

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Minutes October 25, 2001
Regional Water Board Workshop
Regional Water Board Hearing
Room
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

On October 25, 2001, at 9:10 a.m., the Regional Water Board Workshop was called to order by Chair William Massey. This meeting was noticed as a workshop due to lack of a quorum.

i. Pledge of Allegiance

Bev Wasson lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. Roll Call and Introductions

Board Members Present: William Hoy, Bev Wasson, Dina Moore, and William Massey.

Regional Water Board Staff Present: Executive Officer, Susan Warner; State Water Resource Control Board Counsels, Sheryl Freeman and Phil Wyels; Assistant Executive Officer, Craig Johnson; Division Chiefs, Frank Reichmuth, Ranjit Gill, and Luis Rivera; Seniors, Tuck Vath, Tom Dunbar, David Leland, and Diana Henriouille-Henry; Technical Staff, Stephen Bargsten; Staff Service Manager Kathleen Daly; Secretary, Jean Lockett; Office Assistant, Julie Sayre.

iii. Board Member Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communications disclosed.

iv. Public Forum

Dennis Hill, who lives in the City of Healdsburg, spoke on the Healdsburg outflow relocation project for the City's wastewater plant. He stated that pond 5 is a newly dug pond, and because it's unlined it is open to the aquifer. Therefore, if Healdsburg were allowed to discharge its wastewater in the pond, it would pollute the groundwater in this area near the Russian River. He urged the Board to not consider the Healdsburg relocation request.

John Saracco, who lives in Healdsburg, said that he, too, is concerned about contamination of Healdsburg's outflow relocation project for the wastewater plant. He and other residents are very concerned about having clean water.

Jim Love, a resident on Westside Road, stated his concerns by saying that Healdsburg is pushing to use pond 5 for their own benefit. He said that Healdsburg has not made any attempts to reach the residents in the area to discuss the replacement of water if their wells were knocked out due to the relocation project. Mr. Love stated that his property value is an issue due to the project, and his hope is that pond 5 will not be used by Healdsburg.

Dr. Martin Griffin stated that he has lived in Healdsburg for 41 years. He would like Healdsburg to develop a riparian corridor to resolve its waste discharge problem. He is concerned that Healdsburg will dump/discharge its wastewater in the Russian River. He said that he viewed a map produced by the City of Santa Rosa for their Geyser Pipeline/Wastewater Recycled Program showing the location of wastewater discharge. He requested the Board to turn down Healdsburg's request.

Scot Stegeman stated that he wanted to advise the Board that WASA has filed suit on the final EIR. He said his other concern is the temporary restraining order and the request for a preliminary injunction that basically removes the relocation decision of Healdsburg's discharge from the Regional Water Board and other agencies, such as the County of Sonoma, Department of Fish and Game, and etc.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Item 1 Update on the Roseland Action Plan and Outreach Activities for Cleanups in the Southwest Santa Rosa Area, including the McMinn Avenue Site

Mark Bartson updated the Board on the clean-up activities of the southwest area of Santa Rosa. The first update was on the Roseland Action Plan, which is a cooperative agreement between the County of Sonoma and the Regional Water Board. He stated that there were two outreach components under the Action Plan for public outreach regarding the Plan efforts and for the overall outreach by the Regional Water Board for the approximately 25 sites in the Roseland area. Under the Plan of Action, the Regional Water Board conducts ongoing sampling of drinking water wells. The goal of the Plan of Action is to fully define the halogenated volatile organic compound (HVOC) contaminant plume.

Stephen Bargsten discussed some of the County's work under the Action Plan. He displayed a map showing the monitoring wells that have been installed by the County. The monitoring wells provide data on the HVOC plume which originates near the corner of West Road and Sebastopol Road. Stephen stated that the

County performs domestic well sampling of 15-20 private wells each quarter. The County is also looking for other source areas of contamination as a part of the investigation. Stephen stated that the County is scheduled to provide the Final Remedial Investigation Report (as required by the Action Plan) in February 2002.

Mark Bartson discussed how the Regional Water Board would work with the County by sharing data from the County's investigation. The data from the investigation report will give staff and the County a more cohesive picture.

Susan Warner stated that the Action Plan was negotiated with the County a couple of years ago, and is focused on investigating the extent of the contamination problem. However, work on cleaning up the contamination is not within the scope of the Action Plan. Once Regional Water Board staff has received and reviewed the results of the investigation, a report will be brought to the Board and options for the next stage will be discussed at that time.

Mark Bartson stated that the County investigation has provided detailed information on hydrocarbon contamination in the area of the HVOC plume. Investigation of this hydrocarbon contamination is also outside the scope of the Action Plan. The Regional Water Board staff has required other responsible parties in the vicinity to incorporate the data from the County's investigation into their own site investigations. This will help determine responsibility for the hydrocarbon contamination in the area. Mark Bartson reported on the Autumn Waterfest (a public outreach activity) that was held on Saturday, October 20, 2001. Regional Water Board staff and other interested agencies provided information on the contamination issues of the area and other technical information. There was entertainment, food, and other activities to encourage attendance at this educational event. The outreach activity was attended by approximately 150 community members.

2. Update on West College Avenue/Clover Drive PCE Contamination

Mark Bartson discussed some of the current Regional Water Board staff work in the West College Avenue/Clover Drive area. As discussed at the last Water Board meeting in August, soil gas monitoring has been completed and is being used to provide information on the sources of contamination and as a result, locate the responsible parties for the contamination. A second potential responsible party in the area has been identified and will soon be sent a 13267 Order requiring an investigation.

Mark stated that the Geoprobe drilling workplan is being prepared by using the results from the soil gas survey, sampling data and other information. He updated the Board on the County and City's requests for funds from the Cleanup and Abatement Account, the current contamination status, Sonoma County's health outreach program and the related needs assessment survey of the West

College residents. There is an upcoming community public meeting scheduled for November 8, 2001, at the Finley Center in Santa Rosa. The purpose of this meeting is to provide residents with updated information on the investigation and other activities related to the PCE contamination.

Richard Shuldtz stated that he appreciated the work of the Regional Water Board staff in working towards finding funds to allow all West College/Clover Drive residents to be connected to City water. He then stated his concerns that the current County Well Ordinance could hinder the Regional Water Board staff in researching the contamination of the site.

3. Update on Revisions to the Sonoma County Well Ordinance

Mark Bartson stated that the Regional Water Board staff has been involved in discussions with Sonoma County on the revisions of the Sonoma County Well Ordinance. At the August 2001 Regional Water Board meeting, the Board directed staff to look into the approach taken by other counties with regards to well ordinances. Mr. Bartson reported that 56 of 58 county ordinances were reviewed. Staff looked for specific language in the ordinances regarding well abandonment issues. They found that none of the ordinances contain language that tied abandonment requirements to Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) set by drinking water standards. One important aspect was how each county actually enforced their ordinance. At future Board meetings, the Regional Water Board staff will report back to the Board on the progress of the revision discussions with Sonoma County and provide a brief report on how other counties enforce their well ordinance.

Luis Rivera, addressed the Board by stating that the Regional Water Board's involvement in the County's Well Ordinance is to articulate to the County that this Board is interested in injecting as much flexibility in the interpretation of any guidance so that they may allow continue use of the groundwater resource with appropriate management of that resource.

4 Report on Sonoma County Groundwater Study

Jay Jasperse, with the Sonoma County Water Agency, discussed the study underway with the US geological Survey in Sonoma County to evaluate water scarce areas. He also pointed out that the Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) is also conducting a study to evaluate areas outside the water scarce areas, and the PRMD evaluation may lead to modifications in the permitting process. The study of water scarce areas is a four-year groundwater study focussing on two of the major groundwater basins: the Sonoma Valley Basin and the Russian River groundwater basin. The study will build on work conducted in 1975 by the County, and the intent is to update this work from 25 years ago. He said that the hope is to take advantage of new technology that has occurred over the last 25 years. Bev Wasson asked whether the study

would address the affects of gravel mining and how it affects groundwater. Jay Jasperse indicated that the study will not address this issue at this time.

5. Update on Petition by Pacific Lumber Corporation and Scotia Lumber Company LLC for review of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2001-19

Frank Reichmuth addressed the Board by updating them on the petition of Pacific Lumber Corporation and Scotia Lumber Company LLC for the State Board to review Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2001-19. Mr. Reichmuth gave the history and indicated on a map the areas involved with the monitoring and reporting program. He discussed the State Board hearing and the Board's decision to uphold the Regional Water Board and the State Board's authority to issue Monitoring and Reporting Programs under Section 13267, for Timber Harvest Plans. Also, the State Board upheld the validity of taking turbidity samples as a way of showing compliance with the Basin Plan as well as clarified other issues of the Regional Water Board's ability to adopt Wasted Discharge Requirements if the Board ever choose to do so.

Mr. Reichmuth summarized the Monitoring and Reporting Order issued by State Board to Pacific Lumber Company on October 18, 2001. He discussed the concerns of the Regional Water Board staff, such as that Pacific Lumber was not required to refrain from any activity that could result in turbidity increase before April 1, 2002. This meant that pre-project monitoring would not occur.

Phil Wyels, State Water Board Counsel, stated that this order from the State Board clearly established the Regional Water Board's authority to require monitoring from the timber harvest activity, and they also endorsed turbidity monitoring.

A 10 minute break was observed at 10:25 a.m.

6. Update on Elk River Water Quality Issues

Frank Reichmuth addressed the Board to update them on the Elk River water quality issues. Adona White stated that one of the concerns was the flooding that occurred in the area. A 1998 Cleanup and Abatement Order for water supplies was reviewed. The order resulted in a stipulated agreement that Pacific Lumber would provide temporary bulk water delivery to the residents. Adona White said that residents of the Elk River have expressed the desire for full recovery of their original water supplies. In 1999 California Department Forestry required that timber harvest plans (THPs) address cumulative impacts related to flooding on a watershed basis. She reported that watershed analysis is underway, but not completed for the Elk River Basin.

7. Update on Basin Plan Amendment for Sediment Management

Dr. Ranjit Gill reviewed the Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load implementation schedule. Twenty-six of the thirty-four listed watersheds are sediment impaired. He gave a brief overview of the Basin Plan Amendment approach, such as: an in-house working group, Regional Board input, and research. Dr. Gill briefly highlighted the areas of consensus resulting from the in-house meeting, where agreement was reached that revising the existing Prohibitions related to sediment discharges would be the best tool and that the revised prohibitions should apply Region wide. Further, consensus was reached that the prohibitions should mitigate existing sediment discharges and prevent future discharges such that the discharge of sediment to our water bodies is reduced to the extent that those few remaining waterbodies that are not already impaired will not become impaired, and those that are impaired will recover in a timely manner and remain recovered.

Dr. Gill stated that before the revised Prohibitions become an amendment in the Basin Plan a draft of the amendment will go through a number of Regional Water Board workshops at which time comments are solicited and responded to by the Regional Water Board staff. When the Regional Water Board adopts an Amendment, the adopted Amendment is submitted to the State Board for approval, and depending on the State Water Board's perception of the Amendment, one or more workshops maybe conducted. After the State Water Board adoption, it will then be submitted to Office of Administrative Law for approval, and finally submitted to EPA for approval. The process is estimated to take a year to a year and a half, or possibly longer.

8. Update on Gualala Sediment TMDL

David Leland addressed the Board by updating them on the Gualala Sediment TMDL. He reviewed the salmonid populations and distribution, in-stream sediment conditions, sediment source analysis, methods, and results. Various analyses were shown, including aerial photo analysis results. He discussed the field measurements performed by the Regional Water Board staff. He concluded by stating that salmonid habitat has been significantly degraded as a result of excess sediment loads. Sediment delivery in the Gualala River watershed has been dramatically increased by human activities, especially road construction and operation. Most human-induced processes leading to increased sediment yields are preventable and correctable. Significant sediment delivery reductions are needed to regain beneficial uses.

At 12:15 p.m. the Board went into closed Session to discuss items 20, 22, and 23 and immediately after closed session a recess for lunch was observed.

The Workshop resumed at 2:20 PM

9. Ground Water Augmentation of Surface Water Flows in Upper Klamath River Basin

As a follow-up from the July 2001 Board meeting, Tom Dunbar gave an update on ground water augmentation of surface water flows in upper Klamath River Basin. Mr. Dunbar presented an area map to show the areas of surface water flows. There are three different proposals: 1) Tulelake Irrigation District would pump groundwater to farmers from ten wells in California; 2) US Bureau of Reclamation buys water from approximately 40 farmers in Oregon and California and water is pumped into surface water from approximately 20 wells in each State; and 3) US Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to pump groundwater from up to seven wells for use in the Refuge. Priority of water use from the limited surface water supply is: First – endangered species (Suckers and Coho salmon), second – farmers, and third – wildlife refuge.

Office of Emergency Services put forward \$5 million for California to drill wells to augment surface water in Tulelake basin. One million dollars of the \$5 million was given to the Department of Resources to evaluate the water resources in the region. It also allowed money to investigate water quality impacts and the affect of groundwater pumped into the surface water.

Mr. Dunbar stated that a letter was sent to the US Bureau of Reclamation and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to request that they obtain a NPDES permit for future operations.

10. Update on Pesticide Contamination in the Smith River Plains ground water

Susan Warner stated that in 1980 there were two studies conducted under section 205 (j) and section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act. As a result of these grant studies, pesticides used to control nematodes were discovered in the Smith River Plain groundwater. Although use of the chemicals was discontinued in the area, the contamination of the groundwater continued.

Lisa Bernard addressed the Board with recent events regarding the contamination in the Smith River groundwater. She said a legal notice was published by the Smith River Community Services District in a local newspaper stating that newly developed areas would be required to hookup to the Community Services District. The reason for the requirement was the contamination of groundwater with 1.2 dichloropropane, aldicarb, as well as nitrate. However, staff was concerned because the report cited by the Smith River Community District was fourteen-years-old. Ms. Bernard stated that after checking with other agencies, there were no other studies conducted beyond the study cited by Smith River Community District.

The Regional Water Board staff attained permission to sample three domestic supply wells on August 30, 2001, in the Smith River area. Analytical results from

one of the wells showed 4.7 mg/l nitrate and 0.79 ug/l 1,2 dichloropropane. The level of 1,2 dichloropropane detected exceeds the California Public Health Goal (PHG) of 0.5 ug/l. Nitrate was also detected at 9.5 mg/l, and 0.56 mg/l in the other two domestic wells tested. The PHG in drinking water for nitrate is 10 mg/l.

11. Update on Satellite Office in Eureka

Kathleen Daly gave the Board a brief update on the Regional Water Board office remodeling. She stated that construction is scheduled to start on December 1, 2001. She briefly described the remodeling of the hearing room and the length of time it will take to complete the construction of the entire office.

Ms. Daly discussed the process of establishing a satellite office in the Eureka area. She outlined the steps in the process and stated that it may take 1 to 2 years before a satellite office could be established in the area.

12. Disaster Preparedness

Kathleen Daly reviewed the Disaster Preparedness Plan. The plan explains what to do if there is a fire and if there is a complete loss of the office. She stated that the biggest concern is the paper files because we do not have a backup copy. However, when funds are available we will be changing to electronic format.

She also stated that she has discussed and reviewed with the front office on how to open the mail due to the anthrax scare.

13. Update of Resolution 85-4 (Press Contact Policy)

Susan Warner gave the Board a brief update on the North Coast Region's press policy. In 1985 the Board adopted Press Policy Resolution No. 85-4 to provide guidance to staff when responding to inquiries from the media. Given changes and directives from both the State Water Board and the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA), and because the Resolution 85-4 refers to an outdated organizational structure for the North Coast Region, staff believes it would be prudent to revise the Press Policy at a future Board meeting to reflect current requirements.

14. Executive Officer Administrative Civil Liabilities

There were no ACLs issued

15. Violation and Enforcement Report

The enforcement report is a monthly report and stands as written.

16. State and Regional Water Board Communication

Susan Warner gave information on the budget cut for the North Coast Regional Water Board.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

17. Monthly Report to the Board

This item stands as written

18. Leaking Underground Storage Tanks/Sewage Spills

This item stands as written

OTHER BUSINESS

On behalf of the Board, William Massey presented both Craig Johnson and Manual Baldenegro with certificates of appreciation for their many years of service. Both Craig Johnson and Manual Baldenegro retired from the North Coast Regional Water Board with over 50 years of service between them.

There being no further business to come before this meeting body, the workshop adjourned at 3:49 p.m., until the next scheduled Board meeting on December 6, 2001.

The Secretary, E. Jean Lockett, recorded the minutes of the October 25, 2001 meeting of the North Coast Water Quality Control Board, to be approved by the Board at a subsequent Board meeting.

Approved: _____Chair

Date: _____