STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 11, 2008

Prepared on June 12, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 21

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Dominic Roques 805/542-4780]

In general, staff recommends "Standard Certification" when the applicant proposes adequate mitigation. Measures included in the application must ensure 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 February 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM FEB. 1, 2008 THROUGH MAR. 31, 2008

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage[1]	Mitigation[2] Acres	Certified
Gene Gonzalo-Caltrans	Uvas Creek Bridge Replacement Project	Replacing the existing Uvas Creek bridge on State Route 152.	SR 152	Santa Clara	Uvas Creek	0.24	5.4	To be determined
Steve Weisner--Santa Cruz County DPW	Corralitos Creek Fish Passage PM 2.95[3]	Retrofitting a culvert to improve steelhead passage.	Corralitos	Santa Cruz	Corralitos Creek	0.2611	0.2981	To be determined
Steve Weisner--Santa Cruz County DPW	Shingle Mill Gulch Fish Passage PM 4.8	Improving fish passage by replacing a concrete apron at the culvert outlet and constructing three rock vortex weirs downstream of existing culvert and notching the concrete sill at the outlet.	Corralitos	Santa Cruz	Shingle Mill Gulch	0.12	To be determined	To be determined

[1] Total Acreage includes both temporary and permanent impacts to riparian, streambed, and/or wetland environments within federal jurisdiction.

[2] Mitigation acres are reported only for Certified projects. Water Board compensatory mitigation requirements are determined based on area impacted. They are generally 2:1 for streambed impacts, 1:1 for riparian impacts, and 3:1 for wetland impacts. Mitigation acreage is final upon issuance of certification and not shown unless the Water Board has issued certification.

[3] PM 2.95 means...

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage[1]	Mitigation[2] Acres	Certified
Chris Perri	The Meadow at Falcon Ridge Residential Development	Permanently impact 0.44 acres of wetlands and 0.025 acres of an unnamed drainage to construct a small housing development.	Scotts Valley	Santa Cruz	Unnamed drainage to Carbonera Creek	0.465	0.854	To be determined
Gareth Conway--Conway Vineyards, Inc.	Galatea Winery At-Grade Crossing	Installation of an at-grade crossing 20ft wide, 60ft long concrete structure with a silt pond, and a riprap apron. The crossing spans an ephemeral tributary to Phoneix Creek	Arroyo Grande	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributary to Phoenix Creek	0.02	To be determined	To be determined
Richard Dore-Foxen Winery and Vineyard	Foxen Canyon Spring Development and Bank Restoration	After-the-fact certification: applicant installed a 36-inch standpipe in the ground around a spring. Applicant graded along the creek bank and access roads were graded. Applicant proposes to restore the site with willows and regrading.	Santa Maria	Santa Barbara	Foxen Canyon Creek	0.42	0.425	To be determined
Glen Priddy--County of San Luis Obispo	Airport Road Low Water Crossing Repair Project	Repair existing low water crossing over the Estrella River at Airport Road.	Estrella	San Luis Obispo	Estrella River	0.8	To be determined	To be determined

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage[1]	Mitigation[2] Acres	Certified
Caltrans	Highway 46 Drainage Facility Repair	To abandon a failing culvert at PM 5.43 on Hw 46 and fill the depression at the inlet with imported borrow. A concrete ditch will be created to allow water to flow to an existing culvert at PM 5.46.	Highway 46	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributary to Green Valley Creek	0.062	To be determined	To be determined
John Devincero	See Canyon Fruit Ranch Bridge Replacement	Replace the existing bridge over See Canyon Creek	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	See Canyon Creek	150 cubic yards	To be determined	To be determined
County of Santa Cruz	North Rodeo Gulch Road, Storm Damage Repair Project	Restore the roadway and roadway embankment back to pre-disaster configuration that was washed out by heavy storm water flows in Rodeo Gulch Creek.	Soquel	Santa Cruz	Rodeo Gulch Creek	0.24	To be determined	To be determined
San Luis Obispo airport Hotel, LLC	San Luis Obispo Airport Hotel	Fill approximately 0.065 acres of a seasonal wetland to construct access to the hotel.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed drainage to San Luis Obispo Creek	0.065	0.130	To be determined

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage[1]	Mitigation[2] Acres	Certified
John Pehl	Wellsona Sand and Gravel	To surface mine sand and .gravel within the Salinas riverbed. Sand will be extracted from the riverbed with a tractor.	Paso Robles	San Luis Obispo	Salinas River	10.5	To be determined	To be determined
Mike Sapunor--Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water conservation District	Pajaro River Mouth Sandbar Breaching	Breaching the sandbar to prevent flooding.	Pajaro Dunes	Santa Cruz	Pajaro River	0.056	To be determined	To be determined
California State Parks, Santa Cruz District	Wilder and Peasley Creek Road	Removing obsolete road crossings and the associated culverts on Wilder and Peasley Creek at four creek sites.	Wilder Ranch State Park	Santa Cruz	Wilder Creek, Peasley Gulch	2	To be determined	To be determined

WATERSHED REPORTS

Sediment Control Actions and Planned Approach to Triennial Review in Santa Cruz County, Update

At the February 2008 Board Meeting, staff presented information on the Timber Harvest and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program activities related to the various land uses contributing to sediment discharge in Santa Cruz County watersheds. Water Board members requested that staff, prior to the next San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL triennial review, provide a list of priority implementation actions that will have shorter-term measurable water quality improvements, and actions that individual members of the public can implement or continue to implement to reduce sediment loading to the San Lorenzo River. Staff identifies those actions in this report. Regarding the TMDL, staff also introduces the approach to the next triennial review and discusses preliminary fisheries data. Water Board Members also requested additional information on the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCDSCC) rural roads projects. This report provides that information as well.

San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL Implementation Actions

The San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL that was adopted in December 2003 identified numerous actions that control sediment discharges from a variety of sources. Some of these actions will result in immediate or short-term improvements in water quality by reducing sediment load or preventing erosion. Staff identified the following actions (per the Implementation Plan for the San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL), as well as status reported in the 2007 Triennial Review, per milestones established by staff and stakeholders:

- **County Planning enforce erosion control ordinance following 3-year Timber Harvest Plan maintenance period.** The County of Santa Cruz (County) reported some progress towards implementing this action following review of number of violations, calls, and cases (e.g., for illegal road grading, grading within a riparian corridor, and grading and land clearing in a sensitive habitat). The Planning Department enforced the Erosion Control Ordinance on properties with active permits or applications, properties for which a complaint was received, and properties with egregious violations that were viewable from public and private roads. Staff will work with the County to improve tracking and reporting to better assess effectiveness of enforcing ordinances in controlling sediment discharges.

- **County Planning develop strategy for more effective enforcement of County code violations pertaining to erosion control and sedimentation prevention throughout the San Lorenzo Watershed** (e.g., land use, riparian area management, grading). The County reported significant progress towards better abating violations involving grading, erosion control, and riparian corridor development, which all contributed to increased sedimentation. The County has redirected staff to improve their enforcement capacity and has been tracking and reporting numbers of complaints received and numbers of cases resolved. Staff will work with the County to maximize their strategy for enforcement, as now it is mostly responsive to complaints. For example, the County should have an inspection strategy that allows the County to identify problems proactively. Staff will also work with the County to improve tracking and reporting to better determine effectiveness of sediment loading reduction or prevention from these new programs and procedures

- **County Public Works, Caltrans, Cities create public road database to inventory and prioritize problems for correction.** The County identified this action as on-going and in-place. Municipalities created public road databases to inventory and prioritize problems for correction. Municipalities used these databases to prioritize those projects that address areas of significant water quality impairment and greatest potential for reductions in sediment discharge. In addition, municipalities developed a Public Roads Maintenance BMP Program, improved public roads spoils management and disposal, implemented educational programs, and modified policies and procedures to improve riparian corridor protection. Staff will work with municipalities to improve reporting on effectiveness (numbers, types, and locations or projects, and estimated sediment reductions) of corrected problems to be able to determine short-term sediment loads reduced by implementing high-priority projects.

- **County Public Works and Planning develop a Public Roads Maintenance Best Management Practices (BMP) Program.** The County identified this action as on-going and in-place. Municipalities developed a Public Roads Maintenance Best Management Practices Program and maintenance manual "Guidelines for Protecting Aquatic Habitat and Salmon Fisheries for County Road Maintenance." Staff will be able to evaluate the short-term effectiveness of the program by assessing progress per the established milestones (miles or numbers of road drainage improvement projects related to number of landowners or road segments). Staff will work with the County to improve reduced sediment reporting .

- **RCDSCC, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), County, Water Board, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and landowners develop and implement a private road improvement program.** Partnering entities reported significant progress towards implementing this on-going and in-place action. Partnering entities developed and implemented the Rural Roads Erosion Control Assistance Program on rural non-county roads in the San Lorenzo River Valley. The program includes education and outreach to rural landowners and road associations including the development of a BMP Training Program, road workshops, or watershed tours, and the "Private Roads Maintenance Guide for Santa Cruz County." Staff will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the program by assessing progress per established milestones (miles and numbers of road drainage improvement projects related to number of landowners or road segments; and number of field visits, workshops, tours, newsletters, etc.). Staff will also be able to evaluate reduced annual sediment from road improvement projects.

- **County Planning, DFG, and Cities implement education programs and modify policies and procedures to improve riparian corridor protection, maintain channel integrity, implement alternatives to hard bank protection, and retain woody material.** The County reported moderate progress towards implementing this action; both the County and City of Santa Cruz reported that this action is on-going and in-place. The RCDSCC received a Water Board grant called *Integrated Watershed Restoration Program Phase 2* to 1) construct 14 selected watershed and wetland restoration projects to improve water quality and habitat; 2) implement the Permit Coordination Program, including the construction of 6-10 additional restoration projects; and 3) monitor to determine whether project goals and objectives have been achieved. The County provided a Stream Care Guide to members of the public that included actions that can be carried out by individuals. The City of Santa Cruz also produced and disseminated a brochure for private landowners, maintained an ongoing program with the San Lorenzo Valley High

School (Watershed Management Internship Program), continued the Urban River Project, and adopted a *City-wide Creeks and Wetlands Management Plan* and Ordinance. Staff will work with municipalities to gain information necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the policies, procedures, and restoration projects in reducing sediment loads and improving water and habitat quality.

- **County Planning and Public Works, City of Santa Cruz, City of Scotts Valley, construction site operators and owners develop and implement Storm Water Management Plans (SWMPs) and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) consistent with NPDES Phase II Stormwater regulations.** Municipalities reported some progress towards implementing this action per the established milestones (SWMP developed and municipality enrolled; percentage of projects that received coverage, percentage of projects successfully implementing SWPPPs, and total number of projects). Staff and the municipalities are working closely together to finalize plans necessary for permit coverage. These plans will include best management practices that address sediment loading, schedules for implementing them and measurable goals to demonstrate effectiveness of the practices.

- **County Planning and Public Works, City of Santa Cruz, City of Scotts Valley, construction site operators and owners identify the San Lorenzo River Watershed as a priority for site inspection and enforcement of control measures in SWMPs and SWPPPs. Establish mechanism by which operators and owners of one-acre and greater construction projects are notified of the requirement to prepare SWPPPs.** Municipalities identified this in-place and on-going action as in part, complete as they already prioritize site inspection and enforcement measures in the San Lorenzo River watershed. Municipalities reported per the established milestones (San Lorenzo River identified as a priority in SWMP; percent of projects with SWPPPs that identify watershed as a priority; mechanism established; and number of notifications). Staff expects these municipalities to include this action from the TMDL for Sediment in the SWMPs, along with schedules for implementing the practices and measurable goals to demonstrate effectiveness of the practices.

Some of these actions are being carried out or influenced by individual members of the public in the San Lorenzo River watershed. These actions include Private Road Improvement Program and County Planning's, DFG's, and Cities' implementation of education programs and modifications to policies and procedures to improve riparian corridor protection, maintain channel integrity, implement alternatives to hard bank protection, and retain woody material.

Triennial Review Approach to Determine TMDL Progress and Achievement

TMDL Triennial Reviews serve as a tool to communicate progress towards tangible results demonstrating how the Water Board and Implementing Parties are achieving the measurable goals of healthy aquatic habitat and sustainable land management (these are different from our regionwide Triennial Review). As part of the June 2007 Triennial Review for the San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL, staff evaluated current regulatory programs and implementation progress reported by responsible parties. Staff also evaluated existing monitoring efforts to assess whether we could determine compliance with the TMDL from these efforts and data. Staff did not analyze water and habitat data from those efforts at that time. Rather, evaluation of existing monitoring efforts lead staff to conclude there were sufficient data gaps. For example, we didn't require anyone to monitor against the numeric targets for the TMDL, so staff contracted a study to collect and evaluate data on the numeric targets and other meaningful

biological metrics. Staff contracted with the University of California, Santa Barbara for physical habitat and biological monitoring in 2007-2008 that will document how aquatic habitat is improving over time.

The next Triennial Review of the San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL is scheduled in fall 2010. This timeframe allows sufficient time for researchers to collect and evaluate numeric target data and develop more specific criteria linked to sediment loading, and for staff to conduct a thorough review of all available information. Staff will evaluate the results of the numeric target monitoring in the context of the other physical habitat and biological monitoring efforts. Staff plans to evaluate the following information as part of the triennial review:

- Juvenile fisheries densities, coho salmon and steelhead populations,
- Habitat typing and conditions,
- Benthic invertebrate metrics on a watershed and regional scale,
- Sediment particle size, percent fines and sand, embeddedness, and relative bed stability,
- Monthly and continuous turbidity, flow, and suspended sediment,
- Project effectiveness monitoring for specific erosion control projects,
- Road densities within a buffer of streams and impervious cover, and
- Status of implementation actions and progress towards achieving milestones (e.g., miles or numbers of road drainage improvement projects related to number of landowners or road segments).

In 2008, University of California, Santa Barbara researchers will survey the listed segments of the San Lorenzo River watershed, along with non-impaired segments, and integrate physical habitat and biological data to meet most of the current numeric target monitoring requirements and potentially additional, more meaningful benthic invertebrate numeric targets based on the outcomes of their Spring 2007 data collection in the San Lorenzo and region-wide. UCSB Researchers have chosen 32 locations, covering nearly all tributaries and most of the main stem river, and co-located with other entities existing fisheries and water quality monitoring sites. In addition, some external watersheds will be included for further documenting reference conditions.

In summary, evaluation of progress towards achieving the San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL will consist of a multi-faceted approach. Staff will evaluate data collected, and implementation actions that control sediment (e.g., estimated sediment ton reductions entering creeks, photo documentation), as well as their effectiveness and adequacy in achieving measurable results. During each Triennial Review, staff also considers any changes to the monitoring approach necessary to demonstrate measurable progress related to the TMDL.

Preliminary Fisheries Data

Water Board staff reviewed information on juvenile fisheries densities in the San Lorenzo River collected for the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Department (D.W. Alley and Associates, May 2007). Preliminary findings in 2006 were as follows:

- Especially low juvenile densities (young-of-the-year fish and yearlings) in the lower San Lorenzo River and Soquel Creek Watersheds,
- Better young-of-the-year production in the Corralitos and Aptos Creek Watersheds compared to the two other watersheds,
- Rebound in juvenile densities in the Corralitos Creek Watershed from lower densities in 1994 (a very dry year),

- Fast growth rates of young-of-the-years in all watersheds so that many reached smolt size,
- Habitat improvement in the lower mainstems of the San Lorenzo and Soquel watersheds and generally habitat decline elsewhere except improvement in West Branch Soquel Creek,
- Generally degraded Streambed conditions in the Aptos and Corralitos Creek Watersheds compared to the most recent past monitoring (1981 in Aptos and 1994 in Corralitos), and
- Apparent inability of adult steelhead to pass Girl Scout Falls II on West Branch Soquel Creek.

Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County Rural Roads Program Update

Rural non-county roads in Santa Cruz County are identified as a major source of sediment in various watershed plans, assessments, and TMDL reports. The RCDSCC has addressed erosion/sediment issues related to roads since 1996. The RCDSCC program provides technical and cost share assistance to private road associations to facilitate the construction of erosion control projects to manage sediment loads generated by roads in critical watersheds.

Results include a BMP Training Program for local contractors, six road workshops, five watershed tours, four technical training sessions for watershed groups, and education and outreach materials. The program created a Private Roads Maintenance Guide for Santa Cruz County. This guide provides user-friendly technical information on a broad range of erosion control techniques and is widely distributed to private road associations and other interested parties.

The success of individual projects was documented using photo monitoring techniques to collect pre- and post-construction conditions for all erosion control projects. In order to expand its ability to measure sediment load reductions quantitatively, the RCD worked with the local non-profit Coastal Watershed Council (CWC) and consulting firm Balance Hydrologics, Inc. to develop a monitoring protocol to estimate total sediment load reductions for each project and the program as a whole. This monitoring protocol is now being field tested and refined using the erosion control projects implemented in 2006. The information from this evaluation is expected in late 2008. Staff will evaluate it to make our own assessment of the effectiveness of these projects and to determine how they work with other actions to control sediment, as well to evaluate the respective programs' contributions to achieving the TMDL.

CONCLUSION

Water Board staff and stakeholders consider identification and control of sediment discharges a water quality priority in Santa Cruz County due to the threat to the beneficial uses of water including aquatic life. Water Board staff and stakeholders continue to implement and improve efforts to control sediment discharges and to determine effectiveness of these measures at reducing sediment and achieving our measurable goals of healthy aquatic habitat and sustainable land management. Water Board staff will conduct the next Triennial Review of the San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL in fall 2010. Water Board staff continues to work with the RCDSCC to implement and assess the effectiveness of grant-funded rural roads projects to reduce sediment loads generated by roads in critical watersheds.

Complaint Regarding Irrigation Tubing In Nipomo Creek

At the May 9, 2008, Board meeting in San Luis Obispo, the Board heard public comments regarding used irrigation drip tubing or tape and other trash in Nipomo Creek. Water Board staff was aware of this issue and has been working on it for some time. A chronology of staff's activities follows:

- January 4, 2008 – Staff contacted by Daniel Diaz and Ralph Bishop (Nipomo Creek Dogs).
- January 7, 2008 - Conducted a site visit with Creek Dogs.
- Jan-Feb – Responded to two to three additional calls from Mr. Diaz identifying specific areas where he observed irrigation tubing.
- February 6 - Met with Jill Falcone, San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department, to discuss complaint.
- March 3, 2008 – Contacted Kay Mercer, San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara County Ag Watershed Coordinator, about including an article in an upcoming newsletter alerting growers to the problem of drip tubing and proper disposal/recycling of these materials.
- March 4, 2008 – Conducted first inspection at Dana Properties, with Lupe Esquivel, Property Manaqer, and Nob Furukama, Farm Manager for Y. Hayashi & Sons, in Nipomo watershed. Y. Hayashi & Sons removed trash from creek after inspection (5/29/08 pers comm. Lupe Esquivel).
- April 9, 2008 – Contacted Santa Maria Landfill for information about their drip irrigation tubing recycling program. Other local recyclers identified include Netafim and Toro.
- May 14, 2008 – Drafted article for Kay Mercer's June newsletter to growers.
- May 29, 2008 – Scheduled follow-up site visit with Dana Properties Farm Manager, Lupe Esquivel. Mr. Esquivel canceled site visit at the request of Dana Properties attorneys pending determination of landownership of all Dana Properties currently held in trust. Mr. Furukama subsequently provided photographs of trash that has been removed from Hermrick Creek.
- June 13, 2008 – Y. Hayashi and Sons provided information on the property ownership issue. The property is owned by Dana Properties, who leased the property to Y. Hayashi and Sons starting about two years ago. At the time, drip tape was already in the creek. Even though the drip tape is not Y. Hayashi and Sons' responsibility, they have removed some of the trash in the creek and the company also provides barrels for recycling of any discarded drip tape from any other farming operation, free of charge.

Extent of Problem in Region: CCAMP staff observed similar materials in Pajaro and Santa Maria watersheds. Creek cleanup organizers in San Luis Obispo watersheds (Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, Templeton, Atascadero, Los Osos/Morro Bay) and some North Region watersheds have not observed drip irrigation tubing during cleanup events, with some exceptions: Central Coast Salmon Enhancement sees it frequently in Arroyo Grande Creek/Flood Control Channel; ALBA observed farm materials debris in Carneros Creek; and Preservation Inc. director reported observing drip irrigation tubing in Monterey and Santa Cruz watersheds. Irrigation tubing in the creeks appears to be regionwide, but the extent of the problem appears to be minor, with exception of Nipomo Creek watershed.

Future Actions in Nipomo Creek: Once the Dana Properties ownership is determined, Mr. Esquivel will convene an on-site meeting with appropriate agencies and pursue a Department of Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Agreement for further cleanup as well as other stream maintenance activities (pers comm. Lupe Esquival 5/29/08).

Staff has identified additional growers in the Nipomo watershed and will schedule inspections. Irrigated Agriculture Program staff will include an interview question during all compliance inspections to verify how growers are managing used irrigation tubing and other agriculture-related materials.

Irrigated Agriculture Program staff continue to work toward ensuring the materials do not enter creeks in the first place and ensure that growers are aware of the various recycling programs available. Staff will continue to work with the Department of Fish and Game and remain involved with the Nipomo Creek watershed cleanup efforts.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Timber Program Update [Matt Thompson 805/549-3159 and Julia Dyer 805/594-6144]

At the March 21, 2008 Board Meeting in Watsonville, the Board and staff discussed presenting a preliminary review of data associated with the Timber Harvest Program at the July Board Meeting. Based on a higher than average amount of requests for enrollment of Timber Plans under the General Waiver and input from stakeholders, staff is extending the timeframe for the review and presentation of these data. This extra time will allow staff the ability to process requests for enrollment under the General Waiver in a timelier manner. Staff anticipates presenting data to the Board in early 2009.

Staff has initiated review of the temperature, turbidity, visual inspection reports, and photo-documentation data associated with the Timber Harvest Program.

Also following the March 21, 2008 Board Meeting approvals on April 24, 2008, Janet Webb of Big Creek Lumber submitted a proposal to improve the timeline for waiver approvals. In June, Julia Dyer, lead staff in the Timber Program spoke to Ms. Webb and explained to her that staff had originally planned to bring recommendations for improving the timeline for waiver approvals to the Board in July, including consideration of Ms. Webb's proposal. Ms. Dyer also informed Ms. Webb that we redirected staff efforts to enroll Timber Plans under the General Waiver and issuing individual waivers instead of preparing these recommendations for the July Board meeting. Finally, Ms. Dyer explained that she would be evaluating improvements for processing waivers for Timber Plans and working with management to develop a work plan and time line to balance program priorities.

Staff plans to present program adjustments to the Board in the future that will account for balancing the priorities of enrolling Timber Plans under the General Waiver, issuing individual waivers, and reviewing and evaluating data submitted for compliance with the waiver requirements.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

On June 10, 2008, Harvey Packard made a presentation at a USDA Rural Assistance conference in Shell Beach. Harvey spoke about wastewater regulation in general and especially about the challenges of wastewater management by small communities. USDA Rural Assistance provides grants to communities with populations less than 10,000 to improve water and wastewater infrastructure.

Karen Worcester and Dave Paradies attended the National Water Quality Monitoring Conference in Atlantic City, during the week of May 19 – 23. Karen presented a talk entitled "Pulling Data into a Pile: an innovative approach to data management", that-highlighted the web-based data tools we are using for delivery of data from the Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture and other grants projects. The talk also addressed the other tools we have developed for utilizing data in the same format, to support web display, quality assurance documentation, and 303(d) and 305(b) assessment. Dave Paradies presented a talk on the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program flow model, entitled "Using the National Hydrography Dataset Plus to Improve Flow Modeling on the Central Coast of California." At this latter talk, we interacted with consultants doing modeling work in our Central Coast Region on pathogens in Mission Creek, also using the National Hydrography Dataset as the basis for the model. We brought home some useful information on EPA's new revisions to STORET, the national water quality database. As always, the interactions with other members of the national monitoring community were at least as valuable as the technical sessions. California was well represented at the meeting; seven participants from State and Regional Boards were present.

On May 12-16, 2008, Water Resource Control Engineer Ryan Lodge attended the Water Quality Standards Academy in Rohnert Park. The course was presented by U.S. EPA Region 9 and the State Water Board. The course provided instruction and guidance in the requirements of the water quality standards regulations and the applicable portions of the Clean Water Act and the California Water Code. The course provided a broad overview of the Clean Water Act and the Water Quality Standards Regulations, and how California and other states and tribes develop, adopt, and implement water quality standards. The course covered how water quality standards relate to water quality monitoring and attainment decisions, TMDL development, and NPDES permitting. Course modules included a review of developing water quality standards for human health and aquatic life criteria and modules relating to projects in other regions in the state including the development of numeric nutrient criteria and proposed basin plan amendments to protect physical integrity of water bodies.

Eight staff from the Groundwater Protection Section (Site Cleanup and Department of Defense programs) attended Battelle's sixth international conference on *Remediation of Chlorinated and Recalcitrant Compounds* in Monterey from May 19 through May 22, 2008. Water Board staff attended various presentations and panel discussions on global climate change and its effect on groundwater resources, enhanced soil, groundwater data collection, and risk assessments. In addition, staff heard presentations regarding advancements in biological, thermal, physical, and *in situ* chemical oxidation treatment technologies to remediate chlorinated solvents, petroleum hydrocarbons, perchlorate, and other pollutants that impact groundwater quality, surface water quality, and human health at sites throughout the world. This conference exchange allows our staff to be current in technical knowledge related to soil and groundwater cleanups, and bring that knowledge to cleanup projects in our region.