

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2007
Prepared on November 7, 2007

ITEM NUMBER: 21

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Dominic Roques 805/542-4780]

In general, staff recommends "Standard Certification" when the applicant proposes adequate mitigation. Measures included in the application must ensure that beneficial uses will be protected, and water quality standards will be met.

Conditional Certification is appropriate when a project may adversely impact surface water quality. Conditions allow the project to proceed under an Army Corps permit, while upholding water quality standards.

Staff will recommend "No Action" when no discharge or adverse impacts are expected. Generally, a project must provide beneficial use and habitat enhancement for no action to be taken by the Regional Board. A chart on the following pages lists applications received from September 1, 2007, to October 31, 2007.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2007 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2007

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acres of Impact ¹	Mitigation ²	Certified
Mark McCune-Union Pacific Railroad Company	Bridge 76.42 - Coast Subdivision	Replacement of an existing bridge over Miller Slough due to deterioration.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	Miller Slough	0.03		
Brian Talley - Las Ventanas Ranch LLC	Las Ventanas Ranch	Extending an existing 60-inch RCP by 16 feet and a total of 5 cubic yards of riprap will be placed at the outlet of the extension.	Arroyo Grande	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributary to Arroyo Grande Creek	0.0038	0.0077	
Anthony Khan	Khan Residence	Constructing a single family residence with a driveway. An 18" HDPE will be installed to route drainage swale around the building pad.	Morgan Hill	Santa Clara	Unnamed drainage	0.3		
Doug Mondo -- Airport Road Business Park LLC	Tract 2772 Airport Road Business Park	Filling a small portion of a non-wetland ephemeral drainage, creating a road crossing, installing a riprap armored culvert outfall.	Paso Robles	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributary to Huerheuro Creek	0.008		
Perry Fontana--Ausra CA II, LLC	Carrizo Energy Solar Farm	To construct a 30-foot wide access road with two permanent crossings consisting of 48-inch culverts.	Carrizo Plain	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributary to Soda Lake	0.004		

¹ Total Acreage includes both temporary and permanent impacts to riparian, streambed, and/or wetland environments within federal jurisdiction.

² Water Board compensatory mitigation requirements are determined based on area impacted. They are generally 2:1 for streambed impacts, 1:1 for riparian impacts, and 3:1 for wetland impacts. Mitigation acreage is final upon issuance of certification and not shown unless the Water Board has issued certification.

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acres of Impact ¹	Mitigation ²	Certified
Marc Eisemann	Tract 2687	Removing a 36-inch corrugated metal culvert and replacing it with a 42-inch corrugated metal culvert. Installing a concrete headwall, and 918 square feet of riprap.	Templeton	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributary to Toad Creek	0.02		
John Swenson -- County of Santa Cruz	Redwood Road Streambank Stabilization	Repairing a washed out embankment adjacent to a roadway by installing a 40-foot crib wall and adding 53 cubic yards of 1/2 ton rock slope protection with filter fabric.	Loma Prieta	Santa Cruz	Redwood Canyon Creek	0.02		
Steve Wiesner- County of Santa Cruz	Kings Creek Road Culvert Replacement	To abandon two existing 30-inch culverts and install a new 48-inch HDPE culvert. The existing headwall will be removed and a new headwall will be installed for the new culvert along with a rock mattress to prevent scour.	Boulder Creek	Santa Cruz	Unnamed tributary to Kings Creek	0.06		
Karen Bewley- Caltrans	San Luis Creek Bridge Widening	Adding a five-foot wide sidewalk to the south side of San Luis Obispo Creek bridge. Both abutments will be widened, but will take place 2 to 3 meters above the creek bed. Wooden formwork supports will be temporarily placed in the creek bed.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo Creek	0.002		

CLEANUP REPORTS

Underground Tanks Summary Report dated October 29, 2007 [Chris Adair 805/549-3761] [See Attachment 1]

REGIONAL REPORTS

Regional Monitoring Report [Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

Karen Worcester and Lisa McCann have been participating in a statewide dialogue on how to improve interactions between researchers and the management community. The California Ocean Science Trust has sponsored this project, which included detailed phone interviews and a workshop at the Water Board office on October 24th to discuss issues, obstacles, and possible mechanisms to improve this dialogue. We discussed a number of innovative ideas, including having a staff science liaison, whose job it would be to translate scientific information into more usable information for managers. This person could for example be state staff, a Sea Grant intern, or an adjunct professor. After a series of workshops, the Ocean Science Trust will be provided with recommendations on how to proceed to improve communication.

Three sea otter deaths have recently been confirmed in the Monterey Bay area from microcystin toxicity. This highly toxic chemical is released from several species of blue-green algae, which are typically found in fresh water. CCAMP staff put sea otter pathologists in touch with watershed scientists (City of Watsonville and UCSC) working on blue-green algae blooms and other algal related research in the Pajaro watershed. They are now conducting joint sampling to determine if the toxins in the watershed are the same as those found in the sea otters.

Karen Worcester and Dave Paradies are participating on a Technical Advisory Committee for a statewide effort to organize data input to Water Boards from volunteer monitoring groups. Right now, volunteer data use by Water Board staff, is limited because of different data formats and inadequate documentation. The grant will include work to adapt our CCAMP data delivery formats (or something like it) for use by volunteer groups to address this deficiency. Dave also demonstrated CCAMP software via web link to State Board management investigating ways to manage grants data.

Karen Worcester participated in a statewide workshop entitled " Making Use of Ocean Observing Systems: Applications to Marine Protected Areas and Water Quality", sponsored by Southern California and Central Coast Ocean Observing Systems (SCCOOS and CenCOOS). We discussed a number of water quality issues where better knowledge of ocean currents, sediment movement, and plume behavior could improve our ability to understand water quality impacts to the nearshore environment. The OOS programs are committed to supporting water quality decision-making through their ocean data gathering efforts.

Staff has been interacting with Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) stakeholders, State Board staff, Ken Schiff from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and Dane Hardin from the Central Coast Long-term Environmental Assessment Network (CCLEAN) to provide comments on a strawman monitoring proposal for ASBS areas statewide. The proposal is quite ambitious and includes monitoring of reference areas and ASBS areas, as well as discharges. At this point, southern and northern California monitoring components may differ because of the large monitoring capacity in southern California already in place through SCCWRP. State Board staff is discussing funding opportunities with the Ocean Protection Council, but dischargers will definitely be expected to participate financially.

Total Maximum Daily Load Program [Lisa Horowitz McCann 805/549-3132]

Staff is working on the following TMDL tasks or reports:

- Aptos and Valencia Creeks Pathogen TMDLs- Final Project Report and Presentation to Water Board
- Pajaro River and Tributaries Fecal Coliform TMDL- Draft Project Report
- Salinas River and Tributaries Fecal Coliform TMDL- Draft Project Report
- San Lorenzo River and Estuary TMDLs (including Carbonera Creek) Pathogen TMDL- Final Project Report and Presentation to Water Board
- Santa Barbara Beaches Bacteria TMDLs- Preliminary Project Report (to be prepared by USEPA contractor, Tetra-Tech)
- Santa Maria River and Oso Flaco Creek Fecal Coliform TMDLs- Final Project Report
- Santa Maria River and Oso Flaco Creek Nitrate TMDLs- Final Project Report
- Santa Maria River Estuary Pesticides TMDL- Project Plan
- Soquel Lagoon Pathogen TMDL- Final Project Report and Presentation to Water Board

Staff continues to analyze data and assess conditions of waterbodies to update the 2008 Integrated Report- List of Impaired Waters (pursuant to 303(d) of the Clean Water Act) and Surface Water Quality Assessment (pursuant to 305(b) of the Clean Water Act).

Chris Rose was promoted to Senior Environmental Scientist, replacing Lisa McCann as the supervisor of the Watershed Assessment Unit and the Central Coast Region's TMDL Program Manager. Staff is recruiting to backfill the staff-level environmental scientist position created from Chris' promotion as well as the staff-level Water Resource Control Engineer position created from Angela Carpenter's retirement.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Presentations and Training [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

Kristina Seley, Peter von Langen, David Innis, and David LaCaro attended a Wastewater Treatment Operations course facilitated by the Water Board Training Academy on September 17-20, 2007. The four day training was an introduction to municipal wastewater treatment operations, and the reuse or disposal of the resulting effluent. Training topics included wastewater characteristics, microbiology of activated sludge, advanced treatment, recycled water regulations, process control, inspection and sampling procedures, flow measurement, field measurements, and records review. The class included a full day field trip to four different active wastewater treatment facilities in the Sacramento area. The field trip highlighted the variability in wastewater treatment in order for the attendees to become familiar with the different types of domestic wastewater streams.

Karen Worcester gave a presentation on September 21, 2007, to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee on CCAMP monitoring activities and findings in the Santa Barbara area and throughout the Region. She also summarized findings from the recently released Harbor Report, which showed that Santa Barbara Harbor has a number of issues of concern, including poor oxygen concentrations, several chemicals in sediments at levels exceeding guideline values (especially chlordane, but also copper, arsenic, DDT and nickel), and fish tissue levels of arsenic and PAH over human safety screening values. We will also relay findings to harbor managers. The Harbor Report has been peer reviewed and is available at www.ccamp.org.

Karen also presented findings of the Harbor Report to the Marine Interest Group of San Luis Obispo County on October 24, 2007. This audience included the mayor of Morro Bay, the Morro Bay harbor master, the Port San Luis interim harbor director, and the National Estuary Program director, among others. These two harbors showed far fewer chemical exceedances in sediment and tissue than did the other four harbors in the Region, but still had a few issues of concern. Port San Luis had several tissue samples with elevated levels of PAHs and PCBs. Sediments in both harbors were high in chromium, nickel, and other metals found in serpentine soils. Arsenic was found above screening levels in all of our harbors. The source of this is not yet known, but is possibly coming from wood preservatives.

Karen presented our data management and integration approach for monitoring data at a monitoring workshop on November 1, 2007, organized as part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary "SAM" project. This is the Data Synthesis, Assessment and Management Project, funded by EPA and the Resources Legacy Foundation to pull multiple data sources together into a single format and assess its utility in answering the State's nonpoint source management questions. Gary Conley, the contract staff on the project, also spent a week in San Luis Obispo working directly with the CCAMP team on data quality issues for the SAM project, since this dataset is also being used in the 303(d) listing process.

On November 7, 2007, Karen attended a director's meeting of the Bay Foundation for Morro Bay. The Foundation is now holding Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program funds and employing CCAMP field staff (Erin Kerstholt). Karen gave a presentation to the Board to familiarize directors with the CCAMP program and discussed an approach for the Foundation to review and approve the annual budget and accept annual work plans. She also discussed goals for expanding the CCAMP endowment through partnerships with other organizations.

Roger Briggs, Michael Thomas, and Karen Worcester gave a presentation on October 12, 2007 to the Guadalupe Dunes Collaborative on funding proposals for a Low Impact Institute and the CCAMP program. The Collaborative is interested in becoming more involved in water quality projects and was encouraged to bring a Guadalupe area water quality proposal to the February water board meeting to be considered along with the other proposals.

Executive Officers from the Bay Area, North Coast, Central Coast (BANCC) Regions, along with USEPA, organized the first Water Quality and Sustainability Meeting on November 16, 2007 in Monterey. Nearly 30 representatives from a cross section of stakeholders from throughout the three region area outlined actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing California's sustainability within the water world, consistent with the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, a law signed by the Governor a year ago (AB 32). Roger Briggs chaired the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Underground Tanks Summary Report dated October 29, 2007

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