



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT **North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**

June 2013

Executive Officer's Water Quality Stewardship Award

Matt St. John

As a spokesperson for water quality protection in the North Coast Region, I am pleased to announce the opening of nominations for the Executive Officer's Water Quality Stewardship Award, a new, annual award to be given to an individual or group whose exceptional work has contributed to the preservation and enhancement of surface and groundwater quality. The Regional Water Quality Control Board and its staff spend much of its time and energy focused on the task of controlling waste discharges to the region's waters. This award is designed to acknowledge and honor our partners in water quality protection who augment this work with their own efforts in pollution prevention, waste minimization, water quality enhancement, and beneficial use restoration. The North Coast Region is uniquely blessed with an innovative community of stewards who have advanced these shared goals.

By November 30th of each year, I will be accepting nominations from Regional Water Board staff and the public for individuals or groups who are doing exceptional work to protect water quality. The nomination letter need not be lengthy, but should identify the person or group being nominated, describe their work, and describe the water quality improvements that have resulted from their

efforts. From the nominations submitted, I will select an annual recipient of the Executive Officer's Water Quality Stewardship Award, and will present the award at the first Board meeting in the next calendar year. I look forward to receiving the first set of nominations by November 30, 2013, and to honoring the recipient at the to-be-scheduled Board meeting in January 2014. Thank you.

Yours in protection of water quality,
Matt St. John

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Chemicals of Emerging Concern (CECs) ***Lauren Clyde***

In the past few years a diverse group of relatively unmonitored chemicals including such items as pharmaceuticals, personal care products (PPCPs) and other trace organic chemicals such as caffeine, nicotine, and acetaminophen, have emerged as a new water quality issue for regulators to address. A variety of laboratory studies indicate that these chemicals of emerging concern (CECs) interfere with the endocrine systems of humans and animals. There is also strong evidence that chemical exposure causes adverse developmental and reproductive effects in fish and wildlife. Since wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove these constituents, CECs mostly enter the

environment through wastewater discharges. Sampling data shows that endocrine disruptors are commonly found downstream of intensely urbanized areas and animal production facilities.

For some time, Regional Water Board staff have been following the issue of CECs. Various studies and other useful information have been submitted by interested parties for projects such as the Low Threat Discharge Basin Plan Amendment and associated permit. More recently Board members have expressed an interest in this subject. In response to concerns about this issue and the potential impacts to beneficial uses, staff has recently started an in-house workgroup to discuss CECs. The purpose of the work group is to determine the current status of the science and come to an agreement on what next steps might be appropriate for staff to take at this time.

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board has been involved with the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in the San Francisco Bay (RMP) which has been investigating CECs since 2001. A formal workgroup was developed to address the issue in 2006. The RMP Emerging Contaminants Workgroup (ECWG) includes representatives from stakeholder groups and an advisory panel of expert researchers that work together to address the workgroup's guiding management question – Which CECs have the potential to adversely impact beneficial uses in San Francisco Bay? North Coast Regional Water Board staff is considering options to address and keep up to date with the current science related to CECs, including potentially initiating an effort similar to the RMP ECWG.

Several CEC projects related to research and monitoring have been implemented by the Southern California Coastal Water Research

Project (SCCWRP), a research institute focusing on the coastal ecosystems of Southern California from watersheds to the ocean. One of the projects was requested by the State Water Resources Control Board in response to concern about CECs in recycled water when the Board's Recycled Water Policy was adopted in 2009. As a result of the Policy and concerns about CECs, the State Water Board requested that SCCWRP convene a scientific panel of experts to discuss the subject of CECs.

The panel convened to answer the following questions:

- What are the appropriate constituents to be monitored in recycled water, and what are the applicable monitoring methods and detection limits?
- What toxicological information is available for these constituents?
- Would the constituent list change based on level of treatment? If so, how?
- What are the possible indicators (i.e. surrogates) that represent a suite of CECs?
- What levels of CECs should trigger enhanced monitoring in recycled, ground or surface waters?

The panel released a report in 2010 that included a conceptual framework for determining which CECs should be monitored and recommended a phased approach to implementing CEC monitoring programs for recycled water. In January 2013, an amendment to the Recycled Water Policy (Policy) was adopted by the State Water Board which includes requirements for monitoring CECs based primarily on the risk to human health. The monitoring requirements apply to the use of recycled water for groundwater recharge projects that

include surface and subsurface application methods. The panel determined that CEC monitoring of recycled water used for landscape irrigation is not necessary due to the low risk of ingestion and the unlikelihood of potential impacts to human health.

Additionally, the Policy establishes that additional monitoring requirements will only be added if recommended by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) or by project proponents.

The panel gathered again in 2012 to address unanswered questions about CECs in freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, separate from the issue of recycled water. Both of these reports are available at the SCCWRP website:
<http://www.sccwrp.org/ResearchAreas/Contaminants/ContaminantsOfEmergingConcern.aspx>

A 205(j) grant will soon be underway to create a statewide CEC monitoring plan to be implemented by the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). The monitoring plan is being managed by staff in the Office of Information Management and Analysis (OIMA) division at the State Water Board under coordination with the SWAMP and Citizen Monitoring Programs and will implement the recommendations from the scientific panel reports.

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Update on the Russian River Pathogen TMDL

Rebecca Fitzgerald

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board staff has been working to develop the Russian River Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address fecal

indicator bacteria impairments in the Russian River watershed.

Staff has recently updated the webpage for the Russian River Pathogen TMDL. New information includes an updated project schedule, preliminary assessments of monitoring data, recent staff presentations to the Regional Water Board, and other technical documents prepared to support the monitoring program. The webpage can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/russian_river

Regional Water Board staff has been collecting water quality data in support of this TMDL since winter 2011 and anticipates completing all monitoring objectives by the end of the summer of 2013. Staff continues to work on the assessment of the monitoring data to develop a clear picture of the sources and nature of the fecal indicator bacteria impairment in the watershed.

It is anticipated that a CEQA scoping meeting will be held in spring 2014 at the Regional Water Board office in Santa Rosa. The draft TMDL is expected to be complete and available for public review in early 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact [Charles Reed@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Charles.Reed@waterboards.ca.gov) or at 707-576-2752.

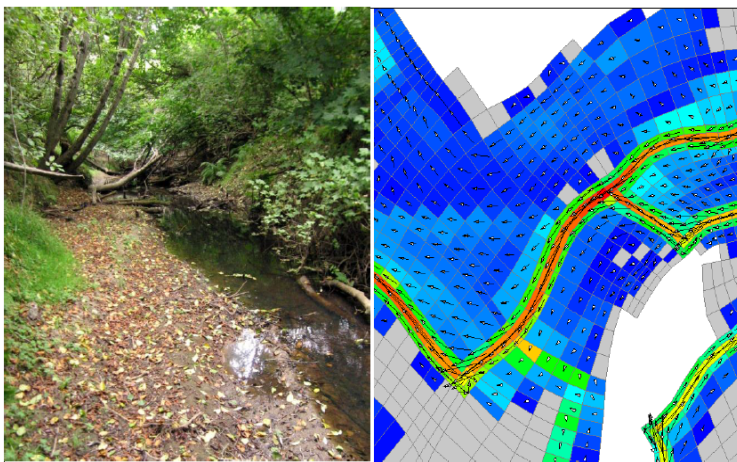
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Elk River Recovery Assessment
Adona White

On May 7, 2013, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) unanimously approved a funding request from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) for

\$475,030 from the Cleanup and Abatement Account as a share in the cost of the Elk River Recovery Assessment and Sediment Remediation Pilot Project. The Cleanup and Abatement Account funds will be combined with contributions from the California Coastal Conservancy, the Redwood Community Action Agency, and Humboldt Redwood Company to complete the estimated project budget.

The Elk River Recovery Assessment is designed to assess the fate and transport of fine sediment in the middle and lower reaches of the Elk River from the top of the depositional reach (upstream of the confluence of the North and South Forks) downstream to Humboldt Bay. The Recovery Assessment project requires the collection of sediment and hydraulic data which will be used to populate hydrodynamic and sediment transport models within which several different remediation scenarios can be tested. The end product of the Recovery Assessment will be a feasibility study report from which a remediation action plan can be developed.



Left: South Fork Elk River channel (Stillwater Sciences, 2011). **Right:** example model grid in vicinity of the confluence of North Fork and South Fork Elk River (Northern Hydrology and Engineering and Stillwater Sciences, 2011).

The Sediment Remediation Pilot Project will involve the mechanical removal of instream sediment from a pre-selected site to monitor and model the site parameters under which mechanical sediment removal successfully contributes to the improvement of stream channel hydrodynamics. Conversations with State Water Board members have shed light on the need for the remediation action plan to include a suite of remediation actions that can be prioritized and phased over the next 10 years as funding from private and public partnerships is made available.

Regional Water Board staff is working with State Water Board contracting staff to complete a Request for Qualifications solicitation package. Qualified firms will be asked to assemble a team which meets certain selection criteria, including expertise in hydrodynamic and sediment transport modeling, stakeholder outreach, aquatic habitat restoration, and a history of meeting deadlines. Regional and State Water Board staff are working quickly with the hope of having the contract team selected, contract signed, and field crew on the ground before the end of the summer.

Staff will provide the Regional Water Board with an update during the next informational item on the Upper Elk River TMDL, planned for August 2013.

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Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program

Jonathan Warmerdam

The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) have partnered in the development of the proposed Mendocino County Permit

Coordination Program (MCPCP). It is widely recognized that the process required to secure state and federal permits, as well as public funding, can impede a landowner’s intentions to conduct beneficial projects on their land. The MCPCP is designed to help improve the process by providing one-stop-shop permitting, access to expertise, and the possibility for public funding. In addition, the MCPCP provides a significant opportunity for the Regional Water Board that promote projects to comply with TMDL requirements.

The MCPCP provides a platform for high-quality erosion control and habitat restoration throughout the watersheds of Mendocino County. To implement the program, the RCD and NRCS are seeking out programmatic permits for a set of 10 specific, standardized conservation practices that will improve habitat and soil stability on farms, ranches, and forestland.

Proposed conservation practices will include actions such as: erosion control on roads, critical area planting with native vegetation, instream habitat improvements such as wood debris augmentation and boulder clusters, grade stabilization of gullies or eroding channels, road and landing decommissioning, bioengineering practices, and stream crossing upgrades. MCRCD and NRCS are proposing to implement up to 25 projects during each year with up to 250 projects completed by the end of the ten-year period. Projects that may adversely affect listed salmonids will be limited to 3-5 per year in each sub-watershed, depending on watershed size and predicted work focus.

The MCPCP is based upon its successful predecessor - the *Navarro River Permit Coordination Program* - but expands its geographic scope in order to apply countywide. Watersheds that will be covered by the program include: Upper Russian River,

North Fork Gualala, Garcia River, Navarro River, Albion River, Big River, Point Arena (Alder Creek, small coastal tributaries), Noyo River (includes Pudding and Caspar Creeks), Rockport (Ten Mile River, small coastal tributaries), Upper Eel River, Middle Fork Eel River, and the Lower Eel River.

In 2012, the MCRCD conducted an analysis of potential impacts that could result from projects associated with the MCPCP as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Regional Board staff secured funding for the CEQA analysis as well as to assist the MCRCD in acquiring programmatic permits for the MCPCP. In late 2013, staff intends to present a permit implementing the MCPCP to the Regional Water Board for consideration of adoption.

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319 Funding for Water Quality Improvement Projects

Diana Henriouille

Each year, the US EPA allocates a portion of its Clean Water Act Section 319 (Non Point Source) resources to funding water quality improvement projects throughout the State. In recent years, these funds have been focused on planning and/or implementing projects in watersheds with adopted or soon to be adopted TMDLs, targeting the pollutants associated with the TMDLs. The State and Regional Water Boards work with the US EPA to select the projects and once approved for funding, administer the projects through grant agreements.

The annual 319 funding cycle typically begins in late spring, when each of the Regional Boards identifies a subset of its TMDL watersheds as 319 “preferences” for the upcoming grant solicitation, and specifies type(s) of projects that are expected to most efficiently and/or effectively help to control non point source pollutant discharges that contribute to the impairment(s) for which the preference watersheds are listed and for which the TMDLs for those watersheds have been developed. In mid to late summer, the State Water Board solicits concept proposals for projects meeting the specified preferences.

Once concept proposals have been submitted, representatives from the EPA, State Water Board, and each of the regions for which concept proposals have been submitted, review and score the proposals, and then meet, typically in mid-November, to select a subset of those proposals (based on a number of criteria) to invite back for full proposals, typically due early the following year. Once full proposals have been submitted, EPA and Water Boards representatives again review and score proposals, and around mid-March

meet again to discuss the proposals, determine whether they should be funded, and finally prioritize all those recommended for funding.

The total amount of funding requested (adding the cost of all the proposed projects) typically exceeds the available funding, so the prioritization process creates an order of funding preference, with those falling above the available funding line recommended for funding, and those falling below the available funding line recommended to be funded, should additional resources be made available over the upcoming year. State Water Board 319 staff take the final list to the State Water Board for approval and, once the projects are approved for funding, staff of the Regional Boards in which the projects are located work with State Water Board staff to develop grant agreements and subsequently manage those grants, overseeing projects that typically take about five years to complete.

Throughout the preference identification, solicitation, review, selection, and ultimate grant management process, our 319 grant staff work very closely with our TMDL development and implementation staff, who are most closely familiar with those watersheds, the impairments, and the TMDL needs and requirements, in an effort to ensure that the projects that we are supporting and bringing back to this Region are compatible with our TMDL action plans and have a good likelihood of speeding achievement of TMDL goals, addressing impairments, and restoring our watersheds.

At this time, North Coast Regional Water Board staff are managing thirteen 319 grant projects, and developing a grant agreement for a 14th. Through the most recent grant cycle, the statewide group has selected, and the State Water Board has just approved funding for four more projects in the North Coast Region, summarized below:

Project	Grantee	Description
Garcia River TMDL Implementation Project, II	Mendocino County RCD	Implement erosion control plans on three properties comprising approximately 10% of the Garcia River watershed, addressing approximately 20.3 miles of roads, and 370 feet of streambank.
Shasta River Irrigation Water Management & Watershed Stewardship Project	Shasta Valley RCD	Complement existing work completed and underway by the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District to reduce and manage tailwater in the Shasta River
Assessment & Planning Analysis of Shasta River: Dwinnell Reservoir Parks Creek Confluence	Cal Trout, Inc.	Identify and assess limiting factors and opportunities to improve habitat conditions and survival of Coho salmon in the reach of the Shasta River from Dwinnell Dam to the Parks Creek confluence.
Historical Ecology for Guiding TMDL Implementation in the Laguna de Santa Rosa	San Francisco Estuary Institute	Use wetland assessments and historical ecologic analysis to identify wetland restoration opportunities.

For further information regarding this program, please contact Diana Henriouille at (707)576-2350 or, by email, at Diana.Henriouille@waterboards.ca.gov

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Enforcement Report for May 2013 Executive Officer's Report *Diana Henriouille*

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 24, 2013
February 13, 2013	Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works	NOV	WDR violations	Ongoing

Comments: On February 13, 2013, the Chief of the Watershed Protection Division issued a NOV to the Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works for discharges and threatened discharges of leachate and sediment into waters of the State, in violation of its WDRs for the Sonoma County Central Disposal site. The NOV directed the Discharger to correct and/or submit a plan and schedule to correct the cited violations. The site operator has addressed a number of the cited

violations, and recent observations by staff have confirmed significant site improvements; this matter is still ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 24, 2013
March 12, 2013	North Coast Rail Authority	CAO	Discharges and threatened discharges of petroleum products to surface and groundwaters	Ongoing

Comments: On March 12, 2013, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R1-2013-0022 to the North Coast Rail Authority, updating CAO No. 97-47, for discharges and threatened discharges of petroleum products to receiving waters at property located at 239 East Commercial Street in Willits. The CAO directs the Discharger to clean up and abate the discharges and threatened discharges and submit various technical and monitoring reports, with the first deliverable, a site characterization plan, due by mid-May 2013.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 24, 2013
March 13, 2013	Weed Department of Public Works	NOV	Sanitary Sewer Systems WDR violations	Ongoing

Comments: On March 13, 2013, the Director of the State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Enforcement issued a second NOV to the Weed Department of Public Works for its sanitary sewage collection system, citing Sanitary Sewer Systems WDRS violations associated with reporting deficiencies, failure to submit required reports and documents, and possible failure to report sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). The NOV directs the Discharger to respond by April 13, 2013 reporting on the status of the violations, and indicating its plans and schedule to come into compliance with the WDR requirements.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 24, 2013
April 23, 2013	McKinleyville CSD	NOV	NPDES permit violations	Ongoing

Comments: On April 23, 2013, the Regional Water Board Acting Assistant Executive Officer issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the McKinleyville CSD for its Wastewater Treatment Facility, citing NPDES permit violations associated with laboratory and monitoring deficiencies. The NOV directs the CSD to address the violations and confirm corrections and/or proposed corrections by June 1, 2013.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 24, 2013
April 24, 2013	City of Arcata	NOV	NPDES permit violations	Ongoing

Comments: On April 24, 2013, the Regional Water Board Acting Assistant Executive Officer issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the City of Arcata for its Wastewater Treatment Facility, citing NPDES permit violations associated with laboratory and analytical requirements. The NOV directs the City to address the violations and confirm corrections and/or proposed corrections by June 1, 2013.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 24, 2013
April 24, 2013	Caltrans	NOV	NPDES Storm Water and 401 Certification violations	Resolved

Comments: On April 24, 2013, the chief of the Non Point Source and Timber Harvest Division issued a NOV to Caltrans for violations of its permits for the Willits Bypass Project in Mendocino County. Specifically, the NOV cites soil disturbances near a watercourse, unstabilized soils, and lack of adequate erosion control measures at various locations on the project. The NOV directs Caltrans to correct the violations and provide confirmation of corrections by May 6, 2013. Recent staff site observations have confirmed that Caltrans has corrected the cited violations.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 24, 2013
April 24, 2013	City of Fortuna	NOV	NPDES permit violations	Ongoing

Comments: Comments: On April 24, 2013, the Regional Water Board Acting Assistant Executive Officer issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the City of Fortuna for its Wastewater Treatment Facility, citing NPDES permit violations associated with biosolids handling and inaccurate self monitoring reports. The NOV directs the City to address the violations and confirm corrections and/or proposed corrections by June 1, 2013.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 24, 2013
April 24, 2013	City of Willits	NOV	NPDES permit violations	Ongoing

Comments: On April 24, 2013, the Regional Water Board Acting Assistant Executive Officer issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the City of Willits for its Wastewater Treatment Facility, citing NPDES permit violations associated with laboratory and monitoring deficiencies, as well as a threatened receiving water limitation violation. The NOV directs the City to address the violations and confirm corrections and/or proposed corrections by June 1, 2013.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 24, 2013
April 26, 2013	Humboldt Waste Management Authority/ Recology	CAO/ 13267 Order	Discharges and threatened discharges of burn ash waste to surface and groundwaters	Ongoing

Comments: On April 26, 2013, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued Cleanup and Abatement and 13267 Order (CAO) number R1-2013-0033 to the Humboldt Waste Management Authority and Recology Humboldt County for discharges and threatened discharges of solid and liquid wastes from Cummings Road Burn Ash Site to surface water and groundwater in the Ryan Creek watershed. The CAO directs the Dischargers to submit technical information and perform cleanup and abatement actions, with site cleanup fully implemented by September 30, 2014. The Dischargers have advised Regional Water Board staff that they intend to comply with the requirements and deadlines as specified in the CAO.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 24, 2013
May 13, 2013	Caltrans	NOV	NPDES Storm Water permit and 401 Certification violations	Ongoing

Comments: On May 13, 2013, the chief of the Non Point Source and Timber Harvest Division issued a NOV to Caltrans for permit violations associated with its Greenwood Creek bridge replacement project on Highway 1. Violations included improper and ineffective best management practices (BMPs), lack of BMPs, and discharges of waste to unpermitted areas. The NOV acknowledges efforts Caltrans has made to date to address those violations, as well as to promptly notify and report violations, but cites a lack of follow-through with implementation of adequate BMPs. The NOV encourages Caltrans management to support improved efforts to plan, schedule, and implement effective BMPs.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 24, 2013
May 15, 2013	City of Ferndale	EPL	NPDES permit violations subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs)	Ongoing

Comments: On May 15, 2013, the Acting Assistant Executive Officer issued Order No. R1-2013-0038, Offer to Participate in Expedited Payment Program (EPL) to the City of Ferndale for violations of the NPDES permit for its wastewater treatment facility. The EPL cites four effluent limit violations over the period March 1, 2011 to May 1, 2012, subject to a total Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3000.00.