

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 19-20, 2009

Prepared on February 19, 2009

ITEM NUMBER: 22

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Matt Thompson 805/549-3159]

In general, staff recommends "Standard Certification" when the applicant proposes adequate mitigation. Measures included in the application must ensure 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 pages lists applications received from December 16, 2008 to January 31, 2009.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM DECEMBER 16, 2008 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2009

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage ¹	Certified
Manuel Rivas, Santa Clara County Roads and Airports Department	Center Avenue Bridge Widening	Bridge widening to improve safety.	San Martin	Santa Clara	Church Creek	0.005	Certification Pending
Robert Wargo, AT&T Corp.	Asia America Gateway Fiber Optic Cable Project	Landing of offshore fiber optic cable originating from east Asia.	Los Osos	San Luis Obispo	Pacific Ocean	0.17	Certification Pending
Ray De Wit	Ocean View Plaza Seawater Desalination Facility	Amendment of certification originally issued in 2003, to provide for new seawater intakes design. New sub- seafloor intakes design will prevent impingement and entrainment of marine life.	Monterey	Monterey	Pacific Ocean	0.087	Amendment issued February 18, 2009
Tom Lockhart, Resource Conservation District	Santa Barbara County Permit Coordination Program	Coordinated and streamlined permitting of small restoration projects by agricultural landowners.	Various sites	Santa Barbara	Various	-	Certification Pending
Larry Kelley, Cal Poly	Gilardi Road Bridge Replacement Project	Replacement of damaged bridge over Walters Creek.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Walters Creek, Chorro Creek	0.83	Certification Pending

¹ Total Acreage includes both temporary and permanent impacts to riparian, streambed, and/or wetland environments within federal jurisdiction.

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage ¹	Certified
Steven A. Johnson	517 W. Figueroa Street Subdivision Bioswale	Construction of sidewalk, curb, gutter, storm drain, and bioswale.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Old Mission Creek	0.12	Certification Pending
San Benito Resource Conservation District	Upper Pajaro River Watershed Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination	Coordinated and streamlined permitting of non-point source pollution control and wildlife habitat restoration projects in the Upper Pajaro River Watershed.	Various sites	San Benito	All waterways in upper Pajaro River Watershed	-	Certification Pending

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

Engineering Geologists Donette Dunaway of the Site Cleanup Program and Dr. Wei Liu of the Underground Tank program attended the Groundwater Resources Association of California conference in January 2009.

Engineering Geologist Donette Dunaway of the Site Cleanup Program will attend a one-week Princeton Groundwater Pollution and Hydrology class in San Francisco during March 2009. The course is designed for groundwater cleanup professionals to acquire a working knowledge of the concepts, principles and professional practices underlying groundwater pollution, hydrology and remediation.

Gene Crumley presented a class for about half of the staff on "Difficult Conversations," and then participated in our supervisors meeting, providing great insights on several issues including employee/supervisor communication, and collaborative/consensus processes. Several staff made individual appointments with Gene for one-on-one counseling during his visit to our office. Gene was the director for the UC Davis Executive Program for 10 years. Currently, he is the vice chair of the Business, Management and Enterprise Department at UC Davis Extension and he has been continuing his commitment to coach our regional organization in our transformation into a performance based and learning organization.

Executive Officer Roger Briggs has been working with a small committee appointed by Executive Director Dorothy Rice to draft performance measures for the statewide water board organization. These tools are a part of Board Chair Tam Doduc's direction to transform into a performance based organization. The Management Coordinating Committee (all regions and State Board divisions management) reviewed the committee's draft at its February 25th meeting and agreed to proceed with the next steps in this process. With our recent budget cuts, now is an even more critical time for making priority decisions and changes to match reductions, to be able to track how we are doing with those changes, and how effectively our more targeted efforts are leading to environmental outcomes. This situation emphasizes our need for effective performance measures and objectives, and tracking of our progress.

On February 12, 2009, Monica Barricarte, an Environmental Scientist in the Agriculture/Basin Planning Unit, presented at the 2009 World Ag Expo. The World Ag Expo is held at the International Agri-Center in Tulare, California and showcases the latest in products and services for agriculture with approximately 1600 exhibitors and more than 100,000 attendees. Monica's presentation was invited by the Irrigation Association and focused on the Central Coast Irrigation and Nutrient Management Program. Attended by approximately 50 growers from the Central Coast and Central Valley, Monica's presentation examined the need for increased irrigation efficiency and informed growers of the technical services that will soon be available to growers on the Central Coast to implement practices that reduce/eliminate agricultural tailwater and off-site movement of nutrients.

Budget Status [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

As directed by the Governor, we began the two day per month furloughs in February, with a 9.23% pay cut for all staff. For our organization, this reduced work time results in a reduction of 6.8 personnel years per year, or almost 10 PYs from February through June 2010. We prepared for this reduction by going through each program and prioritizing our work to determine where to focus our staff and where to reduce our PYs, considering all fund sources since the furlough cuts are across the board rather than fund-specific. At the same time, we went through the same process for the

General Fund (about 17% of our region's budget), to be prepared for possible additional cuts in that fund. We will be prepared to discuss the current status of the budget at the March board meeting.

Many of our staff (17 staff or 23% of our staff) received surplus notices, warning that they may be vulnerable to layoffs, if layoffs are necessary. For the State Water Boards, existing vacancies should allow us to weather even additional possible General Fund cuts without having to lay off staff. The Governor indicated that his furlough order was in part designed to avoid layoffs.

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