

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region**

1 March 2002

ITEM: 4
SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report

DISCUSSION:

WATERSHED ACTIVITIES

Submittal of Salinity and Boron Technical TMDL Report to U.S. EPA

Staff has completed a technical Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for salt and boron in the Lower San Joaquin River. The report was submitted to the U.S.EPA on 22 January 2002. The technical TMDL report includes a problem statement, numeric targets, a source analysis, and waste load allocations for point sources and load allocations for non-point sources. The load allocations and waste load allocations in this TMDL are proposed to meet existing salt and boron water quality objectives for the San Joaquin River at the Airport Way Bridge near Vernalis. Staff is in the process of reviewing the salinity and boron control program in the Basin Plan. Any proposed Basin Plan amendment may set new water quality objectives for salt and boron in the LJSR upstream of Vernalis. The TMDL load allocations and waste load allocations will therefore need to be revised to reflect any new or revised water quality objectives established for the San Joaquin River upstream of Vernalis.

The salt and boron technical TMDL report does not have any regulatory authority or effect until the Regional Board adopts components of the TMDL as part of a Basin Plan amendment. The Salt and Boron TMDL Basin Plan Amendment will include an implementation plan for the technical TMDL. The TMDL implementation plan for salt and boron will consider the concurrent implementation of TMDLs now being developed for organophosphorus pesticides, dissolved oxygen, and the existing TMDL implementation program for selenium in the Lower San Joaquin River. Regional Board consideration of a San Joaquin River Salt and Boron TMDL Basin Plan Amendment should occur no later than June 2003. (EIO)

Staff Workshop for Organophosphorus Pesticide TMDL and Salinity and Boron TMDL

Staff will be holding a public workshop on 4 March 2002 to present information regarding the organophosphorus pesticide TMDL and the salt and boron TMDL for the Lower San Joaquin River. The morning portion of the workshop will focus on the source analysis being developed for the organophosphorus pesticide TMDL and the afternoon portion of the workshop will focus on the technical TMDL report for salt and boron in the Lower San Joaquin River that was submitted to the U.S. EPA on 22 January 2002. The purpose of the workshop is to distribute information to the public and to provide an opportunity for public input to the TMDL development process. Staff has mailed meeting notices to approximately 500 targeted agencies and individuals. It is expected that 50 to 100 people will attend the workshop. (EIO)

Bioassessment Activities in the San Joaquin River Basin

During 2001, macroinvertebrate collection and habitat assessment were conducted at 18 sites in the lower San Joaquin River basin as part of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). Data collected are currently under review at the UC Davis Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory. During 2002, the current program will be expanded to 25-sites, twice per year, utilizing funds from the OP-TMDL bioassessment allocation. The expansion will allow evaluation of both baseline conditions and influences of best management practice implementation in agricultural areas. Staff is coordinating with California Department of Fish and Game and Department of Pesticide Regulation to conduct additional bioassessments along the main stem of the San Joaquin River and to develop reference sites for the valley floor. (JLR)

ENFORCEMENT

Oliveira Dairy, Merced County

On 22 January 2002, a Stipulation for Final Judgment and a Permanent Injunction were ordered by Superior Court Judge William T. Ivey in the matter of The People of the State of California vs. Luis M. Oliveira, David Oliveira, Oliveira Dairy, Merced County. This action was taken as a result of nuisance conditions caused by the improper operations of the dairy's wastewater disposal system. The amount of the fine was \$12,750, of which \$5,000 was paid in improvements and \$5,000 was stayed and is to be forfeited if another discharge occurs. Merced County received \$2,500 for court costs and payment of staff costs, and the Regional Board received \$250 for payment of staff costs. (RJM)

Settlement of Administrative Civil Liability Complaint, Majistee Corporation, Yosemite Pine RV Park, Tuolumne County

Majistee Corporation owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility that serves the wastewater needs of the Yosemite Pine RV Park. The facility is regulated under both WDRs (issued in 1996) and a Cease and Desist Order (issued in December 2001). On 24 August 2001, the EO issued a \$10,000 Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (ACLC) against the Majistee Corporation for, among other things, the failure to submit reports pursuant to California Water Code 13267. The EO and Majistee met in December 2001 and negotiated to settle the matter. The Settlement Agreement required Majistee to pay \$1,000 by 31 January 2002, and suspended the remaining \$9,000 contingent upon Majistee's compliance with the C&D Order. On 29 January 2002, Majistee submitted the required \$1,000 payment, and the signed Settlement Agreement. Staff will continue to monitor compliance with the C&D Order. (JRM)

ACL issued to Fite Center at Mather for Storm Water Violations

On 13 November 2001, Board staff inspected Fite Properties' construction site in Rancho Cordova and discovered inadequate erosion and sediment controls, which led to sediment discharge off site. This observed violation of the Construction Storm Water General Permit was the third violation documented by Board staff in two years. Due to the significance of the discharge and the history of noncompliance, the Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) to the Discharger on 15 January 2002. The ACL proposed settlement of the violation through payment of \$18,900 to the Cleanup and Abatement Account. The Discharger submitted a check for the full amount of the ACL on 24 January 2002. (BLS)

Cleanup and Abatement Order Issued to California Sun-Brentwood L.L.C., DLJ Real Estate Capital Partners, Inc., and Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc., Deer Creek Country Club, Contra Costa County

California Sun-Brentwood L.L.C., DLJ Real Estate Capital Partners Inc., and Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc. are owners of a 563 acres residential subdivision and golf course project under construction known as Deer Creek Country Club in Brentwood, Contra Costa County. Staff inspection and inspections by the City of Brentwood found violations of the General Construction Storm Water Permit and Water Quality Certification for discharging sediment to surface waters and impacting wetlands habitat. The construction activities caused the discharge of sediment to waters of the State and to wetlands areas. Department of Fish and Game requested enforcement action in response to sediment discharges impacting California Tiger Salamander, its breeding habitat and other aquatic resources. On 8 February 2002 the Executive Officer issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order, which prescribes tasks and schedules to stop the immediate threat of continued discharge of sediment to surface waters and to repair the damage to existing surface waters and wetlands habitat. (CMP/GDD)

Compliance with Cease and Desist Order, Majistee Corporation, Yosemite Pine RV Park, Tuolumne County

On 7 December 2001, the Board adopted Cease & Desist Order No. 5-01-282 requiring the implementation of several measures to ensure long-term compliance with Majistee's WDRs. Among other things, the Order required the cessation of discharge to the effluent storage reservoir and leachfield by 10 January 2002, unless certain improvements had been made. Based on personal communication, reports submitted by the Discharger, and an inspection of the facility on 11 January 2002, staff determined that those conditions required by the Order had been met, and the EO subsequently signed a letter approving the resumption of discharge to the reservoir and leachfield. Majistee is continuing to work to on improvements to its sprayfield and other system components. (JRM)

Notice of Violation, Cease and Desist Order No. 5-01-280, Vernon E. Hatler and Company, Tuolumne County

On 7 December 2001, the Board adopted C&D Order No. 5-01-280 for Vernon E. Hatler and Company. The C&D requires Hatler to implement several measures to ensure long-term compliance with its WDRs and requires the submittal of a number of technical reports. Hatler has failed to submit several of the reports, and on 30 January 2002, staff issued a Notice of Violation stating that, unless compliance was achieved forthwith, staff would recommend that the Executive Officer issue an ACLC. To date, the Discharger has not responded to the Notice of Violation. (JRM)

Lake County Sanitation District, 13267 Technical Report Order, Lake County

Lake County Sanitation District operates four separate wastewater systems servicing communities around much of Clear Lake in Lake County. The two largest of these systems, Northwest Regional and Southeast Regional, have had significant problems with sanitary sewer overflows, resulting in varying degrees of raw sewage releases to property and surface waters. On 11 January 2002, the Board was notified of a raw sewage spill from the District's Northwest Regional collection system. The spill occurred for approximately twelve hours and was estimated as a discharge of approximately 800,000 gallons to Clear Lake. A subsequent spill report indicated that the release was due to a transmission line failure resulting in raw sewage discharge "from service cleanouts and manholes into drainages and over land to Clear Lake." This spill followed reports of a separate raw sewage spill of approximately 10,000 gallons to Clear Lake from another portion of the District's Northwest Regional collection system. These recent spills are currently under investigation and further information regarding the

incident is pending the District's response to a 13267 Technical Report Order issued by the Executive Officer on 28 January 2002. Preceding this most recent spill, on 4 March 2001 the District's Southeast Regional collection system experienced releases at two separate locations with discharges totaling over 100,000 gallons of raw sewage into Clear Lake. Given the location and volumes of sewage released, Board staff remains concerned about the District's level of preparedness and ability to respond to situations that present a serious threat to surface water quality and public health. (SKC)

CAO Issued to Butte County Silica Mine

In response to a complaint, staff inspected the Mineral Resources LLC, Morris Ravine Silica Mine for discharge of sediment laden storm water to Morris Ravine and Lake Oroville. The inspection revealed the mine operator had conducted extensive land clearing activities at the mine site and at the Schirmer Ravine Haul Road. Approximately four acres of land had been cleared and none of the soils were stabilized, including stockpiled soils that were subject to erosion. No erosion or sediment control measures were observed. At the road construction site erosion and sediment control measures had either failed or were not deployed properly. A C&A Order was issued requiring the mine operator to abate the discharge of sediment laden storm water from the mine clearing activities and the road construction site, submit a plan prepared by a registered engineer stating what actions were required to prevent recurrence of the violations, submit monthly monitoring reports summarizing the effectiveness of the stabilization measures and any necessary maintenance activities and to submit a revised storm water pollution prevention plan prior to conducting any future land clearing activities. (SAZ)

Mining Operation Violates Cleanup and Abatement Order, Shasta County

A C&A Order was issued to Mr. Oscar Nukka and the Washington/Niagara Mining Partnership for discharges and potential discharges of waste at the Washington Mine in violation of WDRs. Enforcement actions were also taken by the Bureau of Land Management who owns the land, and the Shasta County Department of Resource Management who oversees building codes and the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. A recent inspection by staff from the three agencies revealed the mine operator failed to meet any of the conditions established in the various enforcement orders. Board staff will recommend further enforcement action. The Bureau of Land Management is investigating criminal charges against the operator. (PVW)

SPILLS

Sewage Collection System Spills, City of Stockton, San Joaquin County

This report follows up the report for the December 2001 EO report. On 26 October 2001, raw sewage was flowing from a stormwater outfall into the Deep Water Ship Channel at Weber's Point in downtown Stockton. The sewage was entering the stormwater system from a broken sewer line. The outfall was plugged, public warning signs were posted in the area, and the source of the leak was investigated. Regional Board staff required the City to repair the damaged sewer line, pressurize and dye test the sewer line to verify all exfiltration has ceased, and ensure the storm line is free and clean of any sewage with verification by water quality analyses.

Staff are concerned there may be other sections of the City's sewer system needing repair and/or replacement to prevent additional sewage spills. In the past 15 months, there have been six significant sanitary sewer overflows within the City's sewer system, including two significant spills since the Weber Point spill, from large private laterals. Staff have requested the City report on their program to identify structural or capacity deficiencies of the sanitary and/or stormwater systems, details regarding the City's operation and maintenance (O&M) procedures, any training programs for staff in collection system O&M, and a description of the legal authority the City employs to regulate the collection system, including sewer laterals on private property or other property not under the control of the City (e.g. San Joaquin County and Port Authority). The City submitted a report on 31 January 2002, which is being reviewed by staff. Due to the large number of sanitary sewer overflows, staff are considering the development of a collection system NPDES permit for the City. (JDM)

Sewer Spill, City of Isleton, Sacramento County

On 7 January 2002, City of Isleton personnel discovered that their 10-inch force main, which crosses a drainage ditch, was broken and raw sewage was being discharged into the ditch. This ditch flows southward to a lift station, where it is pumped into Georgiana Slough. Based on the volume of wastewater missing from the aeration pond, the amount of sewage spilled is estimated to be approximately 90,000 gallons. After discovering the spill, the City had the lift station shut down, and then used a vacuum truck to pump approximately 30,000 gallons of water from the ditch. The remainder of the spill entered Georgiana Slough.

In 1996, the Board issued a Cease and Desist Order to the City requiring improvements to the treatment plant, collection system and sewer trunk line. The C&D contains a compliance schedule for construction; full compliance with the C&D was to be achieved by 1 January 1998. However, the City has not yet begun any of the improvements required by the C&D. These required collection system improvements would have prevented, or at least reduced, the severity of the January 2002

sewage spill. An NOV was issued for the recent sewage spill and staff are evaluating enforcement actions related to noncompliance with the C&D. (ASB)

Treated Sewage Spill, Ironhouse Sanitary District, Contra Costa County

On 25 January 2002, staff received a complaint about a sewage spill on Ironhouse Sanitary District's Jersey Island disposal land. The Discharger stated that approximately 15,000 gallons of treated, disinfected effluent had spilled from an irrigation field. The spill was caused by a rodent hole in an earthen containment berm. The spillage was contained within a shallow roadside depression, and there was no release to surface water. After the berm was repaired, the effluent was pumped back into land application area. Staff issued a Notice of Violation. (ALO)

Fish Kill in Owens Creek, Merced County

Last 27 December DFG found over 2,000 dead fish in Owens Creek near the intersection of Rouder Ranch and El Capitan Roads in Merced County, just downstream of the City of Merced's WWTF outfall discharge. Preliminary analysis of fish tissue and WWTF monitoring information were inconclusive, so the cause remains unknown. Fish tissue analyses and DFG scan results of the remaining samples are pending. Staff will evaluate appropriate enforcement if the cause of the kill can be identified (ARP).

Raw Sewage Discharge to Twain Harte Creek, Twain Harte Community Services District, Tuolumne County

On 3 December 2001, staff received notification regarding a release of an estimated 2,000 gallons of raw sewage to Twain Harte Creek from a broken sewage line within the Twain Harte Community Services District's wastewater collection system. The spill occurred as the result of an uprooted pine tree, which broke an eight-inch asbestos clay sewer line crossing the creek. This was reportedly the first time an incident like this had caused a sewer spill in the District. The spill report also stated that the waste was highly diluted by stormwater that flowed into the collection system through a nearby manhole. In order to prevent reoccurrence of similar incidents the District stated they would be inspecting the manholes and sewer line near the creek, flushing the sewer line on a regular basis, and conducting a field inspection to identify trees that threatened the integrity of the line. On 22 January 2002, staff issued a NOV, requiring the District to document the inspections and sewer line flushing. (JRM)

Raw Sewage Discharge to land, Esparto Community Services District, Wastewater Treatment Facility, Yolo County

On 20 August 2001, approximately 200,000 gallons of raw sewage spilled onto to ground around the headworks with off-site flow to the agricultural field immediately north of the site. This spill was attributed to failure of a valve at the headworks. A new valve was installed in September 2001. The raw sewage was allowed to percolate into the soil and the affected area disinfected. On 25 December 2001, approximately 300,000 gallons of raw sewage spilled onto the ground around the headworks with off-site flow to the agricultural field again. This spill was attributed to pump failure stemming excess rags and debris clogging the communitor. Current average flows are estimated are higher than the communitor design rating. The following day, the failed pump was replaced. Pondered Sewage was pumped back to the headworks, although some sewage percolated into soil in the field. The District is in the process of reporting on action taken and to be taken to prevent future spills to land. Staff has issued a NOV requiring the Discharger to further document the condition of the treatment and disposal facility and spill response plans. (BC)

CEQA REPORTING

Draft EIR for the City of Tracy WWTP Expansion, San Joaquin County

Staff reviewed the draft EIR for the City of Tracy wastewater treatment plant expansion project and determined there was inadequate information to approve the expansion. Tracy proposes to increase flows at the plant from 9.0 mgd to 16.0 mgd. Staff expressed concerns that the EIR was inadequate, in part, in addressing impacts due to temperature, salt, and cumulative impacts from other developments in the area. Several other agencies including DeltaKeeper, the Sierra Club, the South Delta Water Agency, and the Contra Costa Water District have submitted comments regarding the project. Several agencies have requested that the EIR be recirculated for public comment after addressing the issues. Staff met with Tracy staff to discuss our comments. We are uncertain if the EIR will be recirculated. (MWK)

Application for Certification for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's Cosumnes Power Plant, Sacramento County

Staff reviewed the Application for Certification (AFC) submitted by Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) to the California Energy Commission (CEC) for the Cosumnes Power Plant in Herald, Sacramento County. The CEC is lead agency in review of this project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Once the AFC process is complete, the AFC becomes the project's CEQA document. The facility proposes to operate a 1,000-megawatt, natural gas-fired, combined cycle powerplant to be situated adjacent to the Rancho Seco site, using water from Folsom South Canal for

cooling, and discharge up to 11 mgd to a tributary to Clay Creek, an ephemeral stream. Salt wastes from reverse osmosis and other processes are proposed to be blended with other effluent and discharged to the receiving water. This is a significant deviation from other recently proposed power plants in the region that are being designed as zero discharge facilities by solidifying salts for off-site disposal. Staff determined, in part, that the project did not comply with antidegradation requirements because it did not propose best practicable treatment for salt wastes. In addition, it is uncertain if the proposed facility will be in compliance with the State Board's Resolution No. 75-58, Water Quality Control Policy on the Use and Disposal of Inland Waters Used for Power Plant Cooling, which prohibits waste and unreasonable use of water. Staff requested that SMUD address our concerns. (LEK)

Draft Environmental Impact Report for South Sutter Specific Plan, Pleasant Grove, Sutter County

The plan proposes development of 2,975 acres of industrial uses and 525 acres of commercial uses. Several of the wastewater disposal alternatives discuss discharging treated wastewater to the Sacramento River. The Basin Plan prohibits the discharge of wastewater into the Sacramento River between the confluence with the Feather River and the Freeport Bridge. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES) cannot be issued for the proposed discharge. An interim alternative for wastewater disposal is proposed using an on-site disposal approach. This approach may be difficult to support due to seasonal high groundwater and tight soil conditions, which do not meet the Board's guidelines. Some of the proposed development and proposed wastewater disposal sites are wetland mitigation sites for the Natomas area, in northern Sacramento County. The loss of this mitigation area may limit further development in the Natomas area. Staff has submitted comments to the lead agency. Additional comments will be submitted to the lead agency and other interested parties. (GDD-BC)

Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report for North of Delta Offstream Storage, Sacramento County.

The project proposes to balance ecosystem, environmental agriculture and municipal and industrial water uses. The project is subject to a NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities and Water Quality Certification. In addition there may be water quality impacts from the storage of "excess" water and the release back to the Delta. Conditions lead to the accumulation of Total Organic Carbons (TOC) and other constituents in the stored water prior to reuse, which may impact down stream water users. (GDD)

Notice of Preparation for a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the River Islands at Lathrop, Lathrop, San Joaquin County

The project is a 4,830 acre conversion of farmland on Stewart Tract into urban development. The annexation of the River Island into the West Lathrop Specific Plan requires the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities, and other expansions of urban infrastructure. The project as proposed includes reclamation of recycled water on a golf course, storm water collection and redirection to on-site lakes, and relocation of sloughs or channels tributaries to the San Joaquin River. Other activities may impact ground water quality by restricting tidal changes near or around the island, increased uses of fertilizers and household pesticides, and storage of reclaimed waste water on-site. Staff met with the City of Lathrop and the EIR consultant to discuss these water quality issues. (GDD)

James Ranch General Plan of Development, Initial Study Review, Lake County

The James Ranch proposal includes construction of a 2115-acre, 211-lot, gated, private road, rural residential subdivision in Lake County. Located north of Clearlake and east of Clearlake Oaks, the applicant proposes to rezone the 2115-acre property from a combination of Suburban Reserve and Rural Residential to Planned Development Residential. The Project Description states that "septic and leach systems are planned as the means to supply sewer systems for all proposed lots." Staff informed the lead agency that in many cases, the State Board has determined that the control of individual, residential (or equivalent) waste treatment and disposal systems can best be accomplished by local County Environmental Health Departments if these departments are strictly enforcing an ordinance that is designed to provide complete protection to ground and surface waters and to the public health. However, the State Board has also determined that the installation of individual disposal systems in especially large numbers creates discrete discharges, which must be considered by the Regional Board on an individual basis. Staff also enclosed the State Board's Guidelines for Waste Disposal from Land Developments, emphasizing that a public entity shall be formed with powers and responsibilities (as defined in the guidelines) for all subdivisions having 100 lots or more. The anti-degradation directives of Section 13000 of the Water Code and the State Board Resolution No. 68-16 ("Statement of Policy With Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California") were also described in relation to the project. Staff was unable to provide explicit comments on the feasibility of the proposal without further assessment of specific site characteristics as well as the intended treatment and disposal system design. In general, staff is concerned with the potential impacts from subsurface disposal to groundwater quality, particularly the cumulative impacts from subsurface disposal practices without assurance through advanced treatment and extensive monitoring that water quality will not be degraded. (SKC)

Review Of Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report, Wolf Creek Ranch Estates, Nevada County

In December 2001, staff reviewed a Revised Draft Environmental Report (DEIR) for the Wolf Creek Ranch Estates, a proposed residential subdivision encompassing 691 acres. The 691 acres would consist of 230 residential lots consisting of 270.3 acres. The wastewater service for 202 units would be provided through a community septic system, consisting of individual septic tanks where the effluent would be collected and treated via a recirculating sand filter with disposal to a community leach field. Wastewater service for the remaining 28 lots would be through individual onsite septic tank/leach field systems. Staff expressed concern regarding the lack of information to support the use of the proposed wastewater treatment and disposal system(s) and the potential impacts from subsurface disposal to groundwater quality, particularly the cumulative impacts from subsurface disposal practices without assurance, through advanced treatment and/or extensive monitoring, that water quality will not be degraded. Regional Board staff requested that the DEIR be revised to address the feasibility of the proposed wastewater treatment system as well as alternative wastewater treatment and disposal systems (e.g. connection to a regional wastewater system or advanced wastewater treatment). The revised DEIR should include sufficient technical information to demonstrate that the on-site conditions can support the use of the preferred alternative for wastewater treatment and disposal and that the discharge from the system will not degrade water quality. Nevada County and the permit applicants were advised that if Wolf Creek Ranch Estates does not intend to connect to an existing regional sewer system, a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) shall be completed and submitted, and upon review of the RWD, Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements would be prepared and presented to the Board for consideration of adoption. (MMW)

LAND DISPOSAL**Cleanup and Abatement Progressing at the Westley Tire Fire Site, Stanislaus County**

Final phases of cleanup of the 1999 massive fire at the Westley Tire Fire site has begun. The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), as Lead Agency, quickly mobilized their contractors upon agency (DTSC and RWQCB) approval of the Removal Action Workplan (RAW) in December 2001. The RAW describes the excavation, confirmation soil sampling, and reclamation of seven debris piles. The debris piles consist of unburned and partially burned tires, pyrolytic oil, ash, contaminated soil, and metal. Six of the smaller debris piles have already been excavated and material has been transported to off-site landfills. Board staff will be observing the installation of a new sentry well to be located down-canyon, as well as confirmation soil sampling in the excavated areas in February. (KAS)

Petition for Review of WDRs, Sacramento County Boys Ranch, Sacramento County

The Discharger has requested that the SWRCB review WDRs for the Sacramento County Boys Ranch facility, which was adopted by the Regional Board in October 2001. The Discharger alleges that the WDRs imposes new requirements that will require capital costs of approximately \$200,000, plus annual costs of approximately \$97,000 without any demonstrable water quality benefit. Given the small size of the Boys Ranch WWTP the Discharger feels the increased costs are unreasonable. Staff disagrees and will be responding to the petition. (ASB)

Porterville Submittals Deficient, Tulare County

A CDO required Porterville to submit an Industrial Pretreatment Program last December. The submittal needs extensive revision. The City needs to prepare an adequate Program and has been requested to submit a schedule to achieve this. In a technical report to increase disposal, the City proposes to relocate the City's high-rate effluent percolation disposal operation from the Old Deer Creek streambed immediately upgradient from the Teapot Dome Landfill to 2,500 feet further upgradient in the same streambed. Staff requested the City explore other effluent disposal alternatives, including expanded effluent recycling in areas already covered under water reclamation requirements. (JLK)

Madera Moves Forward on Cleanup and Abatement Work, Madera County

Madera is complying with a C&A Order issued for improper sludge management and solids disposal practices. The City repaired its sludge digesters; rehabilitated its sludge drying beds (but still temporarily uses one effluent disposal pond for sludge drying due to inadequate drying bed capacity); modified piping to prevent direct sludge discharge to active disposal ponds; cleaned up dried sludge in a disposal pond used for sludge drying; and now disposes of grit and screenings off site. The City has commenced its investigation of soils contaminated by past solids disposal practices and is preparing a sludge management plan, a groundwater impact assessment report, and a Title 22 engineering report for onsite recycling operations. (JLK)

The Wine Group's Franzia Winery Discharge Threatens Groundwater, Tulare County

The Wine Group discharges up to 0.15 mgd of winery wastewater from Franzia Winery to a 12.75-acre disposal area. For many years, the disposal area also received stillage waste. Monitoring data show total nitrogen concentrations in the upper six inches of disposal area soils in excess of 7,000 mg/kg. While soil nitrogen attenuates to about 150 mg/kg by six feet, the

concentrations are still appreciably higher than background (30 mg/kg) at the same depth. Soil-pore liquid at six feet contains nitrate-nitrogen concentrations averaging over 200 mg/L and occasionally exceeding 1,000 mg/L, well above background concentration of about 10 mg/L. The Wine Group was issued an NOV in December. The NOV requires The Wine Group to implement measures to improve the land treatment system and implement groundwater monitoring. The Wine Group agreed to expand discharge monitoring, but as yet has offered no plan to reduce waste application levels as necessary to ensure groundwater quality protection. (JLK)

Highstreet Dairy, Tulare County

A Report of Waste Discharge for the dairy presented information that groundwater from production wells on the dairy contained nitrates at concentrations exceeding water quality objectives. Because of this and the historically shallow groundwater, staff requested that groundwater monitoring be conducted on the site. Initial results, reported in November of 2001, detected ammonia and total Kjeldahl nitrogen in groundwater immediately downgradient of the wastewater retention ponds. Groundwater contours prepared by the consultant indicate the presence of a groundwater mound beneath the wastewater retention ponds. Analysis of groundwater has detected concentrations of nitrates up to 160 milligrams per liter and total dissolved solids up to 1,200 milligrams per liter. Staff has requested additional assessment to determine the extent and sources of groundwater degradation. (CLR)

West Bardsley Dairy, Tulare County

In December of 2001, a report was submitted to Board staff regarding groundwater monitoring conducted at the facility. Monitoring was required by Tulare County as part of a proposed expansion of the dairy. Analysis of groundwater from a monitoring well downgradient of the wastewater retention pond and corrals detected nitrate at a concentration of 450 milligrams per liter and measured specific conductivity at 2,200 micromhos per centimeter. Groundwater quality appears to be degraded across the site. The dairy is upgradient of the City of Visalia, which is dependent upon groundwater for its municipal supply. Staff has requested additional assessment to determine the extent and sources of groundwater degradation. (CLR)

SITE REMEDIATION

Preliminary Assessment Report, Eagle Field, Fresno County

The United States Army Corps of Engineers submitted the Draft Final Preliminary Assessment Report for Eagle Field in Fresno County. Eagle Field was used as an Army Air Force flight school training facility during World War II, after which several aerial pesticide application crop dusting companies used the facility until approximately 1980. An aviation museum currently occupies the remains of the WWII facility. Our review of the Preliminary Assessment indicates several areas of concern will require additional investigation. Chemicals of concern include pesticides, petroleum hydrocarbons, and solvents related to a gasoline loading dock, a service station, the sewage treatment facility, two on-site landfills, and 12 underground storage tanks. (GJI)

Investigation Begins Near PCE-Impacted Water Supply Well, Tulare County

Three operating and one former dry cleaner in Visalia are 1,000 to 2,000 feet upgradient of California Water Service Well 32, which was shut down in 2000 due to PCE exceeding the MCL. Monitoring wells installed at the former dry cleaner returned PCE concentrations of 1 to 55 ppb during a 1996 Phase I/II investigation. A soil gas survey conducted during the investigation of a nearby petroleum UST release site suggests that releases have occurred from the sanitary sewer line over 1,000 feet from one of the operating dry cleaners. Moderate PCE concentrations (up to 460 ppb) were detected in groundwater downgradient of the soil vapor plume associated with that portion of the sewer line. Groundwater monitoring wells at a service station adjacent to another operating dry cleaner recently returned PCE concentrations up to 80,000 ppb. The four dry cleaners have been requested to initiate investigations beginning with a soil vapor survey at their business and along adjacent sewer lines, and to resample on-site or nearby monitoring wells as appropriate. (BEM)

Soil and Groundwater Remediation, Former Mobil Bulk Plant, Kings County

Groundwater and soils have been impacted by past spills and leaks of gasoline and diesel from underground and aboveground storage tanks at the site. Groundwater remediation consists of monitored natural biodegradation. Geochemical indicators support that biodegradation is occurring under the site. Benzene levels have dropped from about 100 µg/l to below 10 µg/l, while total petroleum hydrocarbons levels as diesel are relatively unchanged. Soils are being remediated using soil vapor extraction. Initially, high levels of petroleum hydrocarbon vapors (12,000 ppmv) were detected in vapor samples. The levels have decreased and the current levels are under 1,000 ppmv. Approximately 25,000 pounds of total petroleum hydrocarbons have been removed to date. (JYH)

Staff Inspects Scene of Diesel Fuel Spill, Union Pacific Railroad, Bakersfield Yard, Kern County

Regional Board staff was recently informed by the Kern County Fire Department that a punctured fuel tank in a locomotive resulted in approximately 1,000-gallons of diesel spilling onto the ground at a railroad yard in Bakersfield. Staff inspected the site and requested the responsible party to prepare a work plan that will define the vertical and lateral extent of hydrocarbon contamination. (CM)

Gary M. Carlton
Executive Officer
1 March 2002

Addenda that follow:

1. Personnel and Administration
2. Public Outreach
3. Completed Site Cleanups (DOD/SLIC UNIT)
4. Completed Site Cleanups (UST)

Addendum 1**PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION****Consistency Initiative**

Assistant Executive Officers, Program Managers and other Supervisors from all of our offices have joined forces with our Senior Attorney to form the Central Valley Region Consistency Advisory Group (CAG). Facilitated by Program Support Unit staff in Sacramento, the CAG has embarked on an initiative to improve the consistency of Regional Board programs, both internally and relative to plans, policies and statewide activities. Regular round table meetings will be held within each program to identify and resolve consistency issues and to disseminate solutions to affected staff. Issues that are not resolved within individual programs or that affect multiple programs will be brought to the CAG for resolution. One of the first issues being addressed by this process is the manner in which our programs implement antidegradation policies. (JBM)

Addendum 2**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

On 3 December, Dennis Heiman attended the monthly meeting of the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) program's Management Committee.

On December 5, 6, and 7, Dennis Heiman participated as a Regional Review Panel member (Sacramento Valley region) for review and ranking of the 2002 CALFED Ecosystem Restoration project proposals.

On 12 December, Dennis Heiman met with UC Cooperative Extension staff and wild rice growers in northeast CA to discuss best management practices for wild rice operations.

On 18 December, Pam Buford met with members of the Arroyo Pasajero CRMP to tour a bank stabilization project and discuss future projects and potential funding sources.

From 19 December through 1 February, Abigail Smith and Jeanne Chilcott discussed various elements of the current Proposition 13 request for concept proposals with over 40 potential proponents from the San Joaquin River Basin. Interested parties ranged from local landowners and nonprofits to state agencies and the University of California. Potential projects ranged from wetland habitat creation/restoration to developing district controlled permitting of agricultural drainage.

On 4 January and 1 February Rudy Schnagl participated in meetings of the California Water Quality Coalition and presented status reports on Regional Board programs related to irrigated agriculture, including the effort to increase the amount of water quality monitoring in agricultural drains. On 11 January he joined a subcommittee of the Coalition in a meeting focused on monitoring issues.

On 7 January, Abigail Smith and Jeanne Chilcott presented a summary of staff activities in the San Joaquin River Basin to the Lower Merced River Stakeholder Group. Topics included the Regional Board's authorities and responsibilities, water quality concerns and TMDL time schedules, current monitoring activities, and eligibility criteria for Proposition 13 funding. The stakeholder group included representatives from Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Stillwater Sciences, Community Alliance for Family Farmers, National Marine Fisheries, and a variety of local landowners with interest along Deer Creek and the lower Merced River.

On 7 January, Dennis Heiman attended the monthly meeting of the Feather River CRM Management Committee.

On 8 January, Dennis Heiman participated in a livestock grazing/water quality class put on by UC Cooperative and NRCS for Sierra Valley area ranchers.

On 8 January, Abigail Smith, Lori Webber, and Jeanne Chilcott participated in the Proposition 13 Public Workshop held by the State Water Resources Control Board. The workshop summarized eligibility criteria and programmatic requirements for

funding projects under the Proposition 13 subaccounts, including coordination with CALFED under the Watershed and Nonpoint Source subaccounts. Representatives from the regional boards, a number of resource agencies and non-profits, as well as landowners involved in local resource districts were present.

On 9 January, Abigail Smith and Jeanne Chilcott participated in a meeting reviewing the potential for watershed education programs within the San Joaquin Valley. The meeting included representatives from Adopt-A-Watershed, Farms Leadership Program, Yolo County RCD, Sacramento River Watershed Program, and the SWRCB.

On 9 January, staff attended the monthly San Joaquin River Dissolved Oxygen TMDL Stakeholder Steering Committee meetings. Meetings focused primarily on preparing for the Steering Committee's presentation of the Plan of Action for the Regional Board on 25 January. Staff also participated in a number of telephone and e-mail communications on the status of 2001 studies, format and scope of the 2000 and 2001 studies' science peer review and various contracting difficulties being experienced by principal investigators. Staff continues work on the preliminary drafts of the dissolved oxygen target analysis and source/linkage analysis, the development of which is shared with the Steering Committee during the meetings and phone calls.

On 9 January, Lori Webber attended the Auburn Ravine/Coon Creek CRMP Group meeting. The group heard a presentation on the Auburn Ravine Watershed Management Plan.

On 10 January, Guy Chetelat discussed gravel sorting options to address dredge tailing mercury contamination at a meeting of the Lower Clear Creek Restoration Team.

On 10 January, Pam Buford met with members of the Tulare County Resource Management Agency to discuss potential funding for a flood control and habitat restoration project.

On 10 January, staff met with the San Joaquin River Authority Exchange Contractors and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to discuss the technical salt and boron TMDL developed for the Lower San Joaquin River. Staff presented the timelines for TMDL development and explained the concepts and methods used to develop the salt and boron TMDL load allocations and waste load allocations.

On 14 January, Pam Buford met with the coordinator for the Millerton Area Watershed Coalition to discuss planning and assessment projects within the watershed.

On 14 January, Anthony Toto and Clay Rodgers attended the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Public Scoping Meeting for Water Exchange Agreements with the Mendota Pool Group for the period 2003-2013. The Bureau plans on having a draft Environmental Impact Statement for a 90 day public review on 3 June 2002.

On 14 January, Karen Larsen attended the Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP) Grants Subcommittee meeting. The group discussed the schedule for release of the SRWP Annual Monitoring Report for Year 3 and the options for allocating the Phase VIII funds. Congress appropriated \$500,000 for Phase VIII of the program.

On 15 January, Jay Rowan attended the CALFED Bay Delta Program, Delta Regional Outreach Forum in Stockton. Presentations included an overview of Regional Implementation concepts and various CALFED funded projects in the Delta. Presentations were given by staff from CALFED, Department of Water Resources, US Bureau of Reclamation, Delta Protection Commission, and Contra Costa Water District.

On 15 January, Abigail Smith and Jeanne Chilcott participated in the Proposition 13 Public Workshop held by representatives from CALFED and the State Board in Modesto. The workshop focused on programmatic requirements for funding projects under the Proposition 13 subaccounts in the San Joaquin River Basin. The meeting included representatives from a number of resource agencies, non-profits, and local landowners.

On 15 January, Dennis Heiman attended the Central Modoc Resource Conservation District (RCD) meeting to discuss status of watershed grant activities and establishment of a River Center (for Pit River) in Alturas.

On 16 January, Karen Larsen facilitated the SRWP Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee meeting. The group discussed implementation of a Sacramento River watershed River of Words competition for K-12 students and logistics for the March 2002 General Stakeholder Meeting.

On 16 January, Rik Rasmussen attended a workshop on sources of organic carbon in the Delta. Brian Bergamaschi of USGS gave a technical presentation on the current CALFED funded research on how wetlands may impact dissolved organic carbon, a precursor for disinfection byproducts and a drinking water constituent of concern.

On 16 January, Rudy Schnagl gave a presentation on the statewide NPDES permit for aquatic pesticides at the California Weed Science Society's annual meeting in San Jose. Those in attendance at the meeting included chemical company representatives, researchers and parties involved in weed control.

On 16 and 17 January, Louis Pratt of the Sacramento Dairy Unit participated in the California District Attorneys Association's Agricultural Waste seminar held in Fresno. Mr. Pratt spoke on feedlots other than dairies; and investigations, stopping the discharge, preparing the referral and assisting in the prosecution.

On 17 January, Dennis Heiman and Guy Chetelat discussed funding eligibility with watershed groups and RCDs at a public workshop for CALFED and Proposition 13 grants.

On 17 January, Doug Patteson gave a presentation about regulatory issues regarding the disposal of winery wastewater at a meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Winemakers Association.

On 17 January, Pam Buford attended a special business meeting of the Panoche Silver Creek CRMP steering committee to review one and five year assessment and restoration goals of the CRMP.

On 17 January, Karen Larsen attended a technical advisory committee meeting for a CALFED funded project being conducted by UC Berkeley, UC Davis and USGS. The project focuses on the effects of pesticides on salmonid populations and their prey species.

On 18 January, Dennis Heiman attended the monthly meeting of the CALFED Watershed Workgroup.

On 18 January, Michelle McGraw and Robert Holmes participated in the Water Steward Research and Demonstration Management Team meeting in Woodland. This team will be coordinating and advising the four OP Focus Group grant projects.

On 22 January, staff from the mercury TMDL unit attended a meeting of the Delta Tributaries Mercury Council. The group discussed a draft strategic plan for mercury reduction in the Sacramento River watershed and a fish consumption survey.

On 22 January, Guy Chetelat participated in a discussion of mercury distribution in lower Sacramento River tributaries at a meeting of the Delta Tributaries Mercury Council.

On 22 January, Dennis Heiman participated with Tehama Co RCD Directors in a day long session to define short and long term program goals for the RCD.

On 22 January, Lori Webber attended a meeting of the Morrison Creek CRMP Group. The group heard a presentation on flood control in the watershed and discussed possible education, monitoring and restoration projects.

On 22 January, Joe Karkoski, Michelle McGraw and Robert Holmes participated in the monthly OP Focus Group (OPFG) meeting. Regional Board staff updated the group on the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Watershed pesticide TMDLs. The group also heard a presentation of findings from the Sacramento Stormwater Program's OP Pesticide CALFED project and discussed the OPFG's grant projects.

On 22 January, staff from the SJR TMDL Unit presented a status update of the San Joaquin River diazinon and chlorpyrifos TMDL to the Sacramento River Watershed Program Organophosphorus Focus Group.

On 22 January Emily Alejandrino gave a presentation on the statewide NPDES permit for aquatic pesticides at a training course for Sacramento County staff.

On 23 January, Guy Chetelat discussed results of sampling for mercury in dredge tailings at a meeting of the Lower Clear Creek Restoration Team.

On 23 January, Emily Alejandrino gave a presentation on the statewide NPDES permit for aquatic pesticides at a meeting with representatives of several Stockton-area homeowners associations.

On 24 January, staff presented an overview of the Total Maximum Daily Load program and the Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Agricultural Return flows at the 2002 Central Valley Project Waters Users Annual Conference in Reno.

On 25 January, Loren Harlow and Jo Anne Kipps met with Wine Institute to discuss the wine industry's recent effort to develop a manual of wastewater management practices.

On 28 January, Catherine Graham and Jeanne Chilcott met with representatives from the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District (EDRCD) to coordinate monitoring efforts between the two agencies. The EDRCD operates a citizen's monitoring program that has been focusing on the S. Fork of the American River but may be funded to expand into the Consumnes River watershed. The program is co-funded through the SWRCB and the US Forest Service.

On 28 January, Board member Beverly Alves and Agriculture Unit staff met in Colusa with representatives of water agencies, the Farm Bureau, Agricultural Commissioners, and others to discuss water quality monitoring of discharges from irrigated lands in the Sacramento Valley.

On 30 January, Dennis Heiman participated in a workshop sponsored by UC Cooperative Extension to review and evaluate livestock grazing practices at their Sierra Valley Field Station near Grass Valley.

On 1 February, Dennis Heiman and Guy Chetelat discussed erosion control options to address bank erosion along Cottonwood Creek at a field meeting of the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group attended by ranchers, school children, and local press.

On 31 January, staff from the SJR TMDL Unit attended the Regional Board Pesticide TMDL Roundtable. Staff from State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) presented antidegradation policy for use when developing TMDLs and Basin Plan Amendments. State Board staff also discussed the Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) Water Quality Process and the status of the SWRCB's comments on the DPR draft document. Staff from DPR discussed the Process of DPR Contract Funds and the DPR annual funds for projects to support TMDL development. Projects of statewide interest, need, and support were identified by SWRCB and Regional Board staff involved in TMDL development.

On 1 February, Jerry Bruns and Lori Webber attended a meeting of the SRWP Incorporators. This group discussed the history of the SRWP and began the process of electing the 21 SRWP Board of Trustee members.

On 6 February, staff from the SJR TMDL Unit presented an overview of the Total Maximum Daily Load program at the 2002 California Plant and Soil Annual Conference in Fresno.

On 6 February, Jo Anne Kipps represented the RWQCB at the California League of Food Processor's 2002 Expo and Showcase in Sacramento. Jo Anne participated in a Process/Rinse Water workshop and discussed how the RWQCB regulates food-processing waste discharges to land.

On 8 February Rik Rasmussen attended a meeting of the CALFED Drinking Water Subcommittee of the California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee. The committee discussed the formation of a technical workgroup to inform the council on scientific and technical issues of importance to drinking water quality in the Delta.

On 2 March, Jo Anne Kipps will participate in the second annual "Expanding Your Horizons" conference in Visalia sponsored by the Tulare County Office of Education for girls in grades 4 through high school. The conference consisted of various sessions on the use of math and science by women employed in science, technology, and medicine. Jo Anne presented a session on water quality concerns in the Tulare Lake Basin.

Completed Site Cleanups (DOD/SLIC UNIT)**Hydrogen Peroxide Soil Remediation, Former Puregro Facility, Visalia, Tulare County**

This facility had historical releases of crop oil in the vicinity of its concrete pad adjacent to a railroad spur. Crop oil is a petroleum product used for manufacturing dormant oil and other orchard spray formulations. Significant soil degradation extended to 15 feet below ground surface (bgs). Depth to groundwater is known to be deeper than 40 feet bgs. The subject in-situ chemical oxidation was completed in lieu of removing the railroad spur and excavating the impacted soils. Hydrogen peroxide was injected into 34 injection points to three different depths (three feet, eight feet, and 13 feet bgs). Three confirmation soil borings were drilled in September 2001. No contaminants were detected in any of the 17 confirmation soil samples collected except for two samples collected from a soil boring drilled in the middle of "hot zone." It was concluded that the remaining small mass of affected soils does not pose a threat to underlying groundwater. Staff concurred with the conclusion and issued a no further action required letter. (JYH)

Site Closure, Monte Vista Dry Cleaning Facility, Tulare, Tulare County

In the course of a due diligence preliminary investigation associated with the transfer of the subject property, an active soil gas survey was performed at the site. Analytical results of soil gas samples indicated that PCE was present in the soil gas. Additional soil and groundwater investigation was completed that included collection of soil, groundwater, and sewer line samples. Analytical results of all subsequent confirmation samples indicated that PCE or any daughter products were not detected. The site was subsequently issued a no further action required letter. (AM)