

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Fred Hetzel)
MEETING DATE: August 8, 2012

ITEM: 5E

SUBJECT: **Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Stream Maintenance Program, Napa County** – Adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification

CHRONOLOGY: The Board has not considered this item before.

DISCUSSION: The Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would issue waste discharge requirements and water quality certification to the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) to implement its Stream Maintenance Program (Program) as specified in the Napa County Stream Maintenance Manual (Manual). The purpose of the Program and the Manual is to ensure that all stream maintenance activities are done in a manner that is protective and beneficial to the environment and that maintenance activities are only conducted when absolutely necessary. The Order would authorize routine maintenance activities including vegetation management, downed tree management, erosion protection/bank stabilization, sediment and debris removal, and other minor maintenance activities within the Napa River watershed and that portion of the Suisun Creek watershed within Napa County, consistent with the Program and the Manual (Appendix B).

In taking this approach to stream maintenance, the District will reduce stream maintenance impacts by prioritizing and limiting the areas within stream channels where sediment and vegetation will be removed, rather than removing sediment and vegetation along entire channel lengths. While the Program's approach is aimed at minimizing impacts, some impacts will be unavoidable. The District will work to minimize these impacts by implementing a vegetation management and planting plan that will reduce the need for overall maintenance at project sites, and through implementing watershed projects that will ultimately reduce sediment loads to flood control channels. Overall, we find that the Program will enhance and protect natural resources and the environment.

A draft tentative order was circulated on May 14. The comment period ended June 25. Staff received one comment from the District (Appendix C). The District requested a change in the submittal date of the Annual Workplan from March 15 to June 1 of each year. We have accepted the District's request and revised the tentative order accordingly, as well as making minor editorial changes. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

APPENDICES:

A: Revised Tentative Order

B. Napa County Stream Maintenance Manual

C. Comment on Tentative Order