



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 2012

City of Santa Rosa Combination Cleaning Truck Demonstration

Cathleen Goodwin

On December 8, 2011, the City of Santa Rosa arranged a demonstration of their Combination Cleaning trucks during an MS4 meeting related to the City's enrollment under the statewide municipal storm water permit. Three Regional Water Board staff members were present to observe this interesting demonstration. These trucks are often referred to as *Vector* trucks, but *Vector* is a manufacturer of combination cleaning trucks. The City's trucks were manufactured by *Camel* and *Clean-Earth*. The demonstration focused on how these trucks operate and how they are used in the City's storm water management program.

The trucks are both powerful and massive, weighing in at over 45,000 pounds. The City of Santa Rosa Public Works Department owns 7 of these full sized combination cleaning trucks, with 2 of them dedicated to the City's storm water division and 5 dedicated to the wastewater collection system. The combination cleaning trucks have two main systems: the water system consisting of a 1,500 gallon fresh water tank and 800 feet of hose to flush material and a large vacuum system that collects debris into the truck's

debris storage tank. The hoses can be pressurized up to 2000 pounds per square inch for cleaning and a water pump provides up to 80 gallons per minute of flow. The vacuum is a positive displacement blower providing 4,200 cubic feet per minute in vacuum power.



Combination Cleaning Truck.
Photo credit: Cathleen Goodwin.

The demonstration focused on how the City uses these trucks to maintain its storm water collection system and to respond to non-sewage related spills. The trucks are used routinely in the City to maintain the storm water collection system by removing debris, such as

sediment, leaves, and trash that collects in the storm drains. A combination cleaning truck is set up at a manhole and the pressure hose is run upstream so that high pressure water can be used to direct debris back to the truck where it is vacuumed into the truck's 10 yard debris body. City staff reported that they have encountered some unusual items in the storm drain systems including a bowling ball and even an occasional firearm. The dirty water and debris is taken back to the City Corporation Yard where the liquid waste is discharged to a sump that drains to the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant and the solids are dried and placed in a debris box and sent to the County landfill for final disposal. The second combination cleaning truck is used as a spare and placed in service during heavy rain events, as needed.



Combination Cleaning Truck.
Photo credit: Cathleen Goodwin

The City's Public Works Department also owns a mini combination cleaning truck and 3 Mud Dog trucks that are used for digging and excavation work that needs to be done when there is a broken storm drain, water or sewer main.

Clean storm drains significantly reduce the discharge of pollutants to our local creeks and allow storm water to flow more efficiently and reduce the potential for flooding. The City has an established storm drain maintenance schedule and most storm drains are cleaned every couple of years, while problem areas are inspected and cleaned more often. Regional Water Board staff applauds the City's commitment to environmental protection through their storm water program.

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Update on the Statewide Mercury Program

Rebecca Fitzgerald

Many of California's waters are contaminated by mercury (also called quicksilver), a heavy metal and potent neurotoxin that is harmful to both humans and wildlife. Mercury builds up in the bodies of fish that swim in waters with even small amounts of mercury, and in the bodies of humans who eat contaminated fish.

Levels of mercury in fish tissue that exceed standards have been found in fish taken from Lake Sonoma, Lake Mendocino, Lake Pillsbury, Lake Shastina, Trinity Lake, the East Fork Trinity River, and the mainstem Laguna de Santa Rosa. These waterbodies are currently listed as impaired by mercury on the 2012 303(d) List in the North Coast Region.

The State Water Resources Control Board and most of the Regional Water Boards, including the North Coast Region, are working together to reduce

concentrations of mercury in our waters through the Statewide Mercury Program.



The program has three phases:

Phase I: Objective for Fish Tissue Methylmercury: The State Water Board is developing a set of water quality objectives for safe amounts of methylmercury in fish tissue. These objectives will inform mercury policy, mercury prevention plans, and water quality permits. They will apply to California's inland waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries.

Phase II: Mercury Control Program and TMDLs for Reservoirs: Water Board staff from around the state are working to develop a regulatory program and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) to address mercury contamination in California lakes and reservoirs, including Lake Sonoma, Lake Mendocino, Lake Pillsbury, Lake Shastina, and Trinity Lake. The scoping meetings to satisfy California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and gather initial public comments will be held in March in Sacramento, Oakland, Redding, and Riverside.

Phase III: Mercury Control Program for Other Inland Surface Waters: This phase has not yet begun, and will likely be the focus of Water Board staff

following the completion of Phases I and II.

For more information on the Program, please see:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/mercury/#tmdls.

Please subscribe to the e-mail list-serve at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml#quality to receive e-mail notices of meetings, draft documents, and other information on the Program.

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Staff Involvement in Development of Board of Forestry Proposed "Road Rules"

Maggie Robinson

Regional Water Board staff have been representing water quality at the Board of Forestry since the mid-1980s. Dave Fowler, from the Southern Timber Unit, and Maggie Robinson, of the Northern Timber Unit, have been the Regional Water Board representatives beginning in May 2009.



Photo Credit: Bryan McFadin

In mid-2010 the Board of Forestry began revising and reorganizing the road-related rule portions of the California Forest Practice Rules (FPRs). The revisions were driven by two main objectives: 1) the need to ensure that all road-related FPRs are adequate to prevent adverse impacts to the beneficial uses of waters, and 2) to group all road-related rules into FPR §923 (the Road Rules) and organize them in a logical way to provide consistency and ease of access and understanding.

During the past 2 ½ years, Mr. Fowler and Ms. Robinson have been actively providing written and oral comments and input on the draft proposed rule language, to ensure that the final version is consistent with the Regional Water Board regulatory requirements and provides adequate protection to waters of the State.



Photo credit: www.unurban.no

A draft version of the Road Rules was released for a 90-day public comment period on December 16, 2011. In addition to the complete structural and organizational rewriting of the Road Rules section, other substantive

changes proposed include: several new definitions in FPR §895.1; consistency changes to FPR §914 - §916.4; and relocating the road-related rules from FPR §916.9 - Protection and Restoration of the Beneficial Functions of the Riparian Zone in Watersheds with Listed Anadromous Salmonids (the ASP Rules) to the new Road Rules section. The earliest anticipated date for adoption of the draft Road Rules is the April 2012, Board of Forestry meeting.

The first of two workshops designed to answer questions and evaluate various elements - in particular “hydrologic disconnection” and “stable operating surfaces” - of the draft Road Rules was held during a pouring rainstorm at Jackson Demonstration State Forest on January 19 and 20, 2012. The rain was perfect for highlighting issues related to road surface sediment delivery and crossing design. The second workshop will be held at a northern inland location, most likely near Quintette, CA, with the date to be set for some time in March 2012.

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Status of Waste Discharge Requirements and Cleanup Abatement Orders Issued for Elk River and Freshwater Creek

Mark Alpert

In 2004 and 2006, the Regional Water Board issued the following Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR), Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAO), and Monitoring and Reporting Program Requirements (MRP) (Orders), to Pacific Lumber Company (PALCO) for Elk River and Freshwater Creek

Watersheds: Elk River (28,000 acre) WDR Order No. R1-2006-0039, CAO R1-2004-0028 (South Fork) R1-2006-0055 (North Fork)
 Freshwater Creek (20,000 acre) WDR Order No. R1-2006-0041, CAO R1-2006-0046.

These watersheds are adjacent coastal tributaries to Humboldt Bay near Eureka California. These Orders were issued to address cumulative watershed impacts from years of intense timber harvesting and land use practices that resulted in increased sediment discharges, severely degraded streams and impaired beneficial uses. At the time, PALCO owned and managed approximately 75% of the Elk River and Freshwater Creek watersheds as part of its more than 200,000 acres of industrial timber land in the redwood timber region.

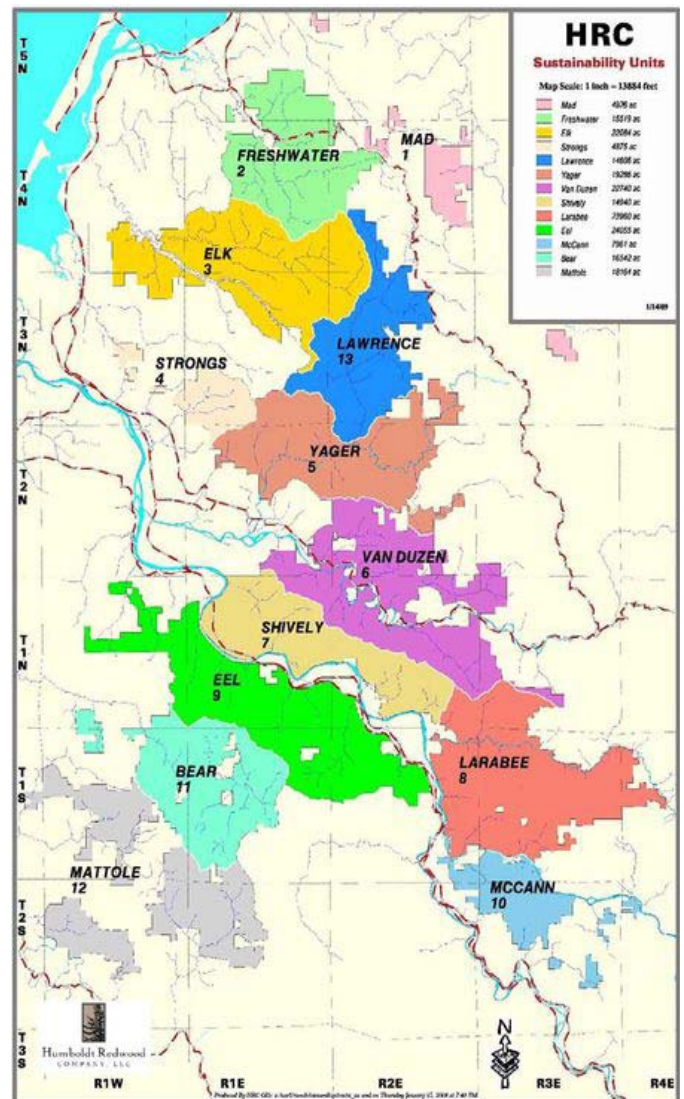
Collectively the Orders established requirements for:

- Acreage limitation on timber harvesting based on estimates of peak flooding and/or landslide triggering events.
- Enrollment for each THPs under the WDRs.
- Frequent monitoring and reporting on monthly, quarterly, and annual basis.
- Inventory, prioritization, and treatment of legacy erosion sites.
- Treatment of 80% of the highest 100 priority sites in first 5 years.

Concurrently, both Elk River and Freshwater watersheds are listed as impaired for sediment on the Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act.

Regional Water Board staff are actively working on the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads for each watershed.

Significant changes have taken place since the 2004 and 2006 Orders were issued. In 2008, PALCO's ownership in the Elk and Freshwater watersheds along with its other holdings were sold in a bankruptcy sale. Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) emerged as the new landowner and a new company Humboldt Redwood Company LLC (HRC) was formed.



HRC Sustainability Units

HRC immediately implemented land management practices that MRC had practiced for years, including:

- No clearcut harvesting, instead selection is now used as principal silvicultural method.
- Preservation of old growth stands.
- Reduced logging rates, a move toward sustainable harvesting.
- Larger and fewer THPs; harvest plans average 500 acres.
- HRC is also working toward significantly changing the focus of operations to smaller management blocks, which would focus operations over a 5-year cycle. During the cycle, harvest operations, road upgrades, and treatment sites would be co-located, with a goal to minimize overall impacts to local areas rather than spread across the landscape.

To date, a significant number of the highest priority sediment sites required by the CAOs to be treated have also been completed. HRC is developing a report summarizing accomplishments and resultant reductions in sediment delivery.

Changes have also occurred at the Regional Water Board. Timber program staffing has decreased by nearly 50% reflecting budget cuts and attrition. As a result, there is no longer a technical unit dedicated to Elk and Freshwater watersheds. Staff work has also shifted to other nonpoint source activities, such as: the Forest Service, dairies, irrigated agriculture, response to complaints and referrals, and enforcement.

For these reasons, Regional Water Board staff believe it is time to comprehensively review the Elk and Freshwater Orders, to evaluate what was completed, what is working, and what remains to be accomplished over the next five year period, and to incorporate the findings of the TMDLs in order to promote efficient use of all resources. Revised Orders need to reflect the current land management practices and TMDL analyses, reduce inefficiencies, streamline the enrollment process, expand restoration and treatment beyond areas covered by THPs, and update the annual fee structure for WDRs.

Staff expect this work to revise and re-issue these Orders to begin in the next year and will take up the challenge of re-evaluating existing orders, and create an open dialogue with landowners, interested parties, and other agencies.

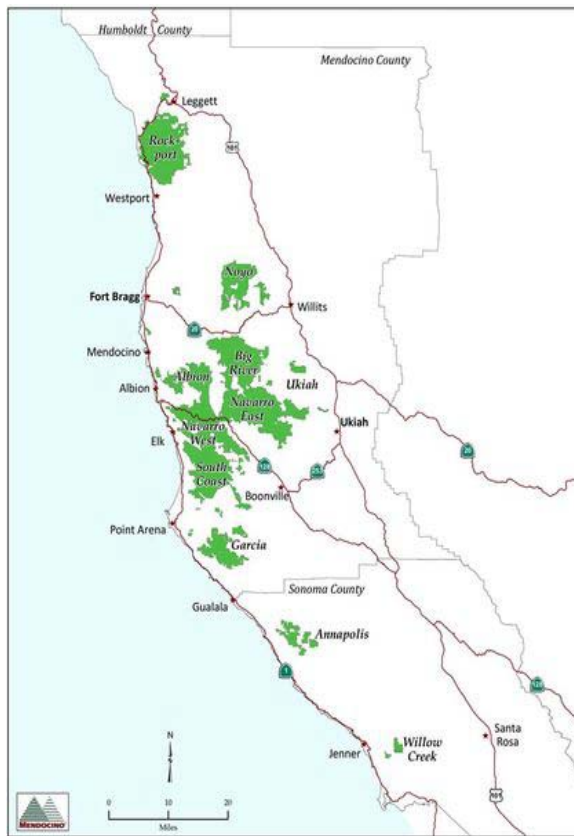
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Development of Ownership Waste Discharge Requirements: for Mendocino Redwood Company

David Fowler

In June of 2007, the Regional Water Board passed Resolution R1-2007-0034, *A Collaborative Effort to Develop Ownership-Wide Waste Discharge Requirements (OWDR) for Timber Harvesting Activities Conducted by the Mendocino Redwoods Company on Their Lands in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties*. Since then, Regional Water Board staff have been working collaboratively with Mendocino Redwood Company to accomplish that goal.

Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) was created in July 1998 and consists of approximately 350 square miles (228,800 acres) of coast redwood and Douglas-fir forestland spanning across 75 northern California coastal watersheds with 1,500 miles of year-round streams. The company has the stated stewardship objective of restoring its property to redwood and Douglas-fir dominated forest lands while also improving aquatic and upslope habitat, old growth protection, and clean water. MRC has been Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified since 2000.



MRC Ownership map

Over the course of the last decade, MRC has been developing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act to incorporate wildlife protection and

mitigation measures into activities that could result in the incidental take of threatened or endangered species. In addition to the HCP, MRC is also developing a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) to comply with California Endangered Species Act, and a Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR). Regional Water Board staff have been providing comments throughout the process to the HCP/NCCP in order to insure that water quality issues are adequately addressed and to the PTEIR as part of our role as a responsible agency under CEQA. MRC anticipates the HCP/NCCP being finalized and the PTEIR certified within the next two years.

Consistent with Resolution R1-2007-0034, Regional Water Board staff are working collaboratively with MRC on a parallel track to have an ownership-wide WDR adopted within the same time period. Regional Water Board staff believe that the documents developed for the HCP/NCCP will also provide the basis for ownership-wide WDRs that will provide protection and improvement to water quality and provide for TMDL compliance for listed watersheds within MRC's ownership. In this way, the ownership-wide WDR would maximize the integration of the HCP/NCCP with water quality regulations to address the full suite of regulatory requirements associated with timber harvesting and roads management.



Enforcement Report

Diana Henriouille

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of February 9, 2012
11/1/11	Redwood Empire Cleaners	13267(b)	Violation of Cleanup and Abatement Order	Out of Compliance

Comments: On November 1, 2011, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer (EO) issued 13267(b) Order No. R1-2011-0107 to Redwood Empire Cleaners to submit, by November 21, 2011, a technical report furnishing indoor air quality data collected at 100 West Mendocino Ave., in Willits. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R1-2009-0044 included requirements for the Discharger to conduct a soil vapor study.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of February 9, 2012
1/4/12	Dieter J. Rief and R. Living Trust	ACLIC	Discharge without permit	The ACL fine has been paid. No further action.

Comments: On January 4, 2012, the Regional Water Board Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (ACLIC) Order No. R1-2012-0017 to Dieter J. Rief and R., Living Trust for discharging well development wastewater to surface water without obtaining coverage under the General Permit and/or filing a report of waste discharge pursuant to Water Code section 13260 and/or 13376.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of February 9, 2012
1/10/12	Louisiana-Pacific Corp., Rounds Lumber Remanufacturing Plant	Rescission of CAO	Discharge of wood treatment chemicals and petroleum hydrocarbons to soil and groundwater	No further action.

Comments: On January 10, 2012, the Regional Water Board EO rescinded CAO No. 93-111, issued October 22, 1993, to Louisiana-Pacific Corporation for the Rounds Remanufacturing Facility, as all necessary remedial activities had been completed.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of February 9, 2012
2/9/12	Nolan Phillips and Patrick Shannon	Rescission of CAO	Unauthorized discharge of sediment to Willow Creek	No further action.

Comments: On February 9, 2012, the Regional Water Board EO rescinded CAO No. R1-2009-0039, issued to Nolan Phillips and Patrick Shannon for unauthorized discharges to Willow Creek from heavy equipment activities. The sites have been stabilized and no further work is required.

Enforcement Orders may be viewed by following the Enforcement link on the Regional Water Board's web home page.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/enforcement/