

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 11-12, 2012
Prepared June 12, 2012

ITEM NUMBER: 16

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

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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

[Kim Sanders 805/542-4721]

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from March 17, 2012 – May 31, 2012.

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received March 17, 2012 – May 31, 2012.

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Impact ¹	Status
County of Santa Cruz - Bruce Laclergue	3/26/12	Pajaro River Bench Excavation Project	Excavate 322,000 cubic yards of sediment from select locations along 7.5 miles of uppermost levee benches and remove 35 mature riparian trees to improve flood capacity. Also, place 19 of the salvaged trees below the OHWM as mitigation habitat.	Watsonville	Santa Cruz	Pajaro River	0.0864 acres	Incomplete application
National Park Service, Pinnacles National Monument - Tim George	3/26/12	Bear Gulch Administration Wall Reconstruction	Replace existing 23-m long, 2-layer temporary gabion wall with a 34-m long gabion wall and a smaller 15-m long gabion wall.	Paicines	San Benito	Bear Gulch Stream, Cholame Creek	0.26 acres	Incomplete application
County of San Luis Obispo Dept. of Public Works - Dave Flynn, Deputy Director	4/6/12	Wineman Road Culvert Replacement Project	Remove two damaged culverts and headwalls and install two new culverts with borrow fill and grouted riprap.	Nipomo	San Luis Obispo	unnamed tributary to Nipomo Creek	0.012 acres	Under staff review
Briarwood Vineyards - Steve Olson	4/11/12	Briarwood Vineyards Drainage Improvement Projects	Fill existing ephemeral erosion gully, install a corrugated metal pipe, construct a stilling basin, and install riprap at the confluence with Paso Robles Creek.	Templeton	San Luis Obispo	Paso Robles Creek	0.11 acres	Under staff review
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County - Karen Christensen	4/11/12	Hubbard Gulch Erosion Control Project	Replace failing culvert and stabilize road's fill prism to reduce stream bank erosion.	Ben Lomond	Santa Cruz	Marshall Creek	0.23 acres	Under staff review
Cal Poly - Kim Busby	4/13/12	Avocado Orchard Erosion Control Project	Construct 8-12 rock check dam structures within the drainage channel using hand tools and natural materials.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Stenner Creek	0.000275 acres	Incomplete application

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Impact ¹	Status
Santa Cruz Port District - Marian Olin	4/30/12	Santa Cruz Harbor Tsunami-Related Bank Stabilization Work	Restore, protect, and stabilize embankments in Santa Cruz Harbor damaged by the March 11, 2011 tsunami by replacing damaged geotextile fabric, replanting, and repairing riprap.	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	North Monterey Bay	0.094 acres	Under staff review
City of Atascadero - Geoff English	5/4/12	Marchant Drainage Culvert Replacement Project	Reduce flooding by replacing two 24- and 18-inch diameter undersized culverts with parallel 36-inch HDPE culverts and installing a headwall, a storm drain inlet, and RSP.	Atascadero	San Luis Obispo	Alcantara Swale	0.023 acres	Under staff review
Camp Roberts - Larry Sanders	5/23/12	Last Chance and Canyon Trail Project	Reinforce crossings with rock weirs and construct a velocity dissipation apron.	Camp Roberts	San Luis Obispo	2 unnamed tributaries to Salinas River	0.03 acres	Incomplete application

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

401 Water Quality Certifications Issued March 17, 2012 – May 31, 2012.

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Impact ¹
County of San Luis Obispo Dept. of Public Works - Dave Flynn, Deputy Director	3/23/2012	Templeton Road Widening Project	Widen road shoulders, replace culverts, replace an existing corrugated metal pipe culvert with a concrete box culvert, and shift approximately 700 feet of the waterway south by 8 feet.	Templeton	San Luis Obispo	unnamed tributary to Salinas River	0.05 acres
California Department of Transportation - Jennifer Moonjian	3/29/2012	Gifford Creek Curve Correction	Build new bridge over Gifford Creek to realign U.S. Route 166 to the south of the existing road to improve horizontal alignment and to reduce vehicle collision rate.	east of Santa Maria	San Luis Obispo	Gifford Creek, a tributary to the Cuyama River	0.23 acres
County of Monterey - RMA Dept. of Public Works	4/3/2012	Schulte Road Bridge Replacement	Replace an existing one lane bridge with a two lane bridge, including clearing and grubbing, installing a temporary construction bridge, and driving new piles into riverbed.	Carmel Valley	Monterey	Carmel River	0.83 acres
California Department of Transportation - Jim Walth	4/3/2012	San Juan Road Interchange Project	Construct an interchange and frontage roads on US Route 101 with on- and off-ramps, an overpass, and changes in local roads to provide controlled access of the highway, reduce congestion, and improve safety.	north of Prunedale	San Benito and Monterey	two unnamed tributaries	1.30 acres
City of San Luis Obispo - Jennifer Metz	4/9/2012	Motel Inn Sewer Line Temporary Armoring	Place 4 boulders in SLO Creek for additional protection of the exposed section of 8-inch sewer line until permanent fix can be completed later in 2012.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo Creek	0.00057 acres
California Army National Guard - 1 LT David Ruiz	4/16/2012	Training Area Hotel 88M Trail Rehabilitation	Construct a Motor Transport Operators Course including trail rehabilitation, armoring three stream crossings, outsloping, installing rolling dips and rock weir sedimentation traps, trail re-alignment, berm removal, and gully repair.	Camp San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	3 unnamed tributaries of Chorro Creek	0.014 acres
Chevron Pipe Line Company - Joseph E. Lopez	4/24/2012	SAPCO PIM Repair Project	Conduct maintenance activities at three sites along an existing 16-inch natural gas pipeline, including inspection and necessary repairs.	San Ardo	Monterey	Nelson Creek	0.1 acres
California Department of Transportation - Fariba Zohoury	5/1/2012	State Route 152 at Lover's Lane Safety Improvement Project	Construct a left-turn pocket into Lover's Lane, widen the roadway, and add pavement friction to reduce the number of cross-centerline accidents.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	Ortega and Holstein Creek	0.047 acres

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Impact ¹
Southern California Gas Company - Rick Chiapa	5/7/2012	Gas Pipeline 44-1088 Maintenance, Span 140	Clean and repaint the span, install insulators at span supports, and place cobble at end of span to prevent erosion.	Cholame	San Luis Obispo	unnamed tributary to Cholame Creek	0.001 acres
California Department of Transportation - Cathy Stettler	5/8/2012	Culvert Replacement at SR 58 PM 40.9	Replace existing 18-inch diameter pipe culvert with three 36-inch culverts to prevent water from overtopping onto the roadway.	Santa Margarita	San Luis Obispo	Trout Creek, Shell Creek	0.014 acres
County of San Luis Obispo Dept. of Public Works - Dave Flynn, Deputy Director	5/8/2012	El Camino Real at Santa Margarita Creek Bridge Scour Project	Reinforce the existing bridge to protect the integrity of the structure.	Atascadero	San Luis Obispo	Santa Margarita Creek	0.062 acres
County of San Mateo Department of Public Works - Edelzar Garcia	5/8/2012	Cloverdale Road/Canyon Road Culvert Replacement Project	Replace three corrugated metal culverts.	Unincorporated San Mateo County	San Mateo County	Gazos Creek, Arroyo de Los Frijoles	0.01 acres
Plains Exploration & Production - David Rose	5/16/2012	PXP Price Canyon - Ring Road Culvert Replacement Project	Unclog and fortify inlet to a 42-inch diameter culvert and stabilize inlet with riprap and crushed gravel, involving a temporary diversion dam.	Pismo Beach	San Luis Obispo	unnamed tributary to Pismo Creek	0.001 acres
Santa Cruz County Sanitation District - Rachel Lather	5/25/2012	Spreckels Drive at Aptos Creek Sewer Crossing Replacement	Replace a cement-encased gravity sewer line with an underground sewer lift station and force main pipe, which will require dewatering, to improve fish passage and protect public infrastructure.	Aptos	Santa Cruz	Aptos Creek	0.05 acres
County of Santa Cruz - Russell Chen	5/31/2012	East Zayante Road Storm Damage Repair Project	Repair the roadway embankment adjacent to East Zayante Road near address #8538 by excavating, diverting the creek, constructing a retaining wall, placing compacted backfill, placing RSP and filter fabric, and repairing the roadway.	Felton	Santa Cruz	Zayante Creek	0.13 acres

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

Overview of Water Board Information Technology Infrastructure

The Board Members have occasionally asked about staff's ability to handle data generated through the Board's orders and monitoring requirements. This is an important issue that all Regional Boards and the State Board have had to address as the organization has grown significantly over the past decades. As our programs multiplied, and the number of cases in each program grew, we had to change how we managed our workload and our data. Twenty-five years ago, we were a relatively small organization that managed workloads on a case-by-case basis, where almost all information was in the form of hard copy reports that had to be reviewed individually, with no real connection to the information in other cases. We have long since passed the point of being able to operate this way. We have grown from a few programs and a few hundred cases, to many programs, many thousands of cases, and many millions of data points. The Water Boards now manage very large databases of ever increasing information, and while our systems are not perfect, we do this relatively well.

Today, staff is able to track and evaluate large and diverse data sets through various Information Technology (IT) tools developed by the Water Board organization. The attached diagram provides an overview of the existing Water Board IT infrastructure. This diagram has some acronyms that are not spelled out, but they are included in the table in attachment 2, which has a brief explanation of many of these programs. The Central Coast Board just

approved the CCAMP GAP (Groundwater Assessment and Protection) program which would be depicted by a box similar to the CCAMP box in the surface Water lower left corner, but in the center lower Groundwater portion of the diagram.

With a combination of these tools, staff is able to track and monitor data from many sources. Here are a few examples:

- a. Grants – applications, task completions, invoices
- b. Permits (NPDES) – a single permit for discharge to a surface water may have about 100 different parameters to sample and report, with frequencies for each ranging from continuous, to hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually, etc., for influent, effluent, biosolids, receiving water, and more. Consequently, a single permit can generate many thousands of data points annually. The Central Coast Region has about forty individual permits.
- c. Waste Discharge Requirements for discharge to land typically are less data intensive than NPDES permits but can still generate thousands of data points a year. Region Three has about 190 individual WDRs.
- d. Stormwater permits for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems – Region Three: 34 municipalities
- e. Industrial stormwater permits include periodic runoff monitoring– Region Three: 390 facilities
- f. Construction stormwater permits – nearly 400 enrollees
- g. Landfills generate large amounts of data for runoff monitoring, and other parameters, but many landfills also have groundwater cleanup operations that generate hundreds of data points a year year– Region Three: 58 sites
- h. Irrigated Agriculture – requires reporting on various parameters about farming practices. Region Three has about 3000 farms and 1700 operations, although about half of the farms are in Tier 1, with no compliance form reporting required. Of the remaining farms, a significant amount of data will be reported in on-line annual compliance forms. However, no runoff monitoring is required except for a subset of the approximately 100 Tier 3 farms. Over a third of the Tier 3's report no tailwater, so monitoring of runoff is required for about 60 farms. Another subset of the Tier 3's, those with high nitrate loading risk crops, will be reporting Total Nitrogen applied and Nitrate Loading Risk Factors.
- i. Cleanup cases generate hundreds, and sometimes thousands of data points annually
Leaking underground tanks – the Central Coast Region has about 290 sites
Chemical spill sites – about 150 sites
Department of Defense sites – about 75 sites

Board Member Wolff attended a demonstration of just one of these programs, Geotracker, at the Board office on June 6, 2012. The demonstration also provided a brief overview of two programs within GeoTracker: GAMA (Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment) and the eNOI (electronic Notice of Intent) for irrigated agriculture. Because the underground tank (UGT) program has used GeoTracker since its inception about a dozen years ago, and consequently has a huge quantity of data points in GeoTracker, UGT unit Senior Engineer Chris Adair demonstrated some of the capabilities of the program using tank sites as examples. He pointed out many of the customized tools that have been easily developed and incorporated into the program as UGT staff and other users have identified needs. This relatively easy customization bodes well for development of tools for implementation of the Agriculture Order.

Agricultural Regulatory Program Implementation
[Angela Schroeter 805/542-4644]

On March 15, 2012, the Central Coast Water Board adopted an updated Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Agricultural Order No. R3-2012-0011). The Order places farms in one of three tiers, based on risk to water quality. For many farms (Tier 1 and Tier 2), the new requirements are similar or have decreased monitoring and reporting than the previous Order. Farms in Tier 3 have increased monitoring and reporting requirements.

In the first 90 days of the updated Agricultural Order, Water Board staff completed many tasks to advance Order implementation and inform growers of the updated requirements. These activities are summarized below.

Enrollment

Growers continue to enroll in the Agricultural Order using the electronic-Notice of Intent (eNOI) in the Water Board's GeoTracker data management system. Table 1 below includes enrollment statistics for the Agricultural Order as of May 2012. Current enrollment includes approximately 395,988 acres, which reflects both new enrollments (30, 566 acres, many due to transfers from one operation to another) and terminations (22,300 acres, many due to transfers from one operation to another), resulting in a net increase of approximately 8200 acres since December 2011.

Table 1. Agricultural Order Enrollment Statistics

Central Coast Region Irrigated Agriculture Total Estimated Acreage	435,000 acres	
Agricultural Order Total Enrolled Acreage	395,988 acres (91% of estimated total)	
	(377,988 acres) Represented in eNOI	(18,000 acres) Enrolled pre-2010, 195 Growers have not submitted eNOI.
Total eNOI Submittals	1690 eNOI Submittals or 3800 farms/ranches	

Farm Tier Identification

In May 2012, Water Board staff assigned individual farm/ranch tiers based on the information provided by growers in the electronic-Notice of Intent (eNOI) and the location of the farm/ranch compared to impaired surface water bodies and public drinking water wells with nitrate exceedances above the drinking water standard (as described on page 16-17 of the Agricultural Order). In April 2012, Water Board staff updated GeoTracker so the farm/ranch tier is displayed on the eNOI database page for each individual farm/ranch (approximately 3800). In addition, staff provided a packet of information to all enrolled operations (approximately 1700) including identification of the individual farm/ranch tier(s), a copy of the Agricultural Order and Monitoring

and Reporting Program(s) for applicable tier(s), a 5-year Compliance Calendar, a list of Water Board staff contacts, and a list of technical assistance providers.

The cover letter sent with this packet informed growers that for cases where the grower finds that the farm/ranch was assigned to the incorrect tier, the grower may request a tier review. Water Board staff developed a Tier Review Request Form and posted on our webpage to enable growers to provide information so that staff can confirm the correct tier. The letter requested these forms within 30 days of the letter date (May 17, 2012) but staff extended that date until July 1, 2012, to give growers more time to submit the requests and because the Tier Review Request Form was not completed and available to growers on our webpage until May 29, 2012. Staff instructed growers to submit the Tier Review Request Form by July 1, 2012, so that the requests can be reviewed and approved prior to the submittal of annual compliance information for Tier 2 and Tier 3 farms/ranches in October 2012. Staff intends to review requests and inform growers as efficiently as possible. In the meantime, growers must comply with requirements of the assigned tier until changes to the assigned tier are approved.

Informing Stakeholders of Updated Agricultural Order and Grower Workshops

In April 2012, Water Board staff developed a Fact Sheet to briefly summarize the updated requirements for each tier, and also translated the Fact Sheet to Spanish and Chinese. The Fact Sheets were posted to the Water Board's website and distributed broadly to growers, agricultural industry representatives, technical assistance providers, consultants, and other stakeholders.

From May 11 to June 1, 2012, Water Board staff held seven general grower workshops, three workshops for Spanish-speaking growers, and one workshop for Chinese-speaking growers. Workshops were held throughout the Central Coast region (San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Watsonville, Morgan Hill, Goleta, Salinas, and Santa Maria), with more than 550 growers in attendance. In addition, staff also participated in a workshop specifically designed to inform technical assistance providers and consultants of the updated requirements. Staff received many positive comments from growers regarding the opportunity to learn about the updated requirements at the workshops.

Staff has also met with specific groups and individuals that provide assistance to growers to ensure accurate understanding of the updated requirements, such as the Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition and others. Staff also provided presentation materials to technical assistance providers, so that they could deliver similar presentations to additional grower groups, as necessary. On June 13, 2012, staff will present an update on the Agricultural Regulatory Program at the Groundwater Resources Association – Nitrate and Salt in Groundwater Symposium in Fresno, as requested by the Symposium organizers, the Central Valley Regional Water Board.

Compliance Assistance Tools and Resources

Water Board staff developed the 5-Year Compliance Calendar as a one-page compliance assistance tool for growers to view an "at-a-glance" summary of requirements for their farm/ranch tier(s), a reference to the location of specific requirements in the Order, the due date for the requirement, and the specific year(s) the requirement is due. Growers have provided very positive feedback about the Compliance Calendar as an easy-to-use tool for growers. The 5-Year Compliance Calendar is attached and is available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/3_calendarcontacts.pdf

Additionally, staff has also initiated development of compliance assistance resources and tools related to backflow prevention devices, photo monitoring, and groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements to be available to growers in July 2012. Staff has targeted completing these compliance assistance resources and tools in July to insure they are available at least one month ahead of the compliance due dates associated with them (e.g., photo-documentation due in October 1, 2012).

Staff is currently completing the Annual Compliance Form and adding it to the eNOI so Tier 2 and Tier 3 growers can electronically submit the annual reporting information that the Agricultural Order requires in October.

The Agricultural Order specifies that the Water Board will prioritize assistance for limited resource farmers, including but not limited to technical assistance, grant opportunities, and necessary flexibility to achieve compliance with the Order (e.g., adjusted monitoring, reporting, or time schedules). In May 2012, the Water Board released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to award grants funds for the purpose of implementing a compliance assistance program to provide free groundwater sampling and data collection services for growers. The compliance assistance program prioritizes small and/or economically disadvantaged growers who qualify as "Limited Resource Farmers/Ranchers or Socially Disadvantaged Operators" as defined by the U.S Department of Agriculture. The compliance assistance program will be implemented in coordination with a broader domestic well sampling program, available to all domestic well owners.

The Agricultural Order specifies that a technical advisory committee will evaluate proposals for third party groups to implement alternative water quality management practices or cooperative monitoring and reporting programs. Staff has initiated outreach to stakeholders and some individuals who proactively expressed interest in participating on this technical advisory committee. The purpose of this phase of outreach is to clarify the role of the technical advisory committee and to consider who should be on the committee and how best to solicit their involvement.

Extension of Date to Elect Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring

In response to a request from agricultural representatives, the Executive Officer approved an extension of the date to elect cooperative groundwater monitoring until August 1, 2012, and staff updated the Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R3-2012-0011 to reflect this change. Staff also updated the eNOI to add a box for growers to check to indicate if they elect individual or cooperative groundwater monitoring, as provided in the Monitoring and Reporting Program.

General Information About the eNOI and Geotracker Database

At this time, the highest priority for staff's implementation of the updated Agricultural Order is to finalize content for the Annual Compliance Form and include annual compliance reporting functionality associated with the eNOI in GeoTracker so that growers can electronically submit the Annual Compliance Form in October 2012. In addition, staff is also working to ensure that growers can successfully upload the required groundwater monitoring information in GeoTracker, also required in October 2012. Staff intends to provide compliance assistance through workshops and via phone in advance of and in October when these requirements are due.

Additional information about the Agricultural Regulatory Program, including a copy of the Agricultural Order and associated Monitoring and Reporting Program, is available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml

Regional Monitoring and Assessment Update
[Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

Biological Policy and Causal Assessment

The State Water Board initiated development of a policy that establishes biological objectives for freshwater streams and rivers in California. The biological objectives policy will include setting expectations for biology of streams, insuring protection of streams that are currently healthy and support biota well, and preventing further degradation of streams already impaired or with compromised biology. Biological objectives will help improve water quality in our streams and rivers by providing the narrative and numeric benchmarks that describe conditions necessary to protect biological (aquatic life) beneficial uses. Central Coast Water Board staff (Lisa McCann and Karen Worcester) have been participating on a Regulatory Advisory Group (RAG) since September, 2011, as one part of the stakeholder structure for development of the policy. The process also includes a Science Advisory Group and a Stakeholder Advisory Group.

The biological objectives will be based on bioassessment data. Bioassessment is the interpretation of ecological condition of a stream from its resident biota (in this case, stream insects and other invertebrate species). The biological objectives will be used to determine whether our various regulatory programs are protecting the biotic integrity of our State waters. They will serve, in effect, as numeric "translators" of our narrative objectives to protect aquatic life. They will be set at levels that describe numeric expectations or "endpoints" developed from a network of hundreds of reference sites throughout the State in different habitats, geology and climates. A predictive modeling technique is being used to derive the list of species expected at any given site, using data from reference sites. Sites are scored for the proportion of observed species present at the site relative to the number expected, with a score approaching 1.0 at high quality sites.

Once numeric expectations are developed, implementation plans will be used to deploy the biological objectives in a variety of regulatory frameworks, including permit monitoring, TMDLs, 305(b) assessments, 303(d) listing, stormwater monitoring, etc. As an exercise in development of the policy, the advisory groups drafted proposals for implementing biological objectives in several different types of regulatory programs (e.g, monitoring and reporting requirements for wastewater and stormwater discharge permits). Central Coast Water Board staff (along with staff from the Central Valley Region) drafted a proposed implementation approach for use of biological objectives for agricultural orders. At our next meeting we will compare and discuss the approaches presented by the regulatory advisory group and the stakeholder advisory group. The expectation is that we will learn a considerable amount about potential challenges ahead from contrasting the view of implementation from the perspective of both regulating and regulated entities.

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Coastal Fish Report

The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) is the "parent" monitoring program at the State Board for our Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP). The Central Coast Region's CCAMP pre-dates the statewide program, and SWAMP has utilized many of the tools and concepts for ambient monitoring and data use that CCAMP staff developed. SWAMP provides CCAMP funding, but also conducts large scaled monitoring programs of statewide significance. One of these programs, organized by the Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (BOG), has recently completed a two-year long project to assess contamination in coastal fish populations, especially species that are likely targets for sport fishing. The important findings of this project are that methylmercury, and to a lesser extent, PCBs, are contaminants of concern

for the State. These findings are not dissimilar from an earlier BOG study on fish contamination in lakes.

Thirty-seven percent of all sites sampled had at least one species with levels of methylmercury at concentrations of concern. A surprising number of sites in northern and central California had high levels of mercury. However, the report attributes this in part to the types of species collected in these areas. Long-lived species including rockfish and shark tended to be higher in methylmercury concentrations, and these were the species that dominated the catch in northern and central California. Species like white croaker and perch tended to have lower overall concentrations, and dominated the catch in southern California.

Methylmercury has its source in historic gold and silver mining and global emissions to the atmosphere, as well as discharge from urban and industrial sources. It can affect developing nervous systems, with children being particularly vulnerable.

Seven percent of sites had fish species in the "high" contaminant category for PCBs. These were mostly located in highly urbanized areas, including San Francisco and San Diego. PCBs were used in electrical and industrial applications several decades ago, but have been banned from use for many years because of their persistence in the environment.

Follow-up data collections will be required to obtain the sample size necessary to determine if public health advisories are warranted by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The project report is available on the SWAMP website, at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/coast_study.shtml.

Monterey Area Regional Monitoring

Several Water Board programs are requiring new monitoring of coastal entities that discharge directly to the ocean.

Pursuant to the State Ocean Standards, discharges are prohibited to enter "Areas of Special Biological Significance," so throughout California, entities with discharges into these areas have had to apply for exceptions to allow their discharges. The Ocean Standards include "Special Protections" for marine aquatic life and natural water quality in Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). These special protections include fairly rigorous monitoring requirements, of the discharge, the receiving water, and reference areas associated with ASBS. The communities of Carmel and Pacific Grove and several other discharging entities are affected by ASBS discharge provisions. New amendments to the Ocean Plan (not yet adopted) will require all discharges over a certain size (typically a 36" outfall) to be monitored. These requirements will apply to urban stormwater, industrial discharges, and non-point source discharges as well as to more conventional point sources. Finally, monitoring requirements are also being developed as part of the new MS4 Phase II General Permit language. In all of these programs, specific language is included encouraging a regionalized approach to monitoring, and acknowledging that some flexibility in requirements is available if a regionalized approach is taken.

In the Monterey area, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Central Coast Long-term Environmental Assessment Network (CCLEAN), nearly thirty municipalities and other entities, along with Water Board staff, have been meeting to discuss what a regionalized monitoring program might look like that would fulfill the requirements of the various programs described above. Several committees have formed to develop a technical approach, discuss structure and financing, and to take advantage of several grant opportunities to help "kick start" the funding. An initial technical program concept has been developed and has been presented to the larger group, with a positive initial reception. We are now arranging a meeting with State

Board staff (Dominic Gregorio) to determine whether the proposed design will adequately address ASBS monitoring requirements, which are the most rigorous and potentially the least flexible of the several program requirements, and are also due to come on line this coming winter. In order to make the proposed regional approach work financially, quite a bit of flexibility in the requirements will be necessary, so this discussion with State Board staff is critical to the success of the effort.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Budget Update

As of this writing, the budget is to be approved in two days. None of the state worker bargaining units have settled on revised contract terms with the Administration, except for the Highway Patrol's bargaining unit. The CHP agreed to a 5% reduction in pay in exchange for one floating day off per month (treated similar to an additional vacation day earned every month). If the Water Board's employees end up with a similar agreement, the staffing level, that is, the available staff hours, will be reduced by 5%. Our effective personnel years would go from about 59 PYs to 56 PYs. Such an additional cut would underscore the need for the Board and staff to carefully prioritize tasks.

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

Don Eley, an Engineering Geologist in the Department of Defense Program, attended the Remediation of Chlorinated and Recalcitrant Compounds Conference in Monterey on May 21-24, 2012. Nearly 900 platform and poster presentations were given in 67 breakout sessions. The sessions are organized according to 12 major topics that focus on the innovative application of existing or new technologies/approaches to address the challenge of characterization, treatment, and monitoring of chlorinated and other recalcitrant compounds in various environmental media. Field applications were emphasized, along with laboratory, pilot, and modeling studies leading to innovative remediation and rational site-closure approaches. Don works on cleanup projects at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara County, which were the subject of many of the presentations and poster sessions at the conference.

In May, Central Coast Water Board staff member Jon Rohrbough gave a presentation to a Cal Poly class taking an upper division course on wetlands. The presentation focused on the Central Coast Water Board's use of Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification to protect water quality and beneficial uses of waters of the State. It included topics such as: federal and state regulations governing waters, definitions of "waters" and "wetlands," and the 401 water quality certification process. Staff from the California Department of Fish and Game was also present and provided information from that agency's perspective. The students demonstrated interest in wetlands and regulatory issues, particularly regarding how the various agencies relate to one another. Central Coast Water Board staff found this kind of interaction with Cal Poly students likely to be beneficial for water quality in the region, since many of these students could be environmental scientists, consultants, or regulators in a few years.

On April 25, 2012, staff engineer Matthew Keeling gave a brown bag presentation on the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy and Salt and Nutrient Management Plans at the office of a local consulting firm in San Luis Obispo, the Wallace Group. The audience consisted of staff from the Wallace Group and local municipalities.

On May 8, 2012, staff engineer Matthew Keeling gave a guest lecture on waste discharge requirements and permitting for a University of California Santa Cruz Environmental Studies course taught by former Board Member Dr. Daniel Press.

On May 9, 2012, staff engineer Matthew Keeling participated in a technical panel forum session "Nitrates in Groundwater: How Can the Problem Be Solved?" at the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) 2012 Spring Conference and Exhibition in Monterey. Matthew gave a presentation outlining Central Coast Water Board actions and recommendations regarding how to address the nitrate problem statewide and participated in a technical panel Q&A discussion.

On May 23, 2012, staff engineer Matthew Keeling gave a presentation at the State Water Resources Control Board workshop to discuss and consider public input on the UC Davis report, "Addressing Nitrate in California's Groundwater." Matthew's presentation outlined the Central Coast Water Board's perspective of the nitrate problem, the actions we are taking in the Central Coast to address it and recommendations for how to address it statewide.

On June 7, 2012, staff engineer Matthew Keeling participated in the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Water Recycling Forum in Arroyo Grande. Matthew gave a presentation on the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy and participated in a technical panel Q&A discussion. The forum was intended to provide initial public stakeholder outreach and education regarding potential water recycling projects in south San Luis Obispo County.

On June 21st, Roger Briggs taught, with Gene Crumley of U.C. Davis, a class on Ethics at the North Coast Regional Water Board office in Santa Rosa for about 45 of the staff members, as part of an Executive Leadership series of classes.

Attachments: 5-Year Compliance Calendar for Ag Order