

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region**

**Executive Officer's Report  
Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer**

**October 12, 2000**

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\*\*\* The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption

\*\*\* For a list of simple ways to reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see the tips at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/news/echallenge.html>

**GROUNDWATER DIVISION**

**ENFORCEMENT AND STORMWATER**

**Enforcement**

**Administrative Civil Liability Issued to Chevron U.S.A., Inc.**

Sam Unger

On August 30, 2000, the Executive Officer issued a complaint for administrative civil liability, in the amount of \$2,254,200, to Chevron U.S.A. for the discharge of 4,500,000 gallons of jet fuel to an aquifer underlying the Chevron El Segundo refinery in violation of section 13350 of the California Water Code. Environmental impacts from the discharge include further degradation and delay of cleanup of the aquifer, which is undergoing cleanup for previous uncontrolled releases of liquid hydrocarbons from the Chevron refinery. Regional Board staff concluded that had Chevron been more diligent in reviewing its monitoring data, the magnitude of the release could have been greatly reduced.

**Administrative Civil Liability Issued to Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority**

Sam Unger

On August 30, 2000, the Executive Officer issued a complaint for administrative civil liability, in the amount of \$182,538, to the Alameda Corridor Transportation Project (ACTA) for discharges of wastewater that violated effluent limitations prescribed in Regional Board Order Nos. 97-043, 97-045 (NPDES Permit Nos. CAG994001 and CAG994002) to Compton Creek from November 1999 to January 2000. In addition, the Complaint included an unpermitted discharge of oily wastewater from ACTA construction activities to a storm drain discharging to the Los Angeles River. The discharges

added additional pollutants loading to an impaired water body that is a tributary of the Los Angeles River.

**Administrative Civil Liability Issued to the City of San Buenaventura**

Sam Unger

On September 30, 2000, the Executive Officer issued a complaint for administrative civil liability, in the amount of \$187,243 to the City of San Buenaventura for discharges of raw sewage, secondary treated wastewater and effluent exceeding discharge requirements prescribed in Regional Board Order Nos. 97-043, 97-045 (NPDES Permit Nos. CAG994001 and CAG994002) from the Ventura Water Renovation Facility from 1988 to 2000. The discharges posed a risk to human health and caused beach closures in Ventura County.

**Administrative civil liability issued to D.R. Horton Los Angeles holding company, inc.**

Thizar Tintut-Williams

On October 2, 2000, the Executive Officer issued a complaint for administrative civil liability in the amount of \$101,913, to D. R. Horton Los Angeles Holding Company, Inc. (D.R. Horton) for failing to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system (NPDES) permit for groundwater dewatering discharge and knowingly and repeatedly discharging non-stormwater waste, including sediment, into the storm drains tributary to Arroyo Simi.

**Administrative Civil Liability Issued to the Santa Catalina Island Company, Two Harbors Waste Treatment Plant**

Morton Price

On September 27, 2000, the Executive Officer issued Administrative Civil Liability No. 00-102, in the amount of \$197,200 for illegal disposal of sewage sludge by the Santa Catalina Island Company at its Two Harbors Wastewater Treatment Plant located in Two Harbors, Santa Catalina Island, California. Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board staff conducted an inspection of the area where sludge was discharged. Staff collected sludge, soil and surface water samples to determine if the illegally disposed sludge had impacted waters of the State.

**BRADLEY LANDFILL**

Rodney Nelson

On September 27, 2000, the Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) to Waste Management of California, Inc., owner and operator of the Bradley Landfill and Recycling Center located in Sun Valley. The ACL was issued because of the off-site discharge to surface water of storm runoff containing suspended and dissolved solids from the landfill in excess of the beneficial uses ascribed to this watershed by the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), adopted by this Board on June 13, 1994. Regional Board staff observed two occurrences of these discharges. One occurred on April 13, 1999, and the second occurred on February 16, 2000.

**ACL issued to PDS Engineering Construction**

Rafael Maestu

On September 29, 2000, the Executive Officer issued Administrative Civil Liability No 00-115, in the amount of \$24,000 to PDS Engineering Construction, for discharges to waters of the State in violation of Order 97-045 and the California Water Code.

**Storm Water Program**

**New Stormwater section created**

Wendy Phillips

The LA Regional Board has formed a new Storm Water Section that is developing and implementing landmark strategies to help ensure that our surface waters are fishable and that our beaches are swimmable. We want to enlighten our stakeholders and change behavioral patterns so as to reduce the levels of pollutants discharged to storm water from industry, commercial businesses, and residents. We have several openings for technical staff, including: unit chiefs, associate level staff, and entry level staff. Although these positions are advertised for a particular engineering, environmental specialist, or geologist class, applications also are encouraged from individuals in comparable classes with current list eligibility. For details, please refer to the employment opportunities described on the State Board website ([www.swrcb.ca.gov](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov)), or call Dolores Renick at (213) 576-6629.

### **SUSMP Status**

Xavier Swamikannu

The State Board has issued a Proposed Order on the matter, and scheduled a special hearing to be held in Sacramento on October 5, 2000. The State Board intends to vote on a final version of the SUSMP at the special hearing. Designated parties, including the Regional Board, have been invited to submit written comments, and to provide oral comments (5 minutes per designated party) at the special hearing. The Regional Board's written response to the State Board's Proposed Order may be found on the Regional Board's website ([www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4)).

### **Issues Forum-Industrial Storm Water Program**

Wendy Phillips

The Regional Board is focusing efforts to ensure that industrial facilities take all necessary actions to protect water quality and comply with stormwater permits. To discuss compliance expectations, the Board will sponsor an Issues Forum on industrial storm water requirements. The forum is open to all permittees and interested parties; however, the primary focus intent is for consultants and laboratory managers to learn about what they need to do to properly advise their clients on industrial storm water requirements. The forum will be held on:

**Friday, October 20, 2000 -- from 9 am to noon  
at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Ground Floor Conference Room in the Main Building  
900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra**

There is no charge to attend the forum; to register for this Issues Forum, please provide your name and telephone number to our Storm Water Secretary, Twila Willis-Hunter. She may be reached at (213) 576-6802 or [twillis@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:twillis@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov).

### **Notices of Termination**

Dan Radulescu

Staff have developed a new tracking procedure to facilitate the approval process (including inspections) for Notice of Termination applications. This new procedure will give us a more accurate picture of annual report delinquencies, which in the past have been inflated due to backlogged applications for Notices of Termination.

### **Storm Water Annual Report Status**

Xavier Swamikannu and Dan Radulescu

A total of 2,285 Industrial Permittees submitted Annual Reports (ARs) for 1999/00. While 542 annual reports were initially reported as delinquent, staff have revised the number of delinquencies downward to 276 (11 percent of all Permittees). This reduction is due to processing of backlogged notices of termination. Staff are now following-up on responses received to the Notices of Non-

Compliance (level 1 enforcement) for non-submittal of the ARs mailed out on August 22, 2000. Notices of Violation (level 2 enforcement) will be mailed out later this month.

Staff are preparing Complaints for Administrative Liability (ACLs) for delinquent annual reports for the 1998/99 reporting period. The number of delinquencies was initially thought to total 55; this number has been reduced to 45 as a result of processing NOTs; and may be reduced further as additional NOTs are processed.

### **Trash TMDLs-Development and Implementation**

Xavier Swamikannu

Staff presented information on trash TMDLs (total maximum daily loads) to municipal representatives in the County of Los Angeles on September 12, 2000. Staff focused on approaches to developing TMDLs for trash, and their implementation through storm water permits. Board staff also responded to many questions on how the Board would measure compliance and consider costs issues.

### **Trash: Notice to Meet and Confer**

Parvaneh Khayat

Addressing the problem of anthropogenic trash is a priority issue in urban areas within the Los Angeles Region. In March of 2000, the Executive Officer issued a "notice to meet and confer," in order to streamline efforts to abate trash in our surface waters. The "notice to meet and confer" process is intended to answer the following:

1. How much trash is caught and removed prior to the "first-flush?"
2. How much trash escapes and ends up on the coastline (monitoring plan)?
3. Are municipal trash programs adequate?

The cities that are required to meet and confer are those that directly drain into the Ballona Creek and Los Angeles River watersheds. Staff are evaluating the following specific issues: catch-basin clean-up, street sweeping, trash receptacle numbers and locations, and preventative measures (i.e. catch-basin inserts). Staff are also requiring baseline monitoring, to estimate how much trash is being released from the various out-falls within the Region. This baseline monitoring also will meet a proposed TMDL requirement for monitoring (TMDL staff are in the process of drafting a letter to the cities informing them of this approach).

As of September 20, 2000, staff had met with all 40 of the designated cities, and are now in the process of creating a rating system to evaluate the effectiveness of trash abatement for the cities in the Ballona Creek and Los Angeles River watersheds. This evaluation is expected to be completed in November 2000.

### **EPA Audit**

Wendy Phillips

The EPA Office of the Inspector General is preparing an audit of the Storm Water Program at the Los Angeles Regional Board. This audit covers the period July 1, 1999 to April 30, 2000. Results of the audit are not yet available.

## **REMEDIATION**

### **Port Hueneme Naval Construction Battalion Center Blythe**

Ponek-Bacharowski

On September 20-21, 2000, the Navy, US EPA, and vendors attended a series of meetings in preparation for the start of a multi-year, MTBE treatment technology demonstration at the Naval Construction Battalion's MTBE plume. US EPA is providing about \$1 million to support the research projects in cooperation with the Navy. The involved parties met to discuss logistical and regulatory requirements for the six to eight chosen demonstration projects.

On September 22, 2000, the Commanding Officer of the US Navy base at Port Hueneme hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the start up of a 500-foot-long, pilot, in situ, biological treatment system for the MTBE plume. Members of the Navy, Press, and political representatives attended. The pilot treatment system, which uses bacteria, oxygen, and air to treat the MTBE, is expected to operate for about three years.

### **Landfills Unit**

#### **Bradley Landfill**

Rod Nelson

On September 16, 2000, staff from Waste Management of California Inc., operators of the Bradley Landfill in Sun Valley, informed the Regional Board that a fire had occurred at the landfill, destroying the trailer office. Landfill records stored in the trailer were destroyed in the fire.

Waste Management of California, Inc. is now in the process of trying to reconstruct these records. There were no major environmental concerns due to this fire, and the landfill infrastructure was unaffected.

### **Site Cleanup II Unit**

#### **Former Golden Eagle Refinery**

David Hung

On September 14, 2000, staff attended a public meeting held by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) at Carson Community Center. The meeting provided information to the public on the draft revised Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and proposed Negative Declaration for the former Golden Eagle refinery site located in City of Carson. Over the past 15 years, both the DTSC and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have jointly overseen investigation and remedial activities at the site. In 1995, the DTSC and RWQCB issued a letter of "No Further Action" for the uppermost 40 feet of soil. Under the provisions of the original RAP, an air sparging and soil vapor extraction system has been in operation since 1995, and has reduced concentrations by 90 percent across most of the site. A majority of the recoverable free product has also been removed.

A monitored natural attenuation (MNA) approach is being considered to address both the residual groundwater contamination and remaining free product. During the public meeting, the revised RAP was presented to the public and details of the MNA program, also included were the details of the management and contingency plans. Contingency plans are designed to protect human health and the environment in the event that the MNA fails to perform as expected.

It should be noted that this former refinery is the first site in the Region where DTSC and RWQCB worked as a team, providing joint oversight for all investigation and remediation phases performed at the site.

#### **Tosco Wilmington Refinery Spill Drill**

David Rasmussen

On September 19, 2000, Regional Board staff participated in an oil spill drill at the Tosco Refinery,

Wilmington. The drill consisted of a simulated oil spill into Los Angeles Harbor, adjacent to the Tosco marine terminal facility, and was done to measure Tosco's response to the emergency. In addition to Regional Board staff, representatives from the United States Coast Guard, California Department of Fish and Game, and State Lands Commission participated in this drill.

### **Country Hills Shopping Center**

Augustine Anijelo

A soil and groundwater investigation to determine the nature and extent of low pH, causing corrosion of the pavement and utilities in the vicinity of the Ralph's supermarket in the Country Hills Shopping Center, is scheduled to begin on September 25, 2000. The investigation will follow a workplan approved by Regional Board staff. There were many delays in the process of approving this workplan due to technical differences of opinion on a very complex issue, and changes in the consultants.

A final report detailing the results of this investigation is due to the Regional Board by October 31, 2000.

## **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAM**

### **Charnock Sub-basin MTBE Investigation Area**

Dr. Weixing Tong

At present there are 26 active sites in the Charnock Sub-Basin. Of the 26 active sites, site assessment has been completed at 15 sites, whereas there are 11 sites where additional site assessment work is required. Groundwater monitoring is being performed at all sites. A total of six sites have approved remediation workplans for the cleanup of the soil and groundwater. On August 18 and 21, 2000, the Agencies approved the workplans for additional site assessment and installation of groundwater monitoring wells for Former Unocal Service Station No. 3016 site (PRP#7) and Chevron Station Service Station No. 9-2894 site (PRP#5). On September 14 and 20, 2000, the Agencies issued an enforcement letter to Chevron (PRP#10 site) and Shell (PRP#11 site), respectively, for delinquent remediation design (Chevron) and site remediation activities (Shell).

On July 5, 2000, the Regional Board Staff mailed a final copy of the Stipulated Agreement along with a specified Scope of Work to perform regional investigation and analysis of alternatives for both Interim Water Replacement and Interim Regional Response Actions. This item was adopted, with changes, by the Regional Board members at the August 31, 2000 Board meeting. As part of this investigation, a number of groundwater monitoring wells will be installed in the Upper Silverado Aquifer to determine the plume source and characteristics and perform periodic groundwater monitoring. This work will require development of a basin-wide flow model, develop a GIS database, evaluate alternate drinking water sources within the Charnock Sub-Basin, evaluate methods of treating polluted groundwater and restoring the Charnock Sub-Basin Investigation Area to its full beneficial use, and provide a community relations plan. The work specified in the SOW is a necessary step to restore the drinking water supply at the Charnock Wellfields. The Agencies have received submittal of Charnock Initial Regional Response Activities (CIRRA) - Task 12.1 Regional Investigation Letter Work Plan, dated August 2, 2000, Task 1.1- Work Plan and Project Schedule, dated on August 17, 2000, Task 6.1 - General Initial Regional Response Activities, dated on September 6, 2000, Task 13 - Recommendations for Additional Hydrogeologic Investigations in the Sepulveda-Palms Subregion, dated on September 12, 2000, Task 2 - Monthly Progress Report (August 2000), dated on September 15, 2000, from Shell. On September 7, 2000, the Agencies approved Shell' workplan for installation of four groundwater monitoring wells in area 1. Shell started the field on September 18, 2000.

### **Arcadia Wellfield MTBE Investigation**

Jay Huang

The shallow aquifer and lower aquifer in the vicinity of the former Mobil Station 18-LDM have been treated with a pump and treat system since October 1997. Currently approximately 36 gallons per minute (GPM) of groundwater are being pumped from 17 groundwater extraction wells of the shallow and lower aquifers and treated at the Mobil facility. As of August 30, 2000 the treatment system has pumped 14.2 million gallons of groundwater and removed an estimated amount of 67 pounds of TPH and 190 pounds of MTBE. The average MTBE concentration in the combined influent has been decreased from over 2,000 µ mg/l in 1998 to 280 µ mg/L in August 2000.

The impacted soil in the vadose zone has been treated with a vapor extraction system (VES). The cumulative VOC mass removed is 9,208 pounds since May 1999. The VES has been expanded and connected to two wells in the lower aquifer.

A Production Aquifer Remediation System (PARS) using activated carbon filtering to clean up the production aquifer has been in operation since May 17, 2000. PARS is composed of four carbon vessels each containing 24,000 pounds of Calgon's F600 carbon. Currently groundwater from Arcadia well #5 are being pumped at 300 GPM and discharged to a storm drain. To date (August 30, 2000), the PARS has pumped approximately 45.6 million gallons of groundwater and removed 0.36 pounds of MTBE. The average daily influent concentrations of MTBE ranged from 0.3 µ mg/L (May 17, 2000) to 0.25 µ mg/L (August 30, 2000). PARS is currently undergoing further demonstration testing. Spike testing will commence upon approval by the State Department of Health Services (SDHS). After the PARS has been tested and approved for operation by the DHS, the treated water from Arcadia Well No. 5 will be routed to Santa Monica treatment plant for distribution to the public.

### **Completion of Corrective Action at Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank Sites**

Regional Board staff have reviewed corrective actions taken for soil and/or groundwater contamination problems from leaking UST's for the time of August 14, 2000, through September 22, and determined that no further corrective actions are required:

Engineered Storage, City of Industry (I-15514)  
City of Norwalk, Norwalk (I-11565)  
Kerr-Christensen Company, Moorpark (C-00017)

### **GEIMS/Geotracker Database on line**

David Bacharowski

The new Leaking Underground Storage Tank Information System, GEIMS/Geotracker is currently online. The general public can access the leaking underground storage tank and production well data through the Internet at <http://geotracker2.arsenaultlegg.com/>. For the regulatory agencies GEIMS/Geotracker can be access through <https://geotracker2.arsenaultlegg.com/contents/>.

The system is set up such that a user can search for a leaking underground fuel tank by entering the site address, case identification number or by "point and click" on the GIS electronic map. Once the site is located additional information regarding the site and nearby production well is available for viewing together on an electronic map. Site information consists of regulatory history, locational information, detail site information and release information. Production well information consists of identifying production wells estimated to be within 0.5 mile from the site, geographic information, water quality information and detailed well information. Furthermore, the GEIMS/Geotracker system provide option to generate MTBE report or case report for active and/or inactive cases that belong under either local and/or regional board jurisdiction. If the location of a site or a production well is

wrong. Then the lead agency currently overseeing the case is allowed to make the necessary correction through the Internet.

The electronic version of the unauthorized release form is completed. It can be access through [http://geotracker2.arsenaultlegg.com/forms4/ust\\_release.asp](http://geotracker2.arsenaultlegg.com/forms4/ust_release.asp). In a near future a responsible party or any local oversight agencies can use it to report on unauthorized release.

The Los Angeles Region (Region 4) is expected to complete an implementation plan to transfer the current data into GEIMS/Geotracker by October. And Region 4 is expected to load its data into GEIMS and start updating that data in real-time in late November.

## SURFACE WATER DIVISION

### WATERSHED REGULATORY

#### **Status of City of Los Angeles versus SWRCB and LARWQCB and City of Burbank versus SWRCB and LARWQCB**

Gary Schultz

In 1998, the Regional Board adopted Orders renewing the waste discharge requirements and NPDES permits for the following 3 water reclamation plants: City of Los Angeles' Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (CA0056227), the Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant (CA0053953), and the City of Burbank Water Reclamation Plant (CA0055531). Time Schedule Orders were also issued in conjunction with the permits and included interim limits and time schedules for achieving compliance with the permits.

The Cities of Los Angeles and Burbank filed Petitions and Requests for Stay with the State Board challenging the Orders. The State Board issued notices dismissing the petitions and refusing to stay the effect of the Regional Board's Orders.

Thereafter, the Cities filed Petitions for Writ of Mandate and Requests for Stay in the Superior Court, Los Angeles County. The Cities persuaded the Court that they could not achieve compliance with the permit limits and that, as a result, they would be exposed to penalties under the Migden Bill Amendments to Water Code Section 13385. The Court granted the stay requests.

Heal the Bay and Santa Monica Baykeeper filed a motion to intervene in the lawsuits. In a proceeding May 5, Judge Janavas refused to allow intervention by the environmental groups. However, she did permit the groups to submit an amicus curiae brief. In addition, the City of Glendale and the California Association of Sanitation Agencies also filed amicus curiae briefs.

The trial on the substantive merits of the Writ of Mandate was held on August 31 and September 1, 2000. The judge is expected to issue a decision within 30 to 60 days of September 1st hearing.

### REGIONAL PROGRAMS

#### **Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Basin Plan Amendments**

#### **Basin Plan Triennial Review Underway**

Renne DeShazo

The California Water Code and the Clean Water Act direct the Regional Board to periodically review and update, as necessary, the Basin Plan. This process is known as the Triennial Review. During the upcoming review, staff will identify and rank basin planning issues that need to be addressed in the near future.

Public input is an important part of this periodic review; therefore, three public workshops have been scheduled to solicit public comment on basin planning priorities. These workshops are scheduled as follows: (1) Tuesday, October 17, 2000, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Oxnard Public Library; (2) Wednesday, October 18, 2000, 2:00-3:30 p.m., Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board; and (3) Wednesday, October 18, 2000, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Los Angeles River Center and Gardens.

The Basin Plan can be found on the Internet at [www.swrcb.ca.gov/plnspols/index.html](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/plnspols/index.html) by scrolling down to the link "Los Angeles Region Basin Plan." Staff will consider all public comments and will then present the list of priorities to the Regional Board for approval at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. The approved list will guide staff efforts to amend portions of the Basin Plan over the next several years. If you have questions, contact Renee DeShazo at (213) 576-6783 or Melinda Becker at (213) 576-6681.

### **East Fork San Gabriel River**

Rod Collins

On September 9, 2000, The State of California Office of Administrative Law approved the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the East Fork of the San Gabriel River as meeting all applicable legal requirements. The TMDL will now be forwarded to USEPA for review and possible adoption. The TMDL sets a numeric target of zero (0) trash to the river. The U.S. Forest Service also has a load allocation of zero trash in the river, establishes monitoring requirements, requires the Forest Service to submit an Implementation Plan within 60 days to begin implementation and monitoring within 90 days of the effective date. The TMDL requires the Forest Service to demonstrate compliance with the TMDL numeric target by April 2003. For further information, please call Rod Collins at (213) 576-6808.

### **Los Angeles River Watershed Monitoring**

Myriam Zech

An extensive volunteer monitoring effort is underway to characterize the water quality of the Los Angeles River watershed. Organized under the aegis of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, the Southern California Coastal Waters Research Project, the Regional Board, and the USEPA, over 80 volunteers attended a training session on September 9, 2000, and surveyed both sides of the Los Angeles River and major tributaries on September 10, 2000. Overall, the volunteer monitors walked 18 segments (~55 miles), biked along 6 segments (~25 miles), canoed through 2 segments (~7 miles, in the Sepulveda Basin area), and drove along 3 segments (~12 miles). They sampled storm drains and tributaries for metals, nutrients, ammonia, bacteria, and total organic carbon. They also estimated the flow and took temperature and pH measurements. The volunteers recorded their observations about trash, homeless encampments, evidence of dumping, wildlife, algae, oil, foam, etc. on field sheets and documented their findings with pictures.

Suspected discharges such as oil flowing out of a storm drain or hydrogen sulfide odors originating from of manhole were identified and handled by the City of Los Angeles, which was reached by radio. The volunteers also identified dumped barrels and very large amounts of trash. On Monday, September 11, 2000, City of Los Angeles staff sampled 16 boundary and in stream sites, and Regional Board staff sampled 12 Los Angeles River estuary sites.

Preliminary results show high pH and bacteria count in several areas. The results will be used to assist in the development of a Nutrients TMDL for the Los Angeles River watershed and help to pinpoint needed changes to permits and urban runoff controls.

Also involved in this effort were the City of Long Beach, the County of Los Angeles, Friends of the Los Angeles River, Heal the Bay, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The water quality characterization is still ongoing: there will be another dry weather sampling event in October, and at least one wet weather sampling event this winter.

For further information, please call Myriam Zech at (213) 576-6685.

**Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek Draft Trash TMDL Update**

Melinda Becker

The Draft Trash TMDL was public noticed on March 17, 2000. Staff conducted a formal workshop on the Draft Trash TMDL on April 4, at the Angeles River Center. Since then, staff have met with representatives of the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LADWP), and representatives of Heal the Bay and the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River Watershed Council to discuss the draft document. The TMDL establishes a numeric target of zero (0) trash in the river, and provides an implementation plan for progressive reduction in waste load allocations over a 10-year period. The waste load allocations would be enforced through the Municipal NPDES storm water permit issued jointly to Los Angeles County and 87 cities as co-permittees.

The Final Draft TMDL is scheduled for release for public comment in October, to be followed by a public workshop in November. The item is scheduled for the Regional Board's December 7th meeting. The Los Angeles River Trash TMDL will serve as the template for the Ballona Creek TMDL. For further information, please contact Myriam Zech at (213) 576-6685 or Melinda Becker at (213) 576-6681.

**Nonpoint Source Program**

The Nonpoint Source Program is continuing to focus most of it's efforts on identifying, educating, and promoting stakeholder involvement to implement management measures that reduce NPS impacts. Our web page has been expanded to include a sign up list (listserver) for easily forwarding information to our stakeholders. Staff attended several meetings and workshops during the previous month including the Critical Coastal Areas Committee, the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Watershed Council, the Urban Runoff Task Force, an Irrigation Management and TMDL Symposium and Storm water Treatment Practices training.

Staff also prepared two brochures, "Erosion and Sediment Control" and "Understanding Septic Systems and Groundwater Pollution", to assist in education and outreach.

**Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program**

The following Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) have been issued since our last report on August 31, 2000:

DATE	APPLICANT	PROJECT	
September 1, 2000	Polygon Riverbend Ranch L.L.P.	Riverbend Ranch, Tentative Tract No. 4425	Conditional WQC
September 1, 2000	Windmill Development Company	Windmill Drive Project	Conditional WQC
September 6, 2000	California Department of Transportation	Haines Barranca Bridge Modification	Standard WQC

September 29, 2000	Lennar Homes California Land Division	Stevenson Ranch Bridge Project	Conditional WQC
September 29, 2000	Sherwood Development Company	Sherwood Lake, Tract No. 4192	Conditional WQC
September 29, 2000	California Department of Transportation	Pacific Coast Highway at Big Rock Drive	Conditional WQC
September 29, 2000	Conejo School Road Development Co., LLC	Tentative Tract No. 5114	Conditional WQC
September 29, 2000	Burns-Pacific Construction, Inc.	Baker Single Family Residence	Conditional WQC
October 3, 2000	Haskell Canyon Ranch, LLC	V.T.T.M. 47657 - Haskell Canyon Ranch	Conditional WQC

Project descriptions for applications currently being reviewed for certification can be viewed from our Web Site located at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/meetings/401pn.html>. If you wish to be informed of the status and/or final certification action on any project currently being reviewed or if you wish to receive a copy of any of the certification actions described above, please contact Anthony Klecha at (213) 576-6785 or Alex Puglisi at (213) 576-6786. Petitions must be filed within 30 days of any formal action.

Staff participated in the Hydromodifications Technical Advisory Committee to coordinate the regions concerns to the SWRCB and other stakeholders.

## **WATERSHED/COASTAL WATERS**

### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

Shirley Birosik

#### **Calleguas Creek Watershed**

The ***Water Quality/Water Resources Subcommittee*** last met on September 13. Data generated by the Surface Water and Groundwater Elements of the Calleguas Creek Characterization Study Monitoring Program are being evaluated and a report is in progress which should be finalized within the next one to two months. Another component of the program, funded by Clean Water Act 205(j) monies, is evaluating nonpoint source contributions and has developed preliminary loadings for nitrogen and phosphorus. The Subcommittee is currently in the process of drafting a Water Resources/Water Quality Chapter in the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan.

The ***Flood Protection/Sedimentation Subcommittee*** last met on September 11. They are currently involved with discussions on conducting a hydrologic study of the watershed. The group is next scheduled to meet on October 9.

The ***Public Education/Outreach Subcommittee*** met on July 6. It has completed the first edition of a newsletter to cover watershed issues and events. Additionally, the group has produced a color brochure on the management plan process in the watershed.

A ***Land Use Subcommittee*** has recently been formed and will include representatives from local planning agencies. Its first meeting was held on June 14 and its next meeting is scheduled for October 3.

The **Habitat/Recreation Subcommittee** met on August 1 and continues work on a wetlands study which includes a habitat mapping component. A general inventory of wetlands in the watershed is complete and potential sites for restoration have been identified. The group's next meeting is scheduled for October 3. A Biology Advisory Group has been formed to aid this Subcommittee in review of technical materials. It has met on April 11, May 2, and June 6.

The **Steering Committee** for the Watershed Management Plan met on March 30. A draft Table of Contents for the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan being developed has been prepared.

The full **Management Committee** also last met on March 30; its next meeting will be in September on a date to be determined. Information about the management committee and its subcommittees can be found at <http://www.calleguas.com/cc.htm>

### **Los Angeles River Watershed**

The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The Council's Internet address is <http://www.lasgriverswatershed.org>. On August 10, 1999, members of the Watershed Council assisted the California Coastal Conservancy in conducting a tour of potential restoration sites in the lower watershed as part of a meeting of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. These sites may be viewed at <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/index.html>.

The Friends of the LA River has a Los Angeles River e-mail discussion forum. To subscribe, e-mail to [la-river-discuss-subscribe@makelist.com](mailto:la-river-discuss-subscribe@makelist.com). To view archives of past Los Angeles River discussions on the Internet, go to <http://www.egroups.com/list/la-river-discuss>

### **San Gabriel River Watershed**

A "State of the Watershed" report is available for the San Gabriel River Watershed which was prepared by Regional Board staff. The report describes the watershed, with its many diversion structures and recharge areas, and summarizes available water quality data in a manner easily understood by the layperson. The complete set of data evaluated for the report (as well as the report itself) is available electronically by contacting [Shirley Birosik](mailto:sbirosik@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov) at [sbirosik@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:sbirosik@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov). Hardcopies of the report are also available.

The Friends of the San Gabriel River is becoming an active stakeholder in the watershed and submitted comments on the aforementioned watershed report.

### **Santa Monica Bay Watershed**

The Modeling and Monitoring Subcommittee of the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council has drafted a watershed-wide monitoring program for the Malibu Creek Watershed. The group last met on May 6, 1999; a draft monitoring program has been distributed to stakeholders for comment. A major task will be finding partners to participate in this voluntary program to assess and help correct the water quality concerns in this area. No further meetings are currently scheduled for this group.

The Malibu Lagoon Task Force last met on September 27. The Task Force is concerned with lagoon water level management and all aspects of the UCLA study of the lagoon. The UCLA study covers a hydrologic evaluation, appropriateness of various biological and water quality objectives, water level management, eutrophication issues, pathogens, and the historical condition of the lagoon. The study was funded by a California Coastal Conservancy grant with assistance by local agencies. A facilitator is leading the group toward refining the future goals of the Task Force which include developing a priority list of restoration options. The September 27 meeting included a tour of potential wetland restoration sites in the lower Malibu Creek Watershed.

A watershed committee has been meeting in the Topanga Creek Watershed. A major near-term goal of this watershed committee is to prioritize potential actions previously identified in a draft Topanga Creek Watershed Management Study and start a coordinated resource management planning (CRMP) process. A longer-term goal is preparation of a watershed management plan that will help address a number of issues including flood control in the canyon. The committee last met on September 14. The group's Technical Advisory Committee met on June 15 to aid in finalization of the QA/QC Plan for the Topanga Creek Water Quality Study (funded through 205(j) monies) and review data collected thus far. A June 10 seminar on grading and drainage best management practices was rescheduled to September 16. An "envisioning" conference was held on September 30. The Committee's website address is <http://www.TopangaOnline.com/twc/>.

Other Santa Monica Bay Watershed activities are covered under the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project item.

### **Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project**

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project is a partnership of public agencies working cooperatively to acquire, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands and watersheds between Point Conception and the International border with Mexico. Using a non-regulatory approach and an ecosystem perspective, the Wetlands Project works to identify wetland acquisition and restoration priorities, prepare plans for these priority sites, pool funds to undertake these projects, implement priority plans, and oversee post-project maintenance and monitoring.

The goal of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project is to accelerate the pace, the extent, and the effectiveness of coastal wetland restoration in Southern California through developing and implementing a regional prioritization plan for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of Southern California's coastal wetlands and watersheds. Ultimately, the Wetlands Project's efforts will result in a long-term increase in the quantity and quality of the region's wetlands.

The Wetlands Recovery Project is headed by Board of Governors comprised of top officials from each of the participating agencies. The Southern California Wetlands Managers Group and the Public Advisory Committee serve as advisory committees to the Board. The Wetlands Managers Group is responsible for drafting the regional restoration plan and advising the Governing Board on regional acquisition, restoration, and enhancement priorities. The Wetlands Project has also established a panel of scientists to advise on regional goals, specific objectives, project criteria, and priorities. Governing Board meetings are public and are noticed at least 10 days prior to each meeting. If you sign up on the Wetlands Project email list, you will receive email notification of all board meetings. Minutes from previous meetings and other information about the group may be found on their website at <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/index.html>.

Each spring the Wetlands Recovery Project accepts proposals for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects for coastal wetlands and watersheds in Southern California. The Wetlands Recovery Project Managers Group recommended a list of priority projects for fiscal year 2000-2001 to the Governing Board at the Board's June 9 meeting. The list was adopted with a minor change (a Topanga Watershed project was added). A key consideration is whether projects will actually be able to use funds for on the ground work in the upcoming fiscal year. Other potential projects are entered into a database for re-consideration in the future. The Wetlands Recovery Project does not have adequate funds for all of the projects on the priority list, so it has adopted a policy of "first-ready, first-funded." A project is more than a wetland or watershed that needs help. It must be a specific action. To be considered a priority project, acquisitions must have willing sellers and restoration work must have a local agency or non-profit that can carry out the work with the assistance of the Coastal Conservancy. The Wetlands Recovery Project helps to identify and fund worthy projects, but does not carry out the work. Limited funds are available for planning. Projects closer to the coast or clearly benefiting coastal resources will receive preference. A list of the current priority projects is provided on the website as well.

## **Watershed Management Initiative Chapter**

Each Regional Board updates on an annual basis a "chapter" on how that Board is implementing watershed management in the Region. The consolidated statewide chapter is the basis for many funding decisions including allocating money for monitoring, TMDL development, and grant monies disbursement. Each Region's Chapter is updated on an annual basis; the last update occurred in January 2000 and includes information on Regional Board implementation of the state's upgraded nonpoint source management program. Copies of this Region's current Chapter (as well as Appendices) and/or its Executive Summary may be obtained by contacting the Regional Board office, Regional Programs Section secretary. The document may also be sent out electronically (in MSWord97) and is also available on the Regional Board's webpage (under Regional Programs) at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4>. The next update of this document is scheduled for the end of November of this year.

## **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

### **EPA, State Board Meeting on Draft Sewer Regulations**

Sam Unger

Regional Board staff attended an informational meeting by USEPA, State Water Resources Control Board, and Orange County Sanitation Districts regarding draft federal regulations, known as Capacity, Monitoring, Operations, and Maintenance (CMOM), that will require contract or satellite sewer agencies to obtain NPDES permits for their sewage collection systems. The CMOM regulations prohibit preventable spills and will require satellite agencies to implement spill reporting and response programs, demonstrate adequate capacity and issue public notifications of spills. The draft regulations are currently under review by the Office of Management and Budget, and may be promulgated as early as 2001. Staff finds that the regulations will have a major impact on Regional Board activities, as there are numerous satellite agencies within the Los Angeles Region.

### **UST Working Group Meeting**

Dr. Yue Rong

The tenth UST Working Group meeting was held at Regional Board office on August 29, 2000. A total of 28 people were in attendance. The attendees represented major oil companies, environmental consultants, local regulatory agencies, environmental organization, special interest group, and Regional Board staff. The focus of this meeting centered on Region Board staff activities related to implementing the Final Draft MTBE Guidelines. Regional Board staff presented an analytical modeling approach for "MTBE Plume Life" and Statewide MTBE database updates for the GEIMS/GEOTRACKER system, respectively. In a related matter, several product vendors also presented three innovative groundwater and soil sampling technologies. Mr. Noah Heller of BESST, Inc. presented new groundwater sampling technologies. Mr. Chris Reitmeyer of En Novative Technologies, Inc. and Mr. Sam Yazdani of SoilCore, Inc. introduced their respective soil sampling equipment, which are used to comply with the EPA Method 5035 sampling requirements. The presentations were well received with many questions and open discussions.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled during January 2001. The potential topics of interest identified by the Working Group members included (1) update of MTBE activities in the Region and (2) data summary of oxygenates detected at tank sites. Agenda for next meeting will be available at a later date.

**UST Program- Local Oversight Program (LOP)/Local Implementing Agency (LIA) Agency Meeting**

David Bacharowski

On September 19, 2000, the UST Program held the quarterly UST Program LOP/LIA meeting. The LOP/LIA's consists of 15 Agencies within the Los Angeles Region that implement Underground Storage Tank/Leaking Underground Storage Tank (UST/LUST) Programs. There is one LOP (Ventura County Environmental Health Department) within the Los Angeles Region. The LOP is a local governmental agency with UST/LUST Program that have entered into a contract with the SWRCB to oversee fuel leak investigation and cleanup of soil and groundwater. There are 14 LIA's (City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, Burbank, El Segundo, Santa Monica, Signal Hill, Torrance, Vernon, Santa Fe Springs, Long Beach, Glendale, Pasadena, Oxnard, Ventura). These are also local governmental agencies with UST/LUST Programs that are responsible for UST permitting, leak detection monitoring, and may oversee soil assessment and cleanup. Any sites with potential groundwater impacts are referred to the Regional Board UST Program for oversight. The focus of the quarterly meeting was training provided by Regional Board staff on implementing the "Updated Laboratory Testing Requirements" and an interactive demonstration of the GEIMS/GEOTRACKER System.

**National Pollution Prevention Day**

Magdy Baiady

On September 22, 2000, Regional Board staff participated in the National Pollution Prevention Day, sponsored by Cal-EPA at the San Fernando Valley Permit Assistance Center in Van Nuys. Regional Board staff presented two videotapes, one on groundwater and surface water protection & conservation and the other on Malibu Creek Pollution. Regional Board staff participated with a presentation focused on educating the public and school kids on what they can do to protect Earth resources. Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project provided posters and fliers that explained successful projects that protect beaches in Southern California.

**University of Southern California, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Environmental Engineering Seminar**

Rebecca Chou

Staff presented "Regional Board's requirements for soil and groundwater assessment and cleanup" in the Environmental Engineering Seminar for graduate students of Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Southern California on September 15, 2000. During the seminar, groundwater remediation programs, regulations and policies applicable to assessment and cleanup, soil and groundwater cleanup levels, and innovative remedial technologies were discussed by staff.

**Major of the Month**

Rebecca Nevarez

On September 20, 2000, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board participated in the Major of the Month Series at the University of Southern California sponsored by the School of Engineering. This month's, Major of the Month focused on Civil Engineering and was organized by the National Society of Black Engineers. The three-member panel consisted of the RWQCB and two Civil Engineering construction companies, the Cordoba Corporation and Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction. First, the panelists introduced themselves and explained the type of work their respective companies perform. Then they fielded questions from the students regarding choosing Civil Engineering as a major, graduate school, obtaining a profession engineering license, and internships. The hour-long presentation gave the students an opportunity to find out more information about Civil Engineering as a career.

### **San Gabriel Valley Watershed Council**

Arthur G. Heath

On Wednesday, September 20, 2000, staff gave the San Gabriel Valley Watershed Council and other participants an overview of the Regional Board's groundwater contaminant investigations ongoing in the San Gabriel Valley. Participants' questions focused on soil and groundwater cleanups, especially the cleanups in the Baldwin Park investigation area. Other San Gabriel Valley panelists included the United States Environmental Protection Agency, San Gabriel Valley Watermaster, and San Gabriel Valley Water Quality Authority.

### **Water Quality Workshop**

Jonathan Bishop

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, in conjunction with the Friends of the San Gabriel River, Friends of the Los Angeles River, and the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, will be conducting a water quality workshop on Saturday, November 11th .

The focus of the workshop will be Citizen Monitoring and Biological Assessment. The workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and will be conducted at the Whittier Narrows Golf Course, 8640 East Rush Street, in the City of Rosemead. For further information and registration go to [www.SanGabrielRiver.org](http://www.SanGabrielRiver.org) or call (562) 908-6449.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Personnel Report**

Dolores Renick

As of September 25 our staff total is 145:

- ? 126 technical staff (including 4 part-time staff and 1 on a leave of absence)
- ? 5 permanent administrative staff
- ? 14 permanent clerical staff.

Staff is currently taking steps to fill:

- ? 6 Unit Chief positions
- ? 12 technical staff positions
- ? 1 administrative position.

Since September 1 the following appointments have been made:

- ? **Curt Charmley**, Engineering Geologist in the San Gabriel/San Fernando Valley Unit, appointed 09/01/00.
- ? **Douglas Cross**, Associate Engineering Geologist in the Landfills Unit, appointed 09/01/00.
- ? **Carlos Ortez**, Water Resource Control Engineer - Range D in the San Gabriel/San Fernando Valley Unit, appointed 09/25/00.

The following separated from Region 4:

**Robert Tom**, Water Resource Control Engineer, separated from State Service.

**Jeremy Sokulsky**, Water Resource Control Engineer, transferred to Region 6, So. Lake Tahoe

Regional Board.

**PETITIONS STATUS REPORT**

A table listing the petitions of Regional Board actions pending before the State Board has been included with this report.