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California Environmental Protection Agency

NEWS RELEASE

State Water Resources Control Board

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NONPOINT POLLUTION PLAN RELEASED BY STATE WATER BOARD, COASTAL COMMISSION

SACRAMENTO -- To better address water pollution problems caused by nonpoint sources, the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Coastal Commission have released their Plan for California Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program.

The Board held a public workshop on Nov. 29 on the Plan and will consider its adoption at its Dec. 14 meeting.

The 400-page document is a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act and the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990. Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality impairment in California and the nation.

“The plan is a significant upgrade of California’s Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program since its inception in 1988,” said Walt Pettit, executive director of the SWRCB, “and represents the state’s commitment to use its resources to find a solution.

“The Coastal Commission is dedicated to the coordinated efforts outlined within this plan. It will be a useful tool in protecting the quality of California's waters,” said Peter Douglas, California Coastal Commission executive director. “We especially appreciate the public's participation in developing this Plan and we look forward to continuing collaborative ventures through the next fifteen years.”

The Coastal Commission will take up the Plan at its Dec. 8 meeting in San Francisco.

In recent months beach closures have made Californians more acutely aware of the problems resulting from nonpoint source pollution. While some of the closures resulted from identifiable sources such as sewage overflows, the source for much of the pollution cannot be easily identified. Most frequently it comes from storm drain discharges of oil, motor vehicle fuel and grease deposited on roadways and carried into storm drains, soil erosion from construction sites, and residential lawn runoff containing fertilizers, pesticides and pet waste.

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The Plan is a fifteen-year strategy comprised of three, five-year implementation plans. These plans are structured around specific steps to control nonpoint source pollution sources. The steps have measurable milestones so progress can be regularly checked.

In addition to the SWRCB and the Coastal Commission, more than 20 state agencies are actively involved in nonpoint source pollution prevention.

Interested parties can obtain a copy of the plan by accessing the SWRCB's web site at <http://www/swrcb.ca.gov>, and then clicking on "News", or by calling Monica Torres at (916) 657-1132.

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