved (some of the approved settlements have multiple SEPs), totaling \$732,150, also tracked by our staff (Attachment: SEPs adopted since 1/1/04). Our combined total of the above projects (SEPs, grants) underway is 59 projects for \$22,097,277, plus we will be receiving funding for some of the 56 new grant applications. Additionally, we have many projects underway from about \$24 M in older settlements (e.g., Unocal Avila and Guadalupe, PG&E Diablo, and Moss Landing Power Plant – such as the two Elkhorn Slough watershed projects the Board approved at the last Board meeting).

These projects represent a tremendous opportunity for leveraging our staff efforts to accomplish lasting, tangible improvements in our region. Our staff salary costs for managing these projects is about \$0.35M, spread over about five line staff. Not counting the new consolidated grants applications and unallocated settlement funds, that's a ratio of about 140 to 1 in terms of project dollars to staff cost. As we define our Vision and Goals (Item #17 in this agenda), we can continue to leverage our staff efforts with grants and other projects to make rapid progress toward that Vision for our region.

**Administrative Reports**

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

Beginning February 27 through March 3, 2006, Kristina Seley and Karyn Steckling, both Water Resource Control Engineers working on several high profile groundwater cleanup cases in the Central Coast Region, attended the renowned Princeton Groundwater Course in San Francisco.

Staff from the Watershed Assessment Unit, Angela Carpenter, Shanta Keeling, Lisa Horowitz McCann, Katie McNeill, Pete Osmolovsky, Chris

Rose, and Kim Sanders, all attended a two-day training on Project Management sponsored by the Water Board's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program and provided by the Water Board's Training Academy on February 8 and 9, 2006. The focus of the course was to teach Water Board staff, particularly those planning and managing long-range projects like TMDLs, the following:

- 1) the conceptual framework for effective project management
- 2) concepts, terms and tools used by project management professionals
- 3) TMDL project areas where professional project management can be applied; and

4) tools and processes currently in use to improve management of TMDL projects.

Staff found the class extremely relevant and useful. Individual staff members have committed to change or add specific work habits or tools they learned in the course. The unit has also identified and will implement several concepts, tasks and tools learned in the course.

Larry Harlan is scheduled to take the course on March 29 and 30, 2006.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Phase II SWMP Review
- B. Underground Tanks Summary Report dated February 21, 2006
- C. Region 3 Grants and Contracts List
- D. Region 3 Clean Beach Projects List

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