

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

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 12-13, 2016**

Prepared on April 19, 2016

**ITEM NUMBER: 12**

**SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board**

**STAFF CONTACT: John Robertson 805/549-3140 or [John.Robertson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:John.Robertson@waterboards.ca.gov)**

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 January 27, 2016—March 14, 2016.

**401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received January 27, 2016—March 14, 2016.**

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact <sup>1</sup>	Status
Monterey County Water Resources Agency- David Chardavoyne	1/25/2016	Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program	To reduce flood risk and minimize bank erosion, while maintaining and improving ecological conditions for fish and wildlife.	Varies	Monterey County	Salinas River, San Lorenzo Creek, Bryant Canyon Channel, Gonzales Slough	855.3 acres, 313,920 linear feet	Under Staff Review
City of San Luis Obispo- Jennifer Metz	2/3/2016	Calle Joaquin Siphon and Lift Station Replacement Project	To replace the existing lift station and upgrade several appurtenant facilities that are operated and maintained by the City, including the gravity pipeline that crosses beneath Highway 101 and San Luis Obispo Creek.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo Creek	1.02 acres, 704 linear feet	Under Staff Review
City of Santa Barbara, Creeks Division- Erin Markey	2/19/2016	Arroyo Burro Restoration at Barger Canyon	To restore approximately 2,200 linear feet of riparian habitat along upper Arroyo Burro Creek in Barger Canyon.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Arroyo Burro Creek	3.5 acres, 1008 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)- Kris Vardas	2/24/2016	Pecho Creek Berm Removal Project	To remove an existing 40-year old berm and damaged culvert and any other debris or piping from the bed and bank of Pecho Creek, in an effort to prevent damage to the main access road to Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant during high-intensity storm events.	Avila Beach	San Luis Obispo	Pecho Creek	0.43 acres, 215 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Gaviota Terminal Company- Paul Patterson	3/11/2016	GTC Remediation/ Restoration Project	To remediate and restore an industrial gas processing site.	Unincorporated Santa Barbara County	Santa Barbara	Alcatraz Creek	0.61 acres, 850 linear feet	Under Staff Review

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

**401 Water Quality Certifications Issued January 27, 2016—March 14, 2016**

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Includes LID Retention Feature <sup>2</sup>	Total Impact <sup>1</sup>
MJG Property Holding Partners, LLC- Boris Pilch	2/17/2016	Sweet Springs Development Cleanup and Abatement	To restore an unnamed drainage to original grade and contours following a Cleanup and Abatement Order issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.	Cayucos	San Luis Obispo	Whale Rock Reservoir	N/A	60 linear feet, 0.007 acres
Harbor Center, LLC- Smith Held	2/29/2016	Harbor Center	To install new floating docks with associate pilings and gangway and to install a new Harborwalk with associated pilings.	Moss Landing	Monterey	Moss Landing Harbor and Moro Cojo Slough	N/A	0.0054 acres, 26 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.

R:\RB3\Shared\401\401 Program\EO Reports\2016\Table for March 17, 2016.doc

**California Water Environment Association “Plant of the Year”**  
[Cecile DeMartini 805/542-4782]

The City of Hollister’s Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant was awarded the “2015 Plant of the Year Award” by the California Water Environment Association (CWEA). Central Coast Water Board staff (currently Cecile DeMartini, staff engineer) has permitted and regulated the City of Hollister’s facilities with waste discharge requirements for many years.

The CWEA is a not-for-profit public benefit association of 9,300-plus water quality professionals who work for public agencies and collection systems, engineering firms, and equipment and service suppliers. Established in 1929, CWEA’s awards program has grown to acknowledge outstanding achievement in more than 20 categories honoring exceptional California water environment professionals, collection systems and treatment plants. Categories include Plant of the Year, Collection System of the Year, Public Education Program of the Year, as well as awards of individual professionals in various vocations. The program seeks to recognize outstanding achievements within the water environmental field, improve the professional status of all personnel working in the field, and stimulate public awareness of the importance of wastewater treatment to public health and the water environment.

The City of Hollister’s Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant was awarded the “2015 Plant of the Year Award” for wastewater treatment plants operating between 5MGD to 20MGD. They will go on to compete against other section winners for the state of California, then federal level if they win at state level. It’s the first time the City of Hollister has obtained this level of recognition, and Central Coast Water Board staff applauds them for making progressive strides in leading the way in the wastewater treatment plant industry.

### **Santa Barbara Subsurface Desalination Intake and Potable Reuse Feasibility Studies Update**

[Peter von Langen 805/549-3688]

Per amended Order No. R3-2010-0011, which the Central Coast Water Board adopted on January 30, 2015, for the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant and Charles E. Meyer Desalination Facility, the City of Santa Barbara is working on a process of identifying subsurface-intake and potable-water-reuse alternatives. The following link has information regarding the independent technical advisory panel for the City's subsurface desalination intake and potable reuse feasibility studies: <http://www.nwri-usa.org/santa-barbara-panel.htm>

This link includes updated reports posted from the second technical advisory panel public workshop held at Santa Barbara City Hall on January 27, 2016. This meeting presented information on the initial screening of desalination subsurface intake alternatives, including screened intake pipes resting on the seabed (current situation) and intakes buried in the seabed, where the overlying sand would act as a filter and decrease sea-life mortality. A third public meeting in Santa Barbara regarding the initial screening of potable reuse alternatives will take place on August 3, 2016. The City plans on compiling the final technical memoranda into final reports on subsurface intake and potable reuse alternatives and presenting feasibility analyses at a fourth meeting in early 2017. The City will then update the Central Coast Water Board at a future meeting (dates for board meetings will be determined later this year) held in Santa Barbara as required by the amendment to Order No. R3-2010-0011. The information gathered from these studies will guide the long-term water-supply plan employed by the City, including the City's decision whether to go forward with a subsurface intake for the desalination facility and the reuse of potable water.

### **Drought and Climate Change Update**

[Elaine Sahl, 805/542-4645, Lisa Horowitz McCann, 805/5493132]

The following is a brief status update of drought and climate change related activities, State-wide and in the Central Coast Region. A previous status update was provided to the Board in January 2016.

#### ***State-wide Activities***

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) continue to coordinate and implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Recently the State Water Board released an informational brochure titled, "[Domestic Well Users and SGMA \(March 2016\)](#)." Additionally, [DWR released Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan \(GSP\) Emergency Regulations](#) (February 18, 2016), released a [Draft GSP Emergency Regulations Guide](#) (updated March 15, 2016), hosted three (3) public comment meetings (March 21: Visalia; March 22: Santa Ana; March 25: Sacramento) and hosted an [online webinar](#) (March 24).

With California still experiencing severe drought despite recent rains, on February 2, 2016 the State Water Board adopted a [revised emergency regulation](#) to ensure that urban water conservation continues in 2016. The February 2016 Emergency Regulation essentially extends the existing May 2015 Emergency Regulation through October 2016 and maintains many of the same requirements. However, the February 2016 Emergency Regulation also provides suppliers with the following flexibility in meeting their conservation requirements through

adjustments and credits that allows a supplier to modify its conservation standard up to eight percentage points based on the following:

1. **Climate Adjustment:** considers the climatic differences experienced throughout the state;
2. **Growth Adjustment:** considers water-efficient growth experienced by urban areas; and
3. **New, Local, Drought-Resilient Supply Credit:** considers significant investments that have been made by some suppliers toward creating new, local, drought-resilient sources of potable water supply.

According to [Department of Water Resources Drought Information](#), "seven of the nine years since 2007 (when the 2007-09 drought began) have been dry. California also experienced record warmth during this time, heightening impacts to mountain snowpack and cold-water fisheries. 2014 and 2015 were, respectively, the warmest and second-warmest years in 121 years of statewide average temperature records."

"Although this is the wettest year since the drought began in 2012, one somewhat improved season does not compensate for four prior years of drought. Ending a drought means having enough precipitation and runoff throughout the state to mitigate the impacts we've experienced. Water year 2016 doesn't get us there."

"Accurately predicting whether water year 2017 will be wet, dry, or average is beyond climate forecasters' present scientific skill. We must be prepared for the possibility of a dry (and perhaps warm) 2017 and the incremental impacts of another dry year on the state's already stressed water resources and water users."

Throughout the winter, Water Board staff anticipated problematic areas and facilities in the Central Coast Region to ensure proper protection of life and property while protecting water quality and beneficial uses as much as possible. Water Board staff pro-actively required preparedness and maintenance activities at various regulated facilities, facilitated submittal of plans and applications for Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements, and expeditiously completed permitting activities to best protect life and property while balancing water quality and beneficial use protection. Additionally, Water Board staff has coordinated with public agencies and property owners who manage stormwater and flood protection infrastructure and services to facilitate storm preparedness and prevent negative impacts from flooding and erosion.

### ***Central Coast Region Activities***

#### Diablo Canyon Desalination

In March 2016, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors voted to contribute resources to expand the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant's desalination plant to supply as much as 1,300 acre-feet of water per year to south San Luis Obispo County residents. This [expansion plan](#) includes the construction of a seven-mile water pipeline that would connect the plant's reverse osmosis system to the Lopez Lake pipeline extension located in Avila Beach.

#### Los Osos Groundwater Management

The Los Osos Basin Management Committee continues to meet to implement the Basin Management Plan. The Committee meets the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm at the South Bay Community Center. The County of San Luis Obispo organized a public workshop on January 26, 2016, providing the public an opportunity to discuss the proposed basin boundary modification for the Los Osos groundwater basin. Under the Sustainable Groundwater

Management Act (SGMA), local agencies can request modifications to groundwater basin boundaries based on scientific (i.e., specific hydrogeological conditions) or jurisdictional justification. The Department of Water Resource (DWR) approves or denies these requests, and the regional boards have the opportunity to offer comments to the requested changes.

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution on March 22, 2016, formally initiating a scientifically-based, basin boundary modification for the Los Osos groundwater basin. The basin boundary request was complete on March 31, 2016, and DWR opened a 30-day public comment period for the Los Osos Basin Boundary modification request.

DWR will publish a Draft Approved Basin Boundary Modification list on the website, <http://sgma.water.ca.gov/basinmod/> following the technical review of requested basin boundary modifications and consideration of public input. DWR will hold a series of public meetings to present the draft modifications and hear any final public comment. The public comment will be summarized and presented to the California Water Commission, which will hear the modifications and provide the public an opportunity to comment. Following consideration and potential incorporation of comments heard, the DWR will publish the final basin boundary modifications on the website. Per the SGMA, these new basin definitions will be evaluated under the basin prioritization process and documented in the interim update of Bulletin 118. DWR is planning a second opportunity to request basin boundary modifications in 2018 with more information to follow at a later date.

#### Paso Robles Groundwater Management

In March 2016 the [Paso Robles Groundwater Basin District formation was rejected](#) by the majority of registered voters and property owners within the basin. The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors will decide whether to have the County Public Works Department manage the basin or defer basin management to the State Water Resources Control Board, pursuant to SGMA.

#### **Attachments**

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