

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 8-9, 2004

Prepared on June 7, 2004

ITEM NUMBER: 29

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

Brief discussion of some items of interest to the Board follows. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

Watershed and Cleanup Reports

**REGULATION SUMMARY OF
APRIL/MAY 2004**

[Sandy Cheek 805/542-4633]

Orders

General Order ROWDs Received	3
General Order Requirements Pending	18
Individual Order ROWDs Received	0
Individual Order Requirements Pending	6
Inspections Made	44
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (WB)	278
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (CB)	10
Stormwater Reports Reviewed	0

Enforcement

Non-Compliance Letters Sent:	
NPDES Program	3
Non-Chapter 15 WDR Program	18
Chapter 15 Program	5
Unregulated	2
Stormwater	1
CAOs Issued	1
ACL Complaints	5

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Sandy Cheek 805/542-4633]

In general, staff recommends "Standard Certification" when the applicant proposes adequate mitigation. Measures included in the application must assure that beneficial uses will be protected, and water quality standards will be met.

Conditional Certification is appropriate when a project may adversely impact surface water quality. Conditions allow the project to proceed under an Army Corps permit, while upholding water quality standards.

Staff will recommend "No Action" when no discharge or adverse impacts are expected. Generally, a project must provide beneficial use and habitat enhancement for no action to be taken by the Regional Board. A chart on the following page lists applications received from April 1, 2004 to May 31, 2004.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM APRIL 1, 2004 THROUGH MAY 31, 2004

County	Date Received	Applicant	Project Description	Receiving Water	Project Location	Action Taken
Monterey	4/2/04	Doug Poochigian, Monterey County DPW	Schulte Bridge, replace existing one lane bridge	Carmel River	Carmel River Valley	Pending
San Luis Obispo	4/2/04	Timothy and Chris Weis	Culver Installation Project at 6655 Llano Road	Graves Creek	Atascadero	Complete
Monterey	4/2/04	Karl Wittstrom, King Ranch	Douglas Road, construction of 2 arch culvert crossings	Ranchita Canyon Creek to Estrella River to Salinas River	Southern Monterey County	Complete
Santa Barbara	4/1/04	Robert Keil	Kelp Anchor Test in Goleta Bay	Pacific Ocean	Goleta Bay	Pending
Monterey	4/12/04	James Doty USAR	Earthquake Retrofit of San Jones Bridge	San Antonio River	Fort Hunter Liggett	Pending
Monterey	4/14/04	James Stilwell, Moss Landing Harbor District General Manager	North Harbor Shoreline Protection Project	Pacific Ocean, Elkhorn Slough	Hwy 1, Moss Landing	Pending
San Benito County	4/21/04	Dale Rosskamp, San Benito County DPW	Old Hernandez Road Repair and Box Culvert Replacement	San Benito River	South of San Benito County	Pending
San Luis Obispo County	4/26/04	Doug Filipponi, San Juan Vineyards	Restore eroded banks, address stream energy, vegetate slope	Estrella River to Salinas River	South of Shandon	Pending
San Luis Obispo County	4/26/04	Jack S. Frank, Costco Wholesale Inc.	Realignment of portion of Calle Joaquin to relocate intersection	Unnamed wetland area within Froom Creek drainage	San Luis Obispo	Pending
Santa Clara County	4/28/04	Steve Willpoughby, Pacific Gas and Electric	PG&E Moss Landing Metcalf 230kv reinforcement	Tributary to Bodfish Creek	San Jose, Gilroy	Pending
San Luis Obispo County	4/29/04	Harnish Marshal and JM Wilson, Calle Vista Ranch	Two culverted road crossings, two equestrian path crossings and several pipeline crossings	Unnamed tributary to Laguna Lake	San Luis Obispo	Complete
San Luis Obispo County	4/29/04	Department of Transportation	Santa Margarita Shoulder Widening	Unnamed tributary to Yerba Buena Creek	Santa Margarita, Route 58	Complete
Santa Barbara County	5/6/04	Scott Milam	Dry Creek Driveway Crossing	Cuyama River	New Cuyama	Complete
San Luis Obispo County	5/12/04	City of Paso Robles	Thunderbird Wells 16" water line	Salinas River	Paso Robles	Pending
San Luis Obispo County	5/21/04	Tom Dumont	Pipe replacement from SLO Drive to Questa Pump Station	San Luis Obispo Creek	San Luis Obispo	Complete
Santa Barbara County	5/27/04	Tim Hepburn, Southern California Gas Company	Line 1004, Investigation on "pot holing"	Arroyo Creek	Carpinteria area	Pending

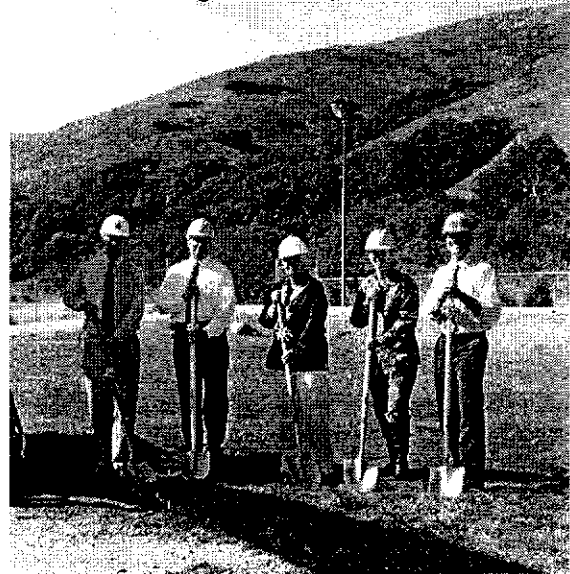
Watershed Reports

Status of California Men's Colony WWTP Upgrade [Matt Thompson 805/549-3159]

After several years of planning and design, construction of California Men's Colony's Sewer Trunk Line Replacement and Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade officially began May 26, 2004. California Men's Colony (CMC) is a State prison located west of San Luis Obispo in the Chorro Creek Watershed. CMC's wastewater treatment plant also serves Camp San Luis Obispo and Cuesta College, and supplies recycled water for irrigation of Dairy Creek Golf Course. CMC's existing trunk sewer line is undersized and frequently overflows. The treatment plant, which discharges directly to Chorro Creek, is reaching the end of its useful life and does not consistently comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit requirements. The project includes replacement of approximately four miles of sewer trunk line, and construction of a new state-of-the-art tertiary treatment plant. The project will improve the quality of Chorro Creek and Morro Bay by decreasing sewage spills and improving treatment performance and reliability. The contractor selected for this project, Ryan Company of San Diego, is required to complete the sewer trunk line within 270 days and the treatment plant within 730 days.

Staff will be meeting with California Department of General Services (Project Manager) and the Ryan Company on June 9, 2004, to ensure construction will be properly managed to avoid impacts to water quality. A State inspector and environmental monitor will be involved to ensure the project is constructed according to specifications. Staff will inspect and monitor the progress of the project and provide status reports periodically.

CMC Sewer Trunk Line and WWTP Upgrade Groundbreaking Ceremony, June 10, 2004



Pictured from left to right: Project Engineer Barry Hampson, CMC Warden John Marshall, County Supervisor Shirley Bianchi, Camp San Luis Obispo Lt. Colonel Commander Kelly Fisher, and RWQCB Staff Engineer Matt Thompson.

Regionwide Reports

Total Maximum Daily Load Program [Lisa Horowitz McCann 805/549-3132]

Staff completed the TMDL project tasks for fiscal year 2003-2004. These projects focused on completion of TMDLs in development and initiation of preliminary studies for new TMDL projects.

The status of TMDLs completed in fiscal year 2003-2004 is as follows:

- TMDLs ready for Regional Board approval in fiscal year 2004-2005:
 - San Luis Obispo Creek Nitrate TMDL
 - San Luis Obispo Creek Pathogens TMDL
 - Los Osos Creek Nutrient TMDL
 - Dairy Creek Dissolved Oxygen TMDL

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- TMDLs completed but suspended from Regional Board approval because monitoring data indicates that implementation activities are leading to attainment of water quality objectives:
 - Los Osos Creek Dissolved Oxygen TMDL
 - Warden Creek Dissolved Oxygen TMDL
- TMDLs completed but delayed for Regional Board approval to coincide with a future permit action in fiscal year 2005-2006 or beyond (for administrative efficiency):
 - Chorro Creek Nutrients TMDL
 - Chumash Creek Dissolved Oxygen TMDL
- TMDLs almost complete that may be ready to recommend for Regional Board approval before the end of fiscal year 2004-2005:
 - Monterey Harbor Lead TMDL
 - Pajaro River Watershed Sediment TMDL
 - Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL

The focus of staff efforts during next fiscal year, 2004-2005 include continuing development of TMDLs for several waterbodies impaired by pathogens in Santa Cruz County, several waterbodies impaired by nutrients and pesticides in the Salinas River Watershed, and Watsonville Sloughs impaired by pesticides, pathogens, and, possibly, sediment (investigations to confirm and characterize sediment impairment are still in progress).

Additionally, the following on-going regionwide activities will proceed:

- Bacteria source analysis investigation in irrigated agricultural areas
- Development of sediment assessment protocols
- Geographic Information Systems and Data Management Support
- Implementation coordination and tracking for approved TMDLs, including Clear Creek-Hernandez Reservoir Mercury, Morro Bay Sediment, Morro Bay

Pathogens, San Lorenzo River Nitrate, and San Lorenzo River Sediment.

Regional Monitoring and Basin Planning [Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

Monitoring - CCAMP staff have reviewed and provided input on two non-competitive proposals to the Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program (COCMP). This program has a large sum of Prop 40 and 50 funds earmarked through the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) (\$14 million) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) (\$7 million) to set up a Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program (COCMP). The Coastal Conservancy is managing the project; the SWRCB has approved an interagency agreement to delegate project selection and management to the SCC. Two consortia have submitted non-competitive proposals, covering southern California (by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System or SCCOOS) and central and northern California (by the Central and Northern Coastal Ocean Observing System or CenCOOS). The SCC stresses that proposals must be well-integrated into the management mandates and needs of end-users, particularly related to water quality concerns. These include stormwater management, nonpoint source pollution management, oil spill response, coastal erosion management, and the Clean Beaches Initiative.

The draft report on sand crab bioaccumulation, conducted through Guadalupe UNOCAL settlement funds by California Department of Fish and Game and U.C. Santa Barbara, has been submitted to staff for review and comment. The report shows sand crabs to be a very useful monitoring tool for a number of chemicals. For example, DDT and PCBs were detected in every single sample collected, even on beaches identified as "pristine". We do not typically see this level of detection in our mussel tissue data. The data highlighted several problem areas. DDT was elevated at the Santa Maria and Guadalupe beach areas compared to all other areas in the Region. This was interesting, as our conventional wisdom related to this chemical has always been that Moss Landing is our major problem area. We will submit this data, along with some relatively recent toxicity and pesticide data, to recommend a new 303(d) listing for the Santa Maria Estuary. A

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gradient in DDT concentrations was also found with distance away from the Santa Maria River mouth. PCBs were most elevated in the Moss Landing area where a 303(d) listing for priority organic chemicals is being evaluated. Both the Guadalupe Beach area and the area from Pismo to Port San Luis were comparatively elevated for PAHs, though the PAH data had relatively high variability. We have sent comments back to the researchers on the report, and we look forward to a final version soon.

The CCAMP team has been reviewing performance of a Tetrattech model which predicts benthic algal biomass as a means of identifying eutrophic waters. Though this is an important part of identifying eutrophic conditions, we do not believe it is a sufficient characterization of this problem. In Region 3, eutrophic waters are often characterized by high levels of water column phytoplankton, as indicated by concentrations of chlorophyll a. The model does not address this condition, and in fact the turbidity caused by high water column phytoplankton can result in low growth of benthic algae. Tetrattech has agreed to work in more detail with our Region to address some of these issues more specifically. We hope to generate technical information out of this interaction that will help us derive numeric nutrient objectives for protection of aquatic life.

Regional Board staff Mary Adams is participating on a Technical Advisory Committee for the Santa Cruz area Comparative Lagoon Ecological Assessment Project. This project is funded through the State Coastal Conservancy and is managed by staff from the City and County of Santa Cruz. CCAMP will be aiding this project's efforts by augmenting our current monitoring to provide additional data in the Waddell Creek Lagoon, comparable to data collected in the other lagoons currently included in the study design. By adding additional benthic invertebrate monitoring and 24-hour dissolved oxygen data to the data we currently collect, Waddell Lagoon will be included in the final comparative report prepared by the contractors.

Basin Planning - Howard Kolb participated in Basin Planning Roundtable meetings on 3/23-24 and 5/18/04, on potential state wide planning issues and support. All regions reviewed current Triennial Review tasks to find common ground for a proposed State Board planning effort. State

Board also requested that regional Basin Planners use the "e-workplan" format in place for tracking progress on TMDLs. A rough draft of this based on the current Triennial Review List was completed 5/18/04. State Board guidance is also now recommending that ALL basin plan amendments have a public scoping meeting in advance of the formal Board meeting. This may result in some delays to some Basin Plan amendments currently scheduled for Regional Board approval towards the end of 2004.

Basin Planning items under way include bacteria objectives, waiver policy, MOU revision, ground water basin revision, and triennial review update. Basin Planning items that should have more attention are revised water quality objectives for salts and nutrient objective development. Items pending state board action include the nonpoint source policy and riparian policy amendment (State Board staff took the state nonpoint source enforcement policy to their Board May 4, 2004. It still awaits approval by the Office of Administrative Law).

Data Management - Document imaging (Fortis) effort continues. All previously scanned Orders, MRP's, and Standard provisions in the "to be processed" file have been moved into folders in the user database; these documents still need to be fully indexed, checked, and moved into the final database. Two staff (Hector Hernandez, Howard Kolb) are using Fortis routinely. Sheila Soderberg (with the help of student Eileen Mick) is beginning to finalize the previously scanned Unocal correspondence documents. New staff scheduled to begin using the system include Carol Kolb and Bill Meece (training occurred May 10, 2004), Matt Thompson, and the Administrative Support group.

Regional Board volunteer staff Dave Paradies provided the CCAMP matrix of collected standards and guideline values to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and State Board staff for use in the 303(d) listing process.

Cleanup Reports

Underground Tanks Summary Report dated June 1, 2004 [Burton Chadwick 805/542-4786]

[See Attachment No. 1]

Administrative Reports

Presentations and Training [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

Senior Engineer, Harvey Packard, attended the Water Board Training Academy class entitled "The Science and Art of Leadership" on May 27, 2004 in Sacramento. The class is one of a series of three leadership classes offered by the academy.

Jennifer Bitting, Kimberly Gonzalez, and Donette Dunaway attended a training on April 28-30, 2004 at UC Davis Extension entitled "Facilitating and Negotiating in a Collaborative Process."

The three day course provided staff with strategies and skills for roles as participant/negotiator and coordinator/facilitator in collaborative stakeholder processes. Staff had many opportunities to apply negotiation and facilitation concepts during simulation exercises, and the instructors addressed questions from course participants regarding specific cases and real challenges.

Instructors included a UC Davis Extension Director, and associates and principals of CONCUR, a company providing services in agreement-focused facilitation, mediation, strategic planning, environmental policy analysis, and mutual gains-negotiation training.

Mr. Lou Blanck, staff Engineering Geologist in the Spills Leaks Investigations and Cleanup Unit, is teaching Geology 205, "Earthquakes", Spring Quarter 2004, at California Polytechnic State University. Geology 205 is a general education seismology class offered through the Physics Department. Mr. Blanck gave a presentation at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Seismological Society of America in Palm Springs. The presentation focused on local observations of December 22, 2003 San Simeon earthquake effects and precursors. Mr. Blanck also wrote a short paper on the San Simeon earthquake that was published in the Association of Engineering Geologists Newsletter and testified before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about implications of the recent earthquake to seismic analysis for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Finally, Mr.

Blanck periodically assists the Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists, with determining appropriate licensing exam questions and assigning the weighted difficulty of those questions. With the exception of this final task, Mr. Blanck does this work outside his normal work hours.

Linda Stone, staff Engineering Geologist in the Department of Defense Unit, attended the internationally recognized Battelle Conference in Monterey, May 24-27, 2004. The conference draws environmental scientists from around the world for a focused week of presentations and discussion.

On April 15 and 20, 2004, staff member Mary Adams trained staff of Central Coast Salmon Enhancement and the Morro Bay Volunteer Monitoring Program on using California Aquatic Bioassessment Protocols to collect benthic macroinvertebrates and to assess habitat quality. She also provided training on identification of several of the most common species.

5/6/04 – Alison Jones met with the Central Coast Vineyard Team to discuss use of the Positive Point System as a farm plan under the proposed conditions of the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Agriculture.

5/18/04 – Alison Jones made a presentation on the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Agriculture to the San Luis Obispo Cattlemen's Association meeting.

5/11/04 – The majority of staff, including volunteers and students, attended mandatory Sexual Harassment Training.

5/18/04 – Alison Jones made a presentation on the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Agriculture to the San Luis Obispo Cattlemen's Association meeting

5/24/04 – Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program data related to water and sediment toxicity was presented at a meeting of growers in the Santa Maria area by Brian Anderson of the Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory. Alison Jones, Karen Worcester, and Corinne Huckaby attended, and provided input to growers on implications of the data. Toxicity was detected at several locations, including in the estuary itself. Diazinon and several pyrethroid pesticides were found to be major contributors to

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toxicity. DDT and dactal were also found at elevated levels.

6/2/04 – Mary Adams gave an in-office training, with Howard Kolb, to Matt Thompson, Doug Gouzie, Katie McNeil, Shanta Keeling, and Roger Briggs, on use of IDEXX Colilert Quantitrays. This technology allows for analysis of *E.coli* and total coliform counts using a technology similar to that used in professional laboratories for Multiple Tube Dilution. This technology is relatively inexpensive and is now a U.S. EPA approved methodology.

6/2/04 – Alison Jones and Karen Worcester attended “Managing and Communicating Scientific Information Effectively” in Riverside. This training was part of a three-part series on facilitated decision-making held by Concur as part of the SWRCB Training Institute.

6/3/04 – Alison Jones and Karen Worcester met with representatives of the Central Coast agricultural industry to discuss details of proposed monitoring associated with the Conditional Waiver

for Irrigated Agriculture. Lori Okun also attended and was very helpful in clarifying several legal issues. We discussed the upcoming agricultural grants program, and how funds might be applied to start up a cooperative monitoring program in fulfillment of waiver requirements.

6/7/04 – Alison Jones assisted State Board staff in organizing an Agricultural Grants workshop, held at the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board offices. This workshop provides preliminary information to aid applicants in preparing grant proposals for the upcoming Request for Proposals process.

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training was presented by Adrian Perez to 72 Regional Board staff on May 11, 2004. This is mandatory training and must be attended by all Regional Board employees, including students, each year.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Underground Tanks Summary Report dated June 1, 2004 [Burton Chadwick 805/542-4786]

S/Shared/Board Meetings/EOrptJuly04/Carol