

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 17-18, 2016
Prepared on February 10, 2016

ITEM NUMBER: 14

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
[Phil Hammer 805/549-3882]

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from December 10, 2015—January 27, 2016.

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received December 10, 2015—January 27, 2016.

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact ¹	Status
Sal Alvarez	12/21/2015	Alvarez Ace Hardware	To construct a new commercial hardware store.	Prunedale	Monterey	San Miguel Creek	0.121 acres / 303 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Angela Cheung - Santa Clara Valley Water District	12/21/2015	Emergency Repair of Catastrophic Breach of the Santa Clara Conduit	To restore normal operations and to protect the water supply for Santa Clara County.	Between the cities of Gilroy and Hollister	Santa Clara	Unnamed tributary to Pacheco Creek	0.24 acres / 354 linear feet	Under Staff Review
David Chardavoyne - Monterey County Water Resources Agency	12/21/2015	Salinas River Lagoon Sandbar Management	To reduce the sandbar elevation, in order to reduce high water surface elevations by allowing water to flow to the ocean.	Moss Landing	Monterey	Salinas River Lagoon	0.165 acres / 400 linear feet	Under Staff Review
MJG Property Holding Partners, LLC - Boris Pilch	1/6/2016	Sweet Springs Development Cleanup and Abatement	To restore an unnamed drainage to its original grade and contours following a Cleanup and Abatement Order issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.	Unincorporated Arroyo Grande	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributary to Arroyo Grande Creek	0.046 acres / 50 linear feet	Under Staff Review
County of San Luis Obispo - Dave Flynn	1/4/2016	Cypress Mountain Drive Bridge Replacement	To replace a structurally deficient bridge with a new bridge that will be widened to standard lane and shoulder width requirements.	Adelaida	San Luis Obispo	Klau Creek	0.42 acres / 795 feet	Under Staff Review

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact¹	Status
City of Goleta - Rosemarie Gaglione	1/11/2016	Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement Project	To provide a safe crossing over San Jose Creek along Hollister Ave for vehicles and pedestrians, while maintaining current traffic capacity.	Goleta	Santa Barbara	San Jose Creek	0.870 acres / 344 linear feet	Under Staff Review
City of Santa Maria Dept. of Public Works - Rodger Olds	1/14/2016	Blosser Bioretention Project	To enhance an existing storm water conveyance feature for the purpose of reducing downstream storm water contamination.	Santa Maria	Santa Barbara	Santa Maria River	0.58 acres / 2800 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Santa Barbara County Association of Government s- Fred Luna	1/14/2016	State Route 166/Black Road Intersection Improvements Project	To improve traffic operations and enhance safety of the intersection.	Santa Maria	Santa Barbara	Unnamed ditch with connection to Santa Maria River	0.05 acres / 1396 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments - Fred Luna	1/14/2016	State Route 1/State Route 166 Intersection Improvement Project	To improve traffic operations and enhance safety of the intersection.	City of Guadalupe	Santa Barbara	Unnamed ditch with connection to Santa Maria River	0.07 acres / 564 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation Division - Devin Best	1/20/2016	Adelaida Creek Restoration Project	To create a self-sustaining native plant community that is dominated by regionally appropriate plants.	Paso Robles Area	San Luis Obispo	Adelaida Creek	0.64 acres / 1,740 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Harbor Center, LLC - Smith Held	1/22/2016	Harbor Center	To install new floating docks with associated pilings and gangway and to install a new harbor walk with associated pilings.	Morro Bay	San Luis Obispo	Morro Bay Harbor	339.33 linear feet	Incomplete

^[1] Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

401 Water Quality Certifications Issued December 10, 2015—January 27, 2016.

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Includes LID Retention Feature²	Total Impact¹
County of San Luis Obispo Dept. of Public Works - Dave Flynn	12/18/2015	Old Creek Road 6.334 Culvert Replacement Project	To replace a culvert to keep the road structurally sound for public safety.	Cayucos	San Luis Obispo	Whale Rock Reservoir	N/A	60 linear feet / 0.007 acres
Monterey County Water Resources Agency - David Chardavoyne	12/18/2015	Moss Landing Tide Gate Temporary Repairs	To reduce and restrict the inflow of seawater into the Moro Cojo Slough through the Moss Landing Tide Gate Facility, returning the water elevation and salinity levels within the slough to historic levels, while a permanent repair solution is pursued.	Moss Landing	Monterey	Moss Landing Harbor and Moro Cojo Slough	N/A	0.0054 acres / 26 linear feet
California Military Department, Facilities & Engineering - MAJ Lorren Deakin	1/20/2016	Camp Roberts High Water Bridge Repair Project	To permit mechanized land clearing and grading activities previously performed within the banks of the Nacimiento River.	Camp Roberts	Monterey	Nacimiento River	N/A	1.09 acres / 300 linear feet

^[1] Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

^[2] Low Impact Development (LID) Retention Features are stormwater management structures designed to retain stormwater on-site, such as bioretention cells, infiltration trenches, etc.

Tetra Tech's Salinas Valley Salts Model
[Peter Meertens 805-549-3869]

Abby Taylor-Silva with the Grower-Shipper Association of Central California spoke at the January 2016 Board meeting with concerns regarding the Salinas River watershed area salt modeling project. The following paragraphs provide some additional information about this project.

Tetra Tech prepared a model for the Central Coast Water Board and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX (USEPA) under a standing total maximum daily load (TMDL) contract with USEPA. To meet USEPA contract requirements, Tetra Tech completed the majority of the contract over a relatively short timeframe from January 2015 to August 2015. Peter Meertens in the TMDL unit managed the contract. The scope of work for the project included stakeholder outreach, data analysis, a description of hydrogeology, model tool development, and source analysis. Although the salt model development used USEPA TMDL contract funds and can be used as a tool for TMDL development, a potentially significant use of the model was groundwater basin salt and nutrient management planning in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's Policy for Water Quality Control for Recycled Water (Recycled Water Policy). The model was intended to provide large-scale foundational understanding of groundwater basin and watershed hydrology, and salt source and transport processes. Staff will consider the results of the project in any future salt-related TMDL in the watershed.

Stakeholder outreach and participation was an integral component of the project. Tetra Tech contracted with the established Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) group. The IRWM group developed a stakeholder outreach plan, assisted Tetra Tech in obtaining data and information, facilitated stakeholder outreach, and compiled and provided comments to Tetra Tech. Over 25 stakeholders participated in the process including representatives from various water management agencies, universities, municipalities, irrigated agriculture, and environmental groups. The IRWM group held three public meetings in the Salinas and Monterey Bay areas. Staff recognizes that the model project had a short time frame, which limited the length of time for stakeholders to provide technical review and comments.

The key deliverables for the project were a data analysis and hydrogeology review (completed March 2015), a salt and water balance conceptual model memo (May 2015), a draft model report (July 2015), a final model report (August 2015), and a model tool (November 2015). The data analysis is a summary of surface water and groundwater monitoring data. The hydrogeology review provides an analysis of salt impairments and watershed properties. It also provides a summary of key hydrogeology reports and studies of the Salinas basin and watershed. The salt and water balance conceptual model provides an overview of hydrologic flows and salt transfers within the Salinas watershed areas. The draft and final model reports include the prior deliverables along with the results of the model. The model results included modeled reach concentrations; inflows and outflows of water and salt from the basin and subareas; and salt sources by land uses, crops, point sources, and other sources. The final product from Tetra Tech was a simplified spreadsheet model tool for basin salt and water balance analysis that could be used in the future by staff or stakeholders.

Stakeholders (including the Grower-Shipper Association) raised questions and concerns throughout the model development about the purpose of the model. The primary purpose of the model was to develop a shared understanding between stakeholders and regulators of the basin and watershed hydrology, water balance, and salt sources and transport. The model was

designed to provide a large-scale view of the system and was not developed at a scale that could directly be used for TMDL development. The model would need significant refinement to utilize it for TMDL development; however, the model does provide a good framework and starting point for additional analysis. The Tetra Tech model provides a solid step towards creating an understanding of hydrology and salts but additional information refinement is needed.

Subsequent to the release of the final model report, the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Salinas provided the Central Coast Water Board with technical comments. Additional written comments from the Grower-Shipper Association or any other stakeholders are welcome. Staff will keep comments in the grant project file with the final model report and consider all comments in subsequent applications of the model in the future.

STATUS UPDATE ON THE SALINAS RIVER STREAM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

[Phil Hammer, 805-549-3882, Phillip.Hammer@waterboards.ca.gov]

On January 25, 2016, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) submitted an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification) for the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program (Program). The Program is a coordinated approach to vegetation and sediment management in the river and some tributaries within Monterey County. Proposed reoccurring maintenance activities include native vegetation management, removal and retreatment of nonnative vegetation, and sand and sediment grading and removal. The proposed maintenance activities are targeted at reducing flood risk during 5-year to 10-year flow events. The program is implemented on a voluntary basis by individual property owners, growers, and municipalities along 92 linear miles of the Salinas River, as well as some tributaries to the river. The purpose of the program is to reduce flood risk and minimize bank erosion, while maintaining and improving ecological conditions for fish and wildlife in a way that is consistent with other functions of the Salinas River, including groundwater recharge.

Central Coast Water Board staff has worked closely with MCWRA during the development of the Program. Staff has participated in a permitting committee, providing input on the Program design together with other resource protection agencies, including the US Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. This committee has successfully guided the project proposal and permit application to address avoiding and minimizing impacts to fish, aquatic life and water quality, and to insure adequate mitigation for unavoidable impacts. Early in the process, staff provided input on the "Demonstration Project," which was initially implemented Fall 2014 along 11.5 miles of the river, and continued in Fall 2015. The currently proposed Program is based on approaches used in the "Demonstration Project." The permitting committee also met in 2015 to provide input on the design of the larger scale Program. Following that meeting, MCWRA developed the final proposed Program design, which is reflected in the current, recently submitted application.

The application for the proposed Program was "deemed complete" by Central Coast Water Board staff on February 3, 2016, since it addressed all project components as required by regulations. Staff is currently reviewing the application and developing comments, questions, and requests for additional information. Staff plans to complete its initial review and share the results of the review with MCWRA by the end of February 2016. At that point, staff will continue to work with MCWRA and other stakeholders to develop a Program that can be certified as in compliance with all applicable water quality standards (water quality objectives, beneficial uses, and anti-degradation provisions), including conditions to address specific impacts and mitigations to protect fish and aquatic life, particularly in the lower reaches of the river.

Staff plans to issue a Certification for the Program prior to Fall 2016, when MCWRA plans to begin Program implementation. Staff will provide the Board with regular updates on the progress of the Certification in Executive Officer Reports. Based on recent experience, staff anticipates that it will be able to resolve any issues regarding the Program with MCWRA. If that is the case, staff plans to issue the Certification under the Executive Officer's signature. However, if issues remain unresolved, or the Certification is otherwise contentious, staff will present the Certification for Board action, most likely at the July or September 2016 Board meetings.

BUCKELY ROAD TRICHLOROETHYLENE (TCE) IN GROUNDWATER

Dean Thomas 805-549-3690

Update to follow in supplemental

Attachments

1. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
2. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
3. Table 5 – Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers