

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
Wednesday, March 8, 2017  
Fortuna City Council Chambers  
Fortuna, California

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Presentation on California Sea Grant's Humboldt Bay ocean acidification and eelgrass protection project (*Dr. Joe Tyburczy, California Sea Grant Extension Specialist*)

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item only.

BACKGROUND: Dr. Joe Tyburczy will present on California Sea Grant's Humboldt Bay ocean acidification and eelgrass protection project. The overarching goals of this project are to (1) advance understanding of the dynamics of ocean acidification along the open coast of the California Current System and within Humboldt Bay; (2) determine the effects of eelgrass on the carbonate chemistry of seawater (a key water quality parameter) in the Bay; (3) interpret the results of this work for aquaculture producers to help them tailor their operations and facilities development to make use of natural buffering to improve growing conditions; (4) establish a bay-wide eelgrass monitoring program within the Bay to ensure that significant changes in the distribution or abundance of this ecologically-important species are detected. Together, the objectives of this project will contribute insight valuable to the operation and development of aquaculture and the management of eelgrass in Humboldt Bay.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item only; no action will be taken by the Board.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- California Ocean Protection Council's project staff report.