



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 2013

Russian River Watershed selected as California's Habitat Focus Area within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Habitat Blueprint.

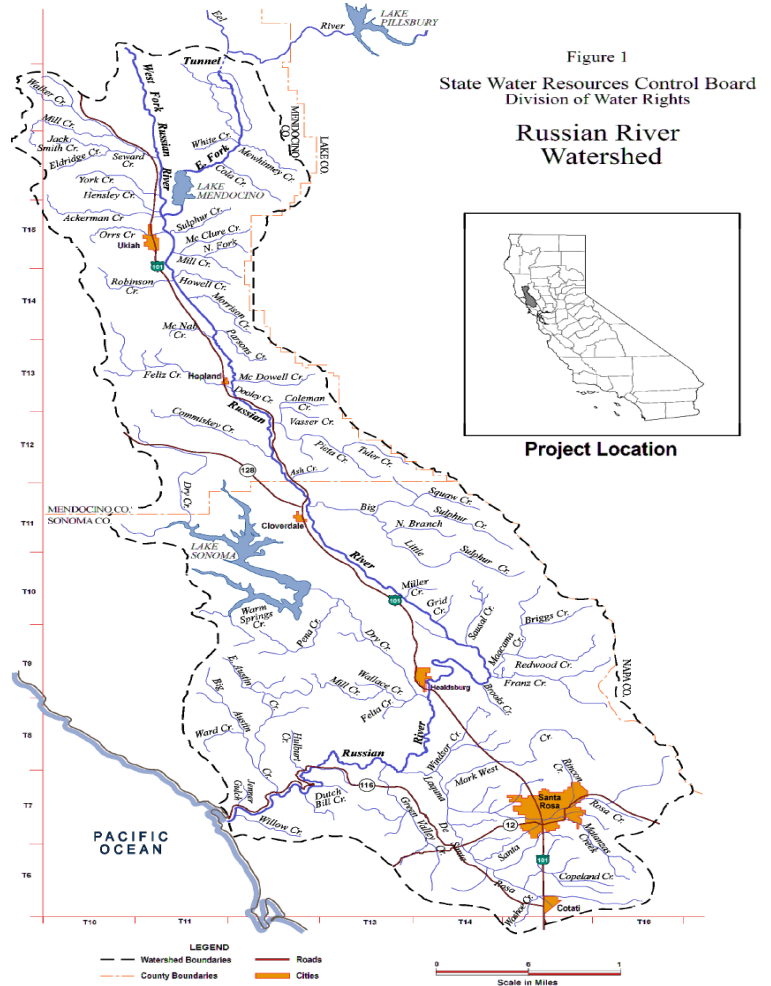
Matt St. John

Congressman Mike Thompson, California 5th Congressional District, announced on December 21, 2012 that the Russian River Watershed has been selected as California's Habitat Focus Area, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Habitat Blueprint.

The Russian River Watershed encompasses approximately 1,485 square miles in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. The Watershed is hydrologically and geomorphologically diverse, containing 238 streams, 23 named springs, 14 natural lakes, 15 named reservoirs, all or portions of 13 groundwater basins, steep ridges, ephemeral streams, rolling hills, and wide alluvial valleys.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has developed the Habitat Blueprint program in response to Congressional directives to build on existing programs, prioritize restoration activities, and guide future habitat protection priorities. Currently, all three salmonid species found in the Russian River – steelhead trout, chinook

salmon and coho salmon – are on the federal endangered and threatened species lists.



The Russian River Watershed was chosen among the 17 candidate areas in California because NOAA's habitat conservation experts felt it offered the

greatest opportunities for NOAA-wide collaboration on habitat conservation. The habitat restoration and enhancement projects taking place in the watershed will continue as part of the Habitat Blueprint. That includes the practice of supplementing cold-water releases by providing shady, complex habitat critical for young coho, chinook and steelhead and efforts by private landowners to create off-stream water storage to use for frost protection and irrigation in order to reduce demand on the river. Extensive monitoring will be conducted to measure success and to continually improve projects and programs throughout the watershed.

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LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Paul Keiran

On January 23, 2012, the North Coast Stormwater Coalition held a workshop in Eureka, entitled “Reining in the Rain”, a watershed-friendly Low Impact Development (LID) site design for stormwater management. The overarching goal of LID is to reduce the quantity of discharge of stormwater runoff to receiving waters, and to improve the quality of stormwater by capturing and treating it for onsite reuse, infiltration into groundwater, or evapotranspiration.

The focus of the workshop included the benefits of employing LID in new development and retrofit projects, new regulations and requirements, as well as design, implementation, and maintenance of LID projects. Industry experts from around the country formed the core presenters. Regional Water Board staff presented on our agency’s priorities as

they relate to specific LID technologies, and what cities in our Region have constructed projects employing LID practices. Region 1 presently has over 50 completed LID projects.



Photo by Paul Keiran.

Prime examples of LID include bio-retention swales and rain gardens (both employing engineered soil and biota to remove pollutants from stormwater); green roofs; infiltration practices; rain barrels/cisterns; retention of existing site vegetation and decreased development footprint. These practices help maintain ground water levels and sufficient dry-season surface water base flows.



Healdsburg Office Building ~Bio-Retention Swale. Photo by Paul Keiran.

Over 100 persons attended the workshop, including a good showing of architects, design engineers and landscapers, those who are front and center in the LID movement. The workshop was well received by the attendees.

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Enforcement Report for March 2013 Executive Officer's Report
Diana Henriouille

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of February 22, 2012
11/5/12	Ca. Dept. of Transportation and Ghilotti Construction Company	ACLC	Violation of CWA section 401 Water Quality Certification and NPDES Stormwater permit	Ongoing

Comments: On November 5, 2012, the Regional Water Board AEO issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (ACLC) R1-2012-0112 to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and its contractor, the Ghilotti Construction Company, for discharges of waste and water quality impacts associated with the Highway 101 High Occupancy Vehicle Central Project, which extends from north of Pepper Road in Petaluma to Rohnert Park Expressway in Rohnert Park, Sonoma County. The discharges violated provisions of both the Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification and the NPDES Stormwater permit covering the project. The ACLC proposes a penalty of \$5,565,860. Caltrans and Ghilotti have waived their rights to a hearing and have entered into settlement discussions with the Regional Water Board and Office of Enforcement.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of February 22, 2013
12/27/12	Lands of MK Old Redwood LLC	NOV	Violations of General Construction Stormwater permit	Resolved

Comments: On December 27, 2012, the Regional Water Board Watershed Protection Division Chief issued a NOV to Lands of MK Old Redwood LLC for failure to implement erosion or sediment control BMPs for approximately 3 acre of exposed soil. Staff noted evidence of sediment discharges to an adjacent drainage ditch at several locations. The NOV required submittal of an updated Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) within 10 days.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of February 22, 2013
12/27/12	Santos Residential Subdivision	NOV	Violations of General Construction Stormwater permit	Resolved

Comments: On December 27, 2012, the Regional Water Board Watershed Protection Division Chief issued a NOV to Santos Residential Subdivision for failure to implement erosion or sediment control BMPs for a portion of the subdivision allowing sediment to discharge and/or threaten to discharge into waters of the State. The NOV required submittal of an updated SWPPP within 10 days.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of February 22, 2013
1/8/13	David Reed Residential Construction Project	NOV	Violations of General Construction Stormwater permit	Resolved

Comments: On January 8, 2013, the Regional Water Board Watershed Protection Division Chief issued a NOV to David Reed for failure to implement adequate erosion or sediment control BMPs for his Residential Construction Project, allowing sediment to discharge to a small tributary to Mark West Creek. Erosion of the hillside and the access road was evident. The NOV required submittal of an updated SWPPP within 10 days.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of February 22, 2013
1/15/13	Don Roberts/ Steve and Taylor Whitley	CAO & 13267(b)	Clean Water Act and Basin Plan violations associated with unauthorized road construction through wetland, pond and series of streams	Ongoing

Comments: On January 15, 2013, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued Cleanup and Abatement Order and 13267(b) Order No. R1-2013-0007 to Don Roberts and Steve G. and Taylor Whitley for unauthorized road construction through wetlands and streams near Laytonville, in Mendocino County. The Order requires the Dischargers to develop an interim erosion control plan, develop a technical report with details on road construction, and develop a restoration plan to remove all illegally placed earthen material and restore the functionality of the damage wetlands, streams, and pond(s).

