

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Wednesday, March 8, 2017
Fortuna City Council Chambers
Fortuna, California

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: North Coast Regional Board 2017 Priority Projects (*St. John*)

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item only.

BACKGROUND: The purpose of this item is to: 1) provide a general overview of all of the projects that staff of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board plan to work on in 2017, with a focus on priority projects; 2) answer questions; and 3) provide Board members and the public the opportunity to comment on these planned projects.

DISCUSSION: Attached is a listing of the planned projects for 2017 divided into general program categories. For those projects planned for consideration or presentation to the Regional Water Board in 2017, the targeted month associated with the Board meeting at which the item may be heard is identified next to the project. The targeted months for Board consideration are for general planning purposes and are subject to change.

The priority **Basin Planning** project slated for Board consideration by the end of the year is the Russian River Indicator Bacteria Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Action Plan. In addition, Planning Unit staff will bring the revised Nutrient Offset / Water Quality Credit Trading Program for the Laguna de Santa Rosa to the Board for consideration this summer. And, Planning Unit staff will conduct the Triennial Review of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan), and work on several high priority Basin Planning projects. Finally, staff of the **Land Disposal & Groundwater Permitting Unit** will bring to the Board for approval the onsite wastewater treatment systems Local Area Management Plans for the Counties of Sonoma, Humboldt, and Mendocino.

The priority **Nonpoint Source permits** under development in 2017 include:

- The revised South Fork Elk River Management Plan for Green Diamond Resource Company, which will be brought to the Board for consideration in the summer;
- Revisions to the Dairy Program general orders; and
- Development of a general order for vineyards and orchards.

TMDL implementation efforts will continue for TMDLs throughout the region. A focus for the Board will be consideration of renewed TMDL Waivers for the Scott River and Shasta River in October. In addition, staff will devote considerable effort to implement the Klamath River TMDLs. Both of these projects will be addressed as part of Item 5 on today's agenda. Finally, a priority for staff will be on implementing the Elk River TMDL, for which an update will be provided to the Board in May.

Staff of the **Point Source and Groundwater Protection Division** will be busy throughout the year, working on 22 permits for wastewater treatment facilities and for solid waste disposal sites. Of these 22 permits under development in 2017, staff anticipate that 16 of them will come to the Board for consideration this year. While all of these permits are significant and important, the following are considered priorities for consideration by the Board this year: Fortuna WWTP, McKinleyville WWTP, and Roseburg Forest Products WDR.

Finally, in addition to the routine, though critically important, compliance assistance efforts in all of our regulatory programs (i.e. Timber, Dairy, wastewater, storm water, solid waste, and groundwater site cleanup) the following efforts in 2017 are noteworthy. Regulatory and enforcement staff will continue implementation and enforcement efforts associated with the North Coast Region's expanding Cannabis Program, while also supporting State Board staff on development of state-wide general WDRs and associated water rights permitting efforts. In addition, staff will provide administrative and technical assistance to small disadvantaged communities in the North Coast and work with funding agencies to provide grants and/or loans to plan and construct needed water quality improvement projects. Finally, staff will pursue timely enforcement actions, as necessary.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item only; no action will be taken by the Board.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- List of 2017 Projects