

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Prepared on January 7, 2009

ITEM NUMBER: 18

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

[Dominic Roques 805/542-4780]

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 November 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2009 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2009

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage¹	Status of Application
Jan Lindenthal -- MP Minto Associates, L.P.	Minto Place Apartments	The construction of 19 apartment buildings for up to 88 housing units and approximately 6.9 acres. Project includes a community garden, a park and a community center.	Watsonville	Santa Cruz	Unnamed intermittent Drainage channel	0.175	To be determined
Arman Nazemi -- San Benito County Department of Public Works	Hospital Road Bridge Low Water Crossing Replacement Project	To replace the existing seasonal low water crossing with a year-round bridge crossing, and to realign the roadway to increase the speed limit on hospital road.	Hollister	San Benito	San Benito River	0.253	To be determined
Karen Bewly -- Caltrans	Prunedale Improvement Project	To improve safety along Route 101 and intersecting local roadways, improve traffic flow along existing Route 101, improve accessibility to area homes, businesses and services.	Prunedale	Monterey	Prunedale Creek	1.75	To be determined
Donald J Funk-- Upper Salinas -- Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US- LTRCD)	SLO PIR	To provide conservation opportunities to interested landowners, mainly agricultural, to do small restoration projects through a coordinated permitting process, thus alleviating the need to obtain permits on a project-by- project basis	Various	San Luis Obispo	any water body in SLO		To be determined

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 Acreage¹	Status of Application
Cecilia Boudreau -- Caltrans	Limekiln State Beach Rock Slope Protection	To protect the north bridge abutment of Limekiln Creek Bridge.	Big Sur	Monterey	Pacific Ocean		To be determined
Anatol Shliapnikov -- Merced Hospitality, Inc.	Westgate Development Project	To develop the approximately 3.5 acre Westgate Development Property with commercial development consistent with the site's zoning ordinances.	Watsonville	Santa Cruz			To be determined

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

On January 6, 2010 Gene Crumley provided a group educational opportunity for staff regarding emotional intelligence. Gene has been the director for the UC Davis Executive Program for the past ten years. He is also the Vice Chair of the Business Management and Enterprise Department at UC Davis Extension.

What is Emotional Intelligence (EQ)? The ability to perceive, understand, regulate, and integrate emotions to facilitate thought and promote personal growth. Why is Emotional Intelligence important? An individual's IQ only tells part of their potential, and is not necessarily a good predictor of success in business and other social scenarios. In most business/professional settings, successful individuals possess a high level of Emotional Intelligence.

EQ embraces two aspects of emotional intelligence: 1) Understanding yourself, your goals, intentions, responses, and behavior, and 2) Understanding others, and their feelings. Developing our Emotional Intelligence in these areas and the five EQ domains, we can become more productive and successful at what we do, and help others to be more productive and successful too. We are not born with Emotional intelligence, as it is a composite of learned behaviors. Because EQ is learned, we can grow and improve our emotional intelligence.

Budget Status

The Governor's proposed budget calls for some reductions in Environmental Protection programs. We do not yet have the changes in allocations from the State Board that will be a result of this reduction, in part because the budget is a proposal at this point, and negotiations with the legislature will be on going for a few months. The Governor has also said he will curtail the current three days of furlough per month and deploy a five percent pay reduction, a 100% increase (from 5% to 10%) in employee contribution to retirement funds (PERS) with commensurate reduction in State contribution to the fund, and will require a 100% increase in salary savings (again from 5% to 10%), to be accomplished through filled position reductions. The state would realize a change from 13.84% reduction in expenditures (or savings) under the current furlough plan to a 15% expenditure reduction. This means our target is to fill only 90% of our budgeted positions. For the statewide water board organization, this 10% salary savings means about 160 vacancies. In our region, we are currently very close to even (-0.1 personnel year vacancy, or 0.1 PY overstaffed) after having previous budget cuts and losing five people this past calendar year.

To achieve 10% salary savings, our region would individually need to have about six vacancies, although we anticipate salary savings will need to be met on a statewide water board basis, rather than region by region. Other regions and divisions of the State Board have higher (and in some cases, much higher) vacancy rates. The total organization has about 100 vacancies and the goal is to achieve additional salary savings through attrition. We recently provided to the Regional Board our prioritization results in response to furlough reductions. We continue to adjust prioritization in a dynamic climate. However, even if we lose 10% of our staff through attrition in the next fiscal year (very unlikely for our region), furlough elimination would reclaim about 14% of our PYs from the current staffing level.

Board Outreach

The Board signed a Watershed Agency outreach letter at the last Board meeting and we have mailed that letter to hundreds of people and agencies. We have received only a handful of responses (all positive with some requesting additional information or opportunities to meet), but we sent the letter over the holidays, which causes somewhat of a delayed reaction. We will have another smaller batch of letters going out to those whose addresses were not immediately available. Our next step is to set up meetings with those who are interested in meeting to discuss local/regional water issues with one or two of our Board members (and staff) to continue our outreach efforts with a goal of leveraging our work and having local efforts more aligned with our common goal of achieving healthy watersheds.

December 2009 Board Meeting

Follow-up on item 15. Aromas Water District, Resolution No. R3-2009-0056, on the December Board meeting agenda - Ms. Cecile DeMartini researched the source of the two-year septic system inspection requirement that the Board discussed and found that the requirement written into Waiver Resolution No. R3-2009-0056 was based on, and consistent with, prior resolutions adopted by the Board. The six most recently adopted resolutions each contained this same two-year septic system inspection requirement. These include:

Resolution No. R3-2008-0049, Adopted September 2008
Resolution No. R3-2008-0064, Adopted September 2008
Resolution No. R3-2008-0061, Adopted December 2008
Resolution No. R3-2008-0060, Adopted December 2008
Resolution No. R3-2009-0007, Adopted February 2009
Resolution No. R3-2009-0057, Adopted August 2009