

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: *September 2014*

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

NEXT MEETING: September 10, 2014 WEBSITE: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/>

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The Polar Star Docks at Mare Island (Elizabeth Christian)

On August 1, maintenance dredging in front of Dry Dock 3 at the Mare Island Ship Yard was completed just in time for the arrival of the U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker, *Polar Star* (Photo 1b). The *Polar Star* is responsible for breaking sea ice to resupply the McMurdo Research Station in the Ross Sea, Antarctica. Water Board staff reviewed sediment testing results and prepared a certification for dredging to accommodate an earlier-than-usual arrival for the ship, which was damaged last year at the McMurdo Station ice pier due to early melting of the sea ice. The sea ice melting exposed the ship's hull to rock and steel structures normally encased in solid ice. The only west coast dry docks that could accommodate the *Polar Star's* tight schedule were located in San Francisco Bay (Photo 1a).



Photo 1a. *Dredging the approach to Dry Dock 3 at Mare Island Ship Yard.*



Photo 1b. *Polar Star in Dry Dock 3 at Mare Island Ship Yard.*

The clean sediment dredged for this project, about 80,000 cubic yards, was placed at the Cullinan Ranch Wetland Restoration Project, located just a couple of miles up the Napa River from the dredge site. Cullinan Ranch is seeking fill material to create 30 acres of habitat at the right elevation for the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse. The crane and bucket shown in Photo 1c are lifting dredged material over the levee separating Cullinan Ranch from Dutchman Slough and placing it in the mouse habitat area under construction. Staff noted that the crane operator was careful not to spill dredged material onto wetland vegetation on the outboard side of the levee.



Photo 1c. *Offloader placing dredged material on inboard side of levee at Cullinan Ranch.*

Offloading dredged material using a crane and bucket rather than hydraulically pumping a slurry of the material is not the most efficient way to spread the material, but the bulldozer operators seemed to be making the best of the situation (Photo 1d).



Photo 1d. *Bulldozers spreading Mare Island dredged material at Cullinan Ranch.*

Ducks Unlimited, which operates the restoration project for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-run San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, is targeting a January 2015 levee breach date.

Enhancement of Fryer Creek in Sonoma (Lila Tang)

On August 8, we approved the completion of an \$183,250 supplemental environmental project to enhance the habitat in an 850-foot stretch of Fryer Creek between 2nd and 3rd Street West in Sonoma. The project was coordinated by the Sonoma Ecology Center and involved removing invasive vegetation and replanting with native species, which provide more diverse habitat and creek bank stability, and removing trash. The project also included a public outreach and participation component. Local residents and landowners helped implement the project, which has the longer term benefit of community interest and investment in maintaining it.

The supplemental environmental project was an outcome of our 2011 settlement with the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District for \$383,000 in administrative civil liabilities for sanitary sewer overflows. The before-and-after pictures (Photos 2a-2f) show some of the areas that benefited from the project.



Photo 2a. Fryer Creek, Waypoint 6, before.



Photo 2b. Fryer Creek, Waypoint 6, after.



Photo 2c. Fryer Creek, Waypoint 9, before.



Photo 2d. Fryer Creek, Waypoint 9, after.



Photo 2e. Fryer Creek, Waypoint 10, before.



Photo 2f. Fryer Creek, Waypoint 10, after.

In-house Training

In-house training will resume in October, with a session on Bay Area salmonid conservation. Brownbag seminars included an August 26 webinar on groundwater statistics for environmental project managers (offered by the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council).

Alameda County's Safe Drug Disposal Rally

On August 18, I participated in Alameda County's Safe Drug Disposal Rally at the Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley. County Supervisor Nate Miley hosted the event put on by the Alameda County MEDS Coalition, a stakeholder group formed in 2008 to promote safe drug handling and disposal. As part of the event, speakers emphasized that improper drug storage and collection allows unused drugs and medicines to be abused by youth or to be disposed of where they can reach receiving waters such as the Bay with minimal treatment. The MEDS Coalition has worked with the Sheriff's Department, medical centers, and pharmacies in the county to establish and host drug drop-off sites. Currently, there are 31 drug drop-off sites in the county, which were all recognized at the rally. As part of this recognition, I accepted a commendation from the County Board of Supervisors for the drug drop-off site we were instrumental in establishing at the State Building in 2009 (Photo 3).



Photo 3. Bruce Wolfe accepts Board of Supervisors commendation from Supervisor Nate Miley (right) and Eden Medical Trauma Prevention Center Coordinator Chris Graham (center-left)

Alameda County has tracked the amount of drugs and medicines collected and properly disposed since 2009, when only 473 pounds of drugs were reported collected. In 2013, nearly 14,000 pounds were collected at a cost of disposal of under \$28,000 or approximately \$2 per pound. At the rally, the role of sanitary districts such as the Union Sanitary District and East Bay MUD in publicizing the program and properly disposing of drugs collected was noted. Supervisor Miley closed the rally by highlighting Alameda County's efforts to expand the program and have it ultimately funded by pharmaceutical companies.

Penalties Imposed (Lila Tang)

The following show final actions to impose penalties as of last month. There is currently no proposed action open for public comment.

Final Actions			
On behalf of the Board, the Executive Officer approved the following:			
Discharger	Violation	Penalty Imposed	Supplemental Environmental Project
Napa Garden Apartments, Groundwater Treatment System, in Napa	Unauthorized bypass of treatment and late discharge monitoring report	\$18,000	none
City of Palo Alto, Regional Water Quality Control Plant, in Palo Alto	Discharge limit exceedances	\$66,000	none
Martinez Shell Refining Company, in Martinez	Discharge limit exceedances	\$6,000	none
East Bay Municipal Utility District, Lafayette Water Treatment Plant	Unauthorized discharges to Lafayette Creek, and discharge limit exceedance	\$6,000	none

The State Board's Office of Enforcement includes a statewide summary of penalty enforcement in its Executive Director's Report at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/eo_rpts.shtml.