

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
A Monthly Report to the Board and Public
May 2004

Bay Region to Receive More Than \$6 Million in State and Federal Grants (Carrie Austin)

The San Francisco Bay Region is expected to receive more than \$6 million in grant funding for restoring and enhancing watersheds, controlling nonpoint sources of pollution, designing wetlands, and other water quality projects. The State Water Board awarded grants for two Bay Region projects in February and plans to award eight additional grants in June 2004. The estimated total grant awards in our Region are \$6,455,000.

To streamline the grant process, last year the following grant programs were consolidated into one proposal process:

- Voter-approved Proposition 13 Nonpoint Source Control, Coastal Nonpoint Source Control, and Watershed grants (administered by the State Water Board)
- Voter-approved Propositions 13 and 50 CalFed Watershed and Drinking Water grants
- 319 (h) Nonpoint Source grants (administered by U.S. EPA)

The grant process was very competitive. In March 2003, a request for brief "concept proposals" was widely circulated with a statewide total of \$138 million available. More than 675 concept proposals were received, including 115 from organizations in our Region. Statewide, 170 applicants were asked to provide full grant proposals, including 14 from this Region. Selection panels were comprised of Regional and State Water Board staff, other State agency staff including CalFed, US EPA staff, and public members. The panels recommended awarding 100% of available funds for most grant programs.

February 2004 Grants awarded in this Region were:

- Lagunitas Creek Watershed Sediment Reduction and Enhancement Project, \$551,650
- Regional Stormwater Monitoring and Urban BMP Evaluation, \$1,320,000

Proposals Recommended for a June 2004 award in our Region are:

- Watershed Management Program for the South Bay Aqueduct System, \$240,594
- Codornices Creek (Berkeley) Watershed Restoration Actions, \$482,500
- Baxter Creek (El Cerrito) Restoration, \$579,000
- Mt. Diablo Creek Watershed CRMP, \$227,117
- Suisun Creek Watershed Program, \$580,000
- Napa Green Certification Program, \$475,436
- Consolidated Concept Proposal for Nonpoint Source Projects in Greater San Pablo Bay Area, \$639,250
- Wetland Design and Management Options for Control of Mercury in San Francisco Bay, \$1,360,000

Kinder Morgan's Suisun Diesel Spill and Proposed Pipeline Replacement Project

(Tina Low, Priya Ganguli, Mary Rose Cassa and Shin-Roei Lee)

On April 27, a 14-inch pipe owned by Kinder Morgan Energy Partners (KM) spilled approximately 63,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the northeastern section of Suisun Marsh. A host of federal, state, and local agencies, including Board staff, responded and initiated cleanup soon after becoming aware of the spill on April 28. As of this report, Board staff continues to coordinate with the Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) in dealing with the spill. OSPR is

the lead state agency overseeing cleanup. To date, OSPR's effort has focused on containing and removing free product from the Marsh. The spill has fouled over 240 acres of the Marsh and killed or injured a number of birds and mammals. The myriad levees and tide gates in the Marsh limited the spill's further spread.

Diesel floats on top of water, so much of the spilled diesel evaporated. Much of the rest can be removed before it dissolves into the water. Once the diesel is removed to the maximum extent possible, staff from our Toxics Cleanup and Watershed Divisions, under a cost recovery agreement, will be involved in long-term soil and groundwater cleanup as well as habitat restoration. Due to our staff's involvement, OSPR is also in contact with Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District to evaluate the feasibility of treating oily water by the treatment plant locally as opposed to hauling it off-site.

KM has already designed a new 20-inch pipeline to replace the existing 14-inch pipeline, which has had numerous spills over the last 15 years. The stated purpose of the pipeline project is to replace the existing pipeline with a higher-capacity pipeline to meet projected future demand for petroleum products. The construction of the new pipeline, which will run from Concord to Sacramento in a different alignment than the existing pipeline, involves impacts to wetlands and other US waters, and has required water quality certification. As the project goes through our Region and the Central Valley Region, the State Board took the lead on the certification with input from the staff of both boards. While KM's slow response to the board's comments slowed the application, staff continued to meet with KM and interested parties frequently over the last year and a half to resolve many water quality issues, including:

- *The pipeline alignment:* KM originally proposed to construct the new 20" pipeline in the middle of Rhodia's Peyton Slough Remediation Project (see article below), which is also under Board Order. Such proposed construction activity would have significantly hampered the remediation and restoration of the Peyton Slough area; and
- *Compensatory Mitigation for wetland and creek impacts:* KM initially did not propose any compensatory mitigation for its project's temporal impacts to wetlands and creeks (total impact of 62 acres).

These issues were eventually resolved with KM. The State Water Board's Executive Director issued water quality certification on April 28, 2004. I will continue to give the Board reports on cleanup of the Suisun spill and other issues involving KM.

RMP Annual Meeting Highlights Priority Pollutants, Adaptive Implementation

(Dyan Whyte, Laura Speare)

On May 4, 2004, the Regional Monitoring Program for Trace Substances (RMP) held its annual meeting at the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley. The San Francisco Estuary Institute's (SFEI) RMP annual publication about the RMP, "The Pulse of the Estuary", was released at the meeting; I will provide the Board copies at the May meeting. (Note: for others, see <www.sfei.org> for this and other SFEI and RMP reports) At the RMP meeting, a number of researchers discussed the results of the 10-year Synthesis of RMP monitoring data. Highlights from this session included the finding that most contaminant guidelines are being met and that there are a relatively small number of problem contaminants present in water or sediment that need to be addressed; silver concentrations have declined in response to wastewater load reductions; and we are beginning to get a better understanding of how pollutants are transported in the urbanized areas surrounding the Bay.

The RMP and the Clean Estuary Partnership are developing conceptual models on how a number of priority pollutants move through the Bay system. These conceptual models are a tool for organizing and communicating knowledge about pollutants and will help us develop more effective management strategies. In the session titled "Conceptual Understanding of Priority Pollutants," Richard Looker gave a presentation on the Mercury Conceptual Model for San Francisco Bay. Conceptual models for selenium, PCBs, legacy pesticides, dioxins, and diazinon were also presented.

I participated in the final session, a panel discussion led by Tom Mumley, on "Adaptive Implementation for Sediment-Based TMDLs". The discussion focused on strategies for implementing the San Francisco Bay Mercury and PCBs TMDLs. I emphasized that we view implementation of these TMDLs as being a long-term adaptive process initially involving continuing current control actions, initiating additional short-term actions, and continuing monitoring. Based on the results of the short-term actions and monitoring, long-term actions may be needed that are different from the short-term actions. Representatives from BACWA, BASMAA, San Francisco BayKeeper, and the Port of Oakland were also members of the panel.

Nearly 200 representatives of government, industry, environmental organizations and academia attended the meeting.

Sewer Spills (Ray Balcom/Lila Tang)

Because sanitary sewer spills contain bacteria and viruses, they are a public health hazard. This is particularly true when they occur onto beaches (as in the example below) and into urban creeks in dry weather when public use is common. Sewer spills can also be detrimental to aquatic systems by killing fishes and other organisms through oxygen depletion.

As an example, a recent City of Richmond spill from one of its sanitary sewer lines occurred early April near Brickyard Cove in Pt. Richmond. Our Water Board sewer complaint inspector, Ray Balcom, notified the City and East Bay Regional Park District to post nearby beaches as closed until bacteria levels returned to normal. This closure came as a result of his response to a citizen complaint. Further, while inspecting the City's sewer line repairs, he discovered that several private beachfront home laterals were leaking or in poor condition due to winter wave action. These laterals connect each home to the City's sanitary sewer line. He requested that the City send notices to 40 beachfront homeowners informing them of their responsibility to periodically inspect and repair laterals from their homes.

Sanitary sewer spills occur more often through manholes in streets than directly from sewer line failures. During dry weather, the most common cause of spills is from sewer line blockage by restaurant grease and roots that work their way into the lines through cracks and joints. During wet weather, excess inflow and infiltration (I&I) is the main cause of spills and overflows. I&I comes from storm runoff that flows directly into sanitary sewer lines and laterals, and groundwater that infiltrates through cracks and breaks in lines and laterals.

According to an industry statistic, there are about 1,000 miles of sewer line for every 250,000 people. However, about half of these lines are privately-owned laterals that connect homes to city-owned lines. Cities and sanitary districts are not responsible for private laterals, and often have no authority to enforce their upkeep. Cities such as Albany, Alameda, and Piedmont have private lateral programs that provide financial assistance or requirements for an inspection and replacement if necessary at title transfer. Most cities do not have such a program. Repair or replacement of private laterals costs around \$5,000 per house, so there is often political resistance to any new ordinance on laterals.

We initiated an effort in 2003 with public sanitary sewer collection system agencies to improve operation, management, and maintenance of their systems to reduce spills. The first step is to improve reporting of sewer spills to get a better region wide picture of the situation (see related item below). With help from the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), our next step is to host workshops this summer for collection agencies and provide them with information on how to improve operation and maintenance of their systems. This effort may lead to a region wide permit or other appropriate regulatory program. In the interim, and as staff resources allow, we will continue to bring to the Board enforcement actions for the most significant sewer spills.

Sewer Spill Electronic Reporting (Johnson Lam)

We have completed development of a pilot version of an electronic reporting system for sanitary sewage spills. This system will be deployed in the next few weeks for testing by as many as 20 of the 110 sewer collection system agencies in this region. At the same time, we are involved in a State Board effort to develop a statewide system of reporting.

Our regional system is web-based, which means that sewer collection system agencies will be able to report their sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) via the Internet. We developed this with funding from, and in collaboration with, BACWA. Electronic SSO reporting is one of the elements in the Board's October 2003 Resolution in support of collaboration with BACWA to reduce SSOs in this region. After the initial pilot testing, the electronic reporting system will be deployed regionally later this year.

Parallel with this effort, we agreed to play a critical role assisting State Board staff develop a statewide system. This system is currently planned to be modeled after our regional system, but more robust and with more functionality. This is part of State Board's plan to develop statewide requirements for SSOs.

The statewide electronic SSO reporting system would improve communication between all parties (collection system agencies, State and regional water boards). It would enable all water boards to compare performance between collection systems to plan equitable regulatory and enforcement strategies. It would also provide the basis for identifying infrastructure needs and for possible future grants and loans to fund proper sewer maintenance and replacements that reduce sewage spills. A committee of State and regional water board staff has recommended use of our regional system as the model upon which to build a statewide system.

Mercury TMDL Proposed Basin Plan Amendment Released (Bill Johnson and Richard Looker)

On April 30, 2004, we released for public comment the *San Francisco Bay Mercury TMDL Proposed Basin Plan Amendment and Staff Report*. The proposed Basin Plan Amendment describes the mercury problem, identifies sources, and details implementation actions to resolve mercury impairment. Fish tissue, bird egg, and sediment targets are set in order to protect the beneficial uses of sport fishing, human health, wildlife, and rare and endangered species.

Development of this TMDL involved ongoing stakeholder input and extensive technical research and analysis, including reviewing 10 years worth of water quality data from the Regional Monitoring Program. The Clean Estuary Partnership, a collaborative effort of the Water Board, the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, and the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association, provided technical support.

The Amendment, staff report, and other information about the San Francisco Bay Mercury TMDL are available on the Internet at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/sfbaymercurytmdl.htm>.

The 45-day public review and comment period ends June 14, 2004. Due to the level of interest in the Amendment and the complexity of the issue, we will be bringing the proposed Basin Plan Amendment before the Board at two public hearings. At the June 16, 2004 Board meeting, stakeholders will be given an opportunity to present oral public testimony. We will then respond to all written and oral comments received and intend to ask the Board to take action at its September 15, 2004 meeting.

Hookston Station Update (George Leyva)

In early April, the dischargers submitted a risk assessment report for this Pleasant Hill groundwater contamination site. Risk assessment is a key step in the process of characterizing and cleaning up a contaminated site and evaluates all potential pathways of contaminant exposure. The assessment report for Hookston Station concludes that there are several current or potential exposure pathways, including vapor intrusion to indoor air from the groundwater plume, exposure to water from private wells (used for irrigation and to fill swimming pools), direct exposure to contaminated on-site soils (e.g., during any construction), potential toxicity to fish in the Walnut Creek channel, and ingestion of fish caught in the channel. Of these, vapor intrusion is the most significant. The risk assessment also includes initial results of indoor-air sampling in several homes located above the groundwater contamination plume. The solvent TCE was detected in several homes above our Environmental Screening Level for indoor air. However, the observed concentrations are low and pose no immediate health threat.

Staff is reviewing the risk assessment and will send back comments shortly. We have also made arrangements to have a toxicologist from our sister agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, review the risk assessment and participate in meetings with residents and neighborhood representatives. While we regularly review risk assessments, we do not have our own toxicologist on staff and anticipate some questions about toxicology in this case. We are also taking several steps to communicate the results of the risk assessment. We met with neighborhood association representatives in late April to discuss the risk assessment and will host a community evening meeting at a local school soon. We are also preparing a fact sheet that will be mailed to all residents in the immediate area; the fact sheet will summarize the risk assessment findings and discuss next steps.

On a related point, we have requested a neighboring business to conduct a site investigation to determine if it has contributed to the solvent plume at the Hookston Station site. The Hookston dischargers have in the past complained that other businesses were responsible for releasing another solvent – PCE. Staff has already required neighboring businesses to submit site-history information. Based on those results and current groundwater data, it seems likely that one of the neighboring businesses used and released solvents. We have requested a soil and groundwater investigation workplan by June 1.

TMDL Report Released on Pathogens in Tomales Bay (Farhad Ghodrati)

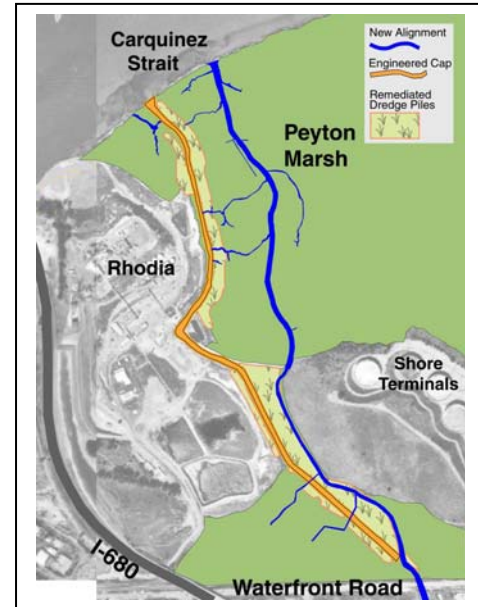
On March 12, we released the *Final TMDL Project Report for Pathogens in Tomales Bay*. An important milestone, the project report presents staff recommendations on establishing a strategy to eliminate pathogens in Tomales Bay. It provides an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on technical issues and our proposed implementation plan.

On March 16, 2003, at the Point Reyes National Park Service Visitors Center, we hosted a public workshop to update stakeholders regarding this TMDL project. Approximately 25 representatives from public agencies, environmental organizations, ranches, dairies, and other members of the public attended. The workshop also served as a public scoping meeting to discuss the proper scope and content of the environmental review of the Basin Plan Amendment pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

We will consider feedback received and draft a Basin Plan Amendment to incorporate the proposed strategy and TMDL into the Basin Plan. We anticipate a Board hearing on the TMDL this fall.

Groundbreaking at Rhodia Inc.'s Peyton Slough Remediation Project (Priya Ganguli)

I will be the keynote speaker at the May 18 groundbreaking ceremony for Rhodia Inc.'s "Peyton Slough Remediation Project". This celebration marks the beginning of a three-year project that will address one of the Bay Area's most significant Regional Toxic Hot Spots. Peyton Slough, located south east of the Benicia Bridge in Martinez, was contaminated in the early to mid-1900s by mine ore smelting operations. As a result, sediment in Peyton Slough is highly contaminated with copper and zinc. The Board issued Site Cleanup Requirements in August 2001, initiating a multi-party process to develop a plan to both remediate Peyton Slough and enhance the surrounding wetland habitat. The "Peyton Slough Remediation Project" involves constructing an engineered cap on the existing channel to contain contaminated sediments in-place, and excavating a new slough alignment further east in relatively uncontaminated wetlands. The success of this major remediation project is due to the efforts and close collaboration among Rhodia, Inc., the many permitting agencies, and interested parties.



ExxonMobil Petitions SCR Amendment (Mary Rose Cassa)

On March 18, ExxonMobil petitioned the State Water Board for review of your February 18 Board order amending site cleanup requirements for the Napa Flood Control Project petroleum cleanup. The petition also asked the State Water Board to stay the order pending review. The Regional Water Board order added ExxonMobil as a named discharger for two parcels – one formerly owned by Exxon and the other formerly owned by Mobil. While ExxonMobil objected to being named for either parcel at the Board hearing, its petition only addresses the Exxon parcel. In early April, we read in local newspapers that ExxonMobil had reached a settlement with the Napa County Flood Control District under which it would reimburse the District for petroleum cleanup expenses on the two parcels. Due to the pending settlement, in late April, ExxonMobil withdrew its request for a stay of the Board's order. ExxonMobil has not retracted its petition to the State Water Board, but we understand from State Water Board there has been discussion of putting the petition in abeyance. We will keep you informed on the resolution of this petition.

Perchlorate Public Health Goal Issued (Keith Roberson)

On March 12, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) issued a Public Health Goal of 6 parts per billion for perchlorate in drinking water. Perchlorate is a highly soluble, inorganic chemical used in the manufacture of explosives such as rocket fuel, highway flares, matches, and even inflatable air bags. California is the first state to set a public health goal for perchlorate; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not yet issued any binding environmental standards for perchlorate. OEHHA determined that long-term consumption of water containing less than 6 ppb would not pose a threat to human health, even among the most sensitive receptors. The public health goal is not an enforceable maximum; the Department of Health Services will use it to develop a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), the maximum allowable amount of a chemical in drinking water supplies. The February 2003 Executive Officer's Report, now posted on our web site (<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/Agenda/02-19-03/02-19-03-4eosr.doc>), previously provided

information on the emergence of perchlorate as a significant environmental threat to California groundwater, along with a summary of the perchlorate impacts in this region. Item 5.G. (UTC) on this month's Board agenda provides further information on cleanup at our most significant perchlorate impacted site.

Redevelopment Proposed at Former IBM Site in San Jose (Keith Roberson)

In early April, Hitachi announced plans to redevelop about half of the former IBM site for a mix of residential and retail uses. The disc-drive manufacturing plant at 5600 Cottle Road, San Jose, is now owned and operated by Hitachi Global Storage Technologies. The IBM site was one of the first groundwater contamination sites identified in the Silicon Valley and one of the first groundwater cleanups ordered by the Water Board. Cleanup actions conducted over the past 20 years have resulted in significant improvements in water quality in the area, with a former 3½-mile long solvent plume now reduced to a fraction of its former size. Contamination is now contained within the former IBM property boundaries. Hitachi has submitted to the City of San Jose a master plan for redevelopment of portions of the site. The plan would reduce the manufacturing campus from 332 acres to 148 acres, while proposing 147 acres for commercial and residential development into a "transit-oriented urban village." We have reviewed the master plan maps and see no problems with the proposed redevelopment. Former chemical contamination source areas are within the portion of the site retained for industrial use. Proposed residential development is limited to acreage outside historical and/or current contaminated zones. Commercial use is proposed for areas overlying the groundwater plume, but concentrations of chemicals in groundwater are low enough that there is little threat to human health due to vapor intrusion.

Staff Briefs Representatives of Senator Boxer And Congresswoman Eshoo on Moffett Field Cleanup (Adriana Constantinescu)

In response to an August 2003 Joint Congressional letter from Senator Boxer and Congresswoman Eshoo, Water Board staff John Kaiser and Adriana Constantinescu, along with representatives from the Navy, USEPA and NASA met in March at Congresswoman Eshoo's office in Palo Alto. The purpose of the meeting was to present the status of environmental cleanup for the Moffett Field stormwater basin known as Site 25.

Site 25 is located close to the Bay in the northwestern portion of Moffett Field and consists of the Eastern Diked Marsh and the NASA storm water retention basin. Approximately 55 acres of the site belongs to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District as shown in the aerial photograph (right).



For the past 50 years, the Navy and NASA have used Site 25 to manage stormwater runoff. From 1993 to 2002, the Navy conducted remedial investigations in the Site 25 area. The investigations indicated that chemicals, including PCBs, pesticides, metals and petroleum hydrocarbons, are present in surface water and/or sediment samples. The chemical analyses were used to assess potential risks to both humans and ecological receptors under various exposure scenarios; some chemicals will require cleanup to protect beneficial uses.

The meeting agenda also included a presentation on the proposed Site 25 Remedial Investigation (RI)/ Feasibility Study (FS) Addendums, storm water retention pond tidal marsh restoration FS, proposed schedules, and the extent of participation by stakeholders and regulatory agencies. The Water Board is the State agency overseeing this project.

The proposed addendums to the FS will assess cleanup alternatives for the site assuming restoration to tidal marsh as one of the potential future land uses. This alternative requires the Navy to identify environmental receptors, exposure pathways and chemicals of concern for tidal marshes.

We anticipate the submittal of a marsh alternative analysis this fall. In addition, we also anticipate reissuing the NPDES Permit for discharges from groundwater treatment this fall. Whatever the restoration project eventually selected, we expect this will be a long-term effort.

Site Tour of Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (James Ponton)

On April 23, I participated in an orientation tour of Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS) accompanied by our Project Manager Jim Ponton and Program Manager John Kaiser. Much of HPNS is scheduled for transfer to the City of San Francisco for multiple uses, including housing.

The landward part of HPNS consists of five contiguous parcels that make up about 500 acres along the Bay's shoreline. The offshore portion of HPNS comprises about 450 acres of submerged property. Navy representatives conducted a walking tour of much of the facility, outlining some of the more important issues affecting various parcels.

Soil, sediments, and groundwater at HPNS are impacted by various constituents which, depending upon the parcel, may include radiological elements, PCBs, metals, solvents, and petroleum. Part of the tour included an overview of an innovative groundwater treatment facility that involves manipulating aerobic/anaerobic subsurface conditions to enhance bioremediation of VOC impacted groundwater. On another portion of the tour we were shown a former landfill site where recent remedial actions were taken to control and isolate the generation of methane gas and prevent fires.

Overall, four of the land parcels are slated for phased transfer to the City of San Francisco's Redevelopment Agency. A Conveyance Agreement that was recently agreed to by the Department of Navy and the Redevelopment Agency will govern transfer of the property. Among other items, the Conveyance Agreement requires regulatory agency concurrence that sufficient remedial efforts have been taken place to be protective of human health and the environment consistent with future use.

To date, the Navy has spent approximately \$335 million in site investigation and remedial actions. It is expected that the cost to complete work at HPNS will require an additional \$200 million.

Navy Honors Mare Island Restoration Advisory Board (Gary Riley)

The Navy has undertaken environmental restoration activities for at least the past twenty years at the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo. The former Shipyard is currently the subject of numerous ongoing investigations and cleanups under the Board's oversight. Recently, the Navy honored members of the Mare Island Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) on its tenth anniversary. The RAB provides a forum for community input on the cleanup program and includes community members, redevelopment representatives, and regulatory agency staff. The RAB also allows Board staff the opportunity to respond to community concerns and update local residents on cleanup activities. Gary Riley is the Board's Project Manager for Mare Island and received an award on April 29 in recognition of his assistance with Shipyard cleanup that has led to nationally recognized

successes. These successes include the 2002 early transfer conveyances to the City of Vallejo and the Secretary of Defense Environmental Award.

BayKeeper Challenges Approval of Marin Stormwater Program (Marla Lafer)

The Board has been regulating urban runoff pursuant to the federal "Phase I" stormwater regulations for nearly 15 years through permits for the major urban portions of the Region. Pursuant to updated federal regulations, known as Phase II, the municipal stormwater program is in the process of expanding to include smaller urban areas. Last year, the State Board issued a general permit for Phase II communities throughout the State. In our Region, that permit covers all North Bay counties from Marin to Solano and also those portions of San Francisco not served by its combined (i.e., storm and sanitary) sewer system.

The procedures established in the State Board's general permit call for staff of each respective region to review and comment on stormwater management plans from each Phase II community. When those plans are acceptable to staff, they are posted on the State Board's web page for 60 days. If no member of the public requests a public hearing on the adequacy of the management plan during those 60 days, the plan goes into effect. If there is a public request for a hearing, it is to be held before the respective water board to determine if the management plan is acceptable.

Of the Phase II stormwater plans already submitted, accepted and posted by staff in our Region, BayKeeper has previously requested a hearing on the Napa County program, but not the City of Petaluma plan. BayKeeper formally requested a hearing on the Marin County management plan on March 29, 2004. Staff is discussing these requests with BayKeeper, in an attempt identify, focus, and resolve its issues.

Marin County, unlike most Phase II municipalities that are just starting their programs, implemented a baseline urban runoff control program in 1993. By 1995, the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP) was formed and began development of a watershed based stormwater program. Their first stormwater management plan, *Action Plan 2000* covered October 1996 - June 2000. The second five-year plan, *Action Plan 2005*, set to expire in June 2005, will be revised in 2006. The MCSTOPPP program in many respects is similar to Phase I permit programs. However, unlike most Phase I municipalities (and many Phase II communities), more than two-thirds of Marin County has been preserved as parklands, with urban areas concentrated in eastern Marin. With the exceptions of San Rafael, Novato, and some unincorporated County areas, most urban areas are at or near build-out and no significant new- or re-development is expected. Additionally, Marin County has very few industrial sites. MCSTOPPP participates in the Regional Monitoring Program and has conducted biological monitoring in selected watersheds for more than five years.

Board staff has met with BayKeeper to familiarize BayKeeper with the specifics of the MCSTOPPP program and to determine what its concerns are. Once staff has defined the issues, a hearing will be scheduled as appropriate. Staff plans, to the extent feasible, to combine hearings on the stormwater management plans into a single Board meeting, since BayKeeper's issues appear to be consistent for all the Phase II programs. At this time no other parties have requested hearings.

Potable Water Treatment Facility General Permit Update (Lila Tang)

Last year, the Water Board adopted a new Region-wide general permit for discharges from Potable Water Treatment Facilities. This was to streamline permitting of many similar facilities in the Region. The discharges from these facilities include filter backwash and chlorinated or chloramine contaminated water spills.

Thus far, 24 facilities have obtained coverage under the General Permit. Nine are for routine discharges; fifteen are for emergency discharges. Only one facility (the Contra Costa Water District) has opted to seek an individual permit, as they cannot meet all the limits in the General Permit.

Prior to this General Permit, only 5 of the 24 facilities had permits to discharge. These 5 are owned by East Bay Municipal Utility District. Since they no longer need their individual permits, an order proposing to rescind them is in this month's Board meeting agenda.

Other drinking water releases from distribution systems such as fire hydrants, and pipe breaks, are currently not covered by our permits. We are hoping to leverage resources of local agencies to address these discharges through their storm water permits and implementation of best management practices.

Dry Cleaner Cleanup Symposium (Sarah Raker)

Sarah Raker served as co-chair of a well-received symposium on the Investigation and Remediation of Dry Cleaner Release Sites, held in Sacramento on April 7. This was the tenth in a series of symposia on groundwater contaminants to be organized by the Groundwater Resources Association of California. Sarah's co-chair was Tom Mohr of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Topics included source investigation and characterization techniques, remedial strategies, assessing and managing water supply impacts from dry cleaner release sites, lessons learned from the City of Lodi litigation case, and a policy discussion. While dry cleaners are held to stringent regulatory standards for air emissions, sewer discharges, and hazardous materials handling, there are currently no California regulations requiring ongoing monitoring of groundwater to detect releases from dry cleaners. The more than 250 attendees included representatives from seventeen states outside California, demonstrating the nationwide interest in this significant issue. Arthur G. Baggett Jr., Chair of the State Water Board, was the luncheon speaker.

Travis Air Force Base Environmental Education Program (Sarah Raker)

Sarah Raker participated in an environmental class for eighth graders on April 6 at the Golden West Middle School in Fairfield. Representatives from Travis Air Force Base and their consultants gave the students an orientation on Travis' Environmental Restoration Program. Eight classes attended this special science class in 1-hour sessions. The students visited four separate workstations set up with demonstrations and maps to teach them:

- How contamination was released into the environment from operations at Travis;
- How Travis is removing these contaminants from soil and groundwater using current treatment technologies for soil and groundwater;
- How chemical tests are conducted on water samples; and,
- How workers protect themselves from physical, chemical, and biological hazards while working at Travis.

Sarah answered questions about how the Water Board works with Travis on groundwater cleanup and protection of nearby Union Creek. The principal and teachers were very encouraged by the student's response to the training and look forward to more outreach from Travis in the future.

Peninsula Sportsmen's Club Cleanup, East Palo Alto (Thomas Butler)

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has made recent progress on the cleanup of the former Peninsula Sportsmen's Club's trap and skeet firing range. Club activities from 1939 to 1994 resulted in contamination of soil and sediment on property owned by the SFPUC as well as a salt pond formerly owned by Cargill Salt Company. The salt pond is now part of the South Bay salt pond restoration project. Cleanup of the site is divided into three separate phases: Phase I – Uplands and Seasonal Wetlands; Phase II – Salt Pond and Levee; and, Phase III – Tidal Lagoon. Phase I began in

fall of 2003 and was finished earlier this spring. As part of this upland and seasonal wetland cleanup, lead, arsenic, antimony, and poly-nuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (present within the clay pigeons used in skeet shooting) contaminated soils were excavated and treated onsite. Once treated, these soils were disposed of at either a hazardous waste or designated waste landfill. The Phase II salt pond and levee cleanup will begin once the salt ponds are dry enough to begin excavation. Additional soil characterization and sediment studies are planned for Phase III (Tidal Slough) within the next couple of weeks.

Auto Shredder Waste Fire at Vasco Road Landfill, Livermore (Thomas Butler)

A fire at the Vasco Road Landfill, just north of Livermore, erupted in a stockpile of treated auto shredder waste (TASW) on Friday, April 2. This type of waste generally consists of non-recyclable components of automobiles shredded into a sponge-like product. This product is then treated with a silicate polymer and lime to reduce the solubility of metals found within the material. It is unclear what initiated the fire, however it was quickly contained to an area of about 150 x 200 ft. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) became concerned about the level of treatment of this material because it is uncommon for TASW to catch fire. Based on this concern, Board staff collected nine samples of TASW and had them analyzed for solubility, using a test for classifying California hazardous waste. Each sample failed the STLC test for one or more metals, implying that TASW could be considered hazardous waste. This has prompted us to halt landfill acceptance of TASW Regionwide and to notify other agencies within the State of the potential problem. We are currently in the process of characterizing TASW piles at other landfills known to accept this material and are awaiting analytical results. We will keep the Board informed on this issue.

The Vasco fire occurred in a TASW pile that was located on top of about 30 feet of municipal waste in one of the landfill's lined disposal cells. The fire was quickly put out the same day after bulldozers shoved stockpiles of soil over the shredder waste to smother the fire. No water-related concerns are expected as only a small amount of water was used and no run off was observed. Additionally, any water infiltrating through the shredder stockpile will be collected and handled by the landfill's leachate extraction system. At the present time, landfill personnel are optimistic that the fire occurred within the uppermost portion of the pile and that the underlying liner system was not damaged. Impacts to the liner, if any, will be verified within the next several weeks when the stockpile is removed and the depth of fire impacts identified.

Oceans Summit (Bruce Wolfe)

Upon the April 20 release of the US Commission on Ocean Policy's long-awaited Preliminary Report to the nation's governors, I was invited by Terry Tamminen, Secretary of CalEPA, and Mike Chrisman, Secretary of Resources, to participate in a day-long California Ocean Summit on May 6. As an outgrowth of this Summit, each agency was invited to submit comments on the Preliminary Report that could be used in a statewide response to the Report. I did submit comments, and, once the statewide response is available, will brief the Board further on this issue.

In-house Training

Our March training covered various watershed management topics. Our April training was on computer skills, specifically the use of word processing and spreadsheet software. Our May training will consist of a site visit to Sunol Regional Park to observe various watershed management activities, including grazing management, amphibian monitoring, endangered species habitat protection, stream restoration, and dam removal. Recent brown-bag topics include an April 7 session on detection limits under the California Toxic Rule, an April 14 session on the joint permit application process for aquatic projects, and a May 13 session on groundwater cleanup at Treasure Island.

Staff Presentations

March 13: Keith Lichten continued the Board's ongoing outreach on new development stormwater issues with a presentation to a Saturday morning class sponsored by the San Francisco Estuary Institute. On *March 30* and *April 27* respectively, Keith also made similar presentations to the staff of the City of Alameda and at the California Water Environment Association's annual conference in Fresno.

March 17: Mike Napolitano of the TMDL Section gave a presentation at a workshop on fish friendly farming at the Salmonid Restoration Federation annual meeting in Davis. Mike's presentation, entitled "Clean Water Regulations and Fisheries Recover," provided an overview and history of the Clean Water Act and Porter-Cologne. Mike discussed how the TMDL program and nonpoint source control emerged in the 1990s as the focus for water quality regulation. He also spoke about the promise presented by fish friendly farming programs for resolving water quality problems and conserving and restoring runs of salmon and steelhead. The audience included farmers, regulators, resource agency and non-profit staff, and agricultural extension advisors.

March 24: Karen Taberski gave a presentation on the statewide Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) to the Regional Monitoring Program's (RMP) Technical Review Committee. She gave an overview of SWAMP, discussed its relationship to the RMP, and presented some of the results from SWAMP in our Region. Under the new permit fee structure, participants in the RMP also contribute funding to SWAMP. On *April 19*, Karen gave the same presentation to the RMP Steering Committee.

March 30: Dorothy Dickey made a presentation to a Santa Clara University Law School land use class on state regulation of wetlands.

April 2: I was one of the keynote speakers at the North Bay Watershed Association's annual North Bay Water Conference. The Conference's theme was how expanded conservation, recycling, and desalination can provide reliable "new" water supplies. I emphasized the Board's support for such expansion and noted especially how expansion of recycling can both ease compliance with NPDES permits and reduce costs associated with TMDL "adaptive implementation."

April 5: TMDL Section Leader Dyan Whyte gave a presentation entitled "Water Quality Solutions for San Francisco Bay" to the UC Berkeley undergraduate Water Planet Class.

April 7: Karen Taberski and Matt Cover presented a general overview of the SWAMP program and provided results specific to San Pablo Creek to the San Pablo Watershed Neighbors Education and Restoration Society (SPAWNERS).

April 8: At the First UC Pesticides-Water Quality Workshop, Bill Johnson gave a presentation on "Keeping Creeks Clean: Tackling Pesticide Toxicity in Urban Streams." Held in Woodland, the workshop was attended by representatives involved in pest management, natural resources and management, water quality, floriculture and nursery production, environmental horticulture, landscape, and agricultural production.

April 22: Bill Johnson gave a presentation on "Keeping Creeks Clean—Pesticide-Related Toxicity in Bay Area Urban Creeks" to more than 300 Pesticide Applicators Professional Association members at a seminar in Hayward.

April 22: Jeff Kapellas, our Geographic Information Systems Analyst, gave a presentation in San Jose on "The Development of GIS in the State and Regional Boards" to the ESRI Water/Wastewater Users' Group meeting.

April 22: Jill Marshall chaired a session at the California Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The session focused on crosscutting issues in fishery restoration and included presentations on regulatory and technical challenges of restoring streams impacted by mercury; flow experiments to restore geomorphic function; and ecosystem scale monitoring and performance measures.

May 4: Richard Looker, Tom Mumley and I made presentations at the Annual RMP Conference (see item above for details).

May 6: Jill Marshall gave a presentation on "Applying Adaptive Management and Interdisciplinary Science to Riverine Restoration" at the River Management Society's bi-annual meeting.

May 24-27: During the Battelle conference in Monterey on "Remediation of Chlorinated and Recalcitrant Compounds", Stephen Hill will participate as part of a panel discussing what is meant by "success" in groundwater cleanup. The panel will also include representatives from industry, academia, the consulting sector, and other regulatory agencies.