

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
May 18, 2017 8:30 a.m.
Santa Rosa

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Russian River Watershed Association Update (*Andy Rodgers, Executive Director RRWA, and Mark Landman, Vice-Mayor, City of Cotati*)

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational update on future and recently completed activities of the Russian River Watershed Association.

BACKGROUND: The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is a coalition of cities, counties and special districts in the Russian River Watershed that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, habitat restoration and watershed enhancement. RRWA, which is in its fourteenth year, currently has eleven member agencies: the Cities of Ukiah, Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Sebastopol, and Cotati; the Town of Windsor; the Counties of Mendocino and Sonoma; and the Sonoma County Water Agency. RRWA's cooperative approach to designing and implementing projects results in regional consistency in the methods and the message, and cost savings to RRWA member agencies.

ISSUES: Each year RRWA adopts a Work Plan and budget to support administration of the organization and implementation of specific projects. Many of the projects target compliance with requirements overseen by the Regional Water Board. RRWA staff consistently seeks input from Regional Water Board staff on project priorities, and design and implementation strategies.

Here are some key projects in the current RRWA Work Plan:

- Storm Water Permit support – including support for trash assessment implementation, ethnic communities outreach implementation, and development of a regional water quality program;
- NPDES Storm Water Comment Forum – for RRWA member agencies to review and comment on regulations related to storm water NPDES permitting such as the statewide trash amendment, TMDL development, funding initiatives, and changes to State and local regulations;
- Sponsorship of Watershed Clean-ups (continuing next year);
- Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDL forum (continuing next year);
- "Ditch the Plastic, Your Water is Fantastic!" drinking water messaging, including 2017 High School Video Contest topic (continuing next year);
- Russian River Friendly Landscape Guidelines – event and signage; and
- Safe Medicine Disposal Program (continuing each year).

In addition to RRWA's ongoing projects, their 2017-2018 Work Plan (copy attached) includes supporting member agency participation in relevant regional programs, Phase I Trash Program Support, Phase I Child Outreach Plan, and Mendocino and Sonoma County Medicine EPR Programs.

The RRWA was successful in securing Proposition 1 planning grant funds from the State Water Resources Control Board for the preparation of a Russian River-wide Storm Water Resources Plan. RRWA is also actively engaged in many other relevant regional initiatives such as the Sonoma County Venture Conservation Project, Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP), and the Russian River Confluence.

SIGNIFICANT

CHANGES: None

RECOMMENDATION: This is an informational item.

SUPPORTING

DOCUMENTS: Russian River Watershed Association 2017-2018 Work Plan