

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region**

**Executive Officer's Report  
Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer**

**June 29, 2000**

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**GROUNDWATER DIVISION**

**ENFORCEMENT AND STORMWATER**

**Enforcement**

**ACL issued to the City of Los Angeles**

Samuel Unger

Last fall, the City of Los Angeles released at least 1,400,000 gallons of partially (secondary) treated wastewater from the LA/Glendale Water Reclamation Plant, through a reclaimed water distribution system for customers in Glendale and a portion of Los Angeles. At a public hearing on April 13, 2000, the City contested the allegations and imposition of civil liability by the Executive Officer, in an ACL issued by the Executive Officer in February. Following the Regional Board's decision to affirm the ACL at that public hearing, the City submitted a petition, dated May 15, 2000, asking the State Board to review the Regional Board's action.

**ACL Issued to Western Pacific Housing**

Jay Das

On May 9, 2000, the Executive Officer issued an ACL, in the amount of \$20,000, to Western Pacific Housing for discharges of non-storm water waste including sediment into storm drains from Western Pacific Housing construction site, located on the intersection of Lynn Road and Reino Road, in the City of Thousand Oaks. On May 15, 2000, Western Pacific Housing waived its right to a public hearing and paid the ACL in full.

**Wildlife Waystation, Inc.**

Hugh Marley and Morton Price

On May 5, 2000, the Executive Officer issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) and Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. 00-57 to the Wildlife Waystation, Inc. for discharge of animal wastes to nearby surface waters. The NOV and CAO are based on Regional Board staff inspections of the Wildlife Waystation in April 2000. The Notice of Violation requires the Wildlife Way Station to cease

all discharges into the waters of the state and submit a Report of Waste Discharge. The Cleanup and Abatement Order (Board Order No. 00-57) requires the Wildlife Waystation to clean up surface contamination and abate impacts to watershed resources caused by the discharge of animal wastes, investigate the impacts resulting from the discharge of animal cage wash water and wastes, complete an assessment to determine the adequacy of the present animal cage wash water system, and complete a work plan to eliminate future discharges.

### **Enforcement Round Table**

Wendy Phillips

The LA Regional Board hosted an Enforcement Round Table on June 1 and June 2, 2000. Staff and management from the State Board and the nine Regional Boards participated in a stormwater-related field trip, which included a storm drain catch basin cleanout at 5<sup>th</sup> and Spring, by sanitation staff with the City of LA, and a tour of Tree People's model facilities (a single-family residence in south-central LA and a school in Westchester) that implement innovative storm water management practices. Also, Region 4 staff (Dennis Dickerson and Xavier Swamikannu) briefed other Regional Boards on development and implementation of Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP).

### **Storm Water Program**

#### **SUSMP Workshop**

Xavier Swamikannu

Over 300 people attended a Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) workshop, co-sponsored by the Regional Board and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works on June 9, 2000, from 8:00 – 5:00 p.m. The workshop, which seemed to be well received, included an overview by Xavier Swamikannu of the new SUSMP requirements, and discussions and exercises on practical ways in which to design and select BMPs (Best Management Practices). Also, industry representatives displayed the latest storm water treatment control technologies during breaks. Board Member, Dr. Jack Coe, attended this event.

#### **Los Angeles County Municipal Storm Water Permit**

Xavier Swamikannu

The State Board held a special hearing of SUSMP (Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan) Petitions, on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in the City of Torrance. The Petitions, which challenge requirements for new development and redevelopment that were approved by the Board on January 26, were challenged by 33 municipalities (out of 85 municipalities that are subject to the LA County MS4 Permit), the Building Industry Association of Southern California, and the Western State Petroleum Association. In response to the Petitions, the Regional Board, Heal the Bay, NRDC, and Santa Monica BayKeeper submitted Responses in support of the Regional Board's action. Board Members H. David Nahai (Chairman) and Fran Diamond attended the hearing.

The Regional Board's SUSMP document can be viewed on the Board's website at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb4>.

#### **Annual Report Review – Industrial**

Xavier Swamikannu

June 30, 2000 is the deadline for submittal of 1999/2000 annual reports by the 2,660 permittees enrolled in the general permit for storm water discharges from industrial activities.

For the 1998/99 annual reporting period, 97% of the permittees have complied with the submittal requirement. This compliance rate is a marked improvement from six years ago, when only half of

the permittees were submitting annual reports, and is due in large measure to enforcement actions taken against non-submitters. Staff's objective over the next year is to achieve a 100 percent submittal rate, and to increase field presence and inspections to ensure the effectiveness of Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans.

## **REMIEDIATION**

### **Well Investigation Program**

#### **Baldwin Park Operable Unit**

Ejigu Solomon

On May 23, 2000, the Regional Board held a Special Board meeting to hear petitions to nine cleanup and abatement orders (CAOs) that were issued at the end of 1999 by the Executive Officer to facilities in the Baldwin Park Operable Unit. Under the CAOs, the responsible parties are required to complete soil assessment, soil cleanup (if warranted), groundwater monitoring, and meet with water purveyors to discuss water supply issues. The sites and their respective CAOs are as follow:

1. Gencorp Aerojet – CAO No. 99-073
2. Wynn Oil Corp. – CAO No. 99-087
3. White & White (145 S. Irwindale Ave.) - CAO No. 99-116
4. White & White (204 S. Motor Ave.) - CAO NO. 99-117
5. Huffy Corp. – CAO No. 99-118
6. Oil and Solvent Process Company – CAO No. 99-125
7. Rubber/Urethanes, Inc. – CAO No. 99-126
8. Screwmatic, Inc. – CAO No. 99-127
9. Phaostron Instruments – CAO No. 99-129

The cleanup and abatement order for Phaostron Instruments was carried over to the next Board meeting scheduled for June 29, 2000 by mutual agreement between Board staff and Phaostron Instrument's representatives. The Board heard the other 8 CAOs and affirmed all with modifications.

#### **GenCorp Aerojet**

On June 6, 2000, Regional Board staff met with representatives of GenCorp Aerojet Corporation (Aerojet) to discuss required soil cleanup and emergent chemicals assessment under Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. 99-073. The Board affirmed CAO No. 99-073 with modifications on May 23, 2000. Regional Board staff concluded that soil cleanup is needed to reduce further impacts to the groundwater. Aerojet was directed to submit a soils remedial action plan by July 14, 2000.

#### **Investigations Triggered by Alameda Corridor Construction**

Su Han

In response to the contamination discovered by Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) along their construction route, two responsible parties are required to perform soil and groundwater investigations under the California Water Code Section 13267. The owner of the property at 239 East Greenleaf Boulevard in Compton is required to investigate hexavalent chromium (Cr<sup>+6</sup>) contaminated groundwater (and in the vicinity of Alameda Street and Greenleaf Boulevard). This property has been used for hard chrome plating since 1942. Mobil Oil Corporation and Kinder-Morgan Energy are also required to investigate petroleum contaminated soil and groundwater

encountered near the intersection of Alameda Street and Missouri Avenue in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. Mobil Oil has an active product pipeline and Kinder-Morgan has an inactive (abandoned approximately 1.5 years ago) product pipeline in this area.

#### **Memorandum of Understanding with Metropolitan Water District**

Arthur Heath

The Southern California Metropolitan Water District (MWD) is proposing to establish a two-year agreement (Memorandum of Understanding [MOU]) with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to fund a MWD task force (up to five staff) to assist Regional Board staff in the investigation of contaminant sources in San Gabriel Valley. A draft MOU is being considered by MWD and the Regional Board and will require formal action by each governing board.

#### **Landfills**

##### **Chandler's Landfill's Sampling and Load-Checking Program Approved**

Wen Yang

In a letter dated June 7, 2000, the Executive Officer approved a "Sampling and Load-Checking Program" submitted by the Chandler's Landfill on May 31, 2000. The submittal was required under the revised Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the landfill that were adopted by the Board at the March 2, 2000 Board Meeting. What makes this program unique in California is that it includes periodic random chemical testing of the wastes that are discharged to the inert landfill. As required by the revised WDRs, the landfill will randomly collect one soil sample per month from an on-site waste load or off-site waste source to be subjected to California Waste Extraction Test for leachable metals, pesticides, and PCBs. Analytical results will be used to determine whether the waste should be accepted or rejected by the landfill. The program also includes detailed load-checking procedures on incoming wastes, discharge approval procedures for projects that discharge more than 750 cubic yards of waste, personnel training, and improved fill tracking procedures at the landfill.

## **UNDERGROUND TANKS**

#### **Staff-Level Public Workshop on Final Draft Guidelines for Investigation and Cleanup of MTBE and Other Oxygenates**

David Bacharowski

There will be a series of staff-level public workshops regarding the Final Draft Guidelines for Investigation and Cleanup of MTBE and Other Oxygenates. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) heard a presentation of the content and development of the guidelines at its March 1, 2000 public workshop. Board Members had no objection to maintaining the guidelines as a "final draft" and to releasing the guidelines to regulatory agencies to assist them in the prioritization and tracking of MTBE cleanups. The SWRCB Board Members agreed at that time that SWRCB staff should hold a series of public workshops to discuss the guidelines with local regulatory agencies and interested parties.

The workshops will be held at the locations and times shown below. Information on nearby hotels and travel directions/map can be obtained by logging onto <http://www.maps.yahoo.com>.

Wednesday, June 21 (1:30 PM – 4:30 PM)

State Water Resources Control Board

Hearing Room

901 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tuesday, June 27 (1:30 – 4:30 PM)

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Board Room  
700 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Wednesday, June 28 (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

Orange County Clerk of the Board Hearing Room  
Hall Administration Building 10  
10 Civic Center Plaza  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Questions concerning the guidelines can be directed to Mrs. Terry Brazell at (916) 227-4404 (brazellt@cwpswrcb.ca.gov) or Ms. Diane Trommer at (916) 227-4337 (trommerd@cwpswrcb.ca.gov). Questions concerning the workshop locations can be directed to Ms. Lori Casias at (916) 227-4325 (casiasl@cwpswrcb.ca.gov). Copies of the guidelines are available from Ms. Deanna Flanagan at (916) 227-4408 (flanagind@cwpswrcb.ca.gov) or from the SWRCB's web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/html/news.html>.

#### **Charnock Sub-basin MTBE Investigation Area Update**

Harry Patel

At present there are 26 active sites in the Charnock Sub-Basin. Of the 26 active sites, site assessment has been completed at 15 sites, whereas there are 11 sites where additional site assessment work is required. Groundwater monitoring is being performed at all the sites. A total of six sites have approved remediation workplans for the cleanup of the soil and groundwater. Soil and groundwater remediation has begun at two of the sites, on-site soil remediation is underway at two sites, limited offsite remediation has been initiated at one site, and a pilot plan for dual phase extraction has been approved at an additional site.

On March 10, 2000 EPA issued a Water Replacement Order to ARCO, Best California Gas Company, Chevron, CONOCO, Douglas Oil Co. of CA, Exxon, Mobil, Tosco, Unocal, Kazuho Nishida and HLW West Corporation (other PRPs). The Board issued a support letter on March 14, 2000. On March 10, 2000, the Agencies issued draft scope of work to perform Initial Regional Response Activities scope of work (SOW) for regional investigation and propose remediation alternatives. The draft SOW was issued to Shell/Shell Products/Equilon and other PRPs. Shell/Shell Products/Equilon has submitted a good faith offer that met some of the requirements of the Initial Regional Response Activities scope of work. The offer from the other PRPs had contingencies that the Agencies could not agree to. Staff is negotiating a Stipulated Agreement for the SOW.

#### **Arcadia Wellfield MTBE Investigation Update**

Jay Huang

The shallow aquifer and lower aquifer in the vicinity of the former Mobil Station 18-LDM have been treated with a pump and treat system since October 1997. The treatment system is capable of pumping 35 gallon per minutes (GPM) of extracted groundwater water. To date (April 27, 2000) the treatment system has pumped 8.4 million gallons of groundwater and removed an estimated amount of 57 pounds of TPH and 175 pounds of MTBE. The average MTBE concentration in the combined influent has been decreased from over 2,000 m g/L in 1998 to 280 m g/L in April 2000. Currently, the wells of the shallow aquifer are not being pumped in order to monitor groundwater elevation changes from the pumping of Arcadia Well No. 5. Approximately 35 GPM of groundwater are being pumped from 5 groundwater extraction wells of the lower aquifer and treated at the Mobil facility. The impacted soil in the vadose zone has been treated with a vapor extraction system

(VES). The cumulative VOC mass removed is 9,208 pounds since May 1999.

A Production Aquifer Remediation System (PARS) using activated carbon filtration to clean up the production aquifer has been in operation since May 17, 2000. PARS is composed of four carbon vessels each containing 24,000 pounds of carbon. Currently groundwater from Arcadia Well No. 5 is being pumped at 300 GPM, treated, and then discharged to the storm drain under permit. The maximum influent concentration of MTBE at the PARS has been approximately 2.5 mg/L since May 17, 2000.

PARS will undergo a demonstration test for four months. Mobil submitted a Demonstration Test Workplan to the agencies on April 20, 2000. Raw water operation and spiking tests will commence first, followed by reliability testing which will last for 120 days. After the PARS has been tested and approved for operation by the State Department of Health Services, the treated water from Arcadia Well No. 5 will be routed to Santa Monica treatment plant for distribution.

### **Completion of Corrective Action at Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank Sites**

Regional Board staff have reviewed corrective actions taken for soil and/or groundwater contamination problems from leaking USTs for the time of May 8, 2000 through June 5, 2000, and determined that no further corrective actions are required:

George Anenberg Trust, Santa Monica (904050052)

Former Everest & Jennings Facility, Rancho Dominguez (R-14200)

Oscar C. Stahl Trust, West Hollywood (R-26776)

Former Maryland Company, Los Angeles (900120434)

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles (900650107)

Culver City Fire Station No. 3, Culver City (R-10165)

Former La Mesa Service Station, Pico Rivera (R-25372)

## **SURFACE WATER DIVISION**

### **WATERSHED REGULATORY**

#### **NPDES Permits**

Wayne Chiou

As part of the NPDES renewal process under the Watershed Management Approach for 1999-2000, the permits for five facilities were reviewed to determine if modifications were needed at this time. The following five facilities currently have NPDES permits with expiration dates in 2001 or 2002: Arco – Hathaway Tank Farm (CA0058343); Long Beach Unified School District High School (CA0056120); Norwalk Industries (CA0056928); Sta-Lube, Inc. (CA0064025); and TRW Groundwater Cleanup (CA0064114). Based on staff review, it was determined that modifications or renewal efforts were not required for this fiscal year and the permits could be continued for consideration in a future fiscal year.

## **REGIONAL PROGRAMS**

### **RiverWatch Grant**

Myriam Zech

Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) was awarded a 319(h) grant in the amount of \$38,200 for their *RiverWatch* water quality monitoring program. The contract will begin on August 1, 2000 and last for about two years.

FoLAR established its *RiverWatch* Program to aid stakeholders in the development of a comprehensive plan for the protection and restoration of the Los Angeles River and its watershed. The three goals for the water quality monitoring project initiated under this contract are to monitor physical and chemical water quality parameters associated with beneficial uses, to survey the biota of the river in those areas that are not concrete-lined channels, and to produce the first State of the Los Angeles River report.

These goals will be achieved by fostering strong partnerships among stakeholders, agencies, and individuals responsible for the future of the river and its riparian corridor. Data collected by FoLAR *RiverWatch* volunteers will help the Los Angeles Regional Board to initiate community outreach and educational programs. Data collection will begin during the last quarter of the Year 2000. Under this agreement, citizen volunteers and students from local high schools and colleges will monitor 60 to 65 sites each month along the Los Angeles River and its major tributaries, document beneficial uses of the Los Angeles River and its riparian corridor, and assess the impact of metals, pathogens, and petroleum products from non-point sources on beneficial uses.

### **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)**

#### **Calleguas Watershed-Chloride TMDL**

Elizabeth Erickson

A draft implementation plan for the Calleguas Chloride TMDL was distributed for stakeholder comment. The basic elements of the Basin Plan amendment for the chloride TMDL are being finalized in draft form for discussion in a public workshop this summer/fall. For further information or a copy of the draft implementation plan please call Melinda Becker at (213) 576-6681 or Lisa Carlson at (213) 576-6690 or Elizabeth Erickson at (213) 576-6683.

#### **Santa Clara River – Chloride Policy Public Meeting**

Elizabeth Erickson

A presentation to the Board on April 13 was continued with the Board requesting more information on the cost associated with the proposed action. The amendment would modify the chloride objectives for the reaches at Santa Paula and Santa Clarita of the Santa Clara River. The Board will review the matter again on July 27, 2000. Response to comments and addendum material will be mailed to those on the Santa Clara mailing list or other interested parties before that date. A resolution will also be proposed recommending city ordinances on self-regenerating water softeners. For further information please call Melinda Becker at (213) 576-6681 or Elizabeth Erickson at (213) 576-6683. For copies of the proposed resolution and Basin Plan amendment, or to be placed on the mailing list, call Sandra Kelley at (213) 576 6619.

Staff proposes changing the chloride objectives for two reaches of the Santa Clara River, the Santa Paula reach from 80 to 100 mg/L and the Santa Clarita reaches from 100 to 143 mg/L. Compliance with these objectives may be measured as a 12-month rolling average. In addition, a maximum, not-to-exceed value of 180 mg/L will apply to both reaches. These objectives were found to be protective of the most sensitive beneficial use, which has been determined to be agricultural water

supply.

The second resolution recommends the prohibition of self-regenerating water softeners through city ordinances in the Santa Clara and Calleguas watershed. Dischargers and research have indicated that water softeners are a major source of unregulated chloride loading and recent legislative action allows cities to enact prohibitions upon the recommendation of the board under limited conditions.

The addendum material includes a response to public comments on antidegradation. The cost analysis requested by the Board is summarized and focuses on the sewer bills anticipated as a result of Board actions. In addition, the addendum includes discussions of new information which has been received by staff since the April 13 presentation. Specifically, evidence now suggests that future overdrafts of groundwater in Santa Clarita may alter the surface flow conditions upon which the staff recommendation is based. Further, a new population of endangered fish (unarmored stickleback) has been identified in Bouquet Canyon, adjacent to Santa Clarita.

### **Draft Basin Plan Amendment Providing for Compliance Schedules Released for Public Comment**

Melinda Becker

A draft amendment to the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Plan was public noticed on June 12. The amendment would allow compliance schedules to be incorporated into National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permits under specified conditions. The amendment would allow dischargers time to construct new facilities or to take other measures necessary to comply with a new or newly interpreted water quality objectives, without being subject to fines. Compliance schedules could be granted in a permit at the Regional Board's discretion for a period necessary for construction or implementation but not to exceed 5 years. However, a one-time re-opener clause would allow the compliance schedule to be effectively extended to a period not to exceed 10 years. The end of the comment period is July 14.

### **Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek Draft Trash TMDL Update**

Melinda Becker

The Draft Trash TMDL was public noticed on March 17. A formal workshop was conducted by Regional Board staff on April 4. Since then, the Board's staff has met with representatives of the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LADWP), and representatives of Heal the Bay and the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River Watershed Council to discuss the draft document. On May 16, staff attended a working meeting convened by the LADWP. Approximately 30 cities were represented at the meeting. The focus of the discussion was on the baseline monitoring program. Data collected during a two-year baseline monitoring program will be used to establish base load allocations for each city. As described in the draft Trash TMDL, the allowable load allocations for each city would be reduced by approximately 10 percent per year over a 10-year period.

### **Malibu Creek**

Melinda Becker

Staff are working with U.S. EPA's contractor, Tetra Tech, to evaluate data needs for modeling the nutrient TMDL for Malibu Creek and Lagoon. On May 4, staff met with representatives of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) and CH2MHILL, for a presentation of findings from a recent study of nutrient standards for Malibu Creek and Malibu Lagoon. The study was prepared by CH2MHILL for the LVMWD. The LVMWD's Tapia Wastewater Reclamation Facility is the single largest source of nutrients to Malibu Creek. Other potential sources of nutrient loading include septic systems and runoff from horse corrals.

Outreach efforts to the equestrian community within the Malibu Creek watershed were initiated this month. On May 16, members of the TMDL and Nonpoint Source Units attended a public hearing

relating to re-zoning of horse properties in Triunfo Canyon, a Malibu Creek sub-watershed. TMDL Unit Chief, Melinda Becker, made a brief presentation describing the Malibu Creek TMDL and the potential for pollutants from horse properties to contribute to the nutrient and bacteria loading to the Creek. Becker encouraged members of the horse community to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and to become involved in the TMDL stakeholder process. Pamphlets describing BMPs for horse facilities were distributed at the meeting.

On June 8, TMDL and Nonpoint Source staff members met with the Topanga Resource Conservation District and representatives from Heal the Bay to obtain information regarding horse properties within the Malibu Creek Watershed and to discuss a program for evaluating the effectiveness of BMPs for horse facilities.

### **Nonpoint Source Program**

#### **Staff Attend Meetings and Workshops**

Raymond Jay

Nonpoint Source Staff attended several meetings and workshops during the previous month including the Beach Water Quality Work group, NPS Interagency Coordination Committee meeting, and the Santa Monica Bay Task Force on Septic Systems. Staff has conducted site inspections at 25 Industrial Stormwater Facilities, two 319(h) Grant projects, and five fishing operations in Los Angeles Harbor. Staff have also reviewed several draft 319(h) project proposals for the 2000/2001 grant cycle which closes on June 16, 2000.

#### **401 Water Quality Certification**

Raymond Jay

The Office of Administrative Law approved the proposed Section 401 Water Quality Certification Regulations on June 25, 2000. The regulations were filed with the Secretary of State's office and will be in effect at the start of business on Monday, June 26, 2000. The new regulations delegate the day-to-day certification actions to Executive Officers (excluding multi-region, FERC re-licensing, and water-rights permits). A regional board, at its discretion, may take any action its executive officer is authorized to take.

#### **Staff Training**

Raymond Jay

Staff attended the "Conference on the Role of Wetlands in Watershed Management – Lessons Learned" and associated constructed wetlands course. Course subjects included wetland functions, values and benefits; wetland plants, soils, and hydrology; and regulatory constraints.

## **WATERSHED/COASTAL WATERS**

### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

Shirley Birosik

#### **Calleguas Creek Watershed**

The Water Quality/Water Resources Subcommittee last met on March 3. Regional Board representatives gave a progress report on the chloride TMDL currently underway in the watershed. Data generated by the Surface Water Element of the Calleguas Creek Characterization Study Monitoring Program is being evaluated and a report is in progress. Monitoring associated with the Groundwater Element of the program continues. Another component of the program, funded by Clean Water Act 205(j) monies, is evaluating nonpoint source contributions and is in the data

analysis stage with the goal of developing preliminary loadings for nitrogen and phosphorus. The Subcommittee is currently in the process of drafting a Water Resources/Water Quality Chapter in the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan. The Subcommittee was scheduled to meet next on April 28. This meeting was cancelled and has not yet been rescheduled.

The Flood Protection/Sedimentation Subcommittee last met on May 1. A tour of the lower watershed was conducted on April 24. They are currently involved with discussions on conducting a hydrologic study of the watershed. The group's next meeting is scheduled for July 10.

The Public Education/Outreach Subcommittee met on June 9 and discussed consideration of action to support the "brine-line" concept being proposed by the Calleguas Municipal Water District. It has completed the first edition of a newsletter to cover watershed issues and events. Additionally, the group has produced a color brochure on the management plan process in the watershed.

A Land Use Subcommittee has recently been formed and includes representatives from local planning agencies. The first meeting was held on June 14.

The Habitat/Recreation Subcommittee met on June 6 and continues work on a wetlands study which includes a habitat mapping component. A general inventory of wetlands in the watershed is complete and potential sites for restoration have been identified. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for August 1. A Biology Advisory Group has been formed to aid this Subcommittee in review of technical materials. The Group met on April 11, May 2, and June 6.

The Steering Committee for the Watershed Management Plan met on March 30. A draft Table of Contents for the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan being developed has been prepared.

The full Management Committee also met on March 30. Information about the management committee and its subcommittees can be found at <http://www.calleguas.com/cc.htm>.

### **Los Angeles River Watershed**

The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The Council's Internet address is <http://www.lasgriverswatershed.org>. On August 10, 1999, members of the Watershed Council assisted the California Coastal Conservancy in conducting a tour of potential restoration sites in the lower watershed as part of a meeting of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. These sites may be viewed at <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/index.html>.

The Friends of the LA River has a Los Angeles River e-mail discussion forum. To subscribe, e-mail to [la-river-discuss-subscribe@makelist.com](mailto:la-river-discuss-subscribe@makelist.com). To view archives of past Los Angeles River discussions on the Internet, go to <http://www.egroups.com/list/la-river-discuss>. The group co-sponsored a seminar on May 13 on Water Quality of the Los Angeles River: Re-envisioning the L.A. River series. Speakers from volunteer monitoring organizations, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works discussed water quality issues of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers.

### **San Gabriel River Watershed**

A "State of the Watershed" report is available for the San Gabriel River Watershed. The report was prepared by Regional Board staff. The report describes the watershed, with its many diversion structures and recharge areas, and summarizes available water quality data in a manner easily understood by the layperson. The complete set of data evaluated for the report, as well as the report itself, is available electronically by contacting Shirley Birosik at [sbirosik@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:sbirosik@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov). Hardcopies of the report are also available.

## **Santa Monica Bay Watershed**

The Modeling and Monitoring Subcommittee of the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council has drafted a watershed-wide monitoring program for the Malibu Creek Watershed. The group last met on May 6, 1999. A draft monitoring program has been distributed to stakeholders for comment. A major task will be finding partners to participate in this voluntary program to assess and help correct the water quality concerns in this area. No further meetings are scheduled for this group.

The Malibu Lagoon Task Force last met on May 16. The Task Force is concerned with lagoon water level management and all aspects of the UCLA study of the lagoon. The UCLA study covers a hydrologic evaluation, appropriateness of various biological and water quality objectives, water level management, eutrophication issues, pathogens, and the historical condition of the lagoon. The study was funded by a California Coastal Conservancy grant with assistance by local agencies. A new facilitator is now leading the group toward refining the future goals of the Task Force which include developing a priority list of restoration options.

The Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council last met on May 16. The next meeting is scheduled for July 16.

A watershed committee has been meeting in the Topanga Creek Watershed. A major near-term goal of this watershed committee is to prioritize potential actions previously identified in a draft Topanga Creek Watershed Management Study and start a coordinated resource management planning (CRMP) process. A longer-term goal is preparation of a watershed management plan that will help address a number of issues including flood control in the canyon. The committee last met on April 27. A seminar on May 13 concerning septic system regulations and fire safe vegetation management was held in lieu of a regular meeting. The group's Technical Advisory Committee met on June 15 to aid in finalization of the QA/QC Plan for the Topanga Creek Water Quality Study (funded through 205(j) monies) and review data collected thus far. The June 10 seminar on grading and drainage best management practices has been rescheduled to September 16. An "envisioning" conference is scheduled for September 30. The Committee's website address is <http://www.TopangaOnline.com/twc/>.

## **Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project**

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project is a partnership of public agencies working cooperatively to acquire, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands and watersheds between Point Conception and the International border with Mexico. Using a non-regulatory approach and an ecosystem perspective, the Wetlands Project works to identify wetland acquisition and restoration priorities, prepare plans for these priority sites, pool funds to undertake these projects, implement priority plans, and oversee post-project maintenance and monitoring.

The goal of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project is to accelerate the pace, the extent, and the effectiveness of coastal wetland restoration in Southern California through developing and implementing a regional prioritization plan for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of Southern California's coastal wetlands and watersheds. Ultimately, the Wetlands Project's efforts will result in a long-term increase in the quantity and quality of the region's wetlands.

The Wetlands Recovery Project is headed by Board of Governors comprised of top officials from each of the participating agencies. The Southern California Wetlands Managers Group and the Public Advisory Committee serve as advisory committees to the Board. The Wetlands Managers Group is responsible for drafting the regional restoration plan and advising the Governing Board on regional acquisition, restoration, and enhancement priorities. The Wetlands Project has also established a panel of scientists to advise on regional goals, specific objectives, project criteria, and priorities. Governing Board meetings are public and are noticed at least 10 days prior to each meeting. To receive email notification of all board meetings, sign up for the [Wetlands Project email](#)

[list](http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/index.html). Minutes from previous meetings and other information about the group may be found on their website at <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/index.html>.

Each spring the Wetlands Recovery Project accepts proposals for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects for coastal wetlands and watersheds in Southern California. The Wetlands Recovery Project Managers Group recommended a list of priority projects for fiscal year 2000-2001 to the Governing Board at the Board's June 9 meeting. The list was adopted with a minor change (a Topanga Watershed project was added). A key consideration is whether projects will actually be able to use funds for on the groundwork in the upcoming fiscal year. Other potential projects are entered into a database for re-consideration in the future. The Wetlands Recovery Project does not have adequate funds for all of the projects on the priority list, so it has adopted a policy of "first-ready, first-funded." A project is more than a wetland or watershed that needs help. It must be a specific action. To be considered a priority project, acquisitions must have willing sellers and restoration work must have a local agency or non-profit that can carry out the work with the assistance of the Coastal Conservancy. The Wetlands Recovery Project helps to identify and fund worthy projects, but does not carry out the work. Limited funds are available for planning. Projects closer to the coast or clearly benefiting coastal resources will receive preference. A list of the current priority projects is provided on the website as well.

### **Watershed Management Initiative Chapter**

Each Regional Board has completed the process of producing a "chapter" on how that Board is implementing watershed management in the Region. The consolidated statewide chapter will become the basis for funding decisions including allocating money for monitoring, TMDL development, and grant monies disbursement. Each Region's Chapter is updated on an annual basis. The last update occurred in January 2000 and includes information on Regional Board implementation of the state's upgraded nonpoint source management program. Copies of this Region's current Chapter (as well as Appendices) and/or its Executive Summary may be obtained by contacting the Regional Board office, Regional Programs Section secretary. The document may also be sent out electronically in MSWord97 and is also available on the Regional Board's webpage under Regional Programs at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb4>.

## **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

### **Conference – A Water Revolution – Fundamental Changes in the Pipeline**

Deborah Smith

On Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura held their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Symposium. This year's theme was "A Water Revolution – Fundamental Changes in the Pipeline." Topics presented included Watershed Planning, Water Marketing, Current Water Industry Issues, and Salinity Issues. A representative from the Regional Water Quality Board (Deborah Smith) participated on the salinity panel and discussed water quality impacts from excessive salts, specific salinity issues in Ventura County watersheds, as well as prevention of, and solutions to, salinity problems. The panel discussion also included perspectives from the environmental community, the agricultural community, and the regulated community. Board Member, Dr. Jack Coe, also attended the Conference.

### **Staff Presentations**

Melinda Becker

Presentations describing the TMDL program and the draft Trash TMDLs were made to the following organizations during the month of May:

- Storm Water Quality Task Force Meeting
- Water Quality and the Watershed; a conference sponsored by Friends of the San Gabriel River, Council for the Humanities, and Friends of the Los Angeles River
- The monthly meeting of the Southern California Waste Association

### **Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Forum**

Gregg Kwey

Senior staff conducted a presentation on "Soil Analytical Testing Methods" for the California CUPA Forum—UST Technical Advisory Group on June 7, 2000, at the San Bernardino County Government Center. Various aspects of the soil sampling techniques and analytical testing methods were presented and discussed. Participants were updated on the benefit and need of using the updated soil sampling procedures testing methods for petroleum fuel hydrocarbon components and oxygenates.

### **Future Articles in Magazines**

Elizabeth Erickson

Two articles related to water quality and the Regional Board will appear in upcoming issues of two magazines.

**Magazine:** Water Technology

**Title:** *PR Damage Control: Mopping Up After the Brine Hits the Fan*

**Author:** Amy Poe, News Editor

**Author's summary:** As changing market and environmental conditions pressure the residential water treatment industry, skills in crisis management and community relations are crucial to dealers' survival.

**Regional Board Staff summary:** On January 1, Senate Bill 1006 took effect in California which allows cities to limit or ban water softeners in three year. This summer or fall, the Board will be voting on a resolution recommending cities in Santa Clara and Calleguas Watersheds create ordinances controlling water softeners. A Water Technology Magazine article due out this fall on this legislation reports that states like Texas and Florida eventually may follow suit. In Wisconsin, towns are gearing up to regulate softener use. In Michigan, communities have revived laws that forbid discharge of softener brine into sanitary sewers or septic tanks. Meanwhile, Irvine Ranch Water District, one of SB 1006's chief proponents, is quoted as saying its TDS climbed about 10 percent this year due to a number of factors, including the absence of local softener restrictions.

The article reports that efficient water softeners may not solve the TDS [total dissolved solids] problem because older softeners remain in use. Further, the law doesn't direct water treatment dealers to upgrade timer-driven units or tune up demand-initiated regenerated ones, although both procedures would be sources of revenue and help forestall regulation.

The article describes Regional Board action on the Santa Clara River, quoting staff work as follows, "Certain important crops, including avocados and strawberries, are adversely affected by water containing more than 70-180 mg/L of chloride," says Elizabeth Erickson, an associate engineering geologist with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. In May, Erickson predicted the board would consider a resolution to ask two communities in its watershed to ban all water softeners except those using portable exchange tanks.

The article further reports that Irvine Ranch sat down with representatives of the WQA to discuss the district's planned salinity-source survey. The district anticipates water agencies will be able to

use the survey to satisfy those requirements by 2003.

The remainder of the article discusses methods water softener dealers can use to participate with regulators in creating policy. They describe alliances with restaurants, healthcare facilities, and laundries that helped the WQA force changes to SB 1006 in California and repeal a ban on discharge of softener brine to septic tanks in New Jersey. The article quotes WQA's Censky as promising his organization will do its best to monitor trouble spots like Southern California.

**Magazine:** Broadcaster Magazine

**Title:** *Defining Moment*

**Author:** Robert McCarthy, Editor

**Author's Summary:** The Clean Water Act put states on notice that Congress expected action on later pollution. Now 28 years later, the Regional Water Quality Control Board has picked chloride levels in the Santa Clara River and Calleguas Creek as a starting point.

**Regional Board Staff Summary:** The Broadcaster magazine, a publication of the Ventura Farm Bureau, will devote their fall issue to water pollution issues, including upcoming TMDL actions and the April meeting of the Regional Water Quality Control Board where chlorides in the Santa Clara River were discussed.

The article reports that regulators were being asked to reduce chlorides to half the federal drinking water standards, and to require cities and wastewater treatment plants to remove additional chloride. Describing the study as a methodical and slow process that involved meetings, draft proposals and comment, the board was reported to have arrived at an acceptable level of chloride.

The views of stakeholders in the two watersheds are quoted as Board staff.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Personnel Report**

Dolores Renick

As of June 29 our staff total is 141: 124 technical staff (including 2 part-time staff), 4 permanent administrative staff, and 13 permanent clerical staff.

Staff is currently taking steps to fill 1 Section Chief position, 8 technical positions, 1 Associate Information Systems Analyst, and 1 clerical position.

Since May 5 the following appointments have been made:

**Ching-Piau Lai**, Associate Water Resource Control Engineer in the L.A. Inland Unit, appointed 6/1/00.

**James Covin**, Environmental Specialist I in the Storm Water Unit, appointed 6/14/00.

**Ivar Ridgeway**, Environmental Specialist I in the Storm Water Unit, appointed 6/22/00.

**Mohammed Zaidi**, Associate Engineering Geologist in the Storm Water Unit, appointed 6/26/00.

**Stefanie Hada**, Environmental Specialist I for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, appointed

6/28/00.

**Matt Yeager**, Environmental Specialist II in the Storm Water Unit, appointed 6/29/00.

The following promotions were made:

**Pat Guokas**, from Regional Administrative Officer II to Staff Services Manager I, effective 5/2/00.

**Michael Yang**, from Water Resource Control Engineer to Associate Water Resource Control Engineer, effective 3/29/00.

The following separated from Region 4:

**Dipak Bishnu**, Associate Water Resource Control Engineer, transferred to Air Resources Board.