

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF December 7-8, 2017
Prepared on November 16, 2017

ITEM NUMBER: 18

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

STAFF CONTACT: John Robertson 805/549-3140 or John.Robertson@waterboards.ca.gov

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

[Phil Hammer 805/549-3882]

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from August 10, 2017- October 19, 2017.

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received August 10, 2017- October 19, 2017.

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact ¹	Status
Santa Barbara County Flood Control District- Seth Shank	8/11/2017	Goleta Slough and Lower Atascadero Creek Long Term Maintenance	To conduct desilting and vegetation removal operations for flood control purposes.	Goleta	Santa Barbara	Various creeks and the Pacific Ocean	17.22 acres/ 19,588 linear feet	Under staff review
City of Monterey- Jeff Krebs	8/24/2017	City of Monterey Wyndemere Log Drop	To repair existing, damaged log drops that were originally constructed in 1998.	Monterey	Monterey	Monterey Bay	0.05 acres/ 440 linear feet	Incomplete application
California Dept. of Parks and Recreation- Kevin Pearce	8/28/2017	Oso Flaco Lake Culvert Replacement	To stabilize and upgrade the Oso Flaco Lake causeway to accommodate future large storm events.	Oceano	San Luis Obispo	Oso Flaco Lake	0.015 acres	Under staff review
City of Goleta Public Works- Rosemarie Gaglione	9/6/2017	San Jose Creek Emergency Stabilization	To conduct emergency channel stabilization before the coming rainy season to avoid additional damage to the channel, channel walls, and fish passage weirs.	Goleta	Santa Barbara	San Jose Creek	0.13 acres/ 112 linear feet	Cert. issued
Meritage Homes- Jess Salmon	9/14/2017	Heartland West	To construct a 95 lot single family detached-unit residential subdivision with associated open space and public/private streets.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	Uvas Creek	0.06 acres/ 860 linear feet	Under staff review
PG&E- Tony Gigliotti	9/27/2017	PG&E's Pipelines L-301A, L-301G, and L-301H Operations and Maintenance	To conduct continued long-term operations and maintenance and minor new construction to natural gas pipelines to meet Federal pipeline safety standards.	San Juan Valley Area	San Benito/ Monterey	Elkhorn Slough, San Benito River, San Juan Canyon Watershed	0.243 acres/ 122 linear feet	Under staff review

Caltrans-Karen Holmes	10/2/2017	Pasatiempo Shoulder Widening	To improve sight distance in the southbound lanes on State Route 17 by widening the shoulder.	Un-incorporated	Santa Cruz	Unnamed Ephemeral Drainage	0.043 acres/ 58 linear feet	Under staff review
Old Creek Road Group, LLC- David Berkson	10/3/2017	Mountain Oak Road	To install culverts and energy dissipater pads to convey water under a road and provide access to home sites.	Cayucos	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributaries to Cienega Creek and Cottontail Creek	0.04 acres/ 296 linear feet	Incomplete application

[1] Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

401 Water Quality Certifications Issued August 10, 2017- October 19, 2017.

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Includes LID Retention Feature²	Total Impact¹
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District-Thomas Christensen	8/11/2017	Carmel River Maintenance and Restoration	To maintain, repair, and restore the streambanks, aquatic habitat, and terrestrial habitat along 18.6 miles of the Carmel River.	Carmel Valley	Monterey	Carmel River	N/A	Varies year to year
City of Carpinteria-Charlie Ebeling	8/18/2017	Carpinteria Ave. Bridge Repair	To replace a structurally deficient bridge with a similar structure at the same location.	Carpinteria	Santa Barbara	Carpinteria Creek	Yes	1.2 acres
Hanson Aggregates-Terry A. Marshall	8/25/2017	Santa Margarita Quarry Expansion Project	To maintain a source of construction aggregates.	Santa Margarita	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed Ephemeral Drainage Tributary to Salinas River	N/A	0.39 acres/ 2573 linear feet
Caltrans-Michaela Robbins	8/28/2017	Bank Stabilization and Headwall Repair	To repair and stabilize the failed outlet wing wall and the eroded embankment.	Prunedale	Monterey	Unnamed Tributary	N/A	0.035 acres/ 50 linear feet
County of Santa Cruz Dept. of Public Works-Tim Bailey	8/31/2017	Bear Creek Storm Damage Repair	To repair the road and embankment and replace the culvert in the previous location.	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	Bear Creek	N/A	0.184 acres/ 115 linear feet
California State Lands Commission-Eric Gillies	9/14/2017	Becker Legacy Wells Abandonment and Remediation	To abandon and seal the Becker Well to current Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources standards to alleviate oil leaking into the environment.	Summerland	Santa Barbara	Pacific Ocean	N/A	<0.02 acres/ 100 linear feet
Rob Arciero-Fallingstar Homes, Inc.	9/22/2017	Tract 2451 Outfall	To install a stormwater outfall, vegetated swale, access road, and bank protection to prevent erosion and accommodate stormwater runoff.	Shandon	San Luis Obispo	Cholame Creek	Yes	0.036 acres/ 25 linear feet
Caltrans-Larry Bonner	9/26/2017	Santa Fe Undercrossing Bank Stabilization	To repair and stabilize the eroded streambank and prevent additional erosion/damage to the box culvert and highway embankment.	Unincorporated	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed Tributary to San Luis Creek	N/A	0.009 acres
City of Goleta Public Works-Rosemarie Gaglione	9/26/2017	San Jose Creek Emergency Stabilization	To conduct emergency channel stabilization before the coming rainy season to avoid additional damage to the channel, channel walls, and fish passage weirs.	Goleta	Santa Barbara	San Jose Creek	N/A	0.13 acres/ 112 linear feet

Cal Poly State University, Center for Coastal Marine Sciences-Thomas Moylan	9/28/2017	Cal Poly Marine Science Reconstructed Boat Landing	To renovate a small vessel landing area to provide safe mooring and loading of vessels to and from the Cal Poly Center for Coastal Marine Sciences Pier Facility.	Avila Beach	San Luis Obispo	Pacific Ocean-San Luis Bay	N/A	0.00014 acres/ 25 linear feet
County of Santa Cruz Dept. of Public Works-Tim Bailey	10/5/2017	Valencia Road at Trout Gulch	To repair damages to Valencia Road caused by storm flooding and to replace a corrugated metal pipe that collapsed.	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	Trout Gulch Creek	N/A	0.025 acres/ 190 linear feet
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County- Chris Coburn	10/13/2017	Watsonville Airport Groundwater Recharge Project	To address water management concerns by the Airport and groundwater overdraft in the valley by constructing a groundwater recharge system to collect and infiltrate peak storm flow, reducing localized and downstream flooding hazards and improving groundwater supply.	Watsonville	Santa Cruz	Swale adjacent to Struve Slough within the Pajaro River Watershed	Yes	0.0001 acres/ 6 linear feet
City of Lompoc-Craig Dierling	10/17/2017	Santa Ynez River Bank Stabilization Project	To stabilize a reach of the Santa Ynez River's bank, which has been severely eroded by river flows.	Lompoc	Santa Barbara	Santa Ynez River	N/A	1.74 acres/ 1,100 linear feet

[1] Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

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

UPDATE ON BUCKLEY ROAD TRICHLOROETHYLENE GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION
[Dean Thomas (805) 549-3690]

Background: Trichloroethylene (TCE) is present in several private and industrial water supply wells. Currently, 12 of 67 wells tested have concentrations above the drinking water standard (maximum contaminant level or MCL) near Buckley Road, adjacent to the San Luis Obispo County airport. Based on the TCE concentrations and distribution in wells, the primary focus area with TCE concentrations near or above the drinking water standard includes the area surrounded by: Thread Lane (also known as Noll Road), Davenport Creek Road, Evans Road, Angie Lou Lane, Mello Lane, Edna Road, Three Sisters Road, and Airport Drive. A map and other information are available on the Buckley Road Area TCE Investigation webpage at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/hot_topics/tce_pce_info/tce_pce_inde

Communication and Outreach: Central Coast Water Board staff held a public meeting at the Water Board office on November 1 to provide updates to the Buckley Road community and other interested stakeholders. The meeting included staff presentations on recent source investigation and groundwater sampling efforts, as well as a lengthy question and answer session for the public. Water Board staff also discussed next steps in the project. Approximately 40 stakeholders participated in the meeting, as well as staff from San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health and the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water. As a resident of the Edna groundwater basin, Chairman Wolff also attended the meeting and provided brief opening remarks.

Staff will continue to update the public and the Board as more detailed information becomes available on both the source area investigation and changing well water quality conditions. Staff will also continue outreach to residents and businesses in the Buckley Road area and update

our website as information becomes available, and those on our email server list will be notified when those website updates occur.

Well Sampling: In 2017, Water Board staff conducted additional sampling of 13 select private and industrial supply wells in the Buckley Road area to assess current TCE concentrations in groundwater and to see if the 2016/2017 rains caused changes in the groundwater TCE distribution. TCE concentrations decreased in most wells compared with historical results, suggesting the rains diluted groundwater concentrations or the source of the TCE may be slowly degrading. Currently, the highest concentration of TCE detected in groundwater is 53 micrograms per liter in the industrial well located at 795 Buckley Road, which is almost ten times greater than the MCL of five micrograms per liter. The highest concentration of TCE in a private well is 31 micrograms per liter. Note that 13 wells were sampled as part of this effort, as staff did not receive responses from some well owners contacted in the Buckley Road area.

Plume and Source Characterization Effort: Water Board staff awaits completion of contracting efforts at the State Water Board prior to our conducting TCE source identification work through an SB445 grant. This work is different from the Thread Lane property owner work discussed below, and would be conducted by a private contractor under the supervision of Central Coast Water Board staff. The State Water Board is working through the contracting process, including selection of a contractor to implement various state-wide projects of which our approved workplan is one. The workplan includes approximately \$300,000 in investigatory work, and includes installation of monitoring wells and collection of soil gas and grab groundwater samples in and around Thread Lane. Recent communication with State Water Board staff indicates that the contracting process is nearing completion and we anticipate that the work will begin in the first of half of 2018.

Source Identification: In 2016, Central Coast Water Board staff required San Luis Obispo County to conduct environmental investigations at their regional airport property to determine if the airport was the source of the TCE in groundwater. The County completed their fieldwork investigation in early September 2016. The results of the County's extensive investigations provided no evidence to support a source of TCE present on the airport property resulting in the groundwater pollution observed in the Buckley Road area. Based on this, Water Board staff determined that the source of TCE was likely near Thread Lane. Water Board staff required three Thread Lane business property owners to perform environmental investigations and submit reports summarizing the results of the investigations by May 5, 2017. Two of the three property owners submitted results of their investigations. The two investigations did not show evidence that a source of TCE was present beneath their properties for the areas they tested. The third property owner has claimed financial hardship and applied for a grant under the Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP) to perform the necessary scope of work. Both Central Coast and State Water Board staff support the funding application and are working together to ensure that the funded scope of work will address data gaps in the Thread Lane area.

Central Coast Water Board staff will continue to provide updates to the Board on this project via the EO report.

STATUS OF CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 303(d) LIST APPROVAL AND SUCCESS STORIES

[Mary S. Hamilton, 805-542-4768, Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov]

The following is a brief update on the status of California's 2014-2016 federal Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of impaired waterbodies (303(d) List). In addition, Central Coast Water

Board staff provides the rationale for the removal of waterbody and pollutant combinations from previous 303(d) Lists (de-listings).

Status of the 303(d) List Approval: On October 3, 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board approved the 303(d) List, without any changes to the Central Coast Water Board's 303(d) List (approved by the Central Coast Water Board on December 9, 2016). This is the second step in adoption of the new 303(d) List. Next, USEPA must review and approve the 303(d) List. Once approved, this list will replace the 2012 303(d) List.

De-listing Rationale: At the Central Coast Water Board hearing on December 9, 2016, Board members requested additional information on the rationale for the removal of waterbody and pollutant combinations from the 303(d) List. The Board asked staff to highlight de-listings where Water Board program implementation resulted in water quality improvement. The following summarizes the rationale for all 83 de-listings and highlights de-listings linked to Water Board program implementation:

Water Quality Standards Attained (20 de-listings): These waterbody segment and pollutant combinations attained Water Quality Standards, in accordance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's 303(d) List (Listing Policy) based on the data included in this 303(d) List assessment cycle. For four of these de-listings, staff was able to identify a clear link between Central Coast Water Board program implementation and improved water quality conditions.

- Clear Creek and Mercury – The U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management implemented clean up actions pursuant to the Clear Creek mercury total maximum daily load (TMDL) that resulted in improved mercury levels in the creek.
- Main Street Canal and pH – Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) staff, stormwater program staff, and the City of Santa Maria coordinated to identify and eliminate an illicit discharge from a fertilizer supply facility. This action resulted in improved water quality conditions.
- San Antonio Creek and Ammonia – Agricultural operations implemented practices pursuant to the Agricultural Order and the chlorpyrifos TMDL that resulted in reduced runoff into the creek and improved creek water quality conditions.
- San Antonio Creek and Nitrite – Agricultural operations implemented practices pursuant to the Agricultural Order and the chlorpyrifos TMDL that resulted in reduced runoff into the creek and improved creek water quality conditions.

Previously De-Listed (10 de-listings): These previously delisted waterbody segment and pollutant combinations (in 2009 or earlier) remain de-listed. For one de-listing, improved water quality conditions resulted directly from Central Coast Water Board program implementation. For Chorro Creek and Dissolved Oxygen, a permit-required upgrade of technology for nitrogen treatment at the California Men's Colony Wastewater Treatment Facility resulted in achievement of TMDL targets.

Administrative Change - Pollutant Name (15 de-listings): These de-listings were administrative, and not based on water quality condition. Staff replaced categorical pollutant names (i.e. metals, pesticides, pathogens, etc.) with individual pollutants. For example, staff de-listed Moss Landing Harbor for "metals" but replaced that listing with multiple specific metals listings. Moss Landing is now on the 303(d) List for arsenic and nickel.

Administrative Change - Mapping Segments (25 de-listings): These de-listings were administrative, and not based on water quality condition. Revisions to the mapped extent of a

waterbody segment (i.e. one segment split into two segments) resulted in de-listing all pollutants associated with the old mapped waterbody segment and all data and information being transferred to the newly mapped waterbody segment(s).

Correct Errors (13 de-listings): These de-listings were to correct errors, and not based on water quality condition. Staff revised listings to correct flaws in the previous assessment methodology, and to be consistent with statewide assessment procedures.

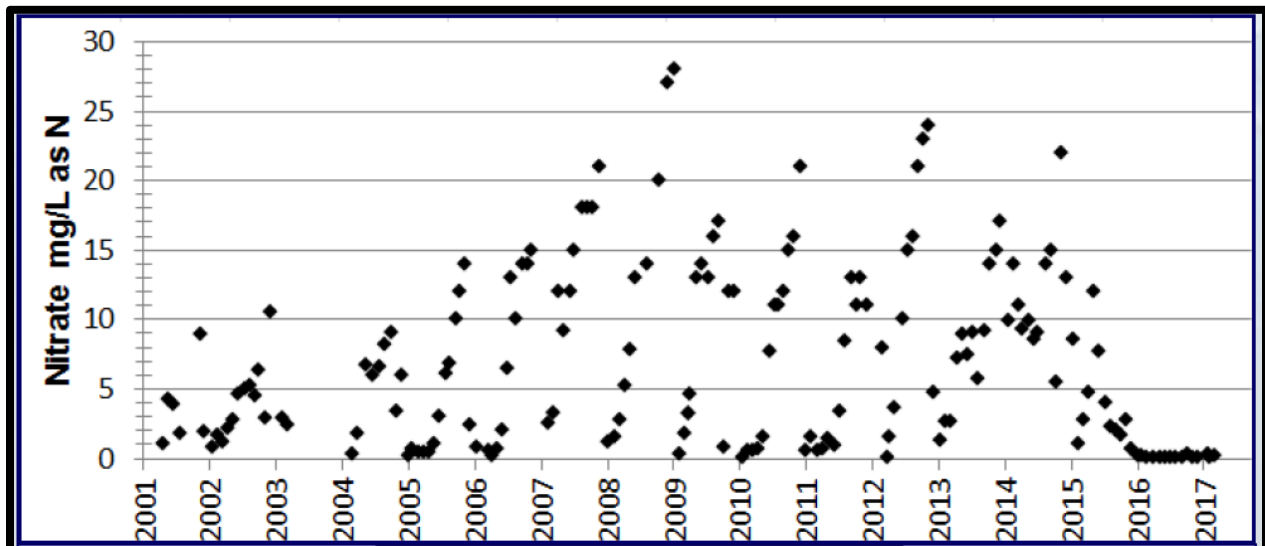
SUCCESS STORY - SAN SIMEON CREEK LAGOON AND NITRATE

[Mary S. Hamilton, 805-542-4768, Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov]

San Simeon Creek is currently on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of polluted waters due to elevated levels of nitrate, chloride, sodium, and low dissolved oxygen conditions. Water quality data collected by the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) in lower San Simeon Creek showed increasing concentrations of nitrate and salts since 2001. Elevated nitrate levels fueled algal blooms and resulted in unhealthy conditions for fish and other aquatic organisms.

CCAMP data informed the prioritization of this creek for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development in March of 2015, and subsequent revisions to the Order for Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the treated wastewater at the Cambria Community Services District (CCSD) facility. The draft [TMDL](#) stated that wastewater was percolating into San Simeon Creek at levels that negatively affect designated beneficial uses (including those associated with human health and aquatic life health), and that revision of the WDR was necessary to implement the TMDL.

Recent upgrades to nitrogen treatment at the CCSD wastewater treatment facility resulted in nearly immediate improvement in the nitrate concentrations and health of the creek. Since October 2015, CCAMP monitoring data show that nitrate concentrations in the creek have not exceeded 1.0 milligram per liter (mg/L, nitrate as nitrogen). The following graph shows that prior to the upgrades, nitrate had frequently exceeded the municipal drinking water objective of 10 mg/L (nitrate as nitrogen).



The state's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) fall newsletter features this success story. The newsletter article is available by clicking on this [link](#).

Salinas Basin Agricultural Stewardship Group – Status of Interim Replacement Water Agreement

[Angela Schroeter 805/542-4644]

In April 2017, the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement (OE), Central Coast Water Board, and the Salinas Basin Agricultural Stewardship Group (Stewardship Group) signed an interim replacement water agreement which enables farmers and landowners to avoid replacement water-related enforcement for up to two years, in exchange for the provision of interim replacement drinking water to individuals and communities who rely on small water systems and domestic wells in the Salinas Basin that currently have unsafe drinking water due to groundwater nitrate pollution.

This report provides an update on the status of the replacement water agreement, including implementation activities, coordination with local agencies and existing drinking water efforts, and public outreach. Additionally, the performance metrics below provide a measure of the Stewardship Group's current progress to implement the replacement water agreement based on the minimum targets for Year 1 of the two year agreement. The Stewardship Group must provide replacement water to a minimum of 35 water systems by April 2018 in order to extend the agreement to Year 2.

KEY PERFORMANCE METRICS	YEAR 1 TARGET	CURRENT*
Number of Water Systems Receiving Replacement Water (Total = 58)	35	20
Number of Individuals Receiving Replacement Water	~560	276
Number of Gallons of Replacement Water Provided	~134,000	6570
Number of Domestic Wells Receiving Replacement Water (Opt-in)	---	0
Number of Water Systems Declining Replacement Water	0	6
Number of Missed Replacement Water Deliveries	0	0
Number of Replacement Water Complaints	0	0

*Reported by SBASG as of November 1, 2017

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Membership –

- As of November 1, 2017, the Stewardship Group membership includes approximately 68 Salinas Basin growers, landowners, and shippers, and represents approximately 150,000 acres (83%) of the total 186,000 acres for the Salinas Basin (including the 180/400, East Side, Forebay, and Upper Valley groundwater subbasins)

Replacement Water –

- As shown in the performance metric table above, as of November 1, 2017, the Stewardship Group has provided replacement water to twenty (20) of the 35 water systems targeted for Year 1 (serving 276 individuals with a total of 6570 gallons of replacement water).
- Some of the remaining water systems are on property enrolled in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and the Stewardship Group is in the process of confirming if well users are receiving replacement water from responsible parties.
- Six water systems have declined replacement water; one system has reverse osmosis treatment and the others are not interested in receiving replacement water.

Drinking Water System and Domestic Well Outreach-

- The Stewardship Group's contractor, CURES (Center for Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship), is continuing to contact drinking water systems and domestic well owners to provide testing and identify potential replacement water recipients.
- In August 2017, the Water Board and CURES transitioned systems served by existing drinking water grant projects implemented by Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to avoid any disruption of bottled water service to the recipients.
- The State Board's Office of Public Participation (OPP) continues to provide assistance to develop bilingual outreach materials for distribution at public events and to schools, churches (in coordination with the Catholic Diocese of Monterey County), and local health clinics in Monterey County. Water Board staff have attended local events including: Day of the Farmworker event in Greenfield on August 27, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Clinic presentations in Salinas and King City, Day of Love Fair in Salinas on September 28, and after-mass sign-up events in King City on October 22, 2017.
- On September 1, 2017, the Central Coast Water Board established a \$25,000 contract with EJCW to inform Salinas Basin communities of opportunities provided by the Stewardship Group for drinking water well testing and interim replacement water, focusing on domestic well owners and disadvantaged communities within the Replacement Water Agreement area.

Coordination with Local Agencies -

- The Water Board continues to coordinate closely with local agencies, including Monterey County Environmental Health.

Investigative Orders-

- In July 2017, the State Water Board's OE Deputy Director and the Central Coast Water Board's Assistant Executive Officer jointly issued six investigative orders to landowners who did not join the Stewardship Group's efforts to provide interim replacement water. All six landowners have since joined the Stewardship Group and the orders were rescinded on October 4, 2017.
- In August 2017, the OE Deputy Director and the Assistant Executive Officer jointly issued three additional draft investigative orders, providing the parties two weeks to join the Stewardship group. One of the three joined the Stewardship Group. The other two were issued investigative orders on October 27, 2017 (see below).

- On October 27, 2017 the Deputy Director and the Assistant Executive Officer jointly issued an investigative order to 61 property owners/operators with more than 40 acres in production.

Staff will continue to provide regular updates on the implementation of this Replacement Water Agreement.

Attachments

1. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
2. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
3. Table 5 - Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers