

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY
REPORT

8:30a.m., Thursday, January 27, 2011
Regional Water Board, DCJ Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA

ITEM: 13

SUBJECT: Update on Lower Russian River Core Regulatory and TMDL Efforts

DISCUSSION

Staff is working on a number of programs in the lower Russian River watershed related to pathogens, bacteria, nutrients, sediment and other pollutants of concern. Staff will be presenting an overview of water quality threats, permitting activities, other regulatory actions, total maximum daily load (TMDL) development efforts, monitoring plans, and early TMDL implementation efforts.

The focus of the presentation will be the Russian River watershed from roughly Ukiah downstream to the mouth at Jenner. This area includes the reaches of the Russian River and the tributary streams that are impaired by pathogenic indicator bacteria and the Laguna de Santa Rosa, which is also impaired by nutrients and low dissolved oxygen levels. This area also contains many publicly owned treatment works, permitted wastewater discharges, non-sewered parcels with known and unknown wastewater treatment, permitted urban storm water runoff, dairies, private animal rearing activities, homeless concerns, and significant water contact recreation. The purpose of the presentation is to get a better understanding of how these issues interrelate and current regulatory efforts by staff to protect and improve water quality.

Staff continues to make progress on two TMDL development projects in the Russian River watershed. The Russian River Pathogen TMDL will address the multiple indicator bacteria impairments in the watershed. Extensive in-stream sampling will begin in March and continue well into the winter of 2011/2012. Sampling results will help identify bacteria and pathogen sources, transport mechanisms, and will advise TMDL allocations and implementation actions. The Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDLs will address high nutrient concentrations, low dissolved oxygen levels, high fine sediment loads, and high water temperatures in the Laguna watershed. Monitoring efforts are complete, data are being analyzed, and preliminary results of the nutrient source analysis will be presented.

PRELIMINARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: No recommendation. This is an information item only.