

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

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY31- AUGUST 1, 2014**  
Prepared on July 7, 2014

**ITEM NUMBER: 22**

**SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board**

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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** [Kim Sanders 805/542-4771]

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from March 27, 2014 – June 6, 2014

**401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received March 27, 2014 – June 6, 2014**

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact <sup>1</sup>	Status
Templeton Properties, LLP - Will Tucker	3/27/14	Creekside Ranch II - TR 2994	To improve channel flood capacity and enhance riparian processes, function, and habitat conditions.	Templeton	San Luis Obispo	Toad Creek	0.28 acre	Denied Without Prejudice
County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works - Todd Sexauer	4/11/14	Graham Hill Road Bridge Storm Damage Repair Project	To repair a wing wall on the Graham Hill Road Bridge at the San Lorenzo River and repair scour damage at a bridge pier.	Felton	Santa Cruz	San Lorenzo River and Channel 1 (tributary to San Lorenzo River)	0.057 acre	Assigned to Staff
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association - Irma Lagomarsino	4/14/14	Scott Creek Coho Salmon Drought Contingency Plan	To facilitate the adult migration of coho salmon into Scott Creek and smolt coho salmon out to the ocean during periods of drought.	Davenport	Santa Cruz	Scott Creek	0.193 acre	Assigned to Staff
County of San Luis Obispo Dept. of Public Works - Dave Flynn	4/18/14	Branch Mill Road Bridge Replacement Project	To improve public safety by replacing the structurally deficient bridge, providing standard roadway widths, and adjusting the roadway alignment.	Arroyo Grande	San Luis Obispo	Tar Spring Creek	0.923 acre	Assigned to Staff
Stacy and Witbeck, Inc. - Kurt Kniffin	4/30/14	MP 9.09 La Selva Beach Bridge Repair Project	To replace existing bridge with new bridge for necessary safety repairs.	La Selva Beach	Santa Cruz	Unnamed tributary to Monterey Bay and Pacific Ocean	0.034 acre	Withdrawn

Stacy and Witbeck, Inc. - Kurt Kniffin	5/6/14	MP 4.87 - Harkins Slough Bridge Repair Project	To make necessary safety repairs to the MP 4.87 Harkins Slough Bridge.	Harkins Slough	Santa Cruz	Unnamed tributaries to Harkins Slough	0.0005 acre	Assigned to Staff
The Bay Foundation of Morro Bay - Jen Nix	5/6/14	Morro Bay Watershed Road Erosion Prevention Project	To improve water quality and aquatic habitat in Morro Bay and its surrounding watershed.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Various Creeks and their tributaries that drain to Morro Bay Estuary	up to 10,000 linear feet	Assigned to Staff
Monterey County Water Resources Agency - Elizabeth Krafft	5/8/14	Salinas River Multi-Benefit Demonstration Project	To establish a flood risk reduction approach for a portion of the Salinas River.	Salinas River	Monterey	Salinas River	138.2 acres	Assigned to Staff
Laguna County Sanitation District - Martin Wilder	5/12/14	Laguna County Sanitation District (LCSD) Recycled Waterline Phase 3	To deliver recycled water to end users.	Orcutt	Santa Barbara	Pine Canyon Creek	0.038 acre	Assigned to Staff
Santa Maria Energy LLC - Laurie Tamura	5/12/14	Careaga Oil and Gas Lease Stream Crossing Improvement	To widen two stream crossings to allow two vehicles to cross concurrently, and replace the existing culvert to prevent blockages.	South of Orcutt	Santa Barbara	Unnamed tributary to Harris Canyon Creek	0.07 acre	Incomplete Application
County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works - Matt Johnson	5/19/14	North Rodeo Gulch 4.75 Stream Bank Stabilization	To restore North Rodeo Gulch Road to two lanes and stabilize the adjacent stream bank.	Soquel	Santa Cruz	Rodeo Gulch Creek	0.064 acre	Assigned to Staff
Tom Foran	6/3/14	9280 Huer Huero Road, Creston	To remove an illegally placed dam and restore the site to its original state.	Creston	San Luis Obispo	Not Specified	0 acre	Incomplete Application
Karl Treiberg	6/4/14	Protective Sand Berm at Leadbetter Beach	To lessen damage to the commercial area of the Harbor caused by winter storms.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Pacific Ocean	950 linear feet	Incomplete Application
City of Santa Maria - Steven Kahn	6/5/14	Santa Maria Los Flores Ranch IWMF	To develop a modern Class III integrated waste management facility in a manner that protects public health and safety.	Santa Maria	Santa Barbara	Canyon Creek, Bradley Canyon Creek, Orcutt Creek, Canada de Las Flores	2.99 acre	Under Staff Review

<sup>[1]</sup> Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

**401 Water Quality Certifications Issued March 27, 2014 – June 6, 2014**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Date Certified</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Project Purpose</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Receiving Water</b>	<b>Includes LID Retention Feature<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Total Impact<sup>1</sup></b>
San Benito Public Works Department - Arman Nazemi	4/4/14	Union Road Bridge Replacement Project Near Hollister, San Benito County, CA (Existing Bridge No. 43C-0002)	Reconstruct the deficient Union Road Bridge to maintain a safe regional route and to correct the substandard design features of Union Road and the Union Road Bridge within the Project limits.	Hollister	San Benito River	Y	4.51 acres

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Caltrans	4/4/14	Salinas River Bridge Widening Project	To widen the Salinas River Bridge, upgrade the pier and abutment footings, reinforce the pier columns, construct a stabilized construction roadway from the nearest highway to the bridge abutments, and conduct ancillary improvements including improving inadequate hydraulic systems and adding approach and departure slabs.	Salinas	Salinas River	N	4.25 acres
Santa Clara Valley Water District - Liang Lee	4/15/14	Stream Maintenance Program 2012-2022	Maintain the design flow or appropriate conveyance capacity and the structural and functional integrity of District facilities.	Varies	Varies	N/A	Varies
City of San Luis Obispo - Peggy Mandeville	4/28/14	Los Osos Valley Road/US-101 Interchange Improvement Project	Widening overcrossing at Los Osos Valley Road and adjacent bridge crossing at San Luis Obispo Creek and lengthening of the creek culvert crossing on the south side.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo Creek, Prefumo Creek	Y	1.43 acres
Southern California Gas Co. - Melissa Skyer	5/15/14	SL36-1008 Pipeline Relocation Project	Ensure long-term compliance with state and federal pipeline safety regulations and minimize the need for future maintenance within two jurisdictional stream channels.	Creston	Unnamed Tributary to Huerhuero Creek, Huerhuero Creek, and Salinas River	N/A	0.022 acre
Pacific Gas and Electric Company - Nick Starkey	5/16/14	L181B Fault Betterment Project	To reinforce stability and reliability of the gas transmission line across an existing geological fault.	Aromas	unnamed tributary to Anzar Lake	N/A	0.0103 acre
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District - Josephine Axt	5/16/14	Morro Bay Six-Year Federal Maintenance Dredging Program	To conduct operational maintenance dredging of a federal channel to its authorized design depth.	Morro Bay	Pacific Ocean	N/A	varies
Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board - Timothy H. Robinson	5/16/14	Emergency Pumping System Project at Lake Cachuma	To maintain the life-line delivery system of potable water to the residents and businesses of Santa Barbara.	Lake Cachuma	Lake Cachuma, Santa Ynez River	N/A	0.35 acre
Caltrans - Larry Bonner	5/30/14	Highway 246 Passing Lanes Project	To improve mainline operations and safety by providing safer passing opportunities, increased sight distance, and reducing potential turn conflicts along Highway 246.	East of Lompoc/ West of Buellton	Two un-named tributaries to Santa Ynez River	Y	0.37 acre
County of Santa Cruz - Department of Public Works	6/6/14	Nelson Road Realignment	To avoid a major slide that has blocked the road and remove the temporary bypass that crosses Ruins Creek.	Near Scotts Valley	Ruins Creek	N/A	0.0156 acre

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	Receiving Water	Includes LID Retention Feature <sup>2</sup>	Total Impact <sup>1</sup>
Santa Clara County Roads & Airports Department - Gamini Rajapakse	6/6/14	Uvas Creek Bridge at Croy Road Scour Mitigation Maintenance	To maintain structural viability of the Uvas Creek Bridge in the short-term until federal funds are acquired to replace the bridge in the long-term.	West of Morgan Hill	Uvas Creek	N/A	0.0025 acre

<sup>[1]</sup> Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

<sup>[2]</sup> Low Impact Development (LID) Retention Features are stormwater management structures designed to retain stormwater on-site, such as bioretention cells, infiltration trenches, etc.

**Groundwater Protection Section Case Closures** [John Robertson 805/542-4630]

Table 3 lists the closure performance for the Underground Tank and Site Cleanup Programs from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014. Table 4 lists the individual sites closed since the start of the fiscal year.

**General Order and Waiver Enrollments** [Harvey Packard 805/542-4639]

Table 5 lists the enrollments under various state-wide and Central Coast Water Board general orders and waivers. The table also includes enrollment dates and the staff contacts for each enrollee.

**Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Update** [Angela Schroeter 805/542-4644]

State Board Order WQ-2013-0101 identified specific items for which interested persons may seek discretionary review by the Central Coast Water Board related to implementation of the Central Coast Agricultural Order (Order No. R3-2012-0011). These items include the following:

1. Executive Officer's Determination to Approve or Deny Tier Changes
2. Executive Officer's Determination to Require a Transfer to a Higher Tier
3. Executive Officer's Approval or Denial of a Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring Program
4. Executive Officer's Approval or Denial of A Third Party Project or Program

A list of items on which the Executive Officer has acted since September 24, 2013, has been posted on the Water Board's website

([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/ag\\_waivers/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml)).

At this link there are two tables that identify actions by the Executive Officer to approve an individual farm/ranch transfer to a lower tier and to require an individual farm/ranch to transfer to a higher tier. These tables include links to the determination letters that were issued by the Executive Officer. Interested parties will be allowed 30 days from the date of the document identifying the action to seek discretionary review by the Central Coast Water Board. The tables are also included as attachments to this staff report (Attachment 4).

**Pilot Testing of UCLA's Remotely Managed Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment System for Remote Communities Impacted by Nitrate** [Diane Kukol 805/542-4637, John Robertson 805/542-4630]

As Central Coast Water Board staff continues to collect and evaluate groundwater data for the basins throughout our entire region, we have become aware of hundreds of small communities on the fringes of larger populated areas that do not have access to safe drinking water from their small water systems. Groundwater quality in many of these communities is not safe for drinking due to one or more pollutants, and nitrate is the most common cause for this. Due to limited financial and technical management capability and/or the small size of these water systems, these communities often do not meet qualifying criteria to apply for replacement drinking water funding. Staff from UCLA's Institute on the Environment and Sustainability, as well as the Water Technology Research Center, Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science (UCLA) obtained Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) funding in July 2013 for conducting two- to three-year pilot tests of "Smart Water [Treatment] Systems" to address nitrate contamination in remote (often disadvantaged) communities. The advantage of using the Smart Water System is that UCLA personnel can manage the treatment system operation and adjustment from a remote location, minimizing the need for onsite monitoring and supervision and thereby reducing system operation and maintenance costs. UCLA staff is currently involved in the first of two phases of their project: selection of two to three communities in either the Central Valley (Region 5) or the Salinas Valley (within our Region) at which UCLA will test management and maintenance of all the pilot test locations' Smart Water Systems from a single, centralized "offsite" location. The Smart Water Systems will employ reverse osmosis (RO, a proven treatment technology, certified by the State Water Board's Drinking Water Program) to remove nitrate from the communities' drinking water, thereby providing an alternate source of safe drinking water for the duration of the pilot test.

Central Coast Water Board staff (John Robertson and Diane Kukol) has participated in meetings with staff from UCLA and State Water Board CAA to develop preliminary criteria and evaluate sites within our region. Based on Water Board staff's knowledge of the approximate extent of nitrate in Salinas Valley groundwater, on June 19, 2014, John Robertson and Diane Kukol met with UCLA project staff, as well as staff from Monterey County Environmental Health, California Department of Public Health Drinking Water Program (now part of the State Water Board), and California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) to visit communities in the Salinas Valley that could be viable candidates for piloting this treatment operation and management technology. CRLA guided the group to five rural communities from Watsonville to Soledad, three of which satisfy the definition of Disadvantaged Communities (i.e. median household income (MHI) less than or equal to 80% of the statewide annual MHI). The communities are populated with approximately 10 to 65 residents receiving drinking water from individual wells through 10 to 30 connections. Nitrate impact at these water systems ranges from slight exceedences of the maximum contaminant level (MCL; 45 milligrams per liter as  $\text{NO}_3$ ) to nearly six times the MCL. All the communities we visited are aware that their well water is unsafe to drink; however, only one of the communities is currently treating its water; using ion exchange (IX) technology to treat the drinking water at the well head. Due to the high nitrate concentration at this location, however, the IX system cannot adequately reduce the nitrate to the MCL. All the communities are currently drinking bottled water (one is receiving bottled water via Proposition 84 funding, and in the others residents are purchasing their own bottled water). All the communities have septic systems for wastewater management, and all are adjacent to agricultural operations. At this time, it is unclear if at the conclusion of the pilot test the treatment systems will be left in place. Water Board staff has been discussing with UCLA disposal and management strategies for RO brine residuals.

UCLA staff visited potential pilot test sites in the Central Valley after the Salinas Valley tour. Based on the site visits, UCLA staff will determine where it will conduct follow up analyses to determine the final selections for remotely-managed Smart Water System pilot test sites. Central Coast Water Board staff expects this decision by late summer 2014.

**Grants Program** [Katie McNeill 805/549-3336]

On May 16, 2014, the State Water Resources Control Board announced the final list of projects awarded grant funding under round 2 of the Storm Water Grant Program (SWGP). The projects implement Low Impact Development (LID) strategies and practices that seek to maintain predevelopment hydrology. State Board staff administers the SWGP program and will manage all of the projects. Central Coast Water Board grant and stormwater program staff assisted with project solicitation in the region, provided guidance to municipalities, and reviewed proposals. The Low Impact Development Initiative (LIDI) assisted several municipalities with the development of concept and full proposals. Five projects exceeding a total of \$7 million in grant funds were approved in the Central Coast region. The projects recommended for round 2 funding on the Central Coast are included in the following table.

Stormwater and LIDI staff have promoted LID on the Central Coast as an effective approach for complying with post-construction stormwater management requirements and minimizing the adverse effects of urbanization on watershed processes and beneficial uses. These grant-funded LID projects will demonstrate LID techniques that achieve significant reductions in pollutant loading and runoff volumes, while also greatly enhancing groundwater recharge on the Central Coast.

Overall, Proposition 84 provided the State Water Board \$90 million to issue matching grants to local public agencies for the reduction and prevention of stormwater contamination of rivers, lakes, and streams. After bond and program administration costs, approximately \$82 million was made available for projects. Approximately \$48.7 million was awarded through the SWGP in October 2012 during the first solicitation; five planning and implementation projects totaling \$5.6 million were awarded in the Central Coast Region at that time and are currently underway. The remaining balance of approximately \$33.6 million was made available for implementation projects during the second solicitation in October 2013.

For more information on the SWGP, visit the following website:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/prop84/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/prop84/index.shtml)

Project Title/Applicant	Project Description	Grant Request (\$)
City of Gonzales Old Town GOT LID? Project	Stormwater runoff from the Old Town area of Gonzales is discharged without treatment to the Lower Salinas River, which has more 303(d) pollutant impairment listings than any other waterbody in the Central Coast. The GOT LID? project will construct 18 small-scale bioretention BMPs along the residential streets in Old Town. With an estimated annual treatment/infiltration volume of 2.9 million gallons, the project will reduce pollutant discharges, including those related to TMDLs and 303(d) listings, in a manner that mimics predevelopment hydrology and reduces damaging and erosive flows to the river.	460,180
City of Santa Maria Blosser Bioretention Project	The Blosser Bioretention Project will treat and infiltrate runoff from 1165 acres of streets, rooftops, driveways, and other urban impervious surfaces, which are currently discharged untreated to the Santa Maria River. The project conceptual design is estimated to capture 98% of the runoff generated by the 85th percentile design storm. The project will produce an estimated 350 ac-ft/year of groundwater recharge.	1,954,150

<p>City of Paso Robles 12th Street Green Street Project</p>	<p>The project is located between Fresno and Spring Streets and terminates at City Park. It will reconstruct four blocks of residential and commercial streets with LID elements. The project will decrease runoff volume, and provide retention and treatment for approximately 500 acres. This will be achieved through the reduction of asphalt coverage and construction of LID BMPs, including underground infiltration features, bioretention areas, bioswales, landscaped areas, tree box biofilters, and underground storm drain piping. The primary Project benefit is reduction in the volume, intensity, and pollutant load of stormwater discharges to the Salinas River.</p>	<p>1,150,000</p>
<p>City of Santa Barbara Laguna Lot Infiltration Paver Project</p>	<p>The project will remove impermeable asphalt surfaces at two parking lots and replace them with permeable interlocking concrete pavers in order to restore natural hydrologic conditions and treat stormwater runoff, thereby improving and protecting water quality in adjacent creeks. This green infrastructure project will demonstrate to the region how LID infiltration projects can be constructed at low cost with minimal maintenance and maximum environmental benefit.</p>	<p>1,151,630</p>
<p>City of Santa Barbara LID - Streets, Sidewalks, and Alleys Project</p>	<p>The project will remove impermeable asphalt and concrete surfaces at three sites and replace them with permeable interlocking concrete pavers to restore natural hydrologic conditions and treat storm water runoff which will protect and improve water quality in nearby creeks. Permeable pavers will be installed on City streets, sidewalks, and alleys as LID non-point source pollution control that will capture storm water and urban runoff onsite, and treat it through passive infiltration. Project sites were chosen for their suitable soils, depth to groundwater, lack of contamination, and high public visibility.</p>	<p>2,307,010</p>

**Presentations, Training and Significant Staff Meetings**

On March 17, 2014, Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) Environmental Restoration Program and VAFB Compliance Restoration Program were awarded the 2013 General Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award for Individual/Team and Program Excellence. This award recognizes the exemplary performance of individuals or teams supporting an installation or Air Force Environmental Quality Program effort. Our Department of Defense staff (Carol Kolb, Donette Dunaway, Don Eley, and Sheila Soderberg) were acknowledged as critical team members who worked hard to streamline VAFB site remediation and closures. Their efforts supported VAFB's selection for the two 2013 General Thomas D. White Environmental Awards.

**Attachments**

1. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
2. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
3. Table 5 - General Waiver/General Order Enrollment Table
4. Ag Order EO Discretionary Review Determinations