



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 2013

Passionate Region One Staffer

Tim Moran, State Water Board Office of Public Affairs. Reprinted from Fall 2012 Across the Board Newsletter.

Janet Mahoney, a 12-year veteran of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board staff, lives in Sebastopol, but she disavows the Volvo and Birkenstocks stereotype. She prefers tennis shoes, shopping in the quaint shops on Main Street, and volunteering her time and efforts for a variety of fund-raising agencies. She makes a difference – but on her own terms and in her own way.



Janet Mahoney is not only a diehard volunteer, but she is a diehard San Francisco Giant's fan too!
Photo by Tim Moran.

Mahoney's volunteer work usually stems from a personal connection. She started

many years ago for the American Diabetes Foundation. "My sister is diabetic, and I thought if they had the funding maybe they could find a cure," she said. Mahoney logged many miles in lots of bike-a-thons for the American Diabetes Foundation, and was one of the top fund-raisers for many years. The American Lung Association was the next to catch Mahoney's attention. "My dad died of lung cancer, and I wanted to make a contribution to the association in memory of my father," Mahoney said. She was part of a group at Region 1 called "Team Sunshine." The team did a variety of fundraisers in the office over many years to support the Lung Association. "The first year, we earned more than \$6,000 and won the Gold award for the top fund-raisers," she said. For the past five years, Mahoney has been a volunteer on the Elsie Allen Project Graduation Committee. The all-volunteer committee works to keep kids out of trouble on graduation night, and "Let them live to see the sun rise another day in their life." Since the Sonoma County Project Graduation was launched in Sonoma County 25 years ago, there has not been a teenage fatality on graduation night, Mahoney said with pride. The Elsie Allen event has been held annually for the past 15 years. The committee raises funds with different activities throughout the school year at Elsie Allen High School, and

then on graduation night rounds up the grads and provides them a secure location for a safe and sober party, with live music, numerous games and activities, dancing, food and refreshments for six hours. The fundraisers range from crab feeds to junk food bingo, garage sales, softball and golf tournaments. “The fundraising is the toughest part,” Mahoney said. “So many charitable organizations are asking for donations from businesses that the businesses can’t handle all the requests, and have to turn some down,” she added. “We have been heartbroken and disappointed being turned down by so many businesses, but we still keep trying each year.” The going may get tough, especially in a down economy, but the rewards are great, according to Mahoney. “I have thoroughly enjoyed each charitable organization I have worked on. It keeps me busy and it makes me feel like I am making a difference in the community,” she said. “I don’t consider myself a hometown hero, but if I can save a life, that’s what it is all about.”

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The Restoration of the Garcia River Watershed.

Jonathan Warmerdam

For several decades, a community-based collaboration which includes numerous landowners, county, state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, timber companies, fishing enthusiasts, and restorationists, has dedicated time and resources to restoring the health of the Garcia River watershed. The hard work is paying off.

In 2012, the Regional Water Board staff continued to play a major role in that effort including: the steady-advancement of landowners’ sediment control programs as part of the Garcia River Watershed Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (Garcia TMDL Action Plan); the financial support of stakeholders through Federal 319(h) grant administration; and through a comprehensive biological, physical, and chemical water quality monitoring program.

The purpose of the TMDL Action Plan is to reduce controllable sediment delivery sources, improve riparian condition, remove barriers to fish passage, and promote the use of best management practices. To date, TMDL compliance programs have been established across ownerships covering more than 2/3 of the watershed acreage.

Collectively, these actions are being taken to improve instream conditions for the most sensitive beneficial use, which is the cold-water fishery. This includes threatened and endangered species such as steelhead trout, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and pink salmon.



Juvenile coho salmon and steelhead trout in the Garcia River watershed. Photo by Jonathan Warmerdam, October 2012.

In 2012, the Natural Resources Conservation Service dedicated funding towards the Garcia River to assist landowners with sediment control efforts through the National Water Quality Initiative program, a Federal program administered from Washington D.C. Work from these funds is expected to begin implementation in 2013.



Mendocino RCD and Natural Resources Conservation Service partners inspect a new bridge installation to improve fish passage on Monahan Creek. Photo by Jonathan Warmerdam. August 2012

In 2012, accelerated large wood recruitment projects continued along several miles of fish bearing streams - in Signal Creek, Inman Creek, and the North Fork Garcia River - by The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund. These projects greatly improve survival rates for juvenile salmonids throughout the year, improve spawning substrates, and help propel sediment mobilization during high-winter flows.

A new spawning season is currently underway, and the Department of Fish and Game has already documented adult coho salmon and Chinook salmon returning to spawn in the Garcia River in December 2012.

Temperature Basin Plan Amendment

Bryan McFadin

Regional Water board staff continue to make progress on the development of a Basin Plan amendment to add a Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objective for Temperature, as well as Temperature TMDL Implementation Plans for the Navarro, Mattole, and Eel River watersheds. Staff have been active developing CEQA scoping documents, arranging the logistics for the CEQA scoping meetings, drafting the amendment language, coordinating with State Board staff to arrange a peer review, preparing a package for the peer reviewers, and meeting with stakeholders.

Jeremiah Puget, who has previously worked on Caltrans permitting and is now working in the Basin Planning Unit, has been assigned to assist Bryan McFadin with the Basin Plan amendment project. Looking forward, Bryan and Jeremiah will be holding CEQA scoping meetings, meeting with stakeholders, addressing peer review comments, and completing the necessary steps to have the amendment considered by the Regional Board by December 2013.



Enforcement Report for January 2013 Executive Officer's Report

Diana Henrioulle

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of 12/26/12
10/17/12	Alcance Victoria Charity	NOV	Unauthorized Discharge to Storm Water Collection System	Ongoing

Comments: On October 17, 2012, the Regional Water Board Watershed Protection Division Chief issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the Alcance Victoria Charity for discharging soapy water from a charity car wash operation into the City of Santa Rosa's storm drain system. The NOV requests that the Discharger contact staff to discuss the issue.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of 12/26/12
10/25/12	Tim Phillis	NOV	Failure to enroll a Cow Dairy for Coverage in Dairy Permitting Program	Ongoing

Comments: On October 25, 2012, the Regional Water Board Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) issued an NOV to Tim Phillis for failure to enroll his dairy operation for coverage in the dairy permitting program. The NOV requires the Discharger to file a Notice of Intent by November 19, 2012.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of 12/26/12
10/26/12	UC Davis, Bodega Marine Lab	ACLC	Violations Subject to Assessment of MMPs	Hearing waived; Discharger will implement a SEP

Comments: On October 26, 2012, the Regional Water Board AEO issued ACLC No. R1-2012-0110 to UC Davis, Bodega Marine Lab proposing a \$6,000 penalty for violations subject to MMPs. The Discharger has waived its right to a hearing within 90 days of ACLC issuance and has proposed to conduct a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) to offset a portion of the penalty.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of 12/26/12
11/7/12	County of Mendocino	NOV	Municipal Storm Water Permit	Ongoing

Comments: On November 7, 2012, the Regional Water Board AEO issued an NOV to the County of Mendocino for failure to implement several elements of its municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit. The NOV requested that the Discharger complete these elements within 60 days of issuance of the NOV.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of 12/26/12
11/20/12	Mercer-Fraser Company	NOV	Failure to submit required permit fees	Resolved

Comments: On November 20, 2012, the Regional Water Board Nonpoint Source and Timber Harvest Division Chief issued a NOV to Mercer-Fraser Company for failure to submit appropriate permit fees for its Clean Water Act section 401 permit for its Sandy Prairie gravel mining operation. On December 6, 2012, the Discharger submitted a check for the total outstanding amount; the matter is now resolved.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of 12/26/12
12/6/12	Occidental CSD and SCWA	CDO	Waste Discharge Requirements Violations	Ongoing

Comments: On December 6, 2012, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2012-0102 to the Occidental CSD and Sonoma County Water Agency for discharging or threatening to discharge effluent in violation of their Waste Discharge Requirements. The Order requires the Dischargers to implement measures to prevent further discharge of effluent to receiving waters, and includes tasks with deadlines to submit plans for and complete a Capital Improvement Project by January 31, 2018.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of 12/26/12
12/19/12	Redwood Empire Sawmill, Roger Burch Property	NOV	Unauthorized sediment discharge to watercourses within the Garcia River Watershed	Ongoing

Comments: On December 19, 2012, the Regional Water Board Nonpoint Source and Timber Harvest Division Chief issued an NOV to Redwood Empire Sawmills for unauthorized sediment discharges associated with roads within the Roger Burch Family Trust property in the Garcia River watershed. The NOV recommends implementation of a number of Best Management Practices to correct the problems over the short and longer term.