# California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region

# **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

# May 2006

The next regular scheduled Board meeting is May 10, 2006. See <a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/</a> for latest details and agenda

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State Board Approves Non-Regulatory Basin Plan Amendments (Michael Rochette) The package of non-regulatory amendments to the Basin Plan adopted by the Water Board in November 2005 was approved by the State Board at its April 18 meeting. This update to the Basin Plan includes numerous editorial revisions, new definitions, and updated maps, all intended to make the Basin Plan more accessible, understandable, and useful to the public.

The next step for the update package is review by the State's Office of Administrative Law (OAL), which must concur with the update's non-regulatory nature. As soon as OAL gives

its blessing, the revised, highly interactive Basin Plan will be official and available on the Water Board's website, http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay.

### State Board Hearing on Tomales Bay Pathogens TMDL (Farhad Ghodrati)

The State Board will hold a hearing on May 15 to consider approving the Tomales Bay Pathogens TMDL adopted by this Water Board in September 2005. The TMDL is designed to protect shellfish harvesting and recreational uses in Tomales Bay and calls for actions to manage pathogen discharges from septic systems, small wastewater treatment facilities, boat discharges, grazing lands, dairies, equestrian facilities, and municipal runoff. Relevant documents can be found at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/tmdl.html#tomales.

# Review Begins for Revised Bay Mercury TMDL and Proposed Mercury Water Quality Objectives (Carrie Austin)

On April 21, staff issued a public notice for public review and comment on a draft Basin Plan amendment and supporting staff report that includes proposed water quality objectives for mercury in San Francisco Bay and revisions to the mercury TMDL adopted by the Board in September 2004. Two water quality objectives are proposed, one for mercury in the tissues of fish eaten by humans, and one for mercury in the tissues of fish eaten by wildlife. The revised TMDL serves as the implementation plan for the proposed water quality objectives. The proposed revisions to the TMDL, in particular more stringent wasteload allocations for treated wastewater discharges, are in response to the State Board's September 2005 Remand Order.

The public notice also announced the beginning of a 45-day comment period (through June 5), and the dates of the Board's upcoming testimony hearing at its June 14 meeting, and an expected adoption hearing at its August 9 meeting. The documents are available for downloading from our website, at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/sfbaymercurytmdl.htm.

# Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting Scheduled for Walker Creek Mercury TMDL (Jill Marshall)

On May 24, in Tomales Town Hall in western Marin County, staff will hold an informational workshop and CEQA scoping meeting for a Basin Plan amendment to establish a TMDL for mercury in Walker Creek, a tributary of Tomales Bay. Excessive mercury in the creek is associated with historical mercury mines and poses a significant threat to wildlife consumers of fish. The most significant source is the Gambonini Mine, which has been the subject of a comprehensive clean-up effort. Staff will use input from the workshop to prepare the Basin Plan amendment and supporting documents, and subsequently, expects to issue a public notice this summer soliciting public comments on the TMDL and the Basin Plan amendment.

### PCBs in Ettie Street Watershed, Oakland (Stephen Hill)

Earlier this month, staff from the City of Oakland and the Water Board announced the results of an investigation into potential sources of PCBs in a West Oakland watershed. Polychlorinated biphenyls (or PCBs) are a group of organic chemicals commonly used in electrical transformers and other commercial applications until the mid-1970s. Because of

their toxicity and persistence in the environment, PCB use is now prohibited. However, PCBs are still sometimes found on properties where they were historically used.

The Water Board has listed San Francisco Bay water quality as "impaired" due in part to elevated levels of PCBs in fish tissue. The bay is subject to a fish consumption advisory for the same reason. While much of this PCB mass is already in bay sediments, various stormwater systems continue to contribute PCBs to the bay. To improve bay water quality, the Water Board has worked with various local agencies to identify and remove sources of PCBs within their respective watersheds. The Water Board targeted the Ettie Street watershed after elevated levels of PCBs were observed in sediment in the Ettie Street pump station wet well. The pump station is located near the "Bay Bridge maze" and collects stormwater from a 2.5 square mile area of West Oakland. In 2002, the City of Oakland obtained a state-funded Proposition 13 grant to investigate and abate PCBs in this watershed.

The City of Oakland has completed its investigation and will implement some abatement measures shortly. As part of the grant, the City conducted industrial inspections of facilities in the Ettie Street watershed. The City collected 42 soil samples in the public right-of-way in front of several private properties identified as potential PCB sources. Soil samples were comprised of dirt and debris on streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and storm drain inlets. Based on those results, the City then collected 25 soil samples on the adjacent private properties. In both sampling rounds, the City found elevated PCB concentrations (see table).

Location	PCB range (ppm)	PCB mean (ppm)
Targeted public right of way (42 samples)	0.02 to 31	1.5
Targeted private properties (25 samples)	0.04 to 93	7.4

Some of these sample results exceed our screening levels for potential human health impacts. PCBs are considered a probable human carcinogens and can also have serious non-cancer health effects. However, the elevated PCB levels in right-of-way soils do not appear to be widespread and professional risk assessors under contract to the City believe that prolonged contact by people with these soils is unlikely. Therefore, the PCBs are not believed to present an immediate danger to public health.

Over the next several months, the City will be performing several tasks to (1) remove PCB-impacted soil from public right-of-way locations with the highest concentrations, (2) require private property owners to implement measures to reduce future PCB migration onto the public right-of-way, and (3) work aggressively with local, state, and federal officials to enforce cleanup at private properties confirmed to be sources of PCBs. The City will use remaining grant funds to pay for task (1). Water Board staff will coordinate with the City on all three tasks. We and the City are conducting public outreach efforts in West Oakland to explain the investigation results and next steps. We have also initiated discussions with our "cleanup" counterparts at USEPA and DTSC regarding task (3).

## Progress on Municipal Regional Permit (Dale Bowyer)

Work continues on the development of the Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) for all of the region's Phase I municipal stormwater programs. We are currently finishing work on Draft Performance Standard Tables from the six Work Groups convened in October 2005. We have brought six draft Work Group products to the MRP Steering Committee since February 2006. Since a MRP is a new concept, the process is evolving as we move forward and adapt to lessons learned. In response to comments from the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) and environmental groups, we are currently addressing the role of the Steering Committee, inviting additional stakeholder groups such as home building and construction industry representatives to participate, adding additional stakeholder input phases to the MRP process, and updating the goals and process for the entire MRP reissuance process.

The six Work Groups are led by Water Board staff. Work Groups cover Monitoring, TMDL Implementation, Municipal Maintenance, Industrial and Construction Inspection/Illicit Discharge, New Development, and Public Information and Participation. The Draft Performance Standard Tables will contain the MRP's best management practices, level of implementation, and reporting requirements. We will then bring these draft products to the MRP Steering Committee for review and comment by stakeholder representatives of BASMAA, the Permittees, industry and environmental groups. The Work Groups have met approximately every two weeks; the Steering Committee currently meets monthly.

The next phase of the MRP stakeholder process will involve more in-depth stakeholder discussions on the Draft Performance Standard Tables in public Work Group meetings for all interested parties. Staff plan to meet with BASMAA and other stakeholders in May to clarify how staff will create an Administrative Draft of the MRP, based on the input received on the Draft Performance Standard Tables to date. It is intended that this Administrative Draft will then be the subject of at least two large public stakeholder workshops before it is circulated to the public as a Tentative Order.

While the entire MRP endeavor is proving more time consuming and complex than originally anticipated, we continue to have a productive dialogue and the cooperation and input of all stakeholders. Additional information regarding the current MRP process, meetings, and draft documents can be found online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/mrp.htm. Any interested party can subscribe to the MRP mailing list at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lyrisforms/reg2\_subscribe.html.

### **Impervious Surface Data Meetings** (Sue Ma)

Last October, Board staff hosted a workshop of interested stakeholders to discuss impervious surface data tracking and how the data might be used to answer a number of stormwater management questions. One of the action items from this workshop was for municipalities that already collect this data to submit it to Board staff. We have finished analyzing the data submitted by the cities of Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Fairfield, and Suisun City. Board staff is currently in the process of meeting with these cities to discuss their data. So far we have met with Pleasanton, Livermore, Palo Alto, and Menlo Park. Through these meetings, we hope to better

understand the local process and workload to collect this type of data and the utility of the data. We plan to use the information we learn from the data and these meetings to assess the appropriate regulatory impervious surface thresholds for stormwater treatment and flow controls and impervious surface reporting requirements in the future Municipal Regional Permit (MRP).

## Wetland Tracker (Andree Breaux)

The Wetland Tracker (Tracker) is a web-based GIS database, which was developed by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) with direction from state and federal resources and regulatory agencies involved with the San Francisco Bay Wetland Restoration Program. This includes watershed staff at the Water Board. The database contains records from the Water Board's compensatory mitigation projects (defined as those required by law to replace lost wetland values and functions) and wetland restoration projects. The database is intended for uses such as:

- planning watershed strategies that contain wetlands;
- · determining overall net loss and gain for the region by wetland types; and
- providing necessary information to determine the success or failure of mitigation projects.

Inadequate project tracking, which includes the lack of reliable location data as well as the lack of information on permit conditions and performance criteria, has long been recognized as a problem in fully implementing both national and state "no net loss of wetland" policies. Locating compensatory wetland mitigation projects and the reports to determine success of those projects is often difficult, and sometimes impossible, many years after the permits have been issued and the projects are implemented.

To solve this problem, Water Board staff have been working with SFEI to further develop the Tracker as a pilot program so that permit applicants with mitigation or restoration projects will be required to fill out a Tracker form that will provide specific GIS locations and project performance criteria. The form also requests information on monitoring, project site figures, and overall wetland losses and gains by specific habitat types.

## **Stream and Wetlands System Protection Policy** (Ben Livsey)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in June 2005 awarded the San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP) a grant for \$300,000 to hire two staff for a two-year project assisting with stream and wetland protection in the regions covered by the San Francisco Bay and North Coast Water Boards. SFEP and both Water Boards are in the process of developing a single Stream and Wetlands System Protection Policy that will be proposed for adoption as Basin Plan amendments in both regions. The Policy will show scientifically that wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains protect water quality and support beneficial uses. The Policy will clarify that stream and wetlands system protection and restoration are viable forms of pollution prevention in all land use settings, and that the strategies of pollutant source control and stream and wetlands system protection need to be integrated to complete an entire watershed water quality management strategy. The Policy will develop definitions intended to apply statewide for function-based beneficial uses of waters of the state, including water quality enhancement, flood peak attenuation/flood water storage, and wetland habitat. The Policy will also improve Water Board regulatory

consistency, solidify stakeholder and political support, and serve as a model for other Water Boards and the State in stream and wetlands system protection. The North Coast and San Francisco Bay Water Board's are preparing for upcoming public workshops and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meetings in May at six different geographic locations to facilitate public participation. In our region, the three meetings will be held on May 1, in Oakland; May 9, in Cupertino; and May 15, in Marin. Additional information regarding the Stream and Wetlands System Protection Policy including upcoming public workshops can be found online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/streamandwetlands.htm.

# **Ballast Water Developments** (Larry Kolb)

The release of ballast water from ships taking on cargo has long been recognized as a major source of invasive aquatic organisms. This Water Board included invasive species from ballast water in its list of pollutants impairing the Bay, for which a TMDL must be prepared. The invasive organism danger is especially acute for ships coming from one estuary, where fresh and salt water meet, to another estuary. The current best practice is for ships to exchange their ballast water in the open ocean, so that the water released to another estuary contains mostly ocean organisms. No one thinks this approach is anything but a stopgap.

Better standards are being developed. One effort is by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), representing the shipping industry. Another effort is by the California State Lands Commission, with input from a panel of experts. Last fall the panel adopted recommendations significantly more stringent that those under review by the IMO, and, in January, the State Lands Commission approved the recommended standards as recommendations to the Legislature. The Legislature has made the State Lands Commission the lead state agency for this issue because of the Commission's long involvement in port issues.

The new standards vary depending in the size of the organism. The standard is "none detectable" for organisms larger than 50 microns (which is about one twentieth of the thickness of a dime). For organisms still smaller, there are numerical standards. The technology envisioned to meet these standards is microfiltration followed by disinfection using ultraviolet (UV) light. The new standards will not apply until the Legislature acts.

At this point it is not clear whether the new standards would be met using treatment facilities on ships or at the dockside. Some preliminary calculations suggest that dockside facilities would be less expensive, and they would certainly be easier to regulate. In either case, adoption of NPDES permits by the Water Boards would be necessary.

# Plastic Bags as Water Pollutants (Larry Kolb)

This year's round of Earth Day cleanup projects was a reminder of the enormous number of single-use plastic bags that find their way into our waters and shorelines. The natural degradation rate of plastic is negligible, so that the amount of plastic in natural environments is constantly growing. Plastic bags pose a special threat in ocean waters, where they are routinely ingested by, and harm, creatures like beaked whales and sea turtles that feed on jellyfish and squid, which plastic bags resemble.

Three strategies have been proposed to deal with this problem. One is to ban the use of free disposable plastic bags. This has been done in the Republic of Ireland, where a 15 cent tax is levied. In the three months after the "plastax" was begun, plastic bag use declined by over 90 percent. Outright bans have been adopted in South Africa, Rwanda, Taiwan, Singapore, parts of India, and Bangladesh.

A second approach is to remove plastic bags and other debris from stormwater runoff before it reaches natural waters. This is the approach being used for some coastal parts of the Los Angeles area, where plastic bags and other debris have a major impact on beaches. In response to the "trash TMDL" adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Board, trash removal devices, essentially strainers for items larger than about a quarter inch, are being installed. This approach has the advantage of addressing many forms of trash, not just plastic bags.

The third approach is the use of biodegradable formulations for plastic bags. Such formulations exist, but they cost more to produce and account for only about 1 percent of the market.

Water Board Staff Hosts Statewide Nonpoint Source Roundtable (Dale Hopkins) On April 12 and 13, staff members Dale Hopkins and Susan Gladstone hosted the quarterly Nonpoint Source Roundtable, which was attended by staff from the State Water Board, California Coastal Commission, U.S. EPA, and other Regional Water Boards. These roundtables are an opportunity for State staff to meet with their counterparts and with U.S. EPA (who funds the NPS program) to discuss how best to implement California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, how to track and manage program activities and measures of success, and to share information and coordinate regional and statewide programs and projects.

Following the morning meetings each day, our staff led the group on field trips to see local nonpoint source pollution control projects. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Keith Lichten of the Watershed Division coordinated a visit to several sites near the Oakland Airport to see stormwater management measures in action (on an appropriately very wet and rainy day). The group visited vegetated swales and trash enclosures at Zhone Technologies; the Damon Slough constructed wetlands; and the bioretention areas and trash enclosures at the new Metroport shopping center. A consultant for the Metroport project joined the group there to explain the design and construction of the project, including the challenges of working with Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart typically vigorously opposes any significant landscaping within the parking lots in front of its stores. The dilemma of lack of available landscaping to do stormwater treatment was solved by pumping the smaller water-quality runoff flows to the large landscaped areas at the edge of the site. Those landscaped areas temporarily pond the runoff and filter it through the soil before sending it into the storm drain and out to the Bay. Following the stormwater site visits, Andree Breaux, our Region's Wetlands Specialist, led the group on a tour of the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline and described the wetland mitigation project carried out there by the Port of Oakland.

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the coordinators met in West Marin, where SPAWN (Salmon Protection and Watershed Network) gave a presentation on the activities of this local, community-based non-profit, and the success of their federal grant, managed by Water Board staff. The project includes citizen monitoring, creek surveys, outreach to community and local schoolchildren, and nonpoint source pollution tracking. Leslie Ferguson of the Water Board gave a presentation on fish habitat in the Lagunitas Watershed and the importance of preserving creek geomorphology and vegetation structure for both juvenile and adult coho and steelhead salmon (both endangered species). Field trips were also made to two sites nearby, biotechnical creekbank projects funded by a Proposition 13 grant. The projects are designed to stop bank erosion, recreate floodplains, and provide habitat. These projects use willow wattles, willow staking and coir fabric "burritos" at the toe of the banks and were largely done with volunteer labor. One of the prime objectives of the projects was to avoid any use of riprap or other hardscapes and to preserve the natural functioning of the creek and its banks. Both have been notably successful in withstanding the severe storms and flooding in West Marin, demonstrating that this type of biotechnical project is not only feasible but preferable to older, conventional "stabilization" methods. The projects are an inspiring example of working with nature as well as working cooperatively with agencies and the local community, and the group was extremely lucky to see them on a beautiful sunny day after the many weeks of rain and gloom.

# **United States - Mexico Ten Border States Retreat** (Carmen Fewless)

Carmen Fewless and Jan O'Hara of Board staff participated on the team that organized, prepared, and helped conduct the 10th U.S./Mexico Ten States Retreat on April 19-21 in San Francisco. The Retreat was hosted by Cal/EPA, and was chaired by Acting Secretary Dan Skopec. During this three-day Conference, leading officials of agencies responsible for environmental quality and protection, and natural resource conservation from states on both sides of the U.S./Mexico Border met and discussed a series of environmental matters. The officials established four Key Outcomes/Issues to be discussed at the Border Governors' Conference to be held in Arizona during the month of June. Carmen and Jan led the guide teams that welcomed the Secretaries at the San Francisco and Oakland International Airports, and prepared, both in English and Spanish, the Key Outcomes Document summarizing the four most important Border issues identified at the Retreat.

# North/East/West Industrial Operable Unit Record of Decision, Travis Air Force Base (Alan Friedman)

On April 19, I signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield. The Base covers over 6,000 acres and is responsible for operating cargo aircraft and refueling planes to provide reconnaissance and airlift of freight and troops.

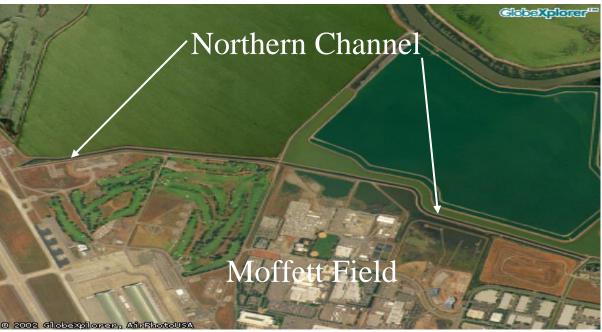
The ROD contains remedial actions for the cleanup of soil, sediment, and surface water for a majority of the contaminated soil and groundwater sites at Travis. As a result of past industrial activities, there have been releases of volatile and semi-volatile compounds, as well as fuels, PCBs, PAHs, dioxins, pesticides and metals. The ROD specifies cleanup plans for contaminated soil at 18 sites and for the sediment and surface water at two additional sites (the main and west branches of Union Creek, which runs through the Base). All but five of these sites also require an action to address groundwater contamination, which is addressed in a groundwater Interim ROD.

Following discussions with the Water Board, DTSC and the US EPA, it was determined that excavation of contaminated soil and sediment, and removal to a designated onsite landfill at Travis was necessary at six sites. While not anticipated, if the excavated soil or sediment exceeds the landfill's acceptance requirements, the Air Force will dispose of the soil at a permitted off-base landfill. For the remaining sites, the Air Force has either recommended land use controls or no further action. The ROD has been subject to considerable discussion among the regulatory agencies, and the public has had an opportunity to comment on the proposed remedial alternatives. Accordingly, I, along with management at DTSC and the USEPA, have signed the ROD. The Air Force plans to start the cleanup activities this summer.

# Cleanup Started on Northern Channel at Former NAS Moffett Field (Adriana Constantinescu)

Cleanup was started along the Northern Channel at the former Naval Air Station Moffett Field in Santa Clara County this March and is anticipated to cost about \$10 million. This action is the result of a seven year long dispute resolution process where staff worked closely with public and private stakeholders, including the Navy, US EPA, City of Sunnyvale, Cargill Salt and Lockheed Martin Corporation.

Historically, the Northern Channel, as identified in the photograph below, received contaminated storm water runoff from Moffett Field and the NASA-Ames Research Center. The Northern Channel sediments have been contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, and heavy metals.



The cleanup consists of removing contaminated sediments through excavation, off-site disposal of sediments and soils, and restoration. The restoration will improve habitat for threatened species such as the western pond turtle and borrowing owl; and improve flood control by enhancing the water flow through the drainage channels.

# **Skaggs Island Site Tour** (Gina Kathuria)

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Department of Defense (DoD) section leader Gina Kathuria attended a site tour of Skaggs Island, a former DoD site in southern Sonoma County. Skaggs Island is adjacent to the Department of Fish and Game's Napa-Sonoma Marsh Area and offers significant opportunities for wetland restoration. The purpose of the site tour was to gather elected officials and agencies involved in the cleanup, land transfer, and restoration of Skaggs Island. Congresswoman Woolsey and aides for Congresswoman Woolsey and Congressman Miller were present. Also present were representatives from the Navy, DTSC, Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bay Institute.

Water Board staff identified land transfer and environmental cleanup as the two main obstacles to the land transfer from the Federal Government to the State Government. The State Department of Finance requires that the acquisition of Skaggs Island must result in zero cost to the State. This is problematic as there are costs associated with acquiring and maintaining this land, such as necessary improvements to levees, and long-term pumping requirements to keep an adjacent pasture dry. Currently, the Navy and Fish and Game are exploring funding options.

The remaining environmental concerns at Skaggs Island are mostly related to lead and asbestos in the on-site buildings formerly used by the Navy. Before Skaggs Island can be restored to wetlands, the buildings must be demolished, and lead and asbestos must be properly disposed. The debate continues over who should pay the cost of building demolition and disposal. Currently Fish and Game staff is getting an estimate on the cost of demolition and disposal. Once the cost is accurately determined, Congresswoman Woolsey may elevate this issue to Navy representatives in Washington D. C.

We have been actively involved in the cleanup of Skaggs Island and anticipated the environmental cleanup concerns related to land transfer. As a result, James Ponton, the current project manager, expedited oversight for the cleanup of petroleum-related contamination. Early this year, the Water Board approved cleanup at all the underground storage tank sites on Skaggs Island.

### In Memoriam: Jane Jacobs (Larry Kolb)

A pioneering thinker on how cities work, Jane Jacobs died on April 25 at age 89. Her classic work from 1961, The Death and Life of Great American Cities, revolutionized urban planning in America. She emphasized the importance of diverse, livable neighborhoods, local businesses, and small-scale amenities, including urban rivers and streams and especially their shorelines. She constantly stressed the connection between humans and the natural environment. Today's New Urbanism (compact development, houses with porches, and walkable mixtures of residential and commercial uses) is a tribute to her vision.

# Green Cities in the Bay Area (Larry Kolb)

The Green Guide, a newsletter for environmental living, has put out a list of green cities. Two California cities made the top ten: Oakland and San Francisco. The other cities were Austin, Chicago, Boulder, Honolulu, Madison, Minneapolis, Portland, and Seattle. The criteria included quality of air and water, efficient use of resources, accessible and reliable public transportation, and green building practices.

# **In-house Training**

Our April training was titled "Meet Another Agency". In it, we heard from four other government agencies about how they check compliance and enforce their directives. Agencies represented were: California Department of Toxics Substances Control, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Alameda County Environmental Health, and the City of San Leandro. Our May training will comprise a site visit to the East Span Bay Bridge retrofit, including associated wetland mitigation projects at Eastshore Park. Brownbag seminars included a May 3 session on data management by our own Revital Katznelson (on how non-profit groups can get their environmental monitoring data into a useful electronic format).

#### **Staff Presentations and Outreach**

Sonoma County Water Town Hall Meetings (Wil Bruhns)

On March 23 and April 13 staff participated in two Town Hall meetings in Sonoma County to discuss water issues, primarily focusing on recent floods. The March meeting was held in the Town of Sonoma and was chaired by Sonoma County Supervisor Valerie Brown. About 120 people attended this meeting. The second meeting was chaired by Supervisor Mike Kerns and held in Petaluma, with about 40 people attending. The purpose of both meetings was to explain to the public the regulatory structure for dealing with water issues in their respective watersheds. After presentations by various agencies, both formal and informal Question & Answer sessions and discussions were held. Wil Bruhns represented the Water Board and discussed how proactively managing water (especially stormwater) to reduce pollutants also helped reduce flooding threats. Other participating agencies included local cities, County Water Agency, County Public Works, Department of Fish and Game, State Office of Emergency Services, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Marine Fisheries Services, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### Green Construction 2006 (Jan O'Hara)

On April 13, Jan O'Hara spoke at "Green Construction 2006" at the San Jose McHenry Convention Center. Her topic, "Green Construction and Water Quality," showed how our built environment can impact water quality and outlined steps for building "greener" to protect our local water bodies. Ed Boscacci of BKF Engineers, a former Board staffer, who has designed stormwater treatment units for development projects across the Bay Area, teamed with Jan to present more details on post-construction stormwater controls.