

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
April 18, 2019  
Regional Water Board Office  
Santa Rosa, California

**ITEM: 8**

**SUBJECT:** California Rural Water Association (*Charles Reed, Dustin Hardwick, Dan LaFontaine, Marshall Locke*)

**BOARD ACTION:** This is an information item only. No action is necessary.

**BACKGROUND:** Small and disadvantaged communities within the North Coast Region can access a variety of technical assistance and funding resources for the planning and construction of needed water quality (including wastewater) and drinking water projects. These include but are not limited to grants/loans and technical assistance from entities such as the State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA), the North Coast Resources Partnership (NCRP), the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), and California Rural Water Association (CRWA).

At the Regional Water Board meeting in August 2016, the Regional Water Board heard presentations from representatives from DFA, NCRP, and RCAC. DFA staff provided an update on current activities related to Small Community Grant Program and Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program funding, including eligible applicants, eligible projects, maximum grant amounts, funding process, and existing projects in our region. NCRP staff provided an overview of current NCRP projects, quantified project benefits, and its Disadvantaged Community Outreach and Involvement Program. RCAC staff provided an overview of its recent activities assisting rural communities in the lower Russian River Watershed.

**DISCUSSION:** Incorporated in 1990, California Rural Water Association (CRWA) makes use of its experienced water and wastewater operators, engineers, and managers to provide contract operations for utilities facing staffing and funding challenges, to perform utility rate studies to determine appropriate user rates and fees, and to conduct median household income (MHI) surveys to assist utilities in determining eligibility for public funding opportunities for infrastructure rehabilitation and improvement projects.

At this Board meeting, representatives from California Rural Water Association, Dustin Hardwick, Dan LaFontaine, and Marshall Locke, will provide an overview of CRWA, its technical assistance program, infrastructure projects to address water supply and sanitation that are completed or underway for small and disadvantaged communities, and highlight opportunities to partner with Regional Water Board staff to assist rural communities in the North Coast Region.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

California Rural Water Association Website: <https://calruralwater.org/>