



December 14, 2006

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
Jonathan Bishop, Executive Officer

Executive Officer's Report

Surface Water Division

Total Maximum Load's (TMDLs)

TMDL for bacterial exceedances, Channel Island Harbor Beaches and Harbor Cove Beach, Ventura County

Man Voong

Regional Board staff held a meeting to solicit public participation in the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load for bacterial exceedances at the Channel Island Harbor Beaches and Harbor Cove Beach on 16 November at the Ventura Government Center. Approximately 30 municipal, agency and citizen stakeholders attended

At the meeting, Regional Board staff discussed bacterial data from the Ventura Beaches, recent actions at the Channel Islands Harbor, the technical approach to developing a plan to restore the Ventura Beaches, and TMDL development schedule.

A CEQA scoping meeting is planned for January. It is anticipated that the Regional Board will consider an amendment to the Basin Plan to incorporate this TMDL in 2007.

Copper WER

Deborah Neiter

On November 9, 2006, the Regional Board adopted a water effects ration (WER) for copper in lower Calleguas Creek and Mugu Lagoon. The technical development work was undertaken by the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan (CCWMP) and Regional Board staff worked closely with the CCWMP contractor to complete the work. The technical development of the copper WER followed EPA guidance, and commenters and Regional Board members questioned the applicability of the EPA guidance to waterbodies that may exhibit variable quality on a spatial and or temporal basis. With adoption of the copper WER for Mugu Lagoon, the Regional Board directed staff to develop a policy for WER development in the Los Angeles Region. Staff plans to bring a recommendation for a WER policy to the Regional Board for consideration next year.

Our mission is to preserve

and enhance the quality of

California's water resources

for the benefit of present and

future generations.

Phone: 213-576-6600
Fax: 213-576-6640

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Enforcement Unit

NPDES Facility Inspections

Jose Morales

Enforcement Unit NPDES inspectors conducted inspections at 5 facilities with NPDES Permits since **November 9, 2006**. Inspection of these facilities is a required part of the NPDES program.

Self Monitoring Reports

Enforcement Staff

Staff reviewed 15 Self-Monitoring Reports submitted by NPDES permit holders since **November 9, 2006**.

Notices Of Violation – NPDES DMRs

Enforcement Staff

The Executive Officer issued Notices of Violation and Requirements to Submit Information to 1 facility for failing to comply with provisions of Waste Discharge Requirements included as part of their NPDES Permits since **November 9, 2006**. Enforcement staff identified these violations as part of the NPDES discharger monitoring report review process.

Environmental Crimes Task Forces

Enforcement Staff

Staff continued to participate in the USEPA, LA County, Ventura County and the City of LA Environmental Crimes Task Force meetings.

Stormwater Permitting

LAX Facilities Inspection

Ivar Ridgeway/ Xavier Swamikannu

On September 15, 2006 and September 21, 2006, LA Water Board staff Ivar Ridgeway and Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA) staff conducted inspections of 6 tenant facilities. LAX is covered under the state-wide industrial storm water general permit, and the facilities are required to implement best management practices to reduce storm water pollution. The inspections focused on the BMP implementation and house-keeping practices of the facilities. LAWA staff indicated that they would follow-up to verify necessary corrective actions are completed.

On October 27, 2006, the LAWA Deputy Director for Environmental Management notified the LA Water Board that non-compliant tenant facilities have been directed to take corrective actions immediately and that LAWA will pursue enforcement actions against non-compliant facilities. One facility operator has already taken significant actions to correct site deficiencies.

The inspections were conducted as part of a collaborative effort between the LA Water Board and LAWA staff to augment the storm water monitoring program for LAX, and improve storm water pollution controls. A tentative agreement has been reached with LAX regarding the Monitoring program. The revised Monitoring Program will include composite sampling for all pollutants on the Priority Pollutant List and Toxicity Testing.

State Court of Appeals Upholds Los Angeles Municipal Storm Water Permit

Xavier Swamikannu/ Michael Levy

The State Court of Appeal's amended its earlier decision issued in early October and upheld the Los Angeles County Municipal Storm Water Permit in its entirety. In its decision on November 6, the Court in addition to reaffirming the water boards' core regulatory authority to issue tough municipal storm water permits, restored the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for the NPDES program.

The Water Board and the Attorney General had filed a petition for rehearing asking the Court of Appeal to reconsider its previous decision on the CEQA exemption. Our rationale was based on harmonizing the statutory schemes, the legislative history, and that other courts of appeal that have examined the issue concluded that Water Code section 13389 provided a complete CEQA exemption. Petitions for rehearing are almost never successful, but we felt it necessary in this case because the threat the decision posed to the NPDES program.

The Court of Appeal unanimously reversed itself on the CEQA exemption. The Court looked at the legislative history and the creation of the exemption. Based on this review, the Court determined that when the Legislature created the exemption it intended to exempt the water boards from CEQA's environmental review requirements when we issue NPDES permits. As a result, the water boards can continue utilizing the full CEQA exemption for our NPDES permits.

Municipal Permitting Unit (NPDES)

Diversion of the Hyperion Secondary Effluent from the Five-Mile Outfall to the One-Mile Outfall

Jau Ren Chen

Hyperion Treatment Plant's Five-Mile Outfall has been used to discharge its effluent on a daily basis since 1960. The exterior of the Five-Mile Outfall has been visually inspected at least annually, as required by the Hyperion Treatment Plant's NPDES permit. However, during its nearly 50-year service period, the Five-Mile Outfall has never been inspected internally. The internal inspection by divers is needed because poor visibility inside the outfall prohibits any internal visual inspection by a remote operated vehicle. Therefore, in order to conduct the internal inspection to assess the structural integrity and identify any potential trouble spots, and to ensure the safety of divers during the operation, Hyperion Treatment Plant will divert the chlorinated secondary treated effluent to its One-Mile Outfall. This Outfall is normally used as the emergency discharge point. If weather conditions are favorable, the diversion of effluent to the One-Mile Outfall is scheduled to begin on November 28th and end on November 30th, and will last approximately three days.

During the diversion period, the City of Los Angeles will implement: 1) an Extensive Receiving Water Monitoring Plan that includes compliance with all NPDES permit requirements; 2) laboratory studies to evaluate potential indicator bacteria and effluent plume tracking (where effluent goes after discharge through the One-Mile Outfall); and 3) assessment of the immediate and long term environmental impact of the diversion. As a precaution, the Los Angeles County Health Department will close beaches from Ballona Creek to the Manhattan Beach Pier. Beaches will be reopened as soon as the bacteriological monitoring data indicate return to the background levels. During the diversion period, the City is required to conduct at least one suite of analyses for all constituents, except acute toxicity, listed in the effluent monitoring program of the Hyperion NPDES permit.

By January 15, 2007, the City of Los Angeles is required to submit a final report to the Regional Board, which includes all monitoring results for the effluent and the receiving water related to this diversion.

NPDES Permits

Augustine Anijelo

During the month of October 2006, 8 dischargers were enrolled under the general NPDES permits. The table shown as “**Attachment A, Table III**”, contains a breakdown of the enrollments, revisions, and terminations for each category of general NPDES permit during the month of October 2006.

Watershed Management

Los Angeles River Watershed

The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council is a consortium of government agencies, community and environmental groups, business and academia who organized to resolve and prevent problems in the watershed in a cooperative, collaborative manner. Formation of the Watershed Council grew out of a conference held in 1995 to discuss how to initiate and/or implement watershed management objectives in the greater Los Angeles Area. Stakeholders in attendance agreed to continue meeting and begin a multi-purpose cooperative watershed management process that is open to the public.

The Watershed Council has published a document entitled, “Beneficial Uses of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers.” Copies may be requested via the Council’s website which is at <http://www.lasgrwc.org>. The Watershed Council conducts a quarterly watershed symposium on the third Wednesday of the month; the next symposium is scheduled for January 17, 2007.

The Watershed Council was awarded Proposition 13 grant funds from the State Water Resources Control Board to prepare a Compton Creek Watershed Management Plan. Compton Creek is a tributary to the lower Los Angeles River. A steering committee and a community action team developed the Plan which can be found at <ftp://www.lasgrwc.org/ComptonCreek>. The steering committee is actively meeting to start implementation of Plan elements. More information may be found on the Watershed Council’s website at <http://www.lasgrwc.org/ComptonCreek.htm>.

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), in partnership with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), was awarded Proposition 13 grant funds from the State Water Resources Control Board to prepare a Rio Hondo Watershed Management Plan. The Rio Hondo is a major subwatershed draining to the Los Angeles River. It is anticipated that the RMC will adopt it as part of their Rivers and Tributaries Greenway Plan. A copy of the watershed management plan is available for download at http://www.rmc.ca.gov/rio_hondo/rh_index.html.

Information about the Arroyo Seco, a major tributary to the Los Angeles River, may be found at the Arroyo Seco Foundation’s website <http://www.arroyoseco.org/>. Northeast Trees was awarded Proposition 13 grant funds from the State Water Resources Control Board to prepare an Arroyo Seco Watershed Management and Restoration Plan which was completed in March 2006. It can be downloaded at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/programs/funding/ArroyoSeco%20WMRP.pdf>.

The Friends of the LA River is a nonprofit organization formed in 1986 in support of Los Angeles River restoration activities. More information about the organization may be found at <http://www.folar.org/>.

The River Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to planning for natural resource protection, conservation and enhancement in Los Angeles County. The group has received CalFed funding to develop a watershed management plan for the Tujunga Watershed, a subwatershed of the Los Angeles River. More information about the organization may be found at <http://www.theriverproject.org/> and about the Tujunga Wash project at <http://www.tujungawash.org/>.

San Gabriel River Watershed

The Amigos de los Rios is a nonprofit organization working with cities and residents to renew urban neighborhoods. A current project being worked on is the Emerald Necklace, a vision for a 17 mile loop of parks and greenways connecting 10 cities and nearly 500,000 residents along the Rfo Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers. More information about the organization may be found at <http://www.amigosdelosrios.org/>.

In 1999, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the Department of Public Works (in cooperation with the County Departments of Parks and Recreation and Regional Planning) to prepare a San Gabriel River Master Plan which has since been adopted by the County Board of Supervisors. The National Park Service through its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program assisted in the development effort. All river stakeholders were invited to participate. The intent was to develop a consensus-based document that will recognize and address River issues and concerns of the stakeholders. It includes areas within existing rights of way from Morris Dam in the San Gabriel Mountains to the River's outlet in Seal Beach. The Master Plan identifies project opportunities for: enhancements for recreation, open space, and habitat areas; restoration; preservation of the River's natural resources; maintaining flood protection and existing water rights. The Master Plan effort will continue to be coordinated with the activities of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountain Conservancy. Documents relating to the Master Plan may be obtained at <http://www.sangabrielriver.com/>.

The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) produced a Guiding Principles Watershed and Open Space Plan which may be obtained at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>. Meeting notices for the Conservancy's Board are also on the website. The Conservancy is an independent State agency within the Resources Agency established by law in 1999. Its jurisdiction includes the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills, and San Jose Hills. It was established to preserve urban open space and habitats in order to provide for low-impact recreation and educational uses, wildlife and habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvements within its jurisdiction. Implementation of the Open Space Plan is occurring partly through award of pass-through grant funds.

A "State of the Watershed" report is available for the San Gabriel River Watershed which was prepared by Regional Board staff in 2000. 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 report can be downloaded by accessing the Regional Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/programs/regional_program/ws_sangabriel.html.

Santa Monica Bay Watershed Management Area – Malibu Creek Watershed

The Malibu Creek Watershed Council have met on a bimonthly basis for many years and is concerned with a variety of human health and habitat issues. Current active committees/task forces under the Council include those focusing on habitat/species, monitoring/water quality, education, and Rindge Dam. The Council's Malibu Lagoon Task Force served as an advisory group to a recently completed lagoon restoration plan. A copy of the final lagoon restoration plan funded by the Coastal Conservancy may be found at <http://www.healthebay.org/currentissues/mlhep/default.asp>. The Monitoring Subcommittee also meets regularly to serve as a Technical Advisory Committee to a Proposition 13-funded watershed-wide monitoring program.

Minutes from previous Council meetings, agendas for future meetings, and information about the watershed may be found on the Council's website at <http://www.malibuwatershed.org/>.

A Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study is underway. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Parks and Recreation are the major partners in this effort which will evaluate, among other options, the feasibility of restoring the ecosystem through removal of Rindge Dam. The tech-

nical advisory group for the effort meets approximately monthly while a larger stakeholder focus group last met on May 11.

Santa Monica Bay Watershed Management Area – Topanga Creek Watershed

A watershed committee has been meeting in the Topanga Creek Watershed since 1998. This group was formed as a followup to the Topanga Canyon Floodplain Management Citizens' Advisory Committee which produced a draft Topanga Creek Watershed Management Plan in 1996. A major goal of the watershed committee has been to prioritize potential watershed protection actions previously identified, and participate in a coordinated resource management planning (CRMP) process. A watershed management plan was finalized in 2002. The Committee will continue work on implementation of actions identified in the Management Plan. The group meets on an infrequent basis. Their website address is <http://www.topangaonline.com/twc>.

Santa Monica Bay Watershed Management Area – Ballona Creek Watershed

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works was awarded a Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Grant by the State Water Resources Control Board to prepare a watershed plan for Ballona Creek. The Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force met for about a year during Plan development and the final Plan was released at the group's September 2004 meeting. A watershed coordinator was hired with California Department of Conservation funds to help guide implementation of the plan and lead the Task Force in future meetings. The group is currently pursuing establishment of a nonprofit. The group meets in the afternoon on the third Tuesday of the month, generally in Culver City. Meeting minutes and agendas may be found at <http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/watershed/bc/>.

The State Coastal Conservancy in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Game and State Lands Commission has begun work on developing a restoration plan for Ballona Wetlands. More information about this work may be found at <http://www.scc.ca.gov/Ballona/index.html>. A US Army Corps-funded Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study is also being conducted in coordination with the Coastal Conservancy work. More information about this study may be found at http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=64&Itemid=31.

Dominguez Watershed

The Dominguez Watershed includes the waters of Dominguez Channel, Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbors, Machado Lake, and the land areas draining into them. The Dominguez Watershed Advisory Council was formed in February 2001 and met on a monthly basis for three years to conduct a variety of tasks including development of a Watershed Management Master Plan (funded by Proposition 13) aimed at protecting and improving the environment and beneficial uses of the watershed. The watershed plan was finalized and a list of potential implementation projects/programs was included in the Plan. Meetings are now generally held on the first Wednesday of every other month. The group's website is at <http://ladpw.org/wmd/watershed/dc/> where a copy of the Watershed Plan may be downloaded.

Los Cerritos Channel/Alamitos Bay Watershed Management Area

A feasibility study for restoration of Colorado Lagoon was funded by the Coastal Conservancy. The lagoon is a tidal water body connected to Alamitos Bay via a box culvert. The lagoon is heavily utilized for recreational activities; it is in a natural low point of the watershed and thus receives a considerable amount of urban runoff and has impaired water quality. The purpose of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Feasibility Study is to evaluate and recommend feasible opportunities to restore the marine ecosystem and support safe recreation while improving water and sediment quality and managing storm water in the lagoon. The City of Long Beach was awarded Clean Beaches Initiative funds from the State Water Resources Control Board to begin implementation of water quality improvement actions described in the feasibility study. More information on the study may be found at <http://www.longbeach.gov/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=561>.

Ventura River Watershed

A “State of the Watershed” report for the Ventura River Watershed is available which was prepared by Regional Board staff in 2002. The report describes the watershed and summarizes available water quality data in a manner easily understood by the layperson. The report can be downloaded by accessing the Regional Board’s website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/programs/regional_program/ws_ventura.html.

Implementation of an Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study is ongoing in the watershed. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ventura County Flood Control District are the major partners in this effort which evaluated, among other options, the feasibility of restoring the ecosystem through removal of Matilija Dam. The Final EIR/EIS was released in September 2004 and federal funding is currently being pursued for final design work which is underway. More information, including project reports and the Final EIR/EIS, may be obtained on the website <http://www.matilijadam.org/>.

The Matilija Coalition is a local group committed to removal of Matilija Dam and subsequent ecosystem restoration. More information about the group may be found at <http://www.matilija-coalition.org/>.

Santa Clara River Watershed

Ventura County Watershed Protection Division has published two documents that are now available on their webpage at http://www.vcwatershed.org/Watersheds_SantaClara.html. One is a permitting guide for areas within the county and along the full length of the Santa Clara River. The other is a guide to native and invasive streamside plants.

A “State of the Watershed” report for the Santa Clara River Watershed has recently been finalized by Regional Board staff. The report describes the watershed and summarizes available water quality data in a manner easily understood by the layperson. The report can be downloaded by accessing the Regional Board’s website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/programs/regional_program/ws_santaclara.html.

The Santa Clara River Enhancement and Management Plan (SCREMP) was developed to address management of the 500-year floodplain of the main river corridor. Related to the SCREMP, the details of a comprehensive river monitoring plan are being worked out by a group of watershed stakeholders. The management plan and the recommendations for a comprehensive monitoring plan can both be viewed at http://www.vcwatershed.org/Watersheds_SantaClara.html. Additionally, an Army Corps of Engineers-sponsored watershed-wide planning effort has begun which will follow up on the intensive effort put into river corridor planning.

In 1994, a pipeline over the Santa Clara River ruptured during the Northridge Earthquake and spilled crude oil. Funds from a settlement for natural resources damages are being administered by the Santa Clara River Trustee Council which is made up of representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and California Department of Fish and Game. The Trustee agencies completed a Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Santa Clara River ARCO Oil Spill (Restoration Plan) to guide the use of the settlement funds. The Trustees are implementing preferred projects described in the Restoration Plan by identifying potential land acquisition and habitat restoration opportunities in the Santa Clara River Watershed.

Some of the oil spill settlement funds have been allocated to studies of the river’s biota that will eventually be utilized by the Coastal Conservancy’s Santa Clara River Parkway Restoration Feasibility Study. The results of the feasibility study will be used in restoration of parcels along the river being acquired by the Coastal Conservancy. Information on the Parkway may be found at <http://www.santaclarariverparkway.org/>.

The Ventura County Task Force of the Wetlands Recovery Project meets on the second Thursday of the month, generally from 2- 4 PM, at the Ventura County Government Center's Multipurpose Room. Updates on the feasibility study and on projects funded by the settlement funds will occur at these meetings on an as-needed basis.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan Committee was convened in 1996 to initiate development of a comprehensive watershed management plan. A large group of stakeholders, including federal, state, and local agencies, landowners, businesses, and nonprofit organizations are represented. An Executive Steering Committee, consisting of a much smaller group of stakeholders, guides the day-to-day activities of the watershed group. Subcommittees have changed through time but currently target Water Resources/ Water Quality, Flood Protection and Sediment Management, Habitat/Open Space/ Recreation, Land Use, Public Outreach/Education, and Agriculture. Subcommittees generally meet monthly or bimonthly. The Management Plan Committee as a whole is currently focusing its attention on TMDL work in the watershed. Information about the management committee and its subcommittees as well as documents and meeting dates can be found at <http://www.calleguascreek.org/>.

Miscellaneous Ventura Coastal Watershed Management Area

An oil pipeline ruptured in December 1993, spilling more than 2,000 barrels of crude oil into McGrath Lake and onto nearby beaches. A Trustee Council was eventually formed to plan and manage restoration of natural resources using settlement funds. The McGrath State Beach Area Berry Petroleum Oil Spill Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment may be viewed at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/organizational/scientific/nrda/NRDAmcgrath.htm>. The draft plan outlines criteria for evaluating the restoration alternatives and addresses the potential environmental effects of each.

A wetlands restoration plan is being developed by the State Coastal Conservancy and its consultants for the Ormond Beach Wetlands. Progress on this work is generally discussed at Ormond Beach Task Force meetings held on the fourth Thursday every other month in Oxnard.

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) 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 WRP 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 WRP is headed by a 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 groups 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. Governing Board meetings are public and are noticed at least 10 days prior to each meeting. If you sign up on the WRP's listserve at <http://www.scwrp.org/contact.htm>, you will receive email notification of all board meetings. The last Board of Governors meeting was held on November 14 in downtown Los Angeles. More information may be found on the WRP's webpage at <http://www.scwrp.org>.

County Task Forces help solicit projects for consideration for WRP funding by the Managers Group and Board of Governors. The program provides funding for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects for coastal wetlands and watersheds in Southern California. Both the Ventura and Los Angeles County Task Forces have Education Subcommittees which are looking to build on existing education programs while identifying gaps to be filled.

The WRP also has a Science Advisory Panel (SAP) and a wetlands ecologist who acts as liaison with the SAP. Recent activities have focused on coordination with a statewide effort to develop methods for rapid assessment of wetlands and development of a wetlands regional monitoring program. A paper on the habitat value of treatment wetlands has also been written and is available on the WRP's webpage at <http://www.scwrp.org/>.

A contract between Environment Now on behalf of the WRP and the State Water Resources Control Board has resulted in a number of useful and interesting products including maps and reports. These may be found at <http://www.lasgrwc.org/WRP.htm>.

Watershed Management Initiative Chapter

Each Regional Board has a "chapter" in a statewide document which describes the Region's watersheds and their priority water quality issues. The last update occurred in October 2004. The consolidated statewide document is the basis for many funding decisions including allocating money for monitoring, TMDL development, and grant monies disbursement. Future updates will occur on an as-needed basis. The document may be obtained electronically (in MSWord) by contacting Shirley Birosik, Watershed Coordinator, at 213-576-6679 or sbirosik@waterboards.ca.gov. It can also be downloaded in its entirety by accessing the Regional Board's website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles> and clicking on "Watersheds" on the left side-bar. In addition, "Watersheds" will lead to a clickable map of the region's watersheds for information specific to each one.

Funding

Information on a wide variety of funding sources is available on the California Watershed Funding Database website at <http://calwatershedfunds.org/>.

Groundwater Division

Underground Storage Tanks

Charnock Sub-basin MTBE Cleanup

Weixing Tong/Jay Huang

MTBE cleanup in the Charnock Sub-basin has been ongoing. On November 21, 2003, the City of Santa Monica and three oil companies (Shell Oil, ChevronTexaco, and ExxonMobil) reached a settlement that promises the construction of a treatment plant to restore the drinking water supply to the residents of Santa Monica from the Charnock Sub-Basin within five years from now. In 1996, the discovery of MTBE contamination of the City of Santa Monica's Charnock wellfield resulted in shutdown of the wellfield and consequently a loss of over 6 million gallons per day of groundwater supply – an amount equal to approximately half of the City's daily water demand. Now all parties are in the stage of implementing the agreement.

Since 1996, this Regional Board, working along with USEPA, has diligently investigated and overseen cleanup of the regional and site-specific contamination. As of September 2006, a total of 535 million gallons of groundwater in the Charnock Sub-Basin Investigation Area have been treated. To date, a total of 2,132 pounds of MTBE have been removed from groundwater and 4,258 pounds of MTBE from soil. In addition, 14,997 pounds of gasoline have been removed from groundwater and 243,252 pounds from soil (see the table shown as **Attachment A, Table II**).

To date, the site-specific cleanup is still ongoing. The construction of the treatment plant combining with source site cleanup will ensure the full restoration of groundwater production from the Charnock Sub-Basin.

In the meantime, staff have also been conducting low risk review for those Charnock sites where cleanup has been completed. From February 2004 to date, staff issued “No Further Action” letter to eleven sites (PRP sites #5, #16, #20, #21, #24, #29, #30, #36, #37, #42 and #44). On December 1, 2005, Regional Board issued an Waste Discharge Requirement Permit to Powergas (PRP#15) to clean up the residual groundwater contamination using oxygen release compound. Since November 2005, vadose zone cleanup using vapor extraction system has been initiated at PRP#18 and PRP#40. Recently, soil remediation (SVE) has been completed at PRP #6 and PRP #10 sites.

For more information on the Charnock Sub-Basin cleanup, visit

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/programs/ust/charnock_mtbe.html

Or www.epa.gov/region09/charnock.

Completion of Corrective Action at Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank Sites

Yue Rong

Regional Board staff have reviewed corrective actions taken for soil and/or groundwater contamination problems from leaking underground storage tanks for the time of **October 23, 2006** through **November 17, 2006**, and determined that no further corrective actions are required for the following sites:

- Former Express Gas, Pomona (R-20589)
- Sunny Food & Gas, DPW #1-870, Lomita (907170034)
- Simon’s Mini Market, Inglewood (I-13094)
- Nasa Oil Service Station, Los Angeles (900310189)
- Los Angeles Harbor Community College, Los Angeles (907440425)

For the case closure sites above, a total of **749** tons of impacted soil were removed, and **697,075** pounds of petroleum hydrocarbons were recovered by the vapor extraction treatment system.

SLIC IV Unit

ConocoPhillips Wilmington Refinery

Paul Cho

ConocoPhillips operates the Wilmington Refinery for crude oil refining, processing, and storage facility, on 424 acres in Wilmington. Regional Board oversight of extensive cleanup activities at this site is through Cleanup and Abatement Orders issued in 1985 and in 1994. Characterization of this large site is challenging, due in part to the presence of the Palos Verdes fault zone.

Monitoring over the past two years of an onsite production well, WW-6, indicates oxygenate (TBA) contamination in the Silverado aquifer, at concentrations between 260 parts per billion (ppb) and 300 ppb. And wells in the Lynwood aquifer show TBA contamination at around 3,000 ppb and 5,000 ppb. The nearest municipal production well is 1.7 miles downgradient. Staff has been working with the Water Replenishment District to review a hydrogeologic conceptual model, to better understand pathways among aquifers. Also, staff has asked ConocoPhillips to meet in December, in order to present a new strategy for expediting investigations and remedial actions.

BP Carson Refinery

Paul Cho

The BP Carson Refinery is operated by a British Petroleum affiliate on 702 acres in the city of Carson. Regional Board oversight of extensive cleanup activities at this site is through Cleanup and Abatement Orders issued in 1985 and in 1990.

Recent depth-discrete groundwater sampling, undertaken per staff direction, indicates off-site MTBE contamination at around 30,000 parts per billion (ppb) in the Gage aquifer. And additional depth-discrete sampling indicates that the Gage and Lynwood aquifers are connected. In addition to MTBE, other fuel oxygenates such as TBA and DIPE were found in the Gage and Lynwood aquifers.

Municipal production wells are located within 1.5 miles downgradient of the edge of the contamination that has been delineated to date.

WSPA (Western States Petroleum Organization)

Kwang-il Lee

Executive management and staff have been meeting with WSPA, a trade association representing many oil companies in the area. WSPA, several oil companies, and the Water Board staff are attempting to cooperatively review conventional and emerging methods for removing NAPL (non-aqueous phase liquids, also referred to as free product) from saturated and unsaturated soils, and to review costs of the various methods. As a result of the first two meetings (one in October, and a second in November), participants hope to agree on an outline for the project and to evaluate candidates to serve as a facilitator in December.

Representatives from the US EPA and the Water Replenishment District of Southern California also are participating.

Shell Carson Terminal

Paul Cho

Shell Oil operates the Carson Terminal, including a tank farm and distribution facility, on 400 acres in the City of Carson. A chemical manufacturing plant and petroleum refinery that also operated on the site were shut down in 1982 and 1991, respectively. Regional Board oversight of extensive cleanup activities at this site is through Cleanup and Abatement Orders issued in 1985 and in 1997.

Based on collaborative work among the Water Board, US EPA, and Shell, an offsite DIPE and TBA plume (Eastside Plume), extending several thousand feet offsite, was delineated earlier this year at a concentration of up to 100 parts per billion (ppb). More recently, and under Water Board direction, Shell has progressed on installation of a sentry monitoring network to protect a well field in the Carson area that pumps beneath a portion of the oxygenate plume.

Also, in order to facilitate additional work under a feasibility study as directed by a Water Board 13267 Order, the Executive Officer has approved an extension of the deadline for completion, to March 2007.

Grants & Loans Unit

Consolidated Grant Program

Maryann Jones

The 2005-06 Consolidated Grants integrates and coordinates related grant programs for Watershed Protection, Water Management, Agricultural Water Quality, Drinking Water, Urban Storm Water, and Non-Point Source Pollution Control. A total of approximately \$142 million will be made available from eight interrelated grant programs administered by the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance. The SWRCB has awarded approximately half of the grants under this program and expects to award the rest by the end of the year. Staff is working on finalizing these grants as they are awarded and anticipate having most of the grants finalized by the end of the year as well.

Other grant and loan programs that Regional Board staff provide input but do not directly manage include:

State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan Program is currently accepting application. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) manages and implements the CWSRF as one of its financial assistance programs. The CWSRF program provides low interest loans to local agencies for construction of wastewater and water recycling treatment works and non-point source pollution projects. The program has operated since 1989, and has issued over \$3.0 billion in loans to local agencies.

Clean Beaches Initiative Grant

The Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program began with the Budget Act of 2001. The Budget appropriated \$32.298 million from Proposition 13 to implement 38 specific projects. The projects address postings and closures at California public beaches caused by bacterial contamination. The Watershed, Clean Beaches, and Water Quality Act was signed into law on September 20, 2002. The Act appropriated an additional \$46 million from Proposition 40 for additional CBI grants to help local agencies, non-profit organizations, and public agencies implement projects that protect and restore California's coastal water quality. Regional Board staff is involved in providing informal recommendations to the selection committee.

Small Community Wastewater Grant

The Small Community Wastewater Grant (SCWG) Program, funded by Proposition 40 and Proposition 50, provides grant assistance for the construction of publicly owned wastewater treatment and collection facilities. Grants are available for small communities with financial hardships. Communities must comply with population restrictions (maximum population of 20,000 people) and annual Median Household Income (MHI) (maximum annual MHI (\$37,994) provisions to qualify for funding under the SCWG Program. Funding through the SCWG Program will be provided only to local public agencies.

Priority will be given to those agencies who seek to install or repair sewer systems in communities that lack adequate sewer systems and to assist the expansion of systems in communities with population growth pressures.

Other Funding Programs

- Water Recycling Loans and Grants
- Urban Storm Water Grant Program
- Agricultural Drainage Loan Program
- Agricultural Water Quality Grants Program
- Dairy Water Quality Grant Program
- Pesticide Research and Identification of Source, and Mitigation (PRISM) Grant Program

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program

Maryann Jones

The IRWM is a competitive grants program, jointly administered by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for projects to protect communities from drought, improve water quality and reduce dependence on imported water. The IRWM Program is separated into two separate grants, the Planning Grant and the Implementation Grant. The SWRCB is currently considering projects submitted for the Implementation Grant program.

The Draft Funding Recommendations and proposal evaluations are posted on the State Water Board and DWR Websites and can be viewed here: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/irwm_impl.html#announcements <http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm>

There was a public meeting on November 16, at 10:00 A.M. in the Paul R. Bonderson Hearing Room (DWR) to announce the Step 2 scores and present the Draft Funding Recommendations. This event included an open house for applicants to ask questions about their reviews.

The IRWM Step 2 Implementation call back included 16 proposals representing a total of approximately 175 individual projects. Approximately \$382 million in grant funding was requested for proposals totaling over \$2 billion. DWR and the State Water Board staffs are proposing to make approximately \$175 million available (with \$25 million allocated for each of the County of Ventura and the metropolitan area of Los Angeles) for this cycle of funding. (see **Attachment A, Table IV**)

Oxnard Forebay Septic Prohibition

David Koo

Unincorporated communities in the Oxnard Forebay of the County of Ventura, including El Rio and Strickland, are under a prohibition issued by the Water Board to cease discharges to septic systems by January 2008. Through its financial assistance programs, the state has been supporting sewer construction in the Oxnard Forebay.

Although the County may have difficulty meeting the January 2008 prohibition deadline for the entire area, sewer construction for Strickland is proceeding well. Under direction from the County of Ventura, Public Works Agency (Grantee), construction in Strickland was completed on schedule and under budget (\$1.53 million expended from a budget of \$2.5 million). During the fall quarter, 70 percent of the Strickland sewer was completed, including approximately 3,300 linear feet of sewer line, 50 laterals, and 6 manholes installed between July 1 and September 30, 2006, and the grantee expects to meet the January 2007 completion date specified in the grant agreement for Strickland. This project was funded with Proposition 13, Phase III bond monies. To learn more about this project, as well as other projects managed by the Regional Board, go online to <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/funding/projsum1350.html>

Non-Chapter 15 and Landfills Unit

Waste Disposal versus Recycling

Enrique Casas

Because of increased redevelopment and disposal costs, staff is increasingly being asked to allow reuse of unclassified or inert wastes at contaminated or old landfill cleanup sites. The waste materials vary from broken concrete or asphalt that can be recycled as base materials, to petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soils that can be used as filler for new asphalt, to steel slag that can be crushed for use as base rock or aggregate for new concrete. Recycling is supported by state law (for example, AB 939 which mandates diversion of 50% of all wastes) as well as local ordinances (for example, Ventura County's Hillside Erosion Control Ordinance, which promotes the use of broken concrete or asphalt to repair erosion damaged areas to protect agricultural land). However, there are concerns that recycling/reuse can be abused to allow materials that should be disposed of at Region landfills back into the environment, or inappropriate reuse practices strictly for the purpose of limiting disposal costs. Existing policy and Orders focusing on landfill disposal are not flexible with respect to recycling/reuse. Consideration is being given by staff to develop conditional waivers of waste discharge requirements for the reuse/recycling of non-hazardous inert materials at brownfield or landfill cleanup sites to efficiently handle an increasing number of projects and standardize the conditions under which recycling is approved.

Time Schedule Orders (TSOs)

Toni Callowa

A recent review was made about whether Time Schedule Orders (TSO) issued by the Los Angeles Regional Board met Board requirements on time. Of the 23 active TSOs and one CDO in the Non-Chapter 15 Program, more than 60% (fourteen) were not able to meet TSO requirements on time.

Most non-compliant TSOs (thirteen) are located in the Malibu area. To date, seven Amended TSOs have been adopted by the Regional Board for Malibu dischargers who were not able to meet either initial TSO deadlines or TSO permitted extensions. Prior to January 2007, another four Malibu dischargers are likely to request extensions as allowed by their TSOs, and two additional dischargers located in Malibu, have been advised by Board staff to submit requests for Amended TSOs. The main reason given for failing to meet initial TSO deadlines or EO approved extensions has been the inability of the City of Malibu to review design plans in a timely manner and consequently delayed construction of wastewater treatment plants (WWTP).

Thus, failure to meet TSO compliance timelines is common when approval from other public agencies is required. In addition to the City of Malibu, other public agencies in Region 4 that require review and approval of Non-Chapter 15 projects such as the construction of WWTP, are Ventura and Los Angeles County's Planning Departments and Boards of Supervisors, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) when the site is a mobile home park, and the California Coastal Commission (CCC).

Coastal areas are under intense scrutiny by multiple agencies. Both Ventura County Planning Department and the City of Malibu (more recently) have accepted implementation of the CCC review program, and this has helped to streamline the coastal review and permitting process. Los Angeles Regional Board staff is seeking to work with the City of Malibu and other involved agencies to have them acknowledge our TSO deadlines and notify the Board if their approval process is likely to delay the Board's compliance.

Public Outreach

Public Outreach

Weixing Tong

Regional Board staff, Dr. Yue Rong, as the President of the Southern California Chinese American Environmental Protection Association (SCCAEPA), presided the "2006 Asian American Environmental Symposium – Inspiring Future Environmental Leaders," held at UCLA on November 4, 2006. The symposium was organized by the SCCAEP and the Asian American Environmental Partnership (AAEP). Among the attendance are primarily college students. Ms. Mary Nichols, Director of the UCLA Institute of the Environment, delivered the opening remarks. Regional Board staff, Dr. Weixing Tong gave a presentation on "Water Resources and Water Quality Protection in the State of California." Other Regional Board staff, Dr. Yi Lu, Dr. Guangyu Wang, Dr. Don Tsai, Dr. Kwang-il Lee, Dr. Eric Wu, were also among the attendance, as the mentor, or on the student poster competition committee at the symposium.

Personnel

As of December 14, 2006 our staff total is 138: 121 technical staff (including 3 part-time staff), 8 permanent analytical staff and 9 permanent clerical staff.

The following separated from Region 4:

Jenny Au, Water Resource Control Engineer, transferred to another State agency effective November 30, 2006.

DATE OF ISSUANCE	STAFF	APPLICANT	PROJECT	ACTION
10/17/06	VC	City of Santa Clarita	Mitigation Plan Approval for Proposed I-5/Magic Mountain Pkwy Interchange Phase II Project	Modification Conditional WQC
10/17/06	DC	L.A. County DPW	Latigo Canyon Road at Mile Mark 2.08 Project	Conditional WQC
10/17/06	VC	Stevenson Ranch Venture, LLC	Stevenson Ranch Dam (State Dam #97001-004) & Soft Bottom Channel Maintenance (P.D. #2528) Project	Conditional WQC
10/17/06	DC	L.A. County DPW	Sawpit Wash-Invert Overlay Project	Conditional WQC
10/17/06	VC	Western L.A. County Council Inc.	Camp Emerald Bay Project	Conditional WQC
10/17/06	VC	Ventura Co. Watershed Protection Dist.	Arroyo Las Posas Seminary Road Bridge Removal Project	Conditional WQC
10/30/06	VC	Caltrans District 7	State Route 118 Postmile 4.8 Slope Repair Project	Conditional WQC
11/7/06	VC	Rancho Mupu. LLC	Rancho Mupu Waterlines Restoration Project	Conditional WQC

PRP #	Site Name	Soil Remediation			Groundwater Remediation				
		TPHg lb	Benzene lb	MTBE lb	TPHg Lb	Benzene lb	MTBE lb	TBA lb	Water million gal
3	Former Arco Station #1578	12,074							
4	Arco Station #1246	60,353	1,071	23					
6	Former Conoco Station	4,973	39.58	0					
7	Former Unocal Station #3016	31,376	86	90	0.8	0.004	1		3.9
8	Mobil Station # 18-FX5	14,886	85	305	1,129.3	3.22	1.16		52.5
10	Chevron Station #9-0561	5,390	24.5	34			0.124		0.177
11	Shell Station # 204-1944-0100	5,319	32	107	13,867.3	624.9	2,130	709.4	478
12	Winall #18	14,665	99	1,937					
15	Former Powergas Station	19,779	68	948					
18	Former Shell Station	380	2.4	0.4					
19	Former ARCO Station #5117	11,042	11.5	14.6					
23	Former Thrifty #247	57,200	662.4	785.4					
40	Former Shell Service Station	5,815	80	14					
	Total	243,252	2,261	4,258	14,997	628	2,132	709	535

Attachment "A". Table III

		Date of Coverage	Date of Revision	Date of Termination
A.	NPDES CAG994004 (Order No. R4-2003-0111) Construction & Project De-watering			
1	Griffith Company, Brea Canyon Road Grade Separation Project, 520 S. Brea Cyn Dr., City of Industry	10/2/06		
2	Griffin Industries, Permit A, Heritage Valley Project, Between Hwy 126 & Santa Clara River, Fillmore	10/18/06		
3	Griffin Industries, Permit B, Heritage Valley Project, Between Hwy 126 & Santa Clara River, Fillmore	10/19/06		
4	City of Fillmore, DPW, Fillmore/County 1972 Landfill Levee Project, Santa Clara River & Route 23, Fillmore	10/20/06		
5	Griffin Industries, Permit E, Heritage Valley Project, Between Hwy 126 & Santa Clara River, Fillmore	10/24/06		
6	Griffin Industries, Permit D, Heritage Valley Project, Between Hwy 126 & Santa Clara River, Fillmore	10/24/06		
7	SSR Miracle Mile, LLC., Wilshire Lofts Project, 5550 Wilshire Boulevard, L.A.	10/27/026		
8	LNR – Lennar Washington Sq.LLC., Washington Square Project, 300-330 Washington Blvd., Marina Del Rey	10/30/06		
B.	NPDES No. CAG994005 (Order No. R4-2003-0108) Potable Water Supply Wells Discharges			
1	City of Compton, Municipal Water Supply Wells, 205 S. Willowbrook Ave, Compton		10/1106	

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program**Table IV**

PIN	Applicant Name	Score	Amount Requested	Funding Agency
9595	Humboldt County	134	\$ 25,000,000	SWRCB
10021	Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency	117	\$ 25,000,000	DWR
10018	Sacramento RWA	116	\$ 25,000,000	DWR
9604	Ventura County Consolidated	114	\$ 25,000,000	SWRCB
10040	Greater LA Metro Consolidated	112	\$ 25,000,000	DWR
10016	Orange County	112	\$ 25,000,000	SWRCB
9601	San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority	112	\$ 25,000,000	DWR
10039	SAWPA	105	\$ 25,000,000	
9598	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	99	\$ 24,514,287	
10029	Contra Costa Water District	98	\$ 25,000,000	
10061	Plumas County	98	\$ 9,949,897	
10052	Monterey County Water Resources Agency	97	\$ 25,000,000	
10024	Bay Area Consolidated	97	\$ 25,000,000	
10073	Sac Valley Consolidated	94	\$ 24,860,250	
9610	Mojave Water Agency	93	\$ 25,000,000	
10045	Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County	91	\$ 25,000,000	