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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: File: Russian River; TMDL Development and Planning

FROM: Steve Butkus

DATE: June 5, 2014

SUBJECT: SUMMARY AND REVIEW OF REPORT TITLED “RUSSIAN RIVER  
HUMAN IMPACT STUDY - PHYLOCHIP MICROBIAL COMMUNITY  
ANALYSIS”

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Technology has advanced to a point where multiple species in an entire bacterial community can be identified instead of just a single pathogen indicator bacteria group or species. DNA sequence analysis can identify possible fecal sources by measuring the total diversity of the microbial communities in a water sample (Dubinsky et al. 2012). The PhyloChip™ (Second Genome, San Bruno CA) is a phylogenetic DNA microarray that uses 16S rRNA gene probes to identify nearly 60,000 different bacteria taxa in a single water sample. Analyzing the full suite of bacteria taxa in a water sample was used to identify the presence of potential pathogens found in the surface waters of the Russian River Watershed.

Regional Water Board staff collected water samples for development of the Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL between 2011 and 2013 (NCRWQCB 2012, 2013a, 2013b). The monitoring focused on microbiological source identification in the middle and lower Russian River watershed. Five monitoring tasks were conducted to inform specific management questions focused on assessing the spatial and temporal variability of the microbial community, the possible impacts from different land uses, recreation at public beaches, and onsite water treatment in the Russian River watershed. Over one-hundred water samples were collected and processed using the PhyloChip™ microarray resulting in detection of over 10,000 different bacteria taxa in the Russian River Watershed. The analysis results were presented in the report *Russian River Human Impact Study - PhyloChip Microbial Community Analysis* dated May 1, 2014 (Appendix; Dubinsky and Andersen 2014). In addition, samples were collected concurrently for measurement of fecal indicator bacteria concentrations (i.e., *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and *Bacteroides* bacteria) by the Regional Water Board and Sonoma County’s Public Health Regional Laboratory during both wet (greater than 0.1 inch of precipitation) and dry periods (zero precipitation within the last 72 hours).

Water samples were analyzed using the PhyloChip™ in two different ways. The first analysis method assessed the response of probe quartets for the sense, anti-sense, and corresponding mismatch probes of each targeted sequence (Probst et al. 2014). The results of this method are expressed as the percentage of the bacteria DNA gene sequences found in the sample that are also found in the specific fecal source reference samples. The second analysis method assessed the presence of bacteria standard operational taxonomic unit (OTU) as described by Dubinsky et al. (2012). This method resulted in an inventory of detected bacteria taxa (i.e., OTUs) in each water sample.

Dubinsky and Anderson (2014) also evaluate the relationship between fecal indicator bacteria concentrations measured by the Regional Water Board and Sonoma County's Public Health Regional Laboratory and the results of the PhyloChip™ analysis. However, the results from these analyses have different measurement units. The results of the fecal indicator bacteria are presented as concentrations, whereas the PhyloChip™ analysis provides the list of bacteria taxa in the samples, but not the concentrations of bacteria cells found in the sample. A previous PhyloChip™ analysis found a correlation between fecal indicator bacteria concentration and the number of bacteria taxa found in the sample (Dubinsky et al. 2012).

### **Probe Quartet Analysis Method**

The first method analyzed quartets of probes for the sense, anti-sense, and corresponding mismatch probes of each targeted sequence (Probst et al. 2014). This method is more robust than the OTU approach for determining the presence and abundance of a targeted gene sequences because it controls for nonspecific hybridization and relies on detection of both complimentary DNA strands to increase the performance of the assay.

Specific quartet-probe profiles were developed to characterize human waste, grazing mammal and shorebird fecal sources. Fecal material from eighty different fecal sources was collected and analyzed to establish quartet-probe profiles of fecal bacteria source reference samples. Each reference fecal sample in the library was a composite of individual feces or waste from a unique location. These composite fecal samples included sewage, septic waste, and feces for the human fecal reference sample; droppings from cows, horses, deer, and elk for the grazing mammal fecal reference sample; and gulls and pelicans for the shorebird fecal reference sample. These reference samples were used to define subsets of gene sequences that are common among the fecal samples of a given source type and rare in the other fecal sources. These subsets of gene sequences were used to identify water samples containing wastes from humans, grazing mammals, or shorebirds. The results of this approach are expressed as percentage of the bacteria fecal gene sequences found in the sample that were also found in the specific fecal source reference sample.

The threshold for confirming a specific source was set at 20% or more of the gene sequences that are diagnostic for human, grazer, and shorebird fecal waste. The report cites Dubinsky et al. 2006 and Cao et al. 2013 as finding that 20% reference library taxa is a “suitable threshold to detect a source signal.” That is, a sample is assumed to contain waste from the specific source if 20% or more of the source-specific gene sequences found in the sample were the same as the source-specific gene sequences found in the fecal source reference library. Samples are assumed to not contain a sufficient signal to specifically identify the exact source if less than 20% of the source-specific gene sequences did not match the reference fecal library. However, many of the samples contained some detectable source-specific gene sequences from human and the other animal sources, indicating these sources may be contributing bacteria to the water sample but the samples were too diluted for these gene sequences to reach the 20% threshold.

Figures 1 and 2 show the locations where greater than 20% of the fecal gene sequences were detected for human and grazing mammal waste, respectively. Fecal gene sequences for shorebird waste were not measured at any location in the Russian River Watershed above the 20% detection threshold.

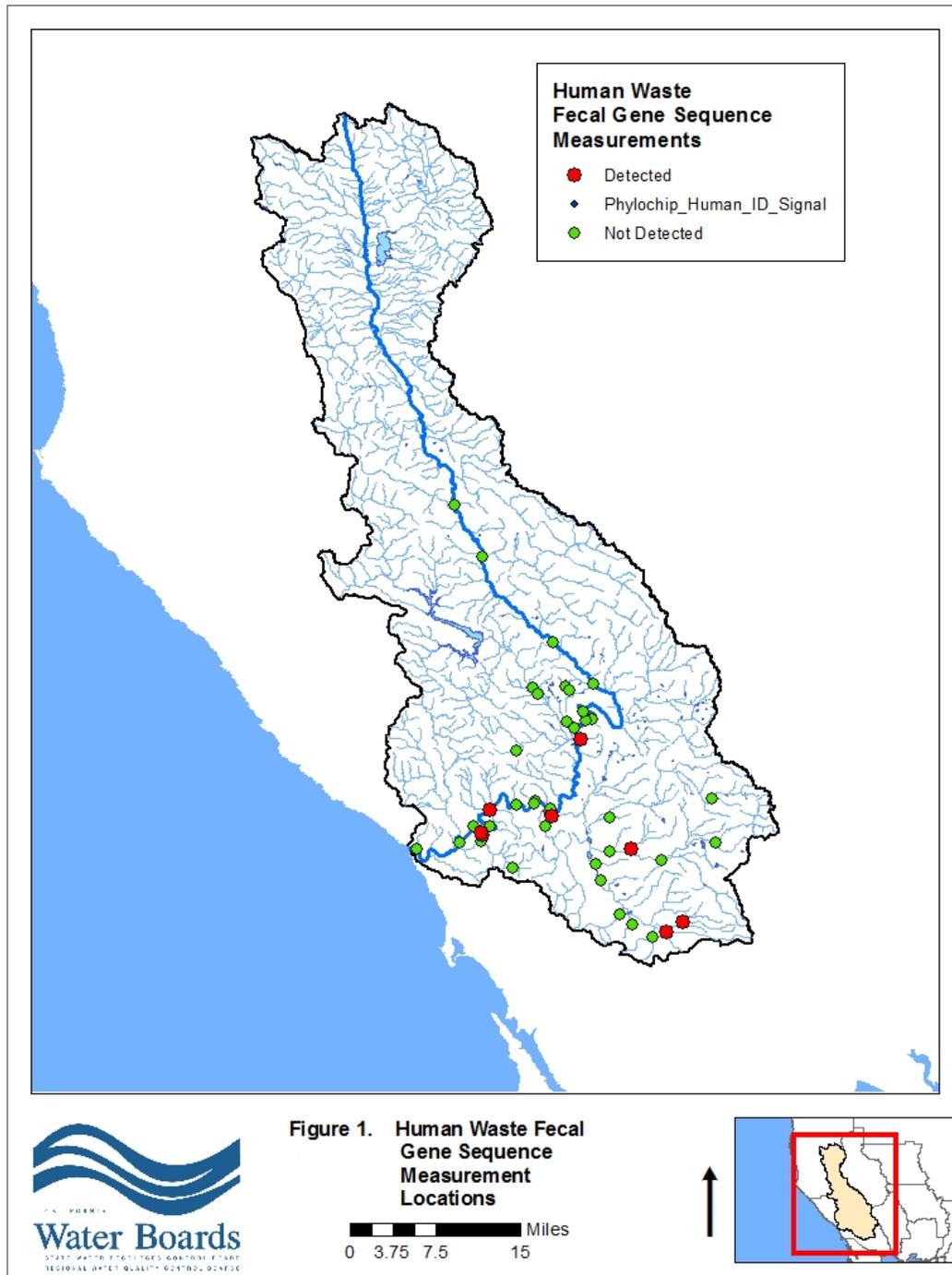


Figure 1. Human Waste Fecal Gene Sequence Measurement Locations sampled during Wet Periods.

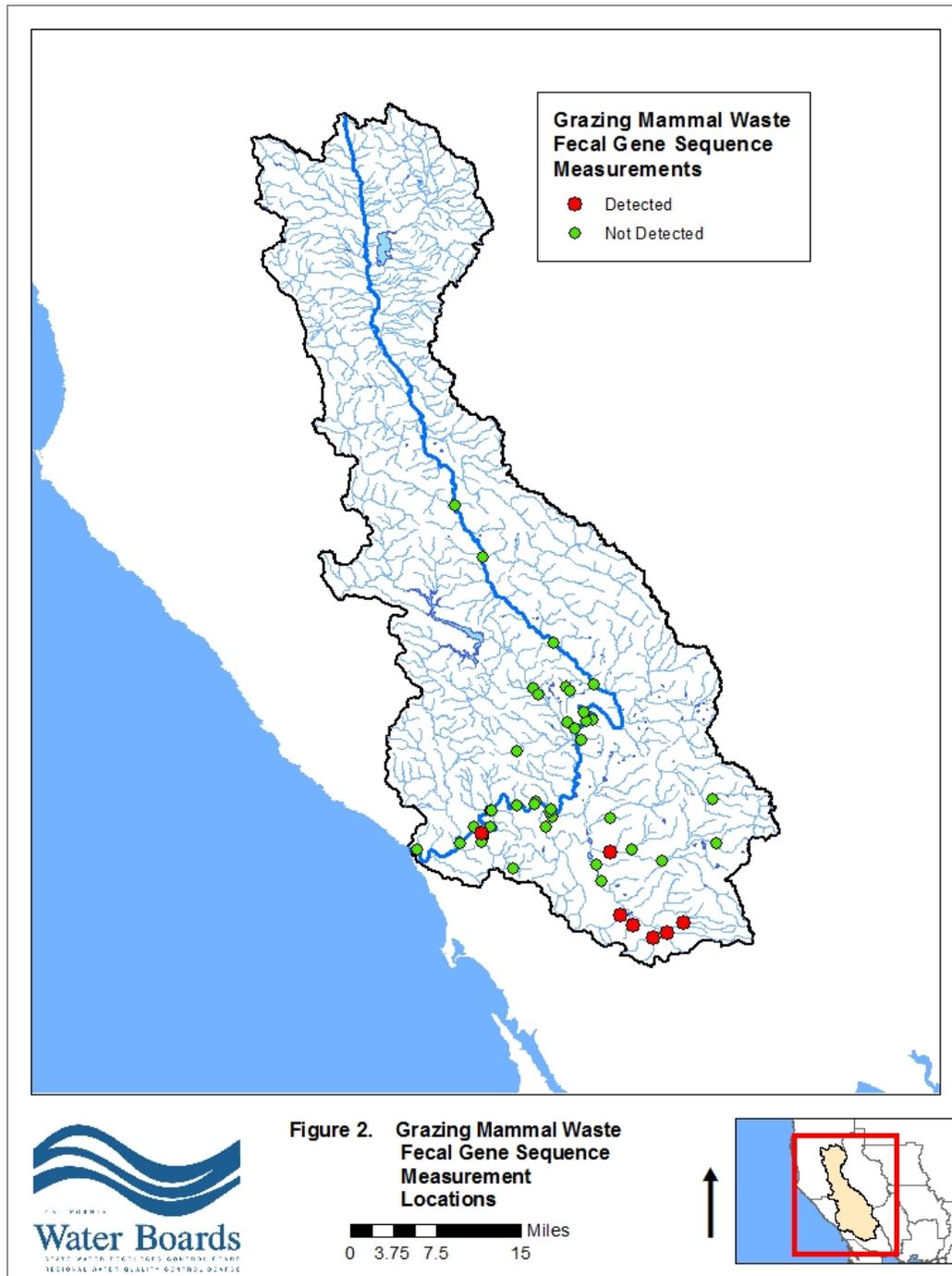


Figure 2. Grazing Mammal Waste Fecal Gene Sequence Measurement Locations sampled during Wet Periods

The results of the Probe Quartet analysis method are described below.

- The number of fecal gene sequences for human waste was not associated with higher concentrations of *E. coli* bacteria.
- The number of fecal gene sequences for human waste was associated with higher concentrations of human-host *Bacteroides* bacteria.
- The number of fecal gene sequences for grazing mammal waste was associated with higher concentrations of bovine-host *Bacteroides* Bacteria.
- The source-specific gene sequences threshold (i.e., 20%) for human, grazing mammal or shorebird fecal waste was not exceeded in any dry period sample in the mainstem Russian River.
- The source-specific gene sequences threshold for human waste (i.e., 20%) was exceeded at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach in wet period samples. These samples were associated with high numbers of potentially pathogenic *Staphylococcus* taxa.
- Fecal gene sequences for grazing mammal waste were detected at Steelhead beach (12%), Forestville Access Beach (19%), Johnson's Beach (17%) and Monte Rio Beach (20%), but were below the 20% threshold. Cattle and deer are the likely sources of these gene sequences, not horse or elk.
- Human and grazer fecal gene sequences were more frequently detected in wet period samples than dry period samples draining different land cover areas.
- Fecal gene sequences for human waste were detected above the 20% threshold in samples collected at Johnson's Beach following the Russian River Jazz & Blues Festival.
- Fecal gene sequences for grazer mammal waste were detected above the 20% threshold in samples from Abramson, Blucher, Copeland, Crane, Gossage, and Turner Creeks.
- Fecal gene sequences for human waste were detected above the 20% threshold in samples from Copeland, Crane, Limerick and Piner Creeks.

- Fecal gene sequences for human waste were not detected above the 20% threshold in most samples collected in the investigation of impacts from onsite wastewater systems. However, high numbers of fecal gene sequences for human waste were detected draining from catchments into the mainstem Russian River near Forestville and Monte Rio suggesting that onsite wastewater systems may be failing in these areas.
- Differentiation of human fecal microbial communities to separate septic vs urban sewer treatment vs feces sources was not possible within the scope of the sampling study design. A more extensive study of various human sources under different kinds and stages of wastewater treatment is needed to determine if they result in unique sets genes that can distinguish between these different human sources.
- The study recommends that suspected human fecal sources near Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach be directly measured to develop a microbial community library archive that is specific to local sources. These reference samples of suspected local sources could be matched with the observed microbial community observed in the Russian River to specifically identify the local sources of fecal bacteria.

#### Operational Taxonomic Unit Method

The second analysis method is described in Dubinsky et al. (2012). In this method, the presence of different bacterial taxa (i.e., OTUs) was determined by positive hybridization of multiple probes. The results of the method determine the presence or absence of the OTU in the water sample. This method provides an inventory of detected OTUs that compose the microbial community in the water sample. The results of the OTU inventory method are described below.

- Most of the taxa detected from samples collected throughout the watershed are in the Actinobacteria, Flavobacteria and Proteobacteria bacterial families. These bacteria are naturally abundant in freshwater and soil, and do not likely originate from animal fecal sources.
- Bacteroidia, Clostridia, Bacilli and Verrucomicrobia bacterial families were also found throughout the watershed and these bacteria likely originate from fecal sources.
- *Yersinia* bacteria species were detected in both wet (greater than 0.1 inch of precipitation) and dry periods (zero precipitation within the last 72 hours) in the

mainstem Russian River at Commisky Station, Cloverdale River Park and Geyserville Bridge. Pigs and rodents are the main animal sources of *Yersinia* bacteria species.

- The bacterial community composition in the wet period samples was similar to the dry period samples in the mainstem Russian River from Commisky Station Road to Memorial Beach, but diverged in composition at Steelhead Beach and was increasingly distinct at Forestville Access, Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach.
- Dry period samples from tributaries contained a greater variety of bacteria taxa than the mainstem Russian River. These tributaries contained relatively higher numbers Alpha-, Beta- and Gammaproteobacteria. These Proteobacteria families are common in soil and freshwater habitats and are likely native to these tributaries.
- In wet period tributary samples at locations where conventional detection methods indicated high fecal indicator counts, PhyloChip™ analysis indicated a microbial community dominated by native taxa (i.e., *Pseudomonas*, *Enterobacter* and Betaproteobacteria), and relatively low numbers of fecal bacteria taxa (i.e., *Bacteroides* or *Clostridia*) as compared to the native taxa.
- In water samples collected during the recreational beach use study, the PhyloChip™ analysis detected high numbers of fecal bacteria taxa (i.e., *Clostridia*) at Johnson's Beach following the Russian River Jazz & Blues Festival. These taxa included large numbers of potentially pathogenic *Staphylococcus* taxa. Despite the detection of bacteria from fecal sources, the single sample maximum criterion (CDHS 2011) for *E. coli* bacteria concentrations was not exceeded when analyzed using standard culture incubation methods (IDEXX 2001; U.S. EPA 2002).
- In water samples collected during the onsite wastewater treatment system study, PhyloChip™ analysis found no significant differences in the composition or structure of bacterial communities associated with parcel density or septic risk.
- In water samples collected during the land cover study, PhyloChip™ analysis results found no significant differences in runoff from different land covers on the composition or structure of bacterial communities.
- There was a positive correlation between *E. coli* bacteria concentrations detected by conventional fecal indicator detection methods and the relative abundance of *Escherichia* genus OTUs found in the PhyloChip™ analysis.

Table 1 shows a list of ten potential human pathogen taxa that were detected at various locations in the Russian River Watershed. Each of these pathogens is discussed below. Detection of pathogen-related genes do not necessarily indicate that pathogenic strains are present, but rather that closely related taxa are present that may or may not include the virulent strain. Additional analyses that specifically target pathogenic strains would be necessary to confirm their occurrence. In addition, the concentration of these potential pathogens and the human health risk of the detection of these pathogens are unknown.

Table 1. Summary of Potential Human Pathogens Measured in Russian River Watershed

Pathogenic Bacteria	Number of Locations Measured		Percent of Samples with Detected Bacteria
	Mainstem Russian River	Tributaries	
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	10	23	42%
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	1	10	11%
<i>Salmonella enterica</i>	1	9	10%
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	3	27	41%
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	0	15	16%
<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>	3	13	22%
<i>Staphylococcus haemolyticus</i>	2	0	2%
<i>Streptococcus sp.</i>	0	8	8%
<i>Vibrio cholerae</i>	0	1	1%
<i>Yersinia sp.</i>	4	7	15%

### ***Klebsiella pneumoniae***

The normal flora of the human mouth and intestine contains *Klebsiella pneumoniae* bacteria. Although it occurs naturally in soil, humans are the primary animal reservoir for *K. pneumoniae* bacteria. Feces are the most significant source of *K. pneumoniae* bacterial infections.

*K. pneumoniae* bacteria can infect many different organs of the body in people with a weakened immune system. The most common infection caused by the bacteria is pneumonia, typically affecting the lungs. *K. pneumoniae* bacteria has also been associated with urinary tract infection, pulmonary infection, liver abscess, brain abscess, meningitis, inflammation of the internal coats of the eye, accumulation of pus within the prostate, bone marrow inflammation, infection of the joints, and/or abscesses on muscles.

Figure 3 shows the locations where water samples were collected for analysis of *K. pneumoniae* bacteria. *K. pneumoniae* bacteria were found at ten (10) locations on the mainstem Russian River and twenty-three (23) tributaries to the Russian River:

- Russian River at Commisky Station Road
- Russian River at Cloverdale River Park
- Russian River at Highway 128 Bridge near Geyserville
- Russian River at Jimtown Bridge
- Russian River at Camp Rose Beach
- Russian River at Veteran's Memorial Beach
- Russian River at Steelhead Beach
- Russian River at Johnson's Beach
- Russian River at Monte Rio Beach
- Blucher Creek
- Crane Creek
- Dutch Bill Creek
- Foss Creek
- Green Valley Creek
- Laguna de Santa Rosa
- Palmer Creek
- Piner Creek
- Santa Rosa Creek
- Fourteen (14) unnamed tributaries

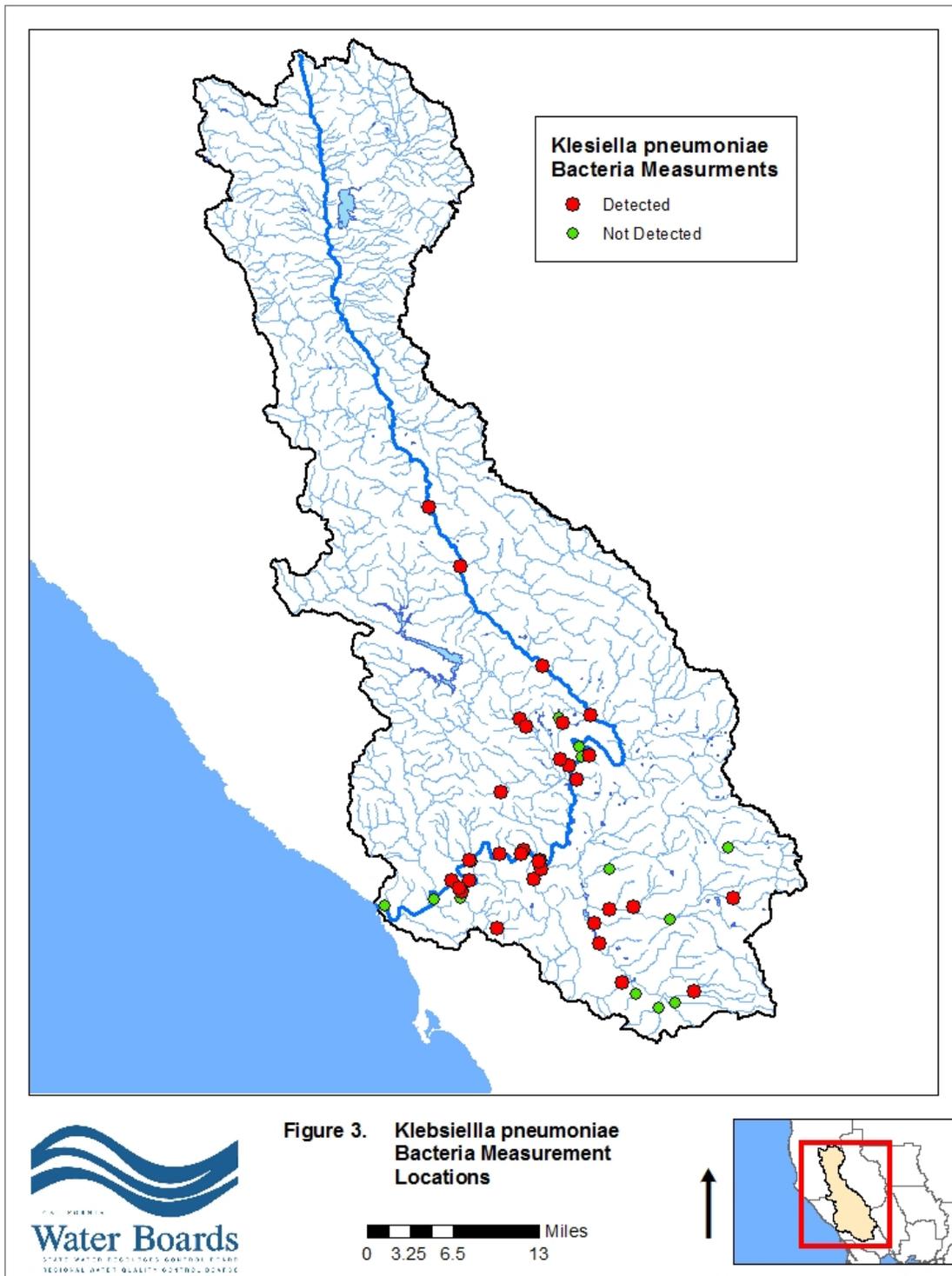


Figure 3. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* Bacteria Measurement Locations

### **Proteus mirabili**

*Proteus mirabilis* bacteria are found as part of the micro-flora of the human intestine. *P. mirabilis* bacteria are highly mobile using a flagellum that helps the organism infect host animals. The bacterium becomes a significant problem mostly in people that have vulnerable immune systems.

*P. mirabilis* bacteria are responsible for causing urinary tract infections in thousands of people each year. These infections are becoming more difficult to treat because many of *P. mirabilis* bacteria strains are resistant to broad-range activity antibiotics. Kidney infection can also occur when the bacteria migrates from the lower urinary tract. *P. mirabilis* bacteria can also enter the bloodstream through wounds and cause blood poisoning and systemic inflammatory response syndrome, which has a high mortality rate. *P. mirabilis* bacteria can also colonize the lungs and cause pneumonia with symptoms of fever, chills, chest pain, rales, and cough. *P. mirabilis* bacteria can infect the prostate causing fever, chills, and tender prostate in men.

Figure 4 shows the locations where water samples were collected for analysis of *P. mirabilis* bacteria. *P. mirabilis* bacteria were found at one (1) location on the mainstem Russian River and in ten (10) tributaries to the Russian River:

- Russian River at the Jimtown Bridge in the Alexander Valley.
- Foss Creek
- Green Valley Creek
- Mays Creek
- Santa Rosa Creek
- Van Buren Creek
- Five (5) unnamed tributaries

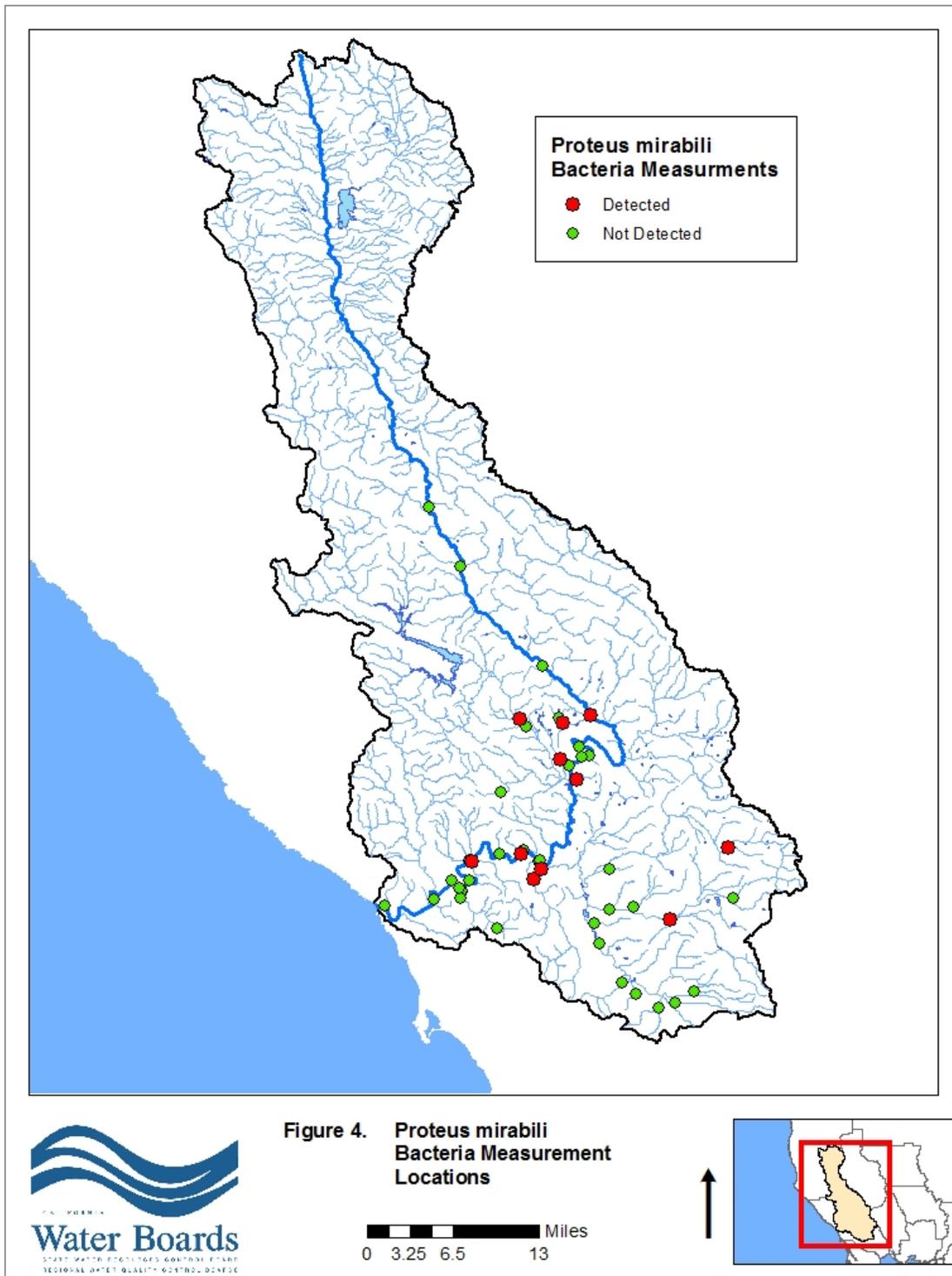


Figure 4. *Proteus mirabili* Bacteria Measurement Locations

### **Salmonella enterica**

*Salmonella enterica* bacteria are the cause of two diseases (1) acute gastroenteritis, resulting from ingestion of the bacterium, and (2) typhoid fever, resulting from the bacterial infection of the blood. *S. enterica* bacteria are most commonly associated with consumption of contaminated food, but can also be ingested from waters during recreation. *S. enterica* bacterial infections can originate from household pets containing the bacteria since the bacterium can be transmitted from animal to human. Salmonella originating from wild opossums have been found in California surface waters (CCLEAN 2011). In the United States, Salmonella is responsible for 1.4 million infections, 15,000 hospitalization, and 400 deaths per year (Ravel 2014).

*S. enterica* bacteria invade the cells lining the intestine. Once established in the intestine, the bacteria's virulence factors go to work. The bacterium excretes an enterotoxin that results in the release of fluids from the intestinal cells. The bacteria then move to the liver or spleen, where they replicate. After replication, they migrate back to the intestines to be expelled and transmitted to new hosts.

The most common symptoms of acute gastroenteritis include fever, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, muscle aches, and headache. These symptoms generally occur quickly after the bacteria has been ingested and symptoms can last many days past ingestion.

Typhoid fever is a common worldwide bacterial disease transmitted by the ingestion of food or water contaminated with the feces of an infected person. Typhoid fever is caused by a sub-species of the bacteria called *Salmonella enterica serovar* Typhi. Persons with typhoid fever usually have a sustained fever as high as 103° to 104° F. Death can occur from the infection, pneumonia, intestinal bleeding, and/or intestinal perforation.

Figure 5 shows the locations where water samples were collected for analysis of *S. enterica* bacteria. *S. enterica* bacteria were found at one (1) location on the mainstem Russian River and in nine (9) tributaries to the Russian River:

- Russian River at Commisky Station Road.
- Blucher Creek
- Dutch Bill Creek
- Piner Creek
- Six (6) unnamed tributaries

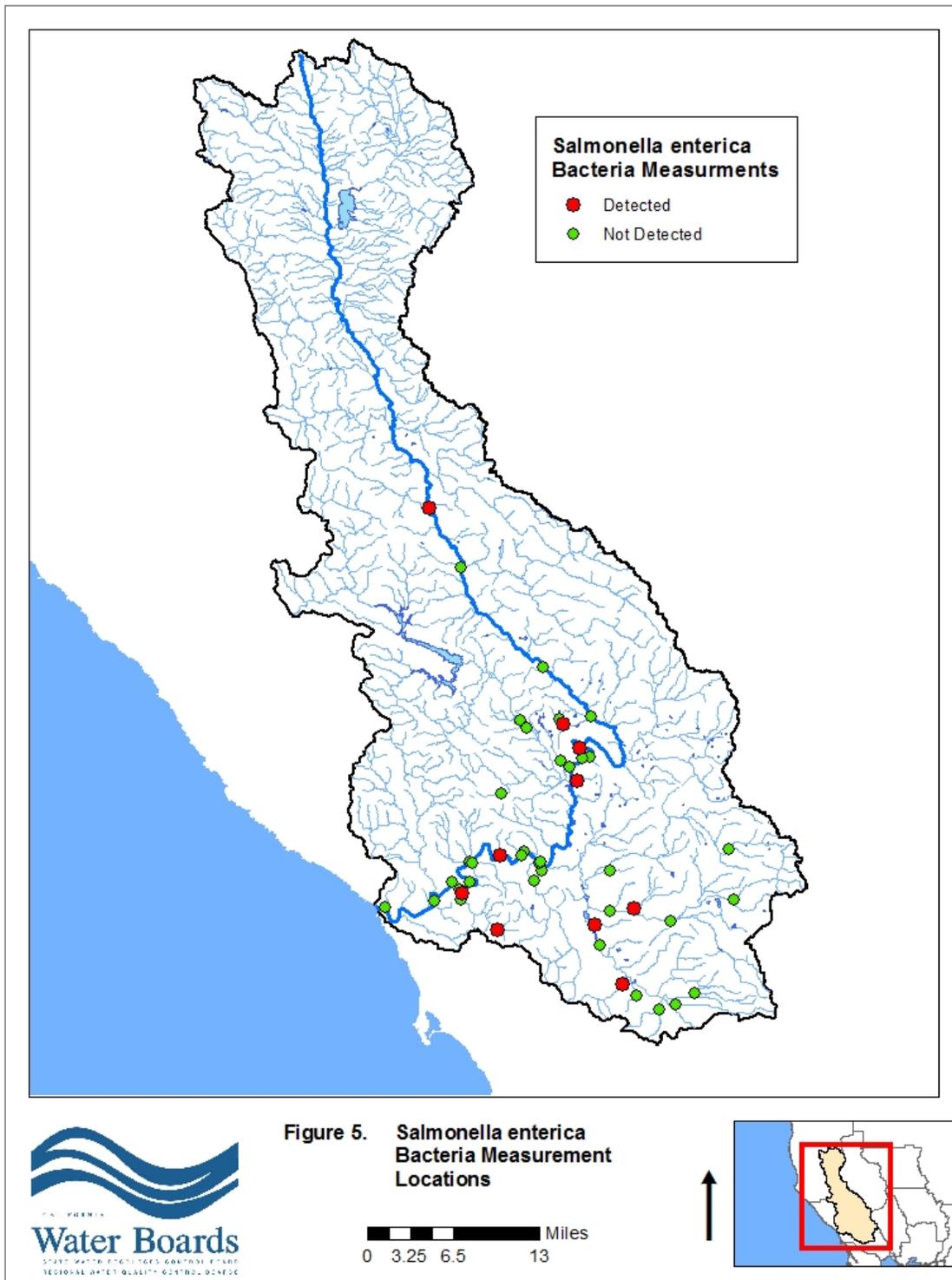


Figure 5. *Salmonella enterica* Bacteria Measurement Locations

### **Serratia marcescens**

*Serratia marcescens* bacteria are found naturally in the environment in soil, water, air, on plants, animals, and in feces. *S. marcescens* are mobile airborne bacteria that can grow in extreme ranges of temperature and pH. *S. marcescens* bacteria can cause illness in many different and animals and plants.

*S. marcescens* bacteria can cause infection in the urinary tract, respiratory tract, exposed wounds, and the eyes. The bacteria can also cause of inflammation of the heart and bone marrow, pneumonia, and meningitis. *S. marcescens* bacteria have steadily increased as a cause of human infection, with many strains gaining resistance to multiple antibiotics. Most strains are resistant to several antibiotics because of the presence of specific genes coding for antibiotic resistance.

Figure 6 shows the locations where water samples were collected for analysis of *S. marcescens* bacteria. *S. marcescens* bacteria were found at three (3) locations on the mainstem Russian River and in twenty-seven (27) tributaries to the Russian River:

- Russian River at Johnson's Beach
- Russian River at Monte Rio Beach
- Russian River at the boat ramp near Jenner
- Blucher Creek
- Copeland Creek
- Dutch Bill Creek
- Foss Creek
- Green Valley Creek
- Mays Creek
- Palmer Creek
- Santa Rosa Creek
- Van Buren Creek
- Eighteen (18) unnamed tributaries

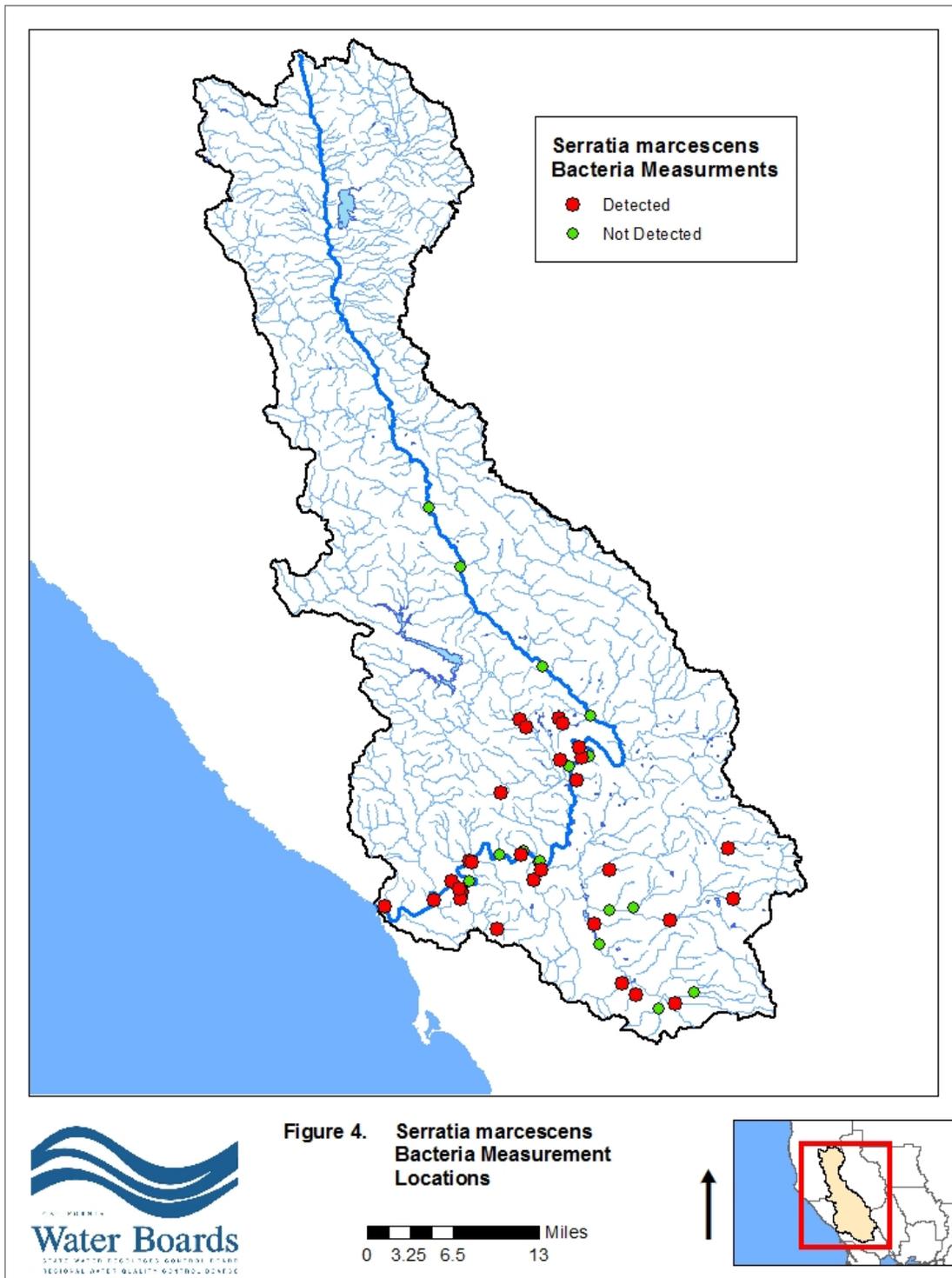


Figure 6. *Serratia marcescens* Bacteria Measurement Locations

### **Shigella flexneri**

*Shigella flexneri* bacteria are found in the feces of infected individuals. *S. flexneri* bacteria are present in the diarrheal stools of infected persons while they are sick and for up to a week or two afterwards. The bacteria pass from one infected person to other people in unsanitary conditions. Infection typically occurs via ingestion. Infections can be easily passed to and from children who are not fully toilet-trained. Family members of young children are at higher risk of becoming infected.

*S. flexneri* bacteria cause an acute bloody diarrhea known as shigellosis. The bleeding is due to destruction of the intestines. Other symptoms can include fever and stomach cramps. The condition can be fatal if not treated early. *S. flexneri* bacteria cause infection by injecting a protein into intestine cells. The protein allows the bacterium into the cell where the bacterium replicates destroying the cell. The bacteria destroy cells in the intestinal epithelium and mucosa.

Water may become contaminated with *S. flexneri* bacteria from untreated sewage or from infected people swimming and shedding the bacteria. *S. flexneri* bacterial infections can be acquired by swimming or drinking the contaminated water.

Figure 7 shows the locations where water samples were collected for analysis of *S. flexneri* bacteria. *S. flexneri* bacteria were found in seventeen (17) tributaries to the Russian River:

- Copeland Creek
- Crane Creek
- Gossage Creek
- Laguna de Santa Rosa
- Piner Creek
- Santa Rosa Creek
- Eleven (11) unnamed tributaries

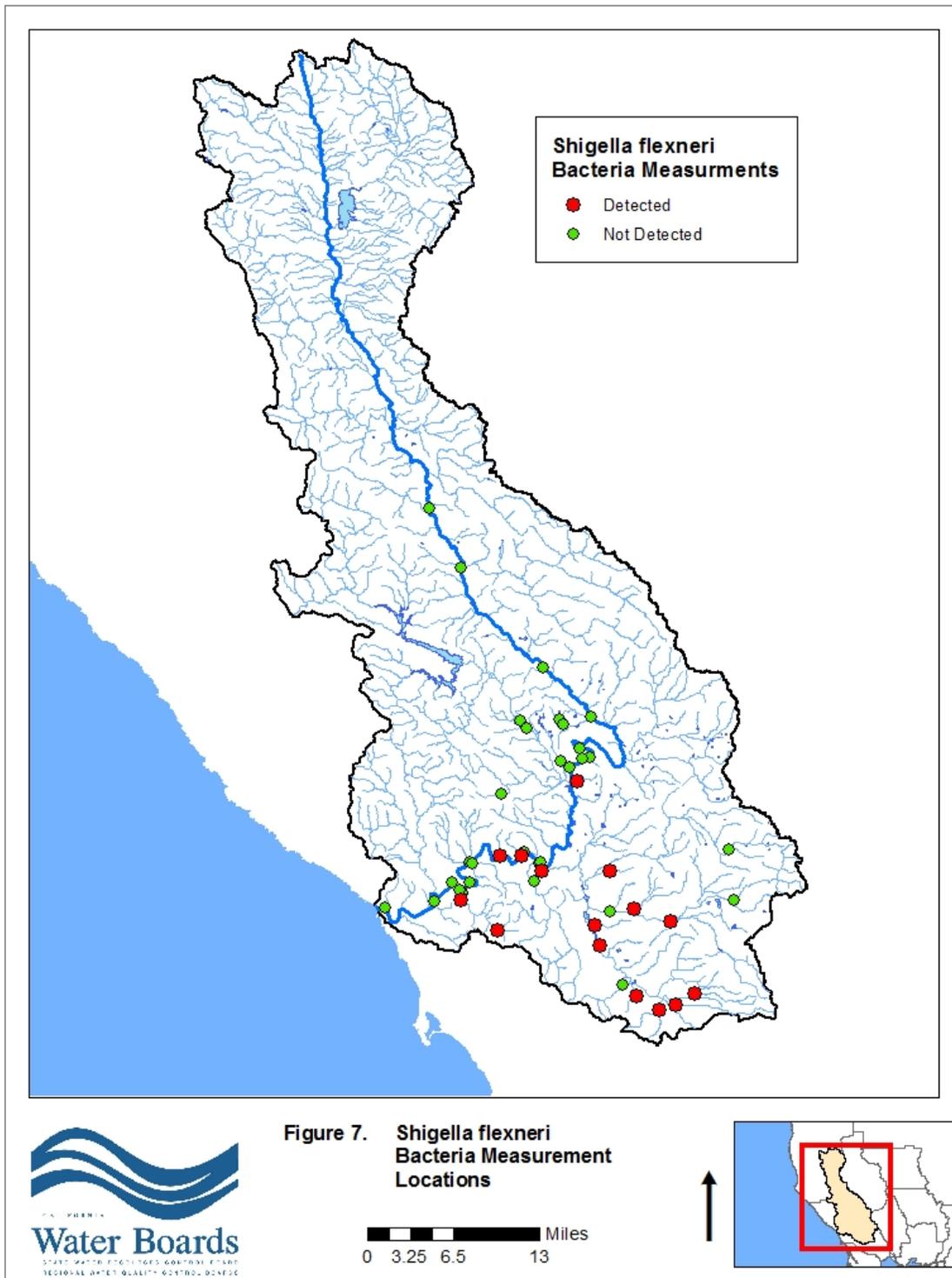


Figure 7. *Shigella flexneri* Bacteria Measurement Locations

### **Staphylococcus epidermidis**

*Staphylococcus epidermidis* bacteria typically live on the skin and in the nostrils of humans. Healthy people can have up to 24 strains of the species. Many of the strains can survive on a dry surface for long periods of time. Although *S. epidermidis* bacteria are not pathogenic to most people, those with compromised immune systems are at risk of developing infection. Certain strains form biofilms that provide a high resistance to many antibiotics, including penicillin, amoxicillin, and methicillin. The resistant strains are most commonly found in the intestines.

*S. epidermidis* bacterial infections cause serious skin inflammation and pus secretion. *S. epidermidis* bacterial infections can also cause blood poisoning and inflammation of the heart. Symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, weight loss and/or shortness of breath.

*S. epidermidis* bacteria can be spread in recreational surface waters by direct and indirect contact with infected persons. Direct contact can happen when swimmers touch the infected person. Indirect contact can happen when swimmers or they touch surfaces (like hand rails or benches) contaminated with the bacterium.

Figure 8 shows the locations where water samples were collected for analysis of *S. epidermidis* bacteria. *S. epidermidis* bacteria were found at three (3) locations on the mainstem Russian River and in thirteen (13) tributaries to the Russian River:

- Russian River at Cloverdale River Park
- Russian River at Johnson's Beach
- Russian River at Monte Rio Beach
- Blucher Creek
- Crane Creek
- Dutch Bill Creek
- Gossage Creek
- Palmer Creek
- Eight (8) unnamed tributaries

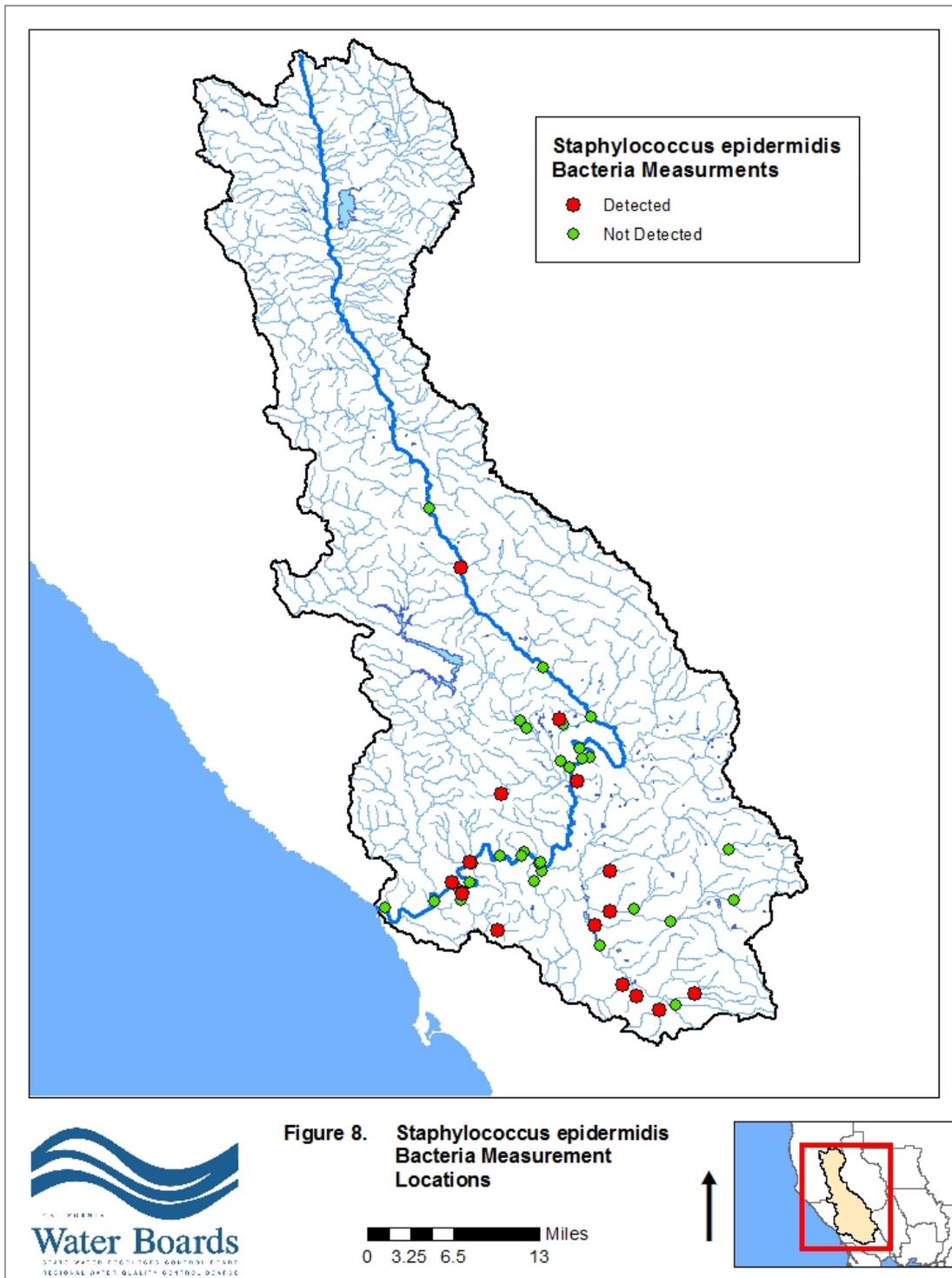


Figure 8. *Staphylococcus epidermidis* Bacteria Measurement Locations

**Staphylococcus haemolyticus**

*Staphylococcus haemolyticus* bacteria are part of the natural flora on human skin with the largest concentrations in the armpit and groin areas. *S. haemolyticus* bacterial infections can cause several diseases that can be either localized or systemic. Although *S. haemolyticus* bacteria are not pathogenic to most people, those with compromised immune systems are at risk of developing infection. Certain strains have a high resistance to many antibiotics, including penicillin, amoxicillin, and methicillin.

Blood poisoning can occur when *S. haemolyticus* bacteria enter a person's bloodstream. Blood poisoning can infect many body organs including the brain, heart, lungs, bones and muscles. The bacteria can also infect surgically implanted devices, such as artificial joints or cardiac pacemakers. *S. haemolyticus* bacteria can also cause blood poisoning, wound infections, urinary tract infections and pink eye.

Figure 9 shows the locations where water samples were collected for analysis of *S. haemolyticus* bacteria. *S. haemolyticus* bacteria were found at two (2) locations on the mainstem Russian River:

- Johnson's Beach
- Monte Rio Beach

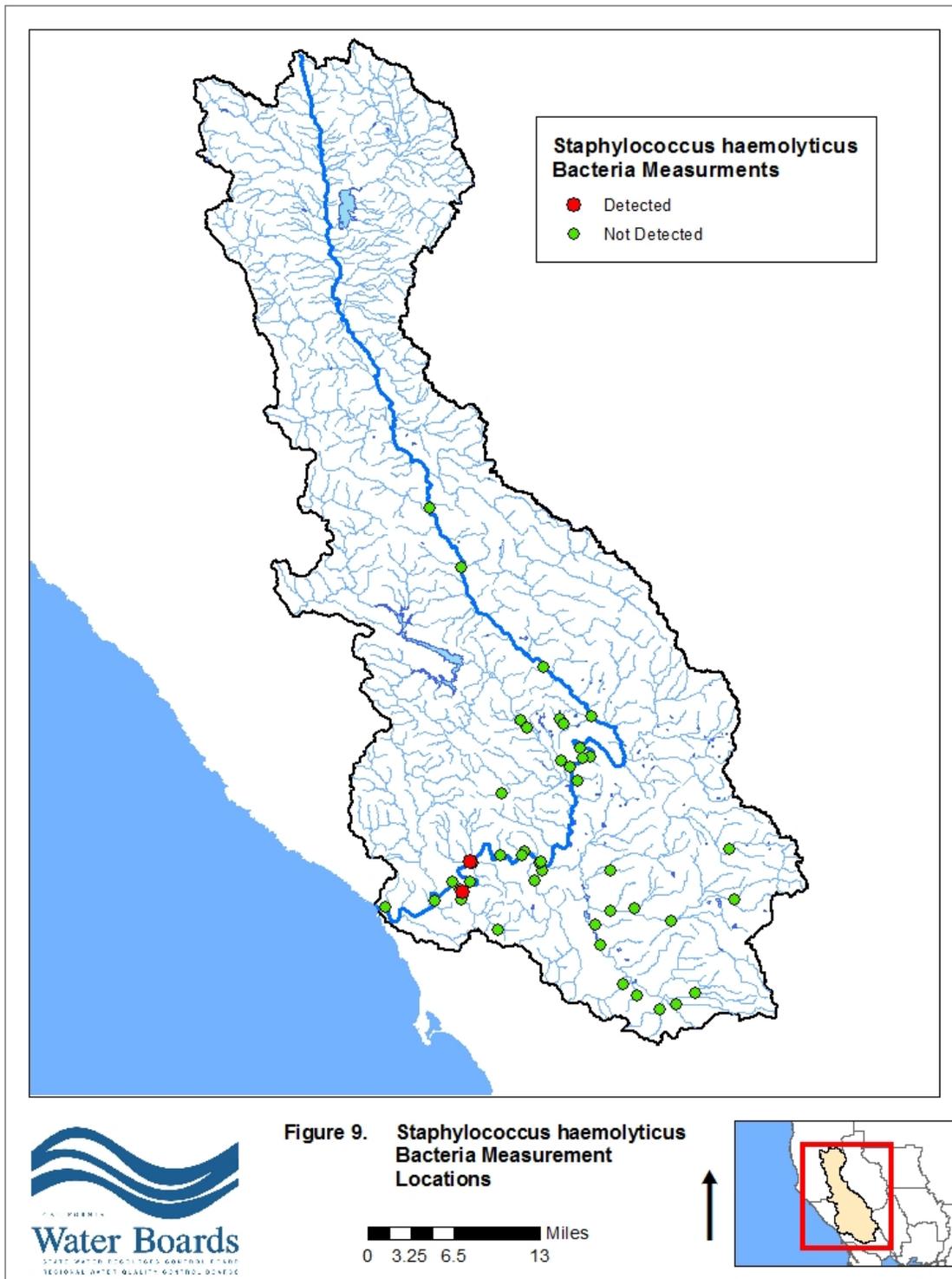


Figure 9. *Staphylococcus haemolyticus* Bacteria Measurement Locations

**Streptococcus sp.**

Many *Streptococcus* bacteria species are nonpathogenic, and are part of the natural fauna in the human mouth, skin, intestine, and upper respiratory tract. Infections occur when the bacteria get into sores or other breaks in the skin or when the person has an illness that affects the immune system.

The most common infections include strep throat and impetigo (a highly contagious skin infection). *Streptococcus* bacteria species are also responsible for causing pink eye, meningitis, pneumonia, inflammation of the inner layer of the heart, skin infection, lymph node infection, and 'flesh-eating' bacterial infections.

- *S. pyogenes* bacteria are the cause of strep throat, impetigo, Scarlet fever, and toxic shock syndrome, "flesh-eating" bacterial infections, pneumonia, blood poisoning, acute rheumatic fever and acute kidney failure.
- *S. pneumoniae* bacteria are a leading cause of bacterial pneumonia and occasionally cause inflammation of the middle ear, sinus infections, meningitis and inflammation of the inner abdominal wall.
- *S. agalactiae* bacteria cause pneumonia, meningitis and occasional systemic blood poisoning. This species can also colonize the intestines and the female reproductive tract, increasing the risk for premature rupture of membranes during pregnancy, and transmission of the bacteria to the infant.

Figure 10 shows the locations where water samples were collected for analysis of *Streptococcus* bacteria species. *Streptococcus* bacteria were found in seventeen (17) tributaries to the Russian River:

- Copeland Creek
- Dutch Bill Creek
- Piner Creek
- Van Buren Creek
- Thirteen (13) unnamed tributaries

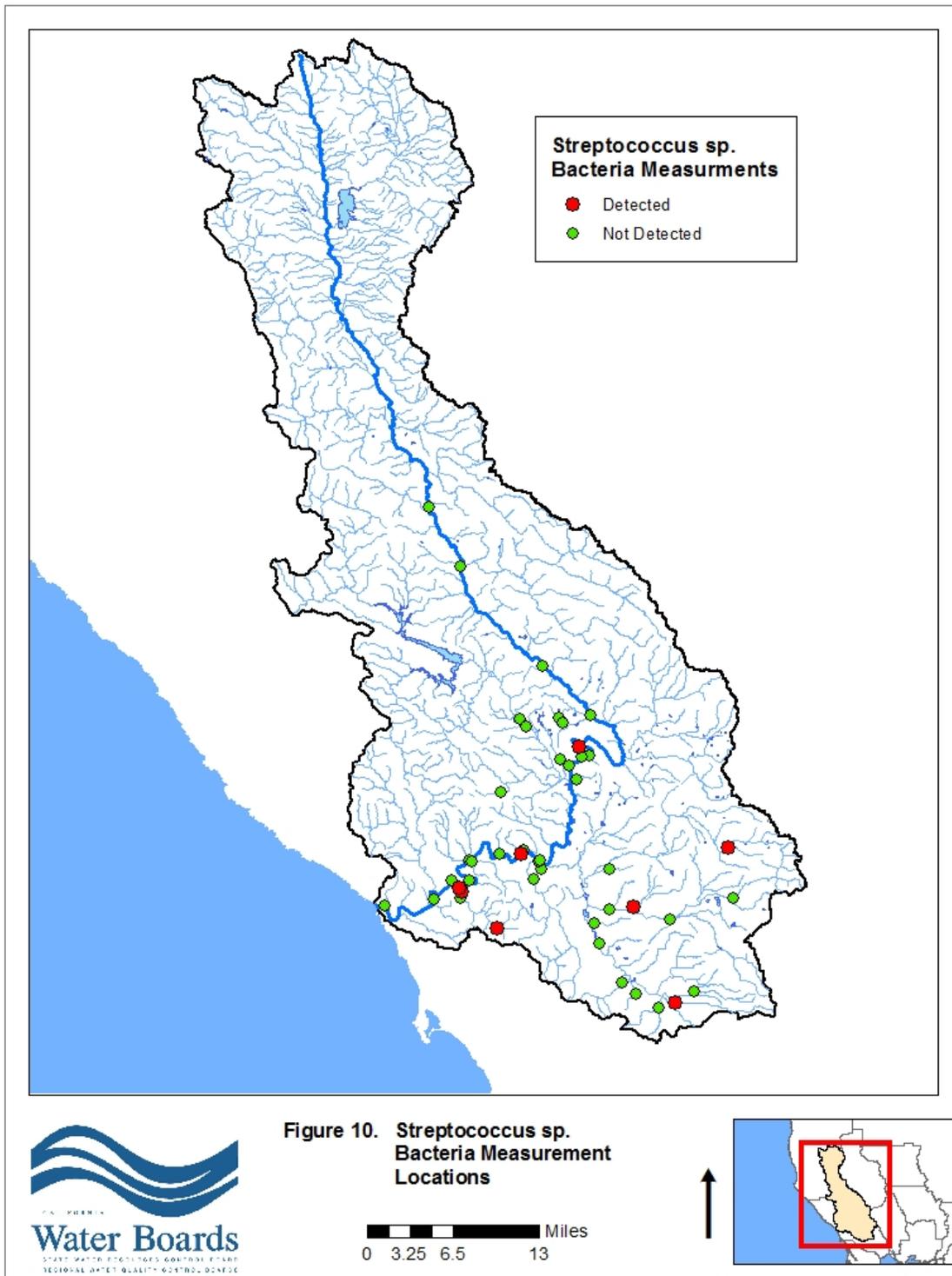


Figure 10. *Streptococcus* species Bacteria Measurement Locations

**Vibrio cholerae**

*Vibrio cholerae* bacteria cause Cholera diarrheal disease which is the second leading cause of death for children, with an estimated minimum of 120,000 deaths each year worldwide. Cholera diarrheal disease has often become epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, particularly in India and Bangladesh. *V. cholerae* bacterial infections are most commonly acquired from drinking water in which it has been introduced from the feces of an infected person. Not all strains of *V. cholerae* bacteria are pathogenic, since non-pathogenic strains have been found in surface water.

*V. cholerae* bacteria secrete cholera toxin, a protein that causes profuse, watery diarrhea. Symptoms include abrupt onset of watery diarrhea, occasional vomiting and abdominal cramps. Dehydration follows with symptoms such as thirst, dry mucous membranes, decreased skin turgor, sunken eyes, hypotension, weak radial pulse, increased heart rate, rapid breathing, hoarse voice, lack of urination, cramps, renal failure, seizures, drowsiness, coma and death.

Figure 11 shows the locations where water samples were collected for analysis of *V. cholerae* bacteria. *V. cholerae* bacteria were found in only one location of the Russian River Watershed:

- Laguna de Santa Rosa at the Sebastopol Community Center.

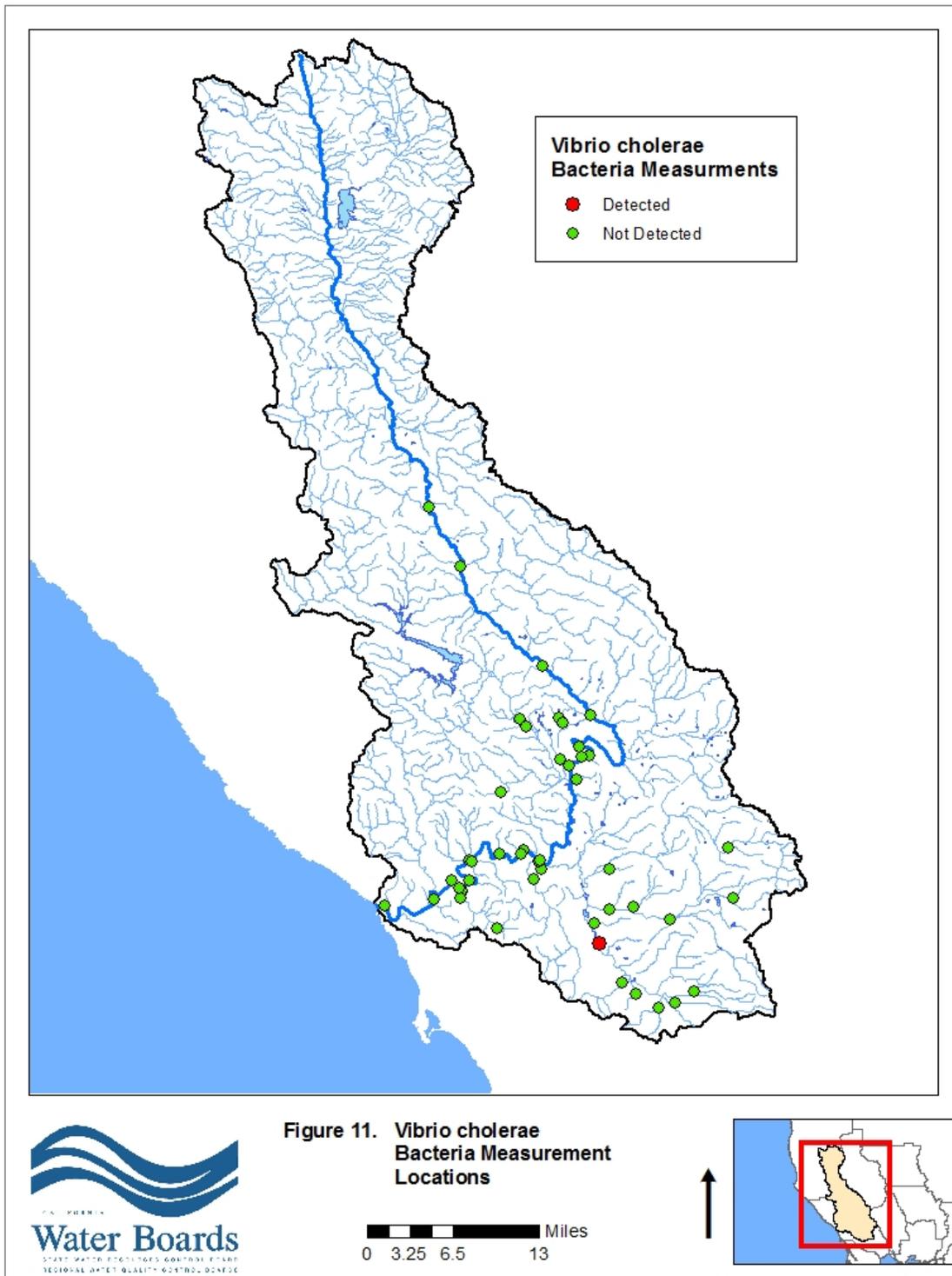


Figure 11. *Vibrio cholerae* Bacteria Measurement Locations

**Yersinia sp.**

Pigs and rodents are the main animal sources of *Yersinia* bacteria species, but other *Yersinia* bacteria strains are also found in other animals including rabbits, sheep, cattle, horses, dogs, and cats. Not all species or strains of *Yersinia* bacteria are pathogenic to humans.

- *Y. pestis* bacteria are the causative agent of the plague. The symptoms of plague depend on the concentrated areas of infection in each person: bubonic plague in the lymph nodes, septicemic plague in the blood vessels, pneumonic plague in the lungs.
- *Y. enterocolitica* bacteria can cause a variety of symptoms including fever, abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea, skin rash, joint pains, inflammation of the small intestine, inflammation of the fat cells under the skin, sepsis (a potentially fatal whole-body inflammation), arthritis and/or blood poisoning.

*Yersinia* bacteria may also be associated with Crohn's disease, an inflammatory autoimmune condition of the gut. *Yersinia* bacteria can also cause reactive arthritis, an autoimmune condition that develops in response to the infection.

Figure 12 shows the locations where water samples were collected for analysis of *Yersinia* bacteria species. *Yersinia* bacteria were found at four (4) locations on the mainstem Russian River and in seven (7) tributaries to the Russian River:

- Russian River at Commisky Station Road
- Russian River at Cloverdale River Park
- Russian River at Highway 128 Bridge near Geyserville
- Russian River at Steelhead Beach
- Blucher Creek
- Crane Creek
- Palmer Creek
- Van Buren Creek
- Thirteen (13) unnamed tributaries

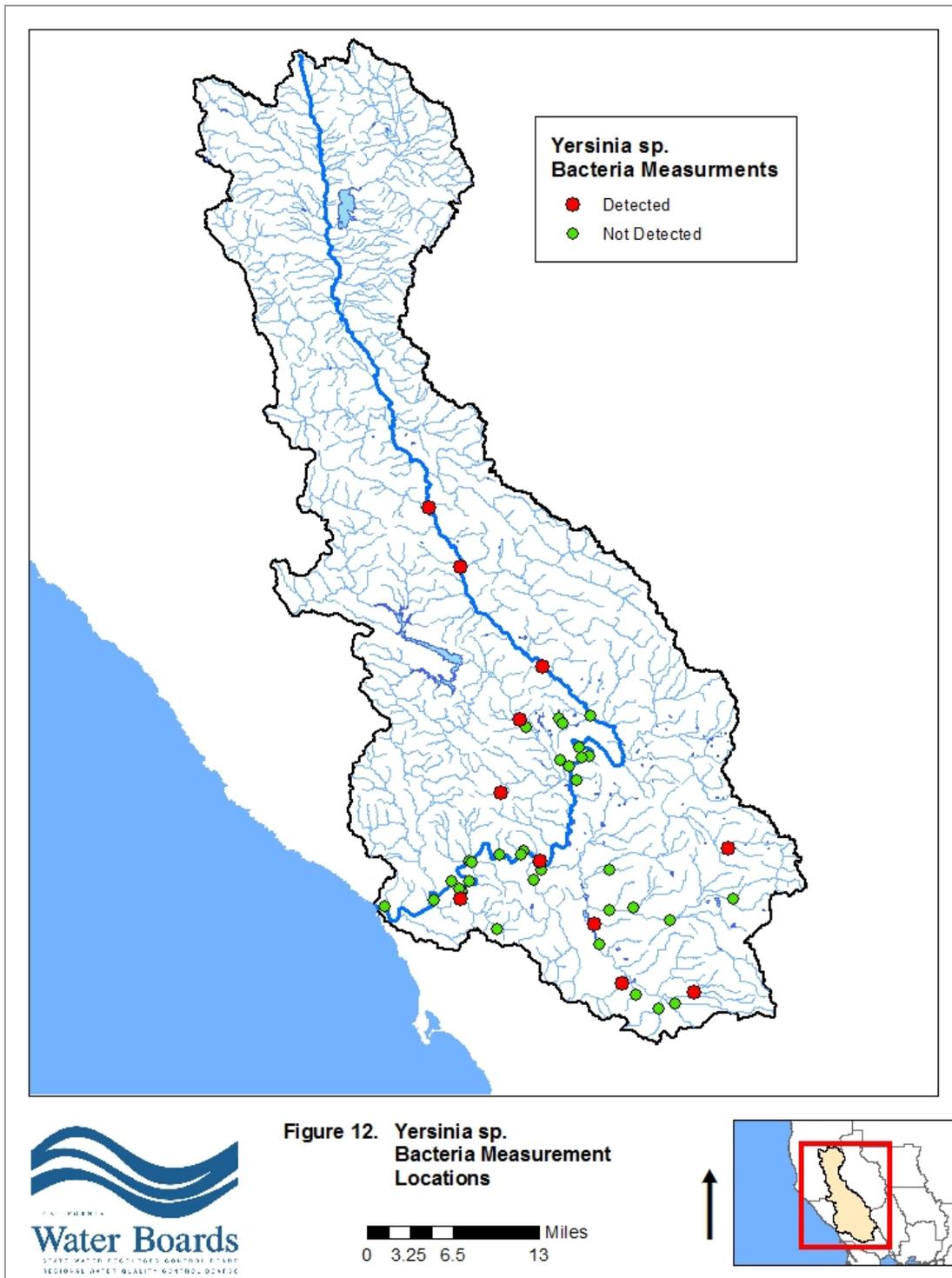


Figure 12. *Yersinia sp.* Bacteria Measurement Locations

## Review Findings

Based on the review of the report on the PhyloChip™ microarray results in the Russian River Watershed, Regional Water Board staff can make the following four findings:

1. The report compares bacteria concentrations with the number of taxa or fecal gene sequences from a fecal source reference sample. No relationship was found between the fecal indicator bacteria concentration measurements with the number of bacteria taxa or fecal gene sequences from the fecal source reference sample. For example, when fecal indicator bacteria concentrations exceeded single sample maximum criteria (CDHS 2011), the fecal bacteria taxa or fecal gene sequences counts were lowest, and vice versa. Cao et al. (2013) supports this finding:

*“One would not expect total bacterial DNA to correlate well with [bacteria] concentrations, particularly when the latter was determined by a culture-based method.”*

However, a previous PhyloChip™ analysis did find a correlation between fecal indicator bacteria concentration and the number of bacteria taxa found in the sample (Dubinsky et al. 2012).

2. The “detection” of a fecal signal at a few locations was based on the 20% fecal reference library threshold. The selection of the threshold appears arbitrary and does not seem to be defined by an analytical approach. The report cites Dubinsky et al. (2012) and Cao et al. (2013) as finding that 20% reference library taxa is a “suitable threshold to detect a source signal.” Dubinsky et al. (2012) “defined” the 20% threshold without presenting any analysis on the selection of the threshold. Cao et al. (2013) explains that the 20% threshold was based on field tests of marine waters that were contaminated with sewage or bird feces, but does not provide further justification for selection of the threshold.

It appears that the PhyloChip™ microarray may not have adequate sensitivity to detect specific fecal sources in diluted ambient water. The approach seems to only provide detection of fecal source material at relatively higher bacteria concentrations. Cao et al. (2013) provides justification for this finding:

*“Despite their advantages, community analysis methods usually have lower sensitivity than single indicator PCR or qPCR assays. Because community analysis methods measure all indicators and target all sources simultaneously, signals from the less abundant (or rare) sources can be low and overwhelmed by signals from dominant contributing sources. This may partially explain the lower sensitivity with sewage, naturally a multiple-source mixture, compared to that with pure human feces.”*

*Another possible reason for the observed low sensitivity of community analysis methods is that they mostly focused on identifying dominant sources. It is reasonable that it would be easier to match an unknown sample (containing human feces or sewage and another animal source) to a "pure reference source" (i.e., human feces) than to a "mixed reference source" (i.e., sewage which may itself contain other animal sources). The relative low sensitivity makes this class of methods inappropriate for management applications where high analytical sensitivity is preferred, e.g., for detecting low levels of human waste input. Source identification results by the community-based methods are currently qualitative (dominant vs. minor), which may not be sufficient for comparing the extent of contamination by one particular source across sites."*

3. The report found no significant differences in the composition or structure between bacterial communities associated with onsite wastewater treatment system density or runoff from different land uses. The lack of observed differences does not mean that such a difference does not exist. There are a number of possible explanations:

First, all catchments for land use and onsite wastewater treatment system density may not have been fully representative of the category. For example, all forested catchments had a small density of homes on onsite wastewater treatment systems that could confuse observing a difference with other land uses. Also, catchments with a low density of onsite wastewater treatment system could contain one or two failing systems that would bias the results.

Second, the limited budget allowed only a few samples to be collected. The sample sizes were likely too small to detect significant differences between land covers or onsite wastewater treatment system risk categories due to the large natural variation of bacteria concentrations.

Third, many of the storm events sampled had relatively small amounts of rainfall relative to the size of storm event typically observed in the wet period. Due to the drought, only two storm events sampled had more than 1-inch of rain, the minimum required volume for designation as a wet period sampling event. These storms may not be representative of typical stormwater runoff and the collected samples may be biased.

Finally, as described above, the relatively low sensitivity of the PhyloChip™ microarray may not be adequate for detecting the low concentrations of fecal bacteria found in ambient streams.

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## **Appendix**

*Russian River Human Impact Study - PhyloChip Microbial Community Analysis*

**Russian River Human Impact Study  
PhyloChip Microbial Community Analysis**

**Final Report**  
May 1, 2014

Prepared by Eric Dubinsky and Gary Andersen  
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## I. Executive Summary

### Background and Approach

This project focused on microbiological source identification in the middle and lower Russian River watershed. Goals of this study included collection of the principal data needs required to understand sources of pathogenic indicator organisms and understand microbiological transport mechanisms.

Monitoring tasks were identified for the following five management questions:

1. What is the spatial variability of the microbial community in the Russian River?
2. What is the temporal variability of the microbial community in the Russian River?
3. Do land uses influence the variability of the microbial community in the Russian River watershed?
4. Do recreational beach areas influence the variability of the microbial community?
5. Do areas with onsite water treatment influence the variability of the microbial community in the Russian River watershed?

A new technology is available that can greatly improve microbial source identification. PhyloChip DNA microarray contains 1.1 million probes that capture representatives of all known, nearly complete 16S rRNA genes in public databases. The PhyloChip can quantify over 59,000 bacterial taxa in a single sample by targeting variations in the 16S rRNA gene. The 16S rRNA gene is universally present in all microbes and small sequence variations within the gene can be used as a “barcode” for bacteria and archaea identification. The analysis quantifies changes in relative abundance of each gene sequence and corresponding bacterial taxa among samples in the study. Recent studies demonstrate the usefulness and performance of this technology for microbial source tracking (Dubinsky et al. 2012, Cao et al. 2013).

To support the development of the Russian River Pathogen TMDL, LBNL used PhyloChip to analyze filters of water quality samples that were collected by the North Coast Regional Quality Control Board. Water sampling efforts were conducted with four (4) monitoring tasks. Task 1 was designed to assess spatial and seasonal variability of the microbial community and diagnostic fecal bacteria in the Russian River and impaired tributaries. Task 2 was designed to evaluate the influence of land use on the microbial community and diagnostic fecal bacteria. Task 3 was designed to evaluate the influence of recreational beach use on the microbial community and diagnostic fecal bacteria. Task 4 was designed to assess the influence of locations with onsite wastewater treatment systems on the microbial community and diagnostic fecal bacteria.

## Summary of Results

### *Task 1. Site Variability*

The results of the Site Variability study showed bacterial communities in the dry period were similar among all Russian River beach sites from Commisky Station Road to Monte Rio Beach and were largely composed of Betaproteobacteria, Actinobacteria and Flavobacteria that are likely native to the river. Pelagibacteria that are characteristic of marine waters were the most frequently detected taxa at Jenner in the dry period reflecting the influence of the Pacific Ocean on the mouth of the river. No fecal signal was found in any dry period samples collected from the Russian River.

In the wet period samples, the bacterial community composition was similar to dry period samples from Commisky Station Road to Memorial Beach, but diverged in composition at Steelhead Beach and was increasingly distinct at Forestville Access, Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach. Diagnostic human fecal bacteria were detected at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach. Large numbers of potentially pathogenic *Staphylococcus* were detected at these sites along with human fecal bacteria. Traditional fecal indicator tests (*Enterococcus*, *E. coli*, total coliforms) did not exceed water quality limits (CDHS 2011) at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach where PhyloChip detected human fecal bacteria and *Staphylococcus*. Conversely, the bacterial community did not contain human fecal bacteria at several upstream locations where conventional fecal indicators did exceed concentration limits. Upstream sites (Commisky Station, Cloverdale River Park and Geyserville Bridge) contained *Yersinia* taxa in both wet and dry periods but there was no detected fecal source at these sites. Fecal bacteria that are diagnostic of grazing animals were detected at Steelhead, Forestville Access, Johnson's and Monte Rio Beach. More refined assessment of the grazer source was inconclusive but results suggest that cows and/or deer may contribute to the signal.

Dry period samples from tributaries in impaired watersheds contained a greater variety of taxa than the Russian River and contained increased numbers Alpha-, Beta- and Gammaproteobacteria. Dry period samples at Green Valley Creek and Santa Rosa Creek exceeded concentration limits for *Enterococcus*, but not *E. coli*, and the bacterial community did not contain diagnostic fecal bacteria. In the wet period, Green Valley Creek, Santa Rosa Creek and Laguna de Santa Rosa exceeded all fecal indicator tests but contained low numbers of diagnostic fecal bacteria.

### *Task 2. Land Use Variability*

Results from the land use study showed no significant effects of land use on the composition or structure of bacterial communities. Taxonomic richness in all land uses was significantly greater during wet periods than dry periods for all land use types and was associated with high counts of fecal indicator bacteria. Bacterial communities converged in composition and structure during the wet period, regardless of land use type, and contained large numbers of non-fecal Bacteroidetes, and Proteobacteria that were mainly Enterobacteria (coliforms) and Pseudomonas.

Human fecal signal was not detected in dry period samples with the exception of Limerick Creek, a developed onsite septic location. Samples from developed sewer areas also had possible human fecal signal during the wet period. Developed areas with onsite septic systems generally lacked human markers in the wet period. High fecal indicator counts at these sites during the wet period were not associated with a human fecal signal.

Grazing animal signal was not found in any land use samples during the dry period but several wet period samples from different land uses contained possible fecal signal from grazing animals.

#### *Task 3: Recreational Beach Use*

In the recreational beach use study (Task 3), there was human fecal signal at Johnson's Beach in one sample at the end of the monitoring period. This sample was associated with an *Enterococcus* concentration that marginally exceeded the water quality limit (63 MPN/100mL) (CDHS 2011) but the *E. coli* concentration was below the concentration limit. There was no indication of human fecal signal in the samples analyzed from Monte Rio Beach.

#### *Task 4: Effects of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems*

In the onsite wastewater treatment study, there were no significant differences in bacterial communities associated with parcel density or septic risk. No sites in areas with both high parcel density and high septic risk contained evidence of human fecal signal in spite of high numbers of fecal indicator bacteria. In areas with high parcel density and low septic risk, one site (Site 5) was found to have probable human fecal signal on two sampling dates. No human fecal signal was detected at low parcel density sites with both low and high septic risk. In the three additional catchments of interest that were analyzed, site 14 had a strong human fecal signal.

There were no trends in bacterial communities associated with samples that exceeded concentration limits of *Enterococcus* fecal indicators but had low concentrations *E. coli* fecal indicators.

## **Conclusions**

Wet periods have strong effect on the bacterial community at Russian River beaches in the lower watershed and on creeks in all land use types. The PhyloChip assay detected likely human fecal signal at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach, and indicated possible risk from pathogenic *Staphylococcus* at these locations during wet periods. Recreational beach use was also associated with human fecal signal. The inconsistency of conventional fecal indicator tests in detecting these risks warrants further investigation.

At other locations upstream in the Russian River, in impaired tributaries, and throughout the surrounding watershed, samples with exceedances in fecal indicator bacteria were frequently unassociated with fecal bacterial taxa. Similarly, many exceedances in areas with high septic risks and high numbers of fecal indicator bacteria had no fecal signal in the microbial community. These results indicate that non-fecal sources are likely supplying *Enterococcus* and coliforms to monitored waters.

The absence of significant bacterial community signatures for different land use types indicates that generalizable land use signatures may not be available for source tracking on a landscape scale. There were, however, distinct bacterial communities measured in different creeks that may be useful for tracking downstream influence. In addition, the use of microbial community analysis holds great potential to further identify potential non-fecal sources of fecal indicator bacteria that appear to be important in the Russian River watershed.

## II. Project Description

### Introduction

Currently, there is insufficient understanding concerning the composition of the overall microbial population (microbiome) and variations therein to accurately assess the risk to the bathing public from the presence of pathogens using the current indicator organism methodology. This lack of understanding and other issues also make it difficult to assess the effectiveness of pathogen reduction by pollution control projects.

A major problem facing the regulators is that there is lack of information regarding the microbial ecology of recreational waters, especially from non-point source pollution. There is currently little understanding of the impact of source microbiomes such as stormwater or sewage treatment plant outfalls on the overall microbiome of the receiving waters. Current indicator bacteria tests do not identify the potential sources for these bacteria, thus making it impossible to ascertain the source of pathogen indicator bacteria causing exceedance of water quality objectives.

A new technology is available that greatly improves microbial source identification. PhyloChip DNA microarray contains 1.1 million probes that capture representatives of all known, nearly complete 16S rRNA genes in public databases. The PhyloChip can quantify over 59,000 bacterial taxa in a single sample by targeting variations in the 16S rRNA gene. The 16S rRNA gene is universally present in all microbes and small sequence variations within the gene can be used as a “barcode” for bacteria and archaea identification. The analysis quantifies changes in relative abundance of each gene sequence and corresponding bacterial taxa among samples in the study. Recent studies demonstrate the usefulness and performance of this technology for microbial source tracking (Dubinsky et al. 2012, Cao et al. 2013).

To support the development of the Russian River Pathogen TMDL, LBNL used PhyloChip to analyze filters of water quality samples that were collected by the North Coast Regional Quality Control Board. This project focused on microbiological source identification in the middle and lower Russian River watershed.

Monitoring tasks were identified for the following five management questions:

1. What is the spatial variability of the bacterial community?
2. What is the temporal variability of the bacterial community?
3. Do land uses influence the variability of the bacterial community?
4. Does recreational beach use influence the variability of the bacterial community?
5. Do areas with onsite wastewater treatment influence the variability of the bacterial community?

The project consisted of four monitoring tasks designed to answer these questions and determine sources of fecal indicator bacteria. Task 1 assessed spatial and seasonal variability of the microbial community in the Russian River and impaired tributaries. Tasks 2 evaluated the influence of land use on the microbial community. Tasks 3 evaluated the influence of recreational beach use on the microbial community. Task 4 assessed the influence of locations with onsite wastewater treatment systems on the microbial community and diagnostic fecal bacteria.

## Methods

### *Sampling*

Two Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) guided the monitoring study. The *Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL Quality Assurance Project Plan* (Fadness and Butkus 2011) detailed the methods applied for water sample collection and analysis of fecal indicator bacteria *E. coli*, *Enterococcus*, and total coliform concentrations. The North Coast Regional Water Board Microbiology Laboratory conducted these analyses. The *Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL – Supplemental Sampling Plan - Quality Assurance Project Plan* (Butkus 2011) detailed the methods applied for collection and analysis of additional water quality samples. The additional water samples were collected in conjunction with the fecal indicator bacteria TMDL samples. The additional water samples were analyzed for *Bacteroidales* bacteria and stable isotope analyses of nitrate for relative source differences in oxygen ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) and nitrogen ( $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ ). Frozen samples of water filters used to capture microbial cells were provided to LBNL for PhyloChip analysis. Samples were archived at  $-80\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  until analysis.

### *DNA extraction and amplification*

DNA was extracted from water filters using the DNA-EZ extraction kit (Generite, New Brunswick, NJ). The 16S rRNA gene was amplified from each DNA extract using PCR with bacterial primers 27F (5'-AGAGTTTGATCCTGGCTCAG-3') and 1492R (5'-

GGTTACCTTGTTACGACTT-3') for bacteria. Each PCR reaction contained 1× Ex Taq buffer (Takara Bio Inc., Japan), 0.025 units/μl Ex Taq polymerase, 0.8 mM dNTP mixture, 1.0 μg/μl BSA, and 200 pM each primer and 1 ng genomic DNA (gDNA) as template for fecal samples and 10 ng gDNA for water samples. Each sample was amplified in 8 replicate 25 μl reactions spanning a range of annealing temperatures. PCR conditions were 95°C (3 min), followed by 30 cycles 95°C (30 s), 48-58°C (25 s), 72°C (2 min), followed by a final extension 72°C (10 min). Amplicons from each reaction were pooled for each sample, purified with the QIAquick PCR purification kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA), and eluted in 50 μL elution buffer.

#### *PhyloChip analysis*

A detailed description of PhyloChip design and validation is available in Hazen et al. (2010 supplementary) and laboratory procedures for PhyloChip analysis are described in Dubinsky et al. (2012). Briefly, replicate PCR was performed to amplify genes encoding 16S rRNA from Bacteria; pooled PCR products were purified then fragmented with DNAaseI; the fragmented products were then labeled with biotin followed by hybridization overnight onto the microarray; the microarray was then stained and scanned to provide raw PhyloChip data in the form of fluorescent image files. Probe intensities were background-subtracted and scaled to quantitative standards (non-16S spike-ins) and outliers were identified as described in Hazen et al. (2010).

Two approaches were used to analyze the fluorescent image files following array scanning. The first approach used the standard operational taxonomic unit (OTU) approach described in Dubinsky et al. (2012). In this approach the presence of 59,316 different bacterial OTUs was determined by positive hybridization of multiple probes that correspond to distinguishing 16S rRNA gene polymorphisms (average of 37 probes/OTU). The hybridization score (HybScore) for an OTU was calculated as the mean intensity of the perfectly matching probes exclusive of the maximum and minimum. Procedures for OTU presence/absence scoring are described in Hazen et al. (2010). This approach yields an inventory of detected OTUs that compose the microbial community.

The second analysis approach considered probe quartet data and is an advancement of the high performing probe-based analysis described in Cao et al. (2013). The probe-based approach uses each of the PhyloChip's 1,015,124 probe features to determine diagnostic sequences for specific fecal sources and detect these targets in environmental samples. This approach was found to be more sensitive and accurate than the OTU approach for fecal source identification in the Source Identification Protocol Project (Cao et al. 2013). In this study we advance this method by analyzing quartets of probes that target the sense, anti-sense, and corresponding mismatch probes of each targeted sequence (Probst et al. 2014). This is the most robust way of determining the presence and abundance of a targeted 16S rRNA gene sequences because it controls for non-specific hybridization and relies on detection of both complimentary DNA strands to increase the performance of the assay.

For this project we re-analyzed data from 80 different fecal sources previously collected by LBNL including all those used in Dubinsky et al (2012) and Cao et al. (2013) for improved

sensitivity and specificity. We developed specific quartet-probe profiles for human waste, grazing mammal and shorebird fecal sources. Each reference fecal sample was a composite of individual feces or human waste from a unique location and included sewage, septage, human stool and droppings from cows, horses, deer, elk (grazing animals) and gulls and pelicans (shorebirds). These reference samples were used to define subsets of 16S rRNA gene sequences that are common among samples of a given source type and rare in other fecal sources. These subsets define the diagnostic source identification probes used in this study to probe for fecal signals from human wastes, grazing mammals or shorebirds. Dubinsky et al. (2012) and Cao et al. (2013) found that 20% or greater occurrence of source ID probes for a source was a suitable threshold to detect a source signal in mixtures of sources and dilutions in the complex microbial background of receiving waters.

#### *Statistics*

Differences in taxonomic richness among wet and dry period samples in Tasks 1 and 2 were tested using the Mann Whitney U test. Differences among land use types in Task 2 and parcel categories in Task 4 were tested using the Kruskal-Wallis test. Comparisons of overall bacterial community structure were conducted with multivariate statistics using the Bray-Curtis distance metric. Nonmetric Multidimensional Scaling (NMDS) was used in Primer 6 to visualize community differences. Analysis of Similarity (ANOSIM) was used to test whether community structure was different between groups. ANOSIM R values range from 0-1, with values close to 1 indicating strong separation between groups and values close to 0 indicating no significant separation. Similarity Percentage (SIMPER) analysis was used to identify the taxa that were primarily responsible for observed differences in community structure between groups.

### **III. Task 1: Site Variability**

#### **Description**

Task 1 was designed to answer the following management questions:

1. What is the spatial variability of the bacterial community in the middle and lower Russian River?
2. What is temporal variability of the bacterial community between wet and dry periods?

Samples for the Russian River Pathogen Indicator TMDL Monitoring Plan were collected on a weekly basis at sixteen (16) different locations along the Russian River and from listed tributaries in the watershed. LBNL conducted PhyloChip analysis on dry period samples collected on August 16-18, 2011 (Table 2-1). Wet period samples were collected for PhyloChip analysis at the same locations on October 5-6, 2011. Wet periods were defined by federal regulation (40 CFR 122.21(g)(7)(ii)) and the USEPA Storm Water Sampling Guidance Document (USEPA 1992) as greater than 0.1 inch and at least 72 hours from the previously measurable (greater than 0.1 inch rainfall) storm event.

**Table 2-1.** Sample descriptions for Task 1.

Station Name	Sample Code	Latitude	Longitude	Dry sample date	Wet sample date
Alexander Valley Campground	AVC	38.658672	-121.170433	8/16/11	10/6/11
Camp Rose	CR	38.613511	-121.167928	8/16/11	10/6/11
Memorial Beach	MB	38.60465	-121.122922	8/16/11	10/6/11
Steelhead Beach	SB	38.500311	-121.100561	8/16/11	10/6/11
Forestville Access Beach	FAB	38.510331	-121.078803	8/18/11	10/6/11
Johnson's Beach	JB	38.499389	-121.001972	8/18/11	10/6/11
Monte Rio Beach	MRB	38.466258	-122.990628	8/18/11	10/6/11
Commisky Station	CSR	38.882508	-122.944231	8/18/11	10/6/11
Cloverdale River Park	CRP	38.823144	-123.009458	8/18/11	10/6/11
Geyserville @ Highway 28 Bridge	GHB	38.712922	-121.104519	8/18/11	10/6/11
Dutch Bill Creek	DBC	38.463314	-122.990083	8/16/11	10/6/11
Jenner Boat Ramp	JBR	38.449431	-123.115608	8/18/11	10/6/11
Santa Rosa Creek @ Los Alamos Rd.	SRCL	38.458314	-121.36845	8/18/11	10/5/11
Santa Rosa Creek @ Railroad St.	SRCR	38.434813	-122.719683	8/18/11	10/5/11
Laguna de Santa Rosa	LSR	38.407926	-122.818068	8/18/11	10/5/11
Green Valley Creek	GVC	38.480444	-121.091008	8/18/11	10/5/11

## Results: Task 1

### *Spatial and temporal variability of bacterial communities*

The taxonomic composition of all wet and dry period samples is summarized in Tables 2-2 and 2-3, respectively, and Figure 2-1. The number of different bacterial taxa, referred to as Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs), in the Russian River ranged 311 to 583 in the dry period and 310 to 2379 in the wet period. The number of OTUs in impaired tributaries ranged from 531 to 1749 in the dry period and 793 to 1583 in the wet period.

Bacteria communities in the dry period were similar among Russian River beaches from Commisky Station Road to Monte Rio Beach (Figure 2-1). Bacterial communities were mostly composed of Betaproteobacteria (Aquabacterium and Burkholderia), Actinobacteria (Corynebacteriaceae) and non-fecal Bacteroidetes (Flavobacteria) (Table 2-2). All of these taxa are common in freshwater and soil, and include many organisms known for their role in organic matter degradation. The ubiquity of these taxa indicates they are native to the river. Gammaproteobacteria related to *Aeromonas* were detected with increased frequency at Alexander Valley Campground and downstream sites in the dry period. *Aeromonas* are known to be ubiquitous in freshwater habitats. It is unclear why they vary among sites during the dry period. The bacterial community at Jenner was the most distinct of all the sites during the dry period (Figure 2-2) and contained >200 Alphaproteobacteria (Pelagibacteria and Rhodobacteraceae) that were not observed at upstream locations (Table 2-2). These Alphaproteobacteria are dominant in coastal oceans and likely occur at Jenner due to the tidal influence of the Pacific Ocean.

In the wet period samples, the bacterial community at beaches between Commisky Station Road to Memorial Beach was similar in composition and structure to dry period samples from the same locations (Table 2-3, Figure 2-2). The community began to diverge at Steelhead Beach and was increasingly distinct moving downstream to Forestville Access, Johnson's and Monte Rio Beaches (Figure 2-2). Divergence at these sites during the wet period was primarily caused by the occurrence of Clostridia that were not found upstream (Table 2-3) or in dry period samples (Table 2-2). At Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach in the wet period, Clostridia, Bacteroidaceae and Verrucomicrobia (Akkermansia species) that are common in human fecal sources were dominant taxa in the microbial community. In addition, large numbers of potentially pathogenic Staphylococcus were found at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach along with human fecal bacteria. It is important to note that none of the fecal indicator tests used for monitoring (*Enterococcus*, *E. coli*, total coliforms) exceeded water quality limits (CDHS 2011) at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach (Table 2-3) where numerous fecal-associated Clostridia, Bacteroidaceae, Verrucomicrobia and Staphylococcus were detected.

The wet period sample at Jenner did not contain the dominant Clostridia, Bacteroidales or Staphylococcus found upstream at Monte Rio Beach (Table 2-3), and was more similar in overall community structure to locations upstream of Johnson's Beach (Figure 2-2). The wet period Jenner sample also lacked the marine Alphaproteobacteria that were observed during the dry period (Figure 2-1) indicating little or no marine influence on the microbial community at this time.

Dry period samples from tributaries in impaired watersheds contained greater taxonomic richness than the Russian River, and bacterial community structure in tributaries was generally different than the Russian River (Figure 2-3), mainly due to larger numbers of Alpha-, Beta- and Gammaproteobacteria (Table 2-2, Figure 2-1). These Proteobacteria families are common in soil and freshwater habitats and may be native to these tributaries. Tributary samples that were most distinct from Russian River samples mostly had high counts of fecal indicator bacteria (Figure 2-4). In wet period tributary samples with high fecal indicator counts there were higher numbers of taxa related to Pseudomonas, Enterobacter and Betaproteobacteria but not fecal Bacteroides or Clostridia (Table 2-3). Dry period samples at Green Valley Creek and Santa Rosa Creek exceeded concentration limits for *Enterococcus*, but not *E. coli*, and also contained increased numbers of Proteobacteria taxa (Table 2-2). High numbers of Enterobacteria and Pseudomonas co-occurred in Dutch Bill Creek and Santa Rosa Creek at Los Alamos during wet and dry periods, along with increased detection of Clostridia relative to other dry period samples. It is unclear whether these bacteria are naturally occurring or input from a wastewater or fecal source.

There were no consistent differences in overall community composition samples between all wet and all dry period samples. The difference in taxonomic richness between wet and dry periods was not significant ( $p > 0.05$ ). ANOSIM results showed no significant difference between the community structure of wet and dry periods samples (ANOSIM  $r = 0.19$ ).

### *Fecal source detection*

PhyloChip source detection analysis did not find human, grazing animal or shorebird fecal signal in any dry period samples in the Russian River or impaired tributaries (Figure 2-5).

In the wet period there was human fecal signal at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach (Figure 2-5). Water samples contained 72-75% of diagnostic human Clostridia, 39-43% of diagnostic Bacteroidales sequences and 54-59% of all 654 16S rRNA gene sequences that are diagnostic for human wastes. These samples also contained high numbers of *Staphylococcus* (Table 2-3, Appendix A). We were not able to refine the source of human fecal signal based on our reference database of sewage, septage and human stool samples because diagnostic bacteria and sewage and septage are largely shared with human stool samples. At Jenner, diagnostic human ID sequences were detected with greater frequency than sites upstream of Johnson's Beach (29% diagnostic human Clostridia), possibly due to the upstream inputs that affected Monte Rio Beach and Johnson's Beach (Figure 2-5). No human fecal sources were indicated at sites upstream of Monte Rio, however taxa related to pathogenic *Yersinia* were detected at Commisky Station, Cloverdale River Park and Geyserville Bridge in both wet and dry periods (Appendix A).

The HuBac qPCR test found a high numbers of human Bacteroidales at Monte Rio Beach in the wet period (Figure 2-6). There was not a strong correlation among PhyloChip human ID results and HuBac results (Figure 2-7). Curiously, there were no exceedances of fecal indicator bacteria at Monte Rio Beach despite the strong indication of human fecal signal by both PhyloChip and HuBac qPCR. These methods detect the presence of DNA, regardless of the viability of the detected organisms. The IDEXX fecal indicator tests measure viable bacteria, and it is possible that wet period samples at Monte Rio and Johnson's Beaches contain non-viable fecal indicator bacteria but high concentrations of human fecal bacteria DNA. For example, there is a positive correlation between IDEXX *E. coli* fecal indicator counts and the relative abundance of *Escherichia* OTUs measured by PhyloChip ( $r=0.64$ , Figure 2-8), demonstrating a general correspondence between the culture-based FIB assay and PhyloChip DNA quantification. There are, however, several samples in which IDEXX *E. coli* are at or below the detection limit but PhyloChip relative abundances of *Escherichia* OTUs are high (Figure 2-8), indicating that a higher proportion of detected DNA is from non-viable organisms in these particular samples.

During the wet period at Steelhead Beach and Forestville Access Beach, several fecal-associated Lachnospiraceae and Ruminococcaceae were detected indicating influence from a mammalian fecal source. The signal from diagnostic human Bacteroides and Clostridia was not strong enough to indicate a human source (2% and 4%, respectively, Figure 2-5). A possible grazer source was detected at these sites (12% and 19% diagnostic grazer-specific sequences, 23% and 36% of grazer Bacteroides, 7% and 20% of grazer Clostridia). BovBac qPCR also detected a bovine Bacteroides signal at Steelhead Beach and Forestville Access Beach (Figures 2-9 and 2-10). Downstream at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach a grazer signal was also detected by PhyloChip (17% and 20% diagnostic grazer-specific sequences, 16% and 18% of grazer Bacteroides, 40% and 48% of grazer Clostridia, respectively). We attempted to refine the grazer signal at these sites based on our reference database of cow, horse and deer fecal samples.

Results were inconclusive because fecal signals were weak but there was some indication that a cow source may be affecting these sites (8-13% cow-specific sequences, 2-17% cow Bacteroides, 15-22% cow Clostridia). A possible deer source was also indicated at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach (7% deer specific sequences, 14-18% deer Bacteroides, 18-22% deer Clostridia). No horse signal was indicated at any of the sites (<3% horse-specific sequences, 0% horse Bacteroides, 0% horse Clostridia).

Dry period samples at Green Valley Creek and Santa Rosa Creek exceeded concentration limits for *Enterococcus*, but not *E. coli*, but few diagnostic fecal bacteria were detected, indicating that human, grazer or shorebird sources were not likely causing exceedances of *Enterococcus*. In the wet period, Green Valley Creek, Santa Rosa Creek and Laguna de Santa Rosa exceeded all fecal indicator tests but few diagnostic fecal bacteria were detected (Figure 2-5). No grazer sources were indicated for Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Tributary samples contained taxa related to potential pathogens, mostly coliforms including *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Serratia marcescens*, *Shigella flexneri* (Appendix A). Detection of pathogen related 16S rRNA genes do not necessarily indicate that pathogenic strains are present, but rather that closely related taxa are present that may or may not include the virulent strain. Molecular assays that specifically target pathogenic strains are necessary to confirm their occurrence.

## IV. Task 2: Land Use Variability

### Description

Task 2 was designed to assess variability among different types of land uses. This task was conducted to assess the relative magnitude and variability of indicator bacteria in waters draining from each of the major land uses found in the Russian River watershed. Definition of land use categories and site selection is described in the Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL – Supplemental Sampling Plan Quality Assurance Project Plan (Butkus 2011). Based on the land cover spatial data acreage within the study area five land cover categories were chosen for this assessment:

1. Forest Land
2. Rangeland
3. Agriculture
4. Urban & Residential Sewered areas
5. Residential Non-sewered areas.

In the Russian River Pathogens Pilot Study it was determined that runoff from different land uses exhibited different bacteria levels. The objective of this task was to assess the relative magnitude and variability of bacteria in waters draining from each of the major land uses in the middle and

lower Russian River watershed. Task 2 is designed to answer the following management questions:

1. What is the variability of the bacterial community among different land covers?
2. What is the temporal variability of the bacterial community between wet and dry periods?
3. Does land use influence the variability of the bacterial community?

To assess land use variability, sampling was conducted during both wet and dry periods. Samples for the Russian River Pathogen Indicator TMDL Monitoring Plan were collected from October 2011 through June 2012. One of these sampling events was chosen as the dry period sample set and one was chosen as a wet period sample set according to criteria described in the Russian River Pathogen Indicator TMDL Monitoring Plan.

Table 3-1. Sample descriptions for Task 2.

Station ID	Station Name	Land Use Category	Dry sample date	Wet sample date
114UW0048	Abramson Creek	Agriculture	12/9/11	1/21/12
114BL1999	Blucher Creek	Shrubland/Herbaceous	12/9/11	1/21/12
114CO0655	Copeland Creek	Developed Sewered	12/9/11	1/21/12
114CR3673	Crane Creek	Shrubland/Herbaceous	3/5/12	1/21/12
114FO3662	Foss Creek	Developed Sewered	12/9/11	1/20/12
114GO0351	Gossage Creek	Shrubland/Herbaceous	12/9/11	1/21/12
114US1675	Irwin Creek	Developed Onsite Septic	3/5/12	1/21/12
114UD0000	Lambert Creek	Agriculture	3/5/12	1/21/12
114UL3960	Limerick Creek	Developed Onsite Septic	3/5/12	1/21/12
114UM0355	Mays Creek	Forest Land	3/5/12	1/23/12
114PA3647	Palmer Creek	Forest Land	12/9/11	1/20/12
114PI0729	Piner Creek	Developed Sewered	12/9/11	1/21/12
114UT3915	Turner Creek	Developed Onsite Septic	12/9/11	1/21/12
114VB0410	van Buren Creek	Forest Land	12/9/11	1/21/12
114UR3927	Woolsey Creek	Agriculture	3/5/12	1/21/12

## Results: Task 2

### *Variation of bacterial communities among land use types*

No significant differences were found among land use types in dry or wet periods for total OTU richness or richness in any taxonomic families (Table 3-2). Median richness in agriculture samples trended higher than other land use types for Comamonadaceae, Pseudomonadaceae and total bacterial richness (Table 3-2, Figure 3-1). Median bacterial richness in forest samples trended lower than other land uses during wet periods.

Taxonomic richness was significantly greater during wet periods than dry periods for all land use types (Mann Whitney U test,  $p < 0.001$ ) (Figure 3-1). Community structure was significantly different between wet and dry periods for all land use types (ANOSIM Global R = 0.76,  $p = 0.001$ ). Ordination of bacterial abundance data showed that all wet period samples clustered together, regardless of land use type (Figure 3-2). This result indicates that bacterial communities were more sensitive to seasonal effects than land use effects. Differences between dry and wet period samples were primarily due to increased numbers of Bacteroidetes and Proteobacteria (Table 3-4). Bacteroidetes that increased in the wet period consisted of Rikenellaceae, Flavobacteria and Sphingobacteria. These are non-fecal Bacteroidetes taxa that naturally occur in soil and water environments. Most of the Proteobacteria that increased in the wet period were Klebsiella and Pantoea (coliforms) and Pseudomonas. These Proteobacteria are ubiquitous and many different habitats including soils, plant roots, freshwater, sewage and animal guts. Rain may enhance runoff and transport of these bacteria to creeks. The increased detection of these bacteria in all land use types during the wet period indicates that a particular human or animal fecal source is unlikely responsible for their occurrence, and instead that these taxa originate from environmental sources, such as soil or streambanks, that are widespread across all land use types.

The strong separation between dry and wet period samples was correlated with concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (Figure 3-3). Nearly all exceedances in fecal indicator bacteria occurred in the wet period. The dry period sample from Abramson Creek, an agriculture site, was a notable exception to this pattern. This site had high concentrations of total coliform, but not Enterococcus and *E. coli*, and was distinct in microbial community structure from all other wet and dry period samples (Figure 3-3). There was no apparent affiliation of potential human pathogens to particular land use types, however there was seasonal variation of potential pathogens; taxa related to *Proteus mirabilis* were detected in only dry period samples and taxa related to *Shigella flexneri*, *Salmonella enterica*, *Streptococcus* sp. and several *Staphylococcus* were detected in only wet period samples (Appendix A).

#### *Fecal source detection*

Dry period samples in all land uses lacked human fecal signal with the exception of Limerick Creek, a developed onsite septic location that had 52% of diagnostic human sequences present including 62% of diagnostic human Bacteroidales (Figure 3-4). This result is consistent with HuBac qPCR results that also found increased human fecal marker in this sample (Figure 3-5). In the Abramson Creek agriculture sample noted for its unique bacterial community (Figure 3-3) the PhyloChip test found evidence of a human source (28% and 21% of human Bacteroides and Clostridia, respectively), consistent with the high human Bacteroides concentration measured in this sample with HuBac qPCR (Figure 3-5).

Diagnostic human fecal sequences were more frequently detected in wet period samples than dry period samples in all land use types but the rate of detection was low (<20%) for most samples, indicating the signal was too weak to conclusively detect a human source. Some wet period samples from developed sewered sites at Copeland and Piner Creeks contained stronger evidence

of human fecal signal. At these sites, 25-46% of diagnostic human Bacteroidales were found and 17-25% of human Clostridia. The shrubland sample from Crane Creek also contained a possible human signal (34 and 21% of diagnostic human Bacteroides and Clostridia, respectively). The number of diagnostic human bacteria detected by PhyloChip was weakly correlated with HuBac test results (Figure 3-6).

Dry period samples contained little evidence for grazing animal fecal bacteria (Figure 3-4). In the wet period, evidence for grazer signal was found at Abramson Creek (agriculture) with detection of 41% and 53% of grazer Bacteroides and Clostridia, respectively. All shrubland sites contained evidence of grazer fecal signal (34-41% and 31-41% of grazer Bacteroides and Clostridia, respectively). In addition, there was indication of possible grazer signal at Turner Creek (developed onsite septic) and Copeland Creek (developed sewer) (32% and 41% of grazer Bacteroides, and 37% and 41% of grazer Clostridia, respectively). These results are consistent with BovBac Bacteroides concentrations (Figures 3-7 and 3-8). It should be noted that these targets have not been thoroughly tested for cross-reactivity in non-fecal samples such as soils, sediments and decaying vegetation, so these results should be treated with caution. Further refinement of the grazer signal with cow, horse and deer specific probes did not yield conclusive results.

## V. Task 3: Recreational Use Variability

### Description

The task was designed to assess the relative magnitude and variability of indicator bacteria levels that may be associated with increased human recreation use on weekends. Water samples were collected and analyzed to assess the local impact of recreational activities on indicator bacteria levels at public beaches. Water samples were collected at two beaches on the Russian River that experience large amounts of public use: Johnson's Beach in Guerneville and Monte Rio Beach in Monte Rio. Samples analyzed by PhyloChip analysis were collected for five consecutive days during September 22-26, 2011 to assess daily variability. Sample collection dates bracketed the Russian River Jazz & Blues Festival and the Russian River Cleanup to capture variability in microbial communities due to the elevated recreational use.

**Table 4-1.** Sample descriptions for Task 4

Station ID	Station Name	Location	Latitude	Longitude
114RR1325	Johnson's Beach	Church Street	38.499389	-121.001972
114RR0898	Monte Rio Beach	Bohemian Hwy	38.466258	-122.990628

### Results: Task 3

In the recreational beach use study, there was human fecal signal at Johnson's Beach on the fifth day of monitoring (9/26/2011). This sample was different in composition from other Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio samples (Figure 4-1 and 4-2) and contained high numbers of Clostridia (Table 4-2). This sample contained 468 OTUs of fecal-associated Clostridia in the Lachnospiraceae and Ruminococcus, compared with 0 to 6 in non-exceedance samples. This sample contained 50% of diagnostic human fecal targets, including 77% of human Clostridia and 30% of human Bacteroidales (Figure 4-3). There was a weaker indication of grazing animal feces (18% of detected targets) and no indication of shorebird signal (Figure 4-3).

The 9/26 Johnson's Beach sample with probable human fecal signal was associated with an *Enterococcus* concentration that marginally exceeded the water quality limit (63 MPN/100mL) (CDHS 2011) but the *E. coli* concentration was below the exceedance limit. In this instance the *E. coli* test may have missed the potential risk. Likewise, the HuBac qPCR test did not indicate an elevated risk in this sample (Figure 4-4). It is important to note that human fecal signal and high numbers of *Staphylococcus* were detected at Johnson's Beach as well as Monte Rio Beach in the Site Variability study (Task 1) but were similarly not affiliated with exceeding concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria. Two *Staphylococcus* OTUs were detected when fecal bacteria were present during the recreational study (Appendix A).

## VI. Task 4: On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems Study

### Description

Task 4 was designed to answer the following management question:

1. Do catchments with high density of on-site wastewater treatment (OSWT) systems contribute pathogenic indicator bacteria from human sources?

The assessment for the Russian River TMDL monitoring data collected in 2011-2012 (NCRWQCB 2012) identified the need to conduct a more robust assessment of the human contribution to exceedance of pathogenic indicator bacteria criteria. Areas that drain from catchments that have a high density of OSWT systems were compared to catchments with a low density of OSWT systems. Nine (9) sample locations were selected for both high-density and low-density catchments throughout the study area. Wet weather samples were collected only from ephemeral stream locations. Samples analyzed for PhyloChip are listed in Table 5-1.

Sample blanks were collected during each sample event (5 blanks). For each of the blank samples, sterile water was poured into the sample container in the field. For each of the PhyloChip samples, sterile water was poured into the sample container in the field and subsequently filtered in the North Coast Regional Water Board laboratory.

**Table 5-1.** Sample descriptions for Task 4.

Site	Category	Sample date
Site 01	High Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	03/06/13
Site 01	High Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	03/20/13
Site 02	High Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	03/20/13
Site 02	High Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	04/04/13
Site 02	High Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	12/3/12
Site 03	High Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	03/06/13
Site 03	High Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	03/20/13
Site 03	High Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	04/04/13
Site 03	High Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	12/3/12
Site 04	High Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk	03/06/13
Site 05	High Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk	02/19/13
Site 05	High Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk	03/06/13
Site 05	High Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk	04/04/13
Site 06	High Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk	04/04/13
Site 06	High Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk	12/3/12
Site 07	Low Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	04/04/13
Site 07	Low Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	12/3/12
Site 08	Low Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	04/04/13
Site 08	Low Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	12/3/12
Site 09	Low Parcel Density - High Septic Risk	12/3/12
Site 10	Low Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk	04/04/13
Site 10	Low Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk	12/3/12
Site 11	Low Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk	02/19/13
Site 12	Low Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk	04/04/13
Site 12	Low Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk	12/3/12
Site 13	Catchments of Interest	03/20/13
Site 13	Catchments of Interest	04/04/13
Site 14	Catchments of Interest	12/3/12
Site 15	Catchments of Interest	03/06/13
Site 15	Catchments of Interest	03/20/13

#### Results: Task 4

There were no significant differences in bacterial communities associated with parcel density or septic risk (Figure 5-1). The concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria in different risk categories or other catchments of interest were not associated with any trends in community structure (Figure 5-2) or composition (Figures 5-3 to 5-5). There were no trends in community composition or structure associated with samples that exceeded concentration limits of *Enterococcus* fecal indicators but had low concentrations of *E. coli* fecal indicators.

Human fecal signal was not detected at sites in areas with both high parcel density and high septic risk (<10% of diagnostic human fecal bacteria) (Figure 5-6). In areas with high parcel density and low septic risk, one site (Site 5) was had a human fecal signal on two sampling dates (Figure 5-6). These samples contained 64-82% of Bacteroidales sequences and 34-44% of Clostridia sequences that are diagnostic of human fecal waste. No human fecal signal was detected at low parcel density sites with both low and high septic risk (Figure 5-7). In the three additional catchments of interest that were analyzed, only site 14 had a strong human fecal signal with 94% and 96% of diagnostic human Bacteroidales and Clostridia, respectively (Figure 5-8).

Comparisons between PhyloChip results and HuBac qPCR results showed PhyloChip detection of human fecal signal was associated with higher numbers of HuBac Bacteroides targets (Figures 5-9 to 5-12). However, HuBac Bacteroides were measured in several samples where PhyloChip detected no human fecal signal. The reason for this discrepancy requires further investigation, but the HuBac assay is known to have very low specificity to human fecal sources (Shanks et al. 2010), consistent with its prolific detection of Bacteroides in most samples of the Russian River watershed analyzed in Tasks 1-4. The lack of HuBac specificity may explain discrepancies with PhyloChip results.

## VII. Summary and Conclusions

### Task 1: Site Variability

- In the dry period, bacterial communities were similar at all sites along the middle and lower reaches of the Russian River with the exception of Jenner where there was a marine influence on the bacterial community. In the wet period, bacterial communities in samples upstream Steelhead Beach were similar to dry period samples.
- Human fecal signal was found at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach during the wet period. Water at these beaches contained high numbers of human-associated *Bacteroidales* and *Clostridia*, as well as high numbers of *Staphylococcus*.
- Neither *Enterococcus* nor *E. coli* fecal indicator tests exceeded water quality limits when human fecal bacteria and *Staphylococcus* were detected at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach.

- Grazer fecal bacteria were detected during the wet period at Steelhead Beach and Forestville Access Beach. Cattle or deer may be a source for these bacteria.
- No human or grazing animal fecal signal was found at sites upstream of Steelhead Beach. *Yersinia* sp. were detected in both wet and dry periods at Commisky Station, Cloverdale River Park and Geyserville Bridge
- Bacterial communities in impaired tributaries typically contained nearly twice the number of bacterial taxa as the Russian River including high numbers of coliforms (Enterobacteria) and *Pseudomonas*. No human or animal fecal signal was detected in tributaries with high fecal indicator counts.

#### **Task 2: Land Use Variability**

- No significant differences in bacterial communities were found among land use types in dry or wet periods. Median richness in agriculture samples trended higher than other land use types for Comamonadaceae, Pseudomonadaceae and total bacterial richness (Table 3-2, Figure 3-1)
- Taxonomic richness in all land uses was significantly greater during wet periods than dry periods for all land use types and associated with high counts of fecal indicator bacteria. Wet period bacterial communities were similar among all land use types and contained large numbers of non-fecal Bacteroidetes, and Proteobacteria that were mainly Enterobacteria (coliforms) and *Pseudomonas*.
- Human fecal signal was not detected in dry period samples with the exception of Limerick Creek, a developed onsite septic location. Grazing animal signal was not found in any land use samples during the dry period.
- Wet period samples from developed sewerred sites contained possible signal from human fecal bacteria. Several wet period samples from different land use categories contained signal from grazing animal fecal bacteria.
- Detection of potential pathogens was not associated with land use but did vary seasonally. Taxa related to *Proteus mirabili* were detected in only dry period samples and taxa related to *Shigella flexneri*, *Salmonella enterica*, *Streptococcus* sp. and several *Staphylococcus* in only wet period samples.

#### **Task 3: Recreational Use Variability**

- Human fecal bacteria were detected at Johnson's Beach on the fifth day of monitoring during the period of heavy recreational use.

- The sample with human fecal signal was associated with an *Enterococcus* concentration that marginally exceeded the water quality limit and an *E. coli* concentration that was below the exceedance limit.

#### **Task 4: Effects of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems**

- There were no significant differences in bacterial communities associated with parcel density or septic risk
- There were no trends in bacterial communities associated with samples that exceeded concentration limits of *Enterococcus* fecal indicators but had low concentrations *E. coli* fecal indicators.
- No sites in areas with both high parcel density and high septic risk contained evidence of human fecal signal.
- In areas with high parcel density and low septic risk, one site (Site 5) was found to have probable human fecal signal on two sampling dates.
- No human fecal signal was detected at low parcel density sites with both low and high septic risk. In the three additional catchments of interest that were analyzed, site 14 had a strong human fecal signal.

#### **Conclusions**

Wet periods have strong effect on the bacterial community at Russian River beaches in the lower watershed and on creeks in all land use types. The PhyloChip assay detected human fecal signal at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach, and indicated possible risk from pathogenic *Staphylococcus* at these locations during wet periods. Recreational beach use was also associated with human fecal signal. The inconsistency of conventional fecal indicator tests in detecting these risks warrants further investigation.

At other locations upstream in the Russian River, in impaired tributaries, and throughout the surrounding watershed, samples with exceedances in fecal indicator bacteria were frequently unassociated with fecal bacterial taxa. Similarly, many exceedances in areas with high septic risks and high numbers of fecal indicator bacteria had no indication of fecal signal in the microbial community. These results indicate that non-fecal sources are likely supplying *Enterococcus*, *E. coli* and other coliforms to monitored waters.

The absence of significant bacterial community signatures for different land use types indicates that generalizable land use signatures may not be available for source tracking on a landscape

scale. There were, however, distinct bacterial communities measured in different creeks that may be useful for tracking downstream influence. In addition, the use of microbial community analysis holds great potential to further identify potential non-fecal sources of fecal indicator bacteria that appear to be important in the Russian River watershed.

## VIII. References

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**Table 2-2. Taxonomic richness of bacteria in the Russian River and tributaries during the dry period sampling. Values are the number of detected OTUs in 20 taxonomic families that had highest maximum OTU richness. Family data are highlighted as follows: no shading (<10 OTUs), green (10-50 OTUs), yellow (51-150 OTUs), red (>150 OTUs). Results of standard fecal indicator tests are shown for comparison. Fecal indicator exceedances are shaded in gray (*Enterococcus* > 61 MPN/100mL, *E. coli* > 235 MPN/100mL, total coliforms >10,000 MPN/100mL).**

Taxonomic Family	DRY PERIOD											Tributaries				
	Russian River Beaches											Dutch Bill Creek	Green Valley Creek	Laguna de Santa Rosa	Santa Rosa CK @ Los Alamos	Santa Rosa CK @ Railroad
	Commissary Station Rd.	Cloverdale River Park	Geyersville Bridge	Alexander Valley Camp.	Camp Rose	Memorial Beach	Stealthhead Beach	Forestville River Access	Johnson's Beach	Monte Rio Beach	Jenner Boat Ramp					
Actinobacteria ; Corynebacteriaceae	42	52	54	42	47	71	59	55	48	59	45	79	80	71	33	59
Bacteroidia ; Bacteroidaceae	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flavobacteria ; Flavobacteriaceae	34	23	34	28	23	23	27	18	10	10	43	47	53	20	29	31
Bacilli ; Staphylococcaceae	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1
Clostridia ; Clostridiales Family XI.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	1	0	0	0
Clostridia ; Lachnospiraceae	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	28	3	0	5	1
Clostridia ; Ruminococcaceae	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	27	3	0	10	1
Alpha proteobacteria ; Rhodobacteraceae	0	2	3	4	5	14	9	9	9	8	55	15	11	11	11	6
Alpha proteobacteria ; Rhodospirillaceae	2	1	2	3	8	4	2	2	4	3	5	37	11	4	15	3
Alpha proteobacteria ; Pelagibacteraceae	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	3	0	173	4	2	6	2	0
Alpha proteobacteria ; Sphingomonadaceae	1	1	4	3	2	4	3	0	3	7	6	28	27	2	18	4
Beta proteobacteria ; Aquabacteriaceae	70	44	89	55	100	59	97	108	43	60	36	65	197	127	78	124
Beta proteobacteria ; Burkholderiaceae	7	7	5	10	4	16	9	8	13	10	6	49	28	16	21	16
Beta proteobacteria ; Comamonadaceae	60	65	100	62	105	121	82	89	72	101	47	101	139	176	144	94
Beta proteobacteria ; Ovalobacteraceae	0	0	2	5	1	3	2	3	7	11	1	46	19	7	22	3
Gamma proteobacteria ; Aeromonadaceae	2	9	0	46	24	44	83	10	3	17	0	21	15	0	27	29
Gamma proteobacteria ; Enterobacteriaceae	3	13	10	12	3	13	6	3	2	1	19	161	8	3	91	5
Gamma proteobacteria ; Moraxellaceae	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	5	0
Gamma proteobacteria ; Pseudomonadaceae	1	0	1	5	1	3	2	0	0	2	5	125	13	5	85	6
Verrucomicrobiae ; Verrucomicrobiaceae	3	2	3	2	5	7	6	3	4	7	5	5	7	3	0	3
<b>All BACTERIAL FAMILIES</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>1749</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>531</b>
<i>Enterococcus</i> (MPN/100mL)	52	41	10	31	20	10	36	41	10	10	10	10	187	52	379	97
<i>E. coli</i> (MPN/100mL)	10	10	10	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	31	74	192	246
Total coliform (MPN/100mL)	1789	3076	1632.5	2625	2018.5	3076	697	878	591	1439	6867	341	1086	1500	2844.5	4611
Ratio <i>Enterococcus</i> / <i>E. coli</i> in exceedances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.0	-	2.0	0.4

**Table 2-3. Taxonomic richness of bacteria in the Russian River and tributaries during the wet period sampling. Values are the number of detected OTUs in 20 taxonomic families that had highest maximum OTU richness. Family data are highlighted as follows: no shading (<10 OTUs), green (10-50 OTUs), yellow (51-150 OTUs), red (>150 OTUs). Results of standard fecal indicator tests are shown for comparison. Fecal indicator exceedances are shaded in gray (*Enterococcus* > 61 MPN/100mL, *E. coli* > 235 MPN/100mL, total coliforms >10,000 MPN/100mL).**

Taxonomic Family	Russian River Beaches														Tributaries				
	Commissary Station Rd.	Cloverdale River Park	Geyserville Bridge	Alexander Valley Camp	Camp Rose	Memorial Beach	Steelhead Beach	Forestville River Access	Johnson's Beach	Monte Rio Beach	Jenner Boat Ramp	Dutch Bill Creek	Green Valley Creek	Laguna de Santa Rosa	Santa Rosa Ck Los Alamos	Santa Rosa Ck Railroad			
Actinobacteria ; Corynebacteriaceae	49	39	53	41	49	48	45	61	82	117	52	23	74	49	53	39			
Bacteroidia ; Bacteroidaceae	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	16	33	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Flavobacteria ; Flavobacteriaceae	47	28	55	20	31	20	60	82	69	42	42	42	80	115	78	73			
Bacilli ; Staphylococcaceae	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	115	260	1	0	1	1	1	1			
Clostridia ; Clostridiales Family XI.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	49	81	1	2	0	1	3	0			
Clostridia ; Lachnospiraceae	1	0	0	1	0	0	39	44	173	546	0	6	2	0	5	1			
Clostridia ; Ruminococcaceae	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	11	76	227	0	4	0	0	3	1			
Alpha proteobacteria ; Rhodobacteraceae	7	3	8	3	3	4	5	7	18	17	13	12	9	11	19	7			
Alpha proteobacteria ; Rhodospirillaceae	3	4	5	0	1	1	3	4	9	10	0	13	6	1	18	6			
Alpha proteobacteria ; Pelagibacteraceae	8	4	10	0	1	0	0	2	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0			
Alpha proteobacteria ; Sphingomonadaceae	6	5	12	1	2	2	9	11	17	10	10	30	23	33	42	14			
Beta proteobacteria ; Aquabacteriaceae	107	84	192	87	53	86	86	99	172	171	80	69	157	183	177	152			
Beta proteobacteria ; Burkholderiaceae	5	7	9	6	9	9	7	15	12	12	8	26	15	26	24	35			
Beta proteobacteria ; Comamonadaceae	81	61	119	49	98	82	73	158	245	249	72	75	154	271	282	293			
Beta proteobacteria ; Oxalobacteraceae	8	2	14	2	5	4	4	9	25	22	7	29	22	36	31	58			
Gamma proteobacteria ; Aeromonadaceae	17	27	71	32	11	22	4	11	51	18	0	14	2	62	59	56			
Gamma proteobacteria ; Enterobacteriaceae	24	8	15	2	8	3	5	11	46	57	3	48	5	192	106	256			
Gamma proteobacteria ; Moraxellaceae	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	30	1	3	3	2	4	5			
Gamma proteobacteria ; Pseudomonadaceae	9	0	10	0	2	1	3	7	9	8	7	85	9	114	154	246			
Verrucomicrobiae ; Verrucomicrobiaceae	3	2	4	4	3	4	4	7	24	66	5	4	2	1	7	2			
<b>ALL BACTERIAL FAMILIES</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>1475</b>	<b>2379</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>1305</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1566</b>			
<i>Enterococcus</i> (MPN/100mL)	959	110	98	20	20	109	26	20	10	10	20	31	987	5794	504	812			
<i>E. coli</i> (MPN/100mL)	767	254	148	74	63	447	36	231	63	75	121	10	1918	15531	1455	2014			
Total coliform (MPN/100mL)	24196	4009	3076	1259	1100	4229	1248	1223	1071	1467	4478	4352	24196	24196	10462	24196			
Ratio <i>Enterococcus</i> / <i>E.coli</i> in exceedances	1.3	0.4	0.7	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4			

**Table 3-2. Taxonomic richness of bacteria in different land use types during dry and wet periods. Values are the median number of detected OTUs in 20 taxonomic families that had highest maximum OTU richness. Family data are highlighted as follows: no shading (<10 OTUs), green (10-50 OTUs), yellow (51-150 OTUs), red (>150 OTUs). Results of standard fecal indicator tests are shown for comparison. Fecal indicator exceedances are shaded in gray (*Enterococcus* > 61 MPN/100mL, *E. coli* > 235 MPN/100mL, total coliforms >10,000 MPN/100mL).**

Taxonomic Family	Dry Period					Wet Period				
	Forest	Shrubland	Agriculture	Septic	Sewered	Forest	Shrubland	Agriculture	Septic	Sewered
Acidobacteria ; Acidobacteriaceae	10	0	5	4	1	48	28	21	28	31
Actinobacteria ; Corynebacteriaceae	29	56	55	43	28	55	58	53	64	67
Actinobacteria ; Micrococaceae	0	1	0	0	0	6	10	36	11	2
Bacteroidia ; Rikenellaceae	6	5	16	4	5	28	60	68	57	12
Flavobacteria ; Flavobacteriaceae	27	57	58	50	29	99	290	194	137	108
Bacilli ; Bacillaceae	1	1	3	2	0	4	22	32	17	11
Bacilli ; Planococcaceae	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	38	9	5
Bacilli ; Streptococcaceae	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	9	5	33
Clostridia ; Lachnospiraceae	4	3	6	7	4	6	54	75	31	9
Clostridia ; Ruminococcaceae	6	2	6	3	2	10	53	57	34	2
Alphaproteobacteria ; Rhodospirillaceae	9	5	10	6	3	40	34	23	36	34
Alphaproteobacteria ; Sphingomonadaceae	16	3	7	5	4	44	54	42	54	52
Betaproteobacteria ; Aquabacteriaceae	69	180	147	130	143	173	203	165	180	177
Betaproteobacteria ; Burkholderiaceae	16	10	10	16	12	50	63	41	51	55
Betaproteobacteria ; Comamonadaceae	80	112	152	85	117	113	284	315	164	139
Betaproteobacteria ; Oxalobacteraceae	23	15	26	36	22	55	63	74	62	66
Gammaproteobacteria ; Enterobacteriaceae	14	8	4	51	4	46	175	299	236	167
Gammaproteobacteria ; Moraxellaceae	3	1	5	2	0	6	5	33	8	9
Gammaproteobacteria ; Pseudomonadaceae	71	22	110	54	8	301	438	354	409	341
Gammaproteobacteria ; Xanthomonadaceae	5	1	4	3	0	29	54	57	62	33
ALL BACTERIAL FAMILIES	654	623	1077	677	643	1715	2466	2796	2442	2096

**Table 3-4.** Characteristic taxa in wet period samples. Listed OTUs were the top 10% of OTUs that accounted for distinctions between wet and dry period samples determined by SIMPER analysis. Taxa in families with 10 or more total OTUs are shown.

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	OTU count			
Bacteroidetes	Bacteroidia	Bacteroidales	Rikenellaceae	unclassified	17			
				Aequorivita	1			
	Flavobacteria	Flavobacteriales	Flavobacteriaceae	Capnocytophaga	1			
				Chryseobacterium	18			
				Flavobacterium	1			
				unclassified	1			
	Sphingobacteria	Sphingobacteriales	Sphingobacteriaceae	Pedobacter	12			
				Sphingobacterium	4			
	Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	Burkholderiales	Oxalobacteraceae	unclassified	6		
					Janthinobacterium	1		
Massilia					3			
unclassified					8			
Citrobacter					1			
Enterobacter					1			
Erwinia					3			
Klebsiella					19			
Gammaproteobacteria					Enterobacteriales	Enterobacteriaceae	Leclercia	1
							Pantoea	34
		Raoultella	2					
		Serratia	1					
		unclassified	33					
		Pseudomonadales	Pseudomonadaceae	Pseudomonas			172	
				Dyella			2	
				Luteibacter			1	
				Rhodanobacter			5	
				Xanthomonadales			Xanthomonadaceae	Stenotrophomonas
Thermomonas					1			
unclassified					2			
Xanthomonas	2							

**Table 4-2.** Taxonomic richness of bacteria in at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach during a period of heavy recreational use. Values are the median number of detected OTUs in 20 taxonomic families that had highest maximum OTU richness. Family data are highlighted as follows: no shading (<10 OTUs), green (10-50 OTUs), yellow (51-150 OTUs), red (>150 OTUs). Results of standard fecal indicator tests are shown for comparison. Fecal indicator exceedances are shaded in gray (*Enterococcus* > 61 MPN/100mL, *E. coli* > 235 MPN/100mL, total coliforms >10,000 MPN/100mL).

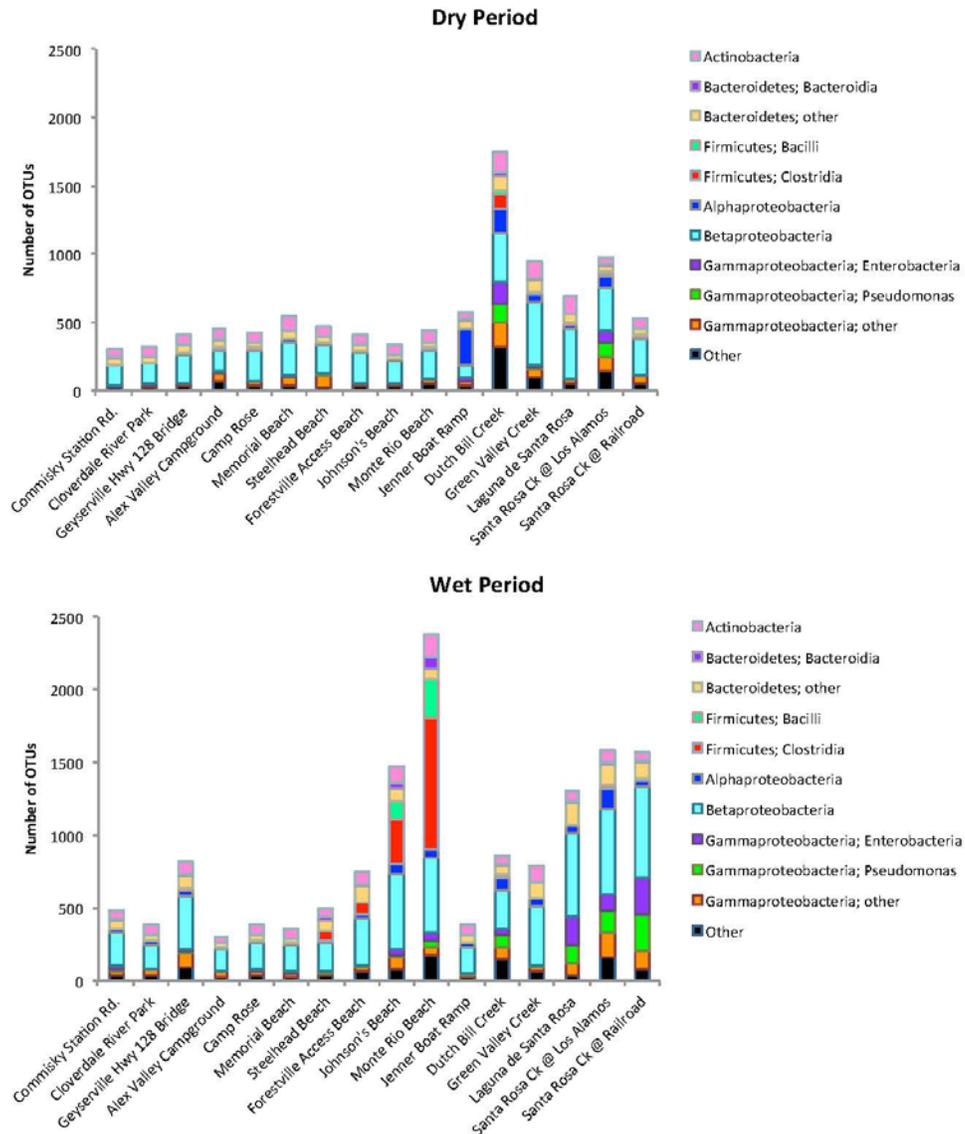
Taxonomic Family	Johnson's Beach					Monte Rio Beach				
	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Actinobacteria ; ACK-M1	12	18	16	14	14	14	14	21	19	19
Actinobacteria ; Corynebacteriaceae	60	52	65	77	81	62	48	58	89	55
Actinobacteria ; Microbacteriaceae	10	7	11	11	13	10	8	8	12	6
Flavobacteria ; Flavobacteriaceae	9	12	18	14	11	15	10	15	21	14
Sphingobacteria ; Chitinophagaceae	4	9	16	9	6	4	6	10	12	3
Clostridia ; Clostridiales	0	0	6	2	15	0	0	1	5	0
Clostridia ; Lachnospiraceae	0	0	0	1	218	0	0	2	4	2
Clostridia ; Ruminococcaceae	1	0	2	2	268	2	0	0	2	0
Alphaproteobacteria ; Rhodobacteraceae	11	11	12	12	13	7	5	8	15	5
Betaproteobacteria ; Aquabacteriaceae	52	99	158	127	58	152	93	135	196	106
Betaproteobacteria ; Burkholderiaceae	14	9	10	15	11	4	6	12	19	11
Betaproteobacteria ; Comamonadaceae	69	76	156	85	79	87	55	98	136	91
Betaproteobacteria ; Oxalobacteraceae	12	2	7	11	9	10	5	9	17	10
Betaproteobacteria ; Methylophilaceae	11	7	12	10	7	5	6	10	12	6
Betaproteobacteria ; Rhodocyclaceae	6	7	10	7	11	11	10	11	18	6
Gammaproteobacteria ; Aeromonadaceae	6	0	7	10	5	19	3	11	42	3
Verrucomicrobiae ; Verrucomicrobiaceae	4	5	7	7	9	4	3	6	11	4
ALL BACTERIAL FAMILIES	424	412	683	568	997	543	388	548	862	430
<i>Enterococcus</i> (MPN/100mL)	58	30	37	30	63	11	9	18	18	21
<i>E. coli</i> (MPN/100mL)	20	16	24	7	22	3	22	22	15	22
Total coliform (MPN/100mL)	921	1046	980	816	1553	1733	1300	1986	1300	1300

**Table 5-2. Taxonomic richness of bacteria in high parcel density samples with high and low septic risk. Values are the number of detected OTUs summarized by taxonomic family. The most taxonomically rich families are shown (>30 OTUs in at least one sample). Family data are highlighted as follows: no shading (<10 OTUs), green (10-50 OTUs), yellow (51-150 OTUs), red (>150 OTUs). Results of standard fecal indicator tests are shown for comparison and exceedances are shaded in gray (*Enterococcus* > 61 MPN/100mL, *E. coli* > 235 MPN/100mL, total coliforms >10,000 MPN/100mL).**

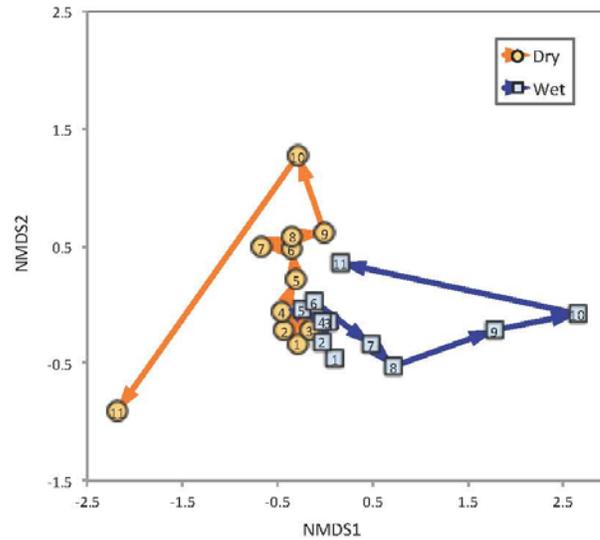
Taxonomic Family	High Parcel Density - High Septic Risk									High Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk					
	Site 01 3/6/13	Site 01 3/20/13	Site 02 12/3/12	Site 02 3/20/13	Site 02 4/4/13	Site 03 12/3/12	Site 03 3/6/13	Site 03 3/20/13	Site 03 4/4/13	Site 04 3/6/13	Site 05 2/19/13	Site 05 3/6/13	Site 05 4/4/13	Site 06 12/3/12	Site 06 4/4/13
Acidobacteria ; Acidobacteriaceae	28	26	31	15	11	31	6	11	13	18	9	13	13	22	14
Actinobacteria ; Corynebacteriaceae	71	61	78	51	57	43	31	54	53	53	45	55	49	50	65
Actinobacteria ; Micrococaceae	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	30
Bacteroidia ; Bacteroidaceae	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bacteroidia ; Prevotellaceae	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	13	0	9	17	1	0
Bacteroidia ; Rikenellaceae	19	12	6	8	6	6	5	6	14	9	3	19	34	6	20
Flavobacteria ; Flavobacteriaceae	153	79	58	97	96	42	32	67	71	58	66	78	105	44	151
Sphingobacteria ; Chitinophagaceae	37	31	20	26	25	12	14	17	12	24	8	6	11	10	29
Nostocophycidae ; Nostocaceae	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
Bacilli ; Bacillaceae	9	6	6	4	1	4	1	2	3	2	2	8	13	6	8
Clostridia ; Lachnospiraceae	14	7	4	1	4	3	4	4	8	5	5	15	15	5	4
Clostridia ; Ruminococcaceae	9	4	3	2	1	3	1	6	5	4	0	6	15	6	3
Planctomyces ; Planctomycetaceae	40	33	15	7	5	5	9	11	4	3	9	9	9	12	13
Alphaproteobacteria ; Bradyrhizobiaceae	46	16	28	4	2	9	0	3	1	0	1	2	3	8	5
Alphaproteobacteria ; Rhizobiaceae	33	4	39	9	25	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Alphaproteobacteria ; Rhodospirillaceae	47	25	42	26	24	27	16	25	26	24	8	11	17	19	12
Alphaproteobacteria ; Sphingomonadaceae	61	45	88	25	19	9	1	20	14	8	1	6	10	2	34
Betaproteobacteria ; Aquabacteriaceae	240	230	196	186	202	162	126	149	180	195	169	172	173	146	200
Betaproteobacteria ; Burkholderiaceae	42	20	44	29	34	27	11	38	48	17	23	23	29	8	22
Betaproteobacteria ; Comamonadaceae	171	155	83	86	133	52	46	133	129	77	87	98	131	39	162
Betaproteobacteria ; Ovalobacteraceae	34	17	45	73	71	35	28	67	64	43	40	53	64	30	61
Betaproteobacteria ; Rhodocyclaceae	29	24	9	10	11	7	9	31	25	11	10	12	23	5	25
Gammaproteobacteria ; Aeromonadaceae	34	45	1	14	1	24	7	31	22	10	12	32	73	14	33
Gammaproteobacteria ; Enterobacteriaceae	76	41	97	158	150	34	37	128	73	32	92	75	130	17	250
Gammaproteobacteria ; Pseudomonadaceae	222	153	130	415	441	70	166	432	342	153	302	266	373	60	482
Gammaproteobacteria ; Xanthomonadaceae	28	18	11	44	43	4	6	47	19	4	5	4	17	3	53
Verrucomicrobiae ; Verrucomicrobiaceae	12	11	6	4	1	1	5	1	2	5	3	1	1	4	2
ALL BACTERIAL FAMILIES	2188	1538	1476	1603	1670	991	809	1648	1501	1045	1066	1252	1671	845	2030
<i>Enterococcus</i> (MPN/100mL)	220	20	384	>24,196	5172	295	432	216	613	12997	86	3873	4950	211	41060
<i>E. coli</i> (MPN/100 mL)	3179	51	1019	152	187	158	160	3654	146	2613	393	1664	4892	246	2755
Total coliform (MPN/100mL)	6588	1337	>24,196	>24,196	>24,196	4106	9804	>24,196	12997	>24,196	7933	>24,196	98040	6488	>24,196
Ratio <i>Enterococcus</i> / <i>E. coli</i>	0.1	0.4	0.4	159.2	27.7	1.9	2.7	0.1	4.2	5.0	0.2	2.3	1.0	0.9	14.9

**Table 5-3. Taxonomic richness of bacteria in low parcel density samples with high and low septic risk, and additional catchments of interest. Values are the number of detected OTUs summarized by taxonomic family. The most taxonomically rich families are shown (>30 OTUs in at least one sample). Family data are highlighted as follows: no shading (<10 OTUs), green (10-50 OTUs), yellow (51-150 OTUs), red (>150 OTUs). Results of standard fecal indicator tests are shown for comparison and exceedances are shaded in gray (*Enterococcus* > 61 MPN/100mL, *E. coli* > 235 MPN/100mL, total coliforms >10,000 MPN/100mL).**

Taxonomic Family	Low Parcel Density - High Septic Risk					Low Parcel Density - Low Septic Risk					Catchments of Interest				
	Site 07	Site 07	Site 08	Site 08	Site 09	Site 10	Site 10	Site 11	Site 12	Site 12	Site 13	Site 13	Site 14	Site 15	Site 15
	12/3/12	4/4/13	12/3/12	4/4/13	12/3/12	12/3/12	4/4/13	2/19/13	12/3/12	4/4/13	3/20/13	4/4/13	12/3/12	3/6/13	3/20/13
Acidobacteria ; Acidobacteriaceae	16	41	7	19	63	9	9	4	23	17	30	40	15	27	52
Actinobacteria ; Corynebacteriaceae	44	62	31	75	74	44	58	52	57	62	62	71	58	54	86
Actinobacteria ; Micrococcaceae	0	0	0	43	30	0	0	0	2	1	5	8	0	0	27
Bacteroidia ; Bacteroidaceae	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	34	0	0
Bacteroidia ; Prevotellaceae	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	208	11	0
Bacteroidia ; Rikenellaceae	2	18	2	17	13	7	38	0	5	14	20	29	25	3	15
Flavobacteria ; Flavobacteriaceae	19	45	18	283	112	44	138	63	35	154	85	166	76	17	133
Sphingobacteria ; Chitinophagaceae	4	22	4	39	38	3	11	11	7	14	27	35	9	21	31
Nostocophycidae ; Nostocaceae	0	1	0	1	0	1	33	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2
Bacilli ; Bacillaceae	2	3	1	13	43	23	34	4	3	5	9	39	4	4	6
Clostridia ; Lachnospiraceae	3	11	2	12	28	0	11	2	0	6	21	15	89	4	13
Clostridia ; Ruminococcaceae	2	11	2	4	9	3	27	0	2	4	19	15	280	3	7
Planctomycea ; Planctomycetaceae	16	16	6	11	17	8	9	9	12	0	13	21	9	17	6
Alphaproteobacteria ; Bradyrhizobiaceae	3	2	1	9	73	1	1	1	9	0	6	37	6	19	0
Alphaproteobacteria ; Rhizobiaceae	0	3	0	14	15	0	3	0	2	27	6	0	0	1	9
Alphaproteobacteria ; Rhodospirillaceae	11	61	4	38	43	13	33	6	13	23	39	57	9	35	52
Alphaproteobacteria ; Sphingomonadaceae	2	30	0	86	52	3	23	18	7	60	33	55	3	6	70
Betaproteobacteria ; Aquabacteriaceae	73	203	75	241	254	143	210	185	124	240	209	220	194	162	215
Betaproteobacteria ; Burkholderiaceae	8	39	4	44	36	3	34	4	22	49	34	50	11	27	56
Betaproteobacteria ; Comamonadaceae	13	109	16	287	100	22	170	117	51	196	191	251	243	53	250
Betaproteobacteria ; Oxalobacteraceae	12	62	11	106	43	27	41	22	41	104	68	83	38	35	77
Betaproteobacteria ; Rhodocyclaceae	4	17	0	20	10	2	27	11	11	25	30	36	25	15	33
Gammaproteobacteria ; Aeromonadaceae	1	25	3	38	17	0	51	0	2	44	36	32	0	2	18
Gammaproteobacteria ; Enterobacteriaceae	2	94	17	269	49	31	142	61	32	422	108	210	207	28	159
Gammaproteobacteria ; Pseudomonadaceae	5	309	15	502	132	39	370	147	32	590	342	476	124	169	479
Gammaproteobacteria ; Xanthomonadaceae	0	19	0	61	31	3	19	7	2	30	21	55	4	2	59
Verrucomicrobiae ; Verrucomicrobiaceae	0	6	3	1	14	4	4	4	3	1	7	11	84	3	11
ALL BACTERIAL FAMILIES	469	1812	369	2828	1975	625	1926	891	769	2536	2082	2847	2015	1050	2582
<i>Enterococcus</i> (MPN/100mL)	10	275	171	3551	85	410	7701	128	139	2310	98	12997	2481	41	605
<i>E. coli</i> (MPN/100mL)	52	31	62	1695	327	323	11199	598	171	121	122	3076	2489	31	238

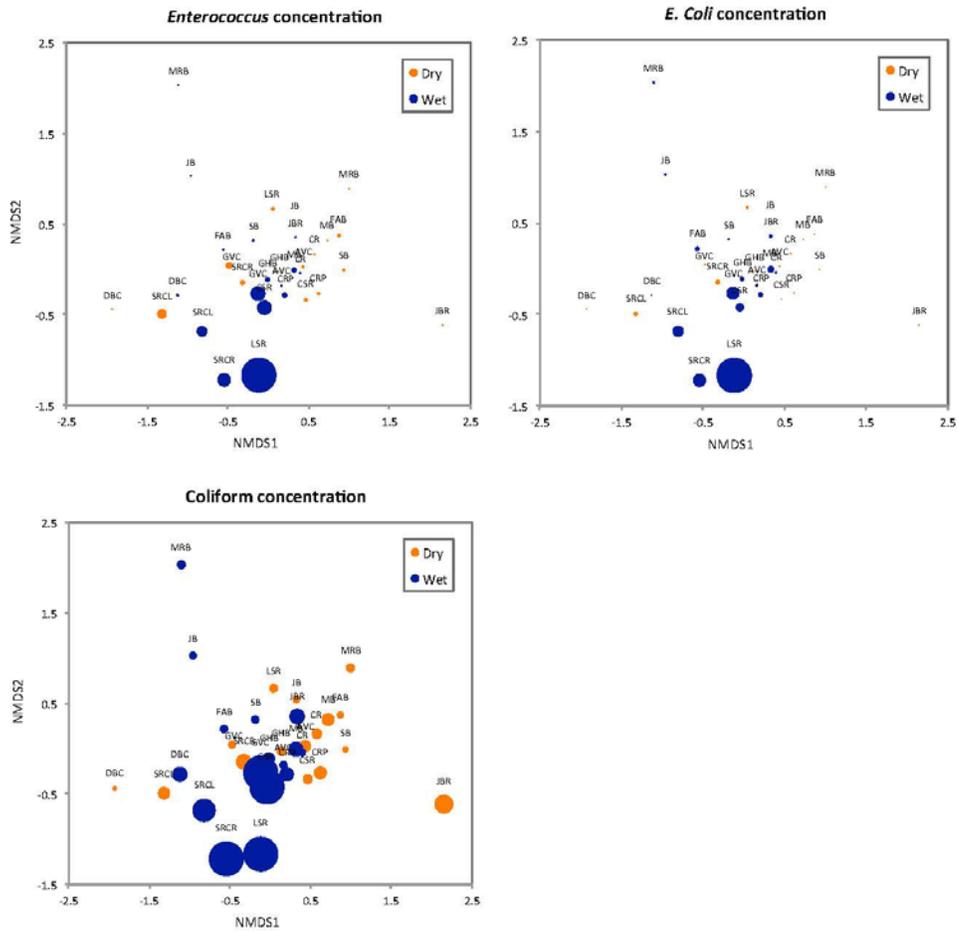


**Figure 2-1.** Bacterial community composition of dry and wet period samples at Russian River beaches and tributaries in impaired watersheds. Taxonomic richness of the bacterial community is shown as the number of different operational taxonomic units (OTUs) in major bacterial phyla or classes.

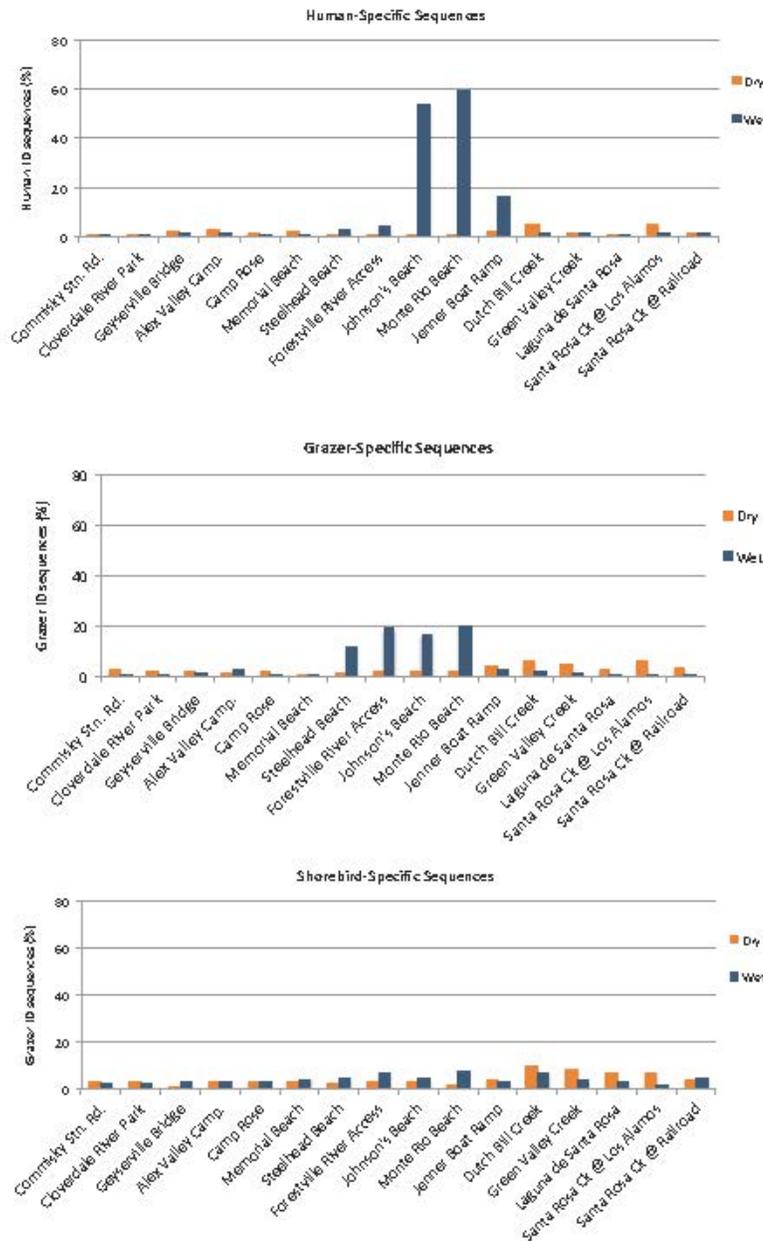


**Figure 2-2.** Changes in bacterial community structure from upstream to downstream sites along the Russian River during dry and wet periods. Arrows point from upstream to downstream sites and symbols are numbered sequentially from upstream to downstream as follow: (1) Commisky Station Road, (2) Cloverdale River Park, (3) Geyserville Highway 28 Bridge, (4) Alexander Valley Campground, (5) Camp Rose, (6) Memorial Beach, (7) Steelhead Beach, (8) Forestville River Access, (9) Johnson's Beach, (10) Monte Rio Beach, (11) Jenner Boat Ramp. Ordination conducted by NMDS with Bray-Curtis distance metric (2D stress = 0.09).

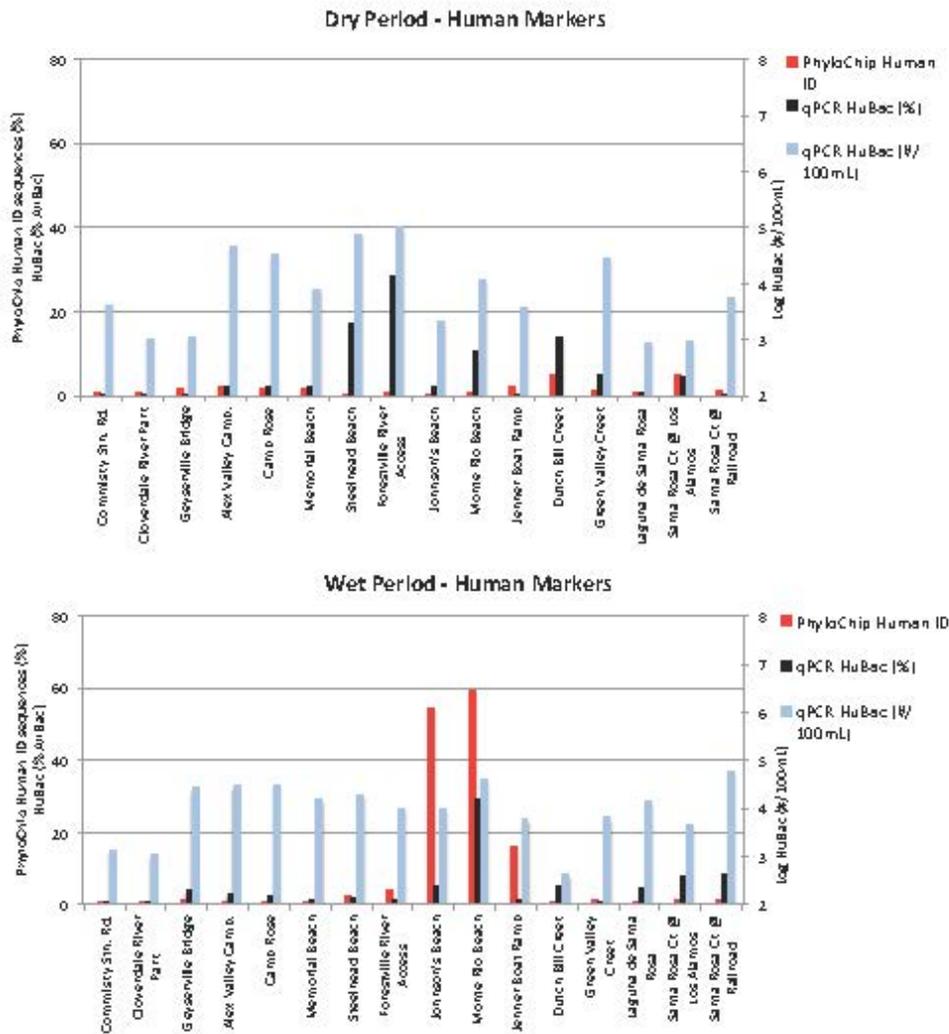




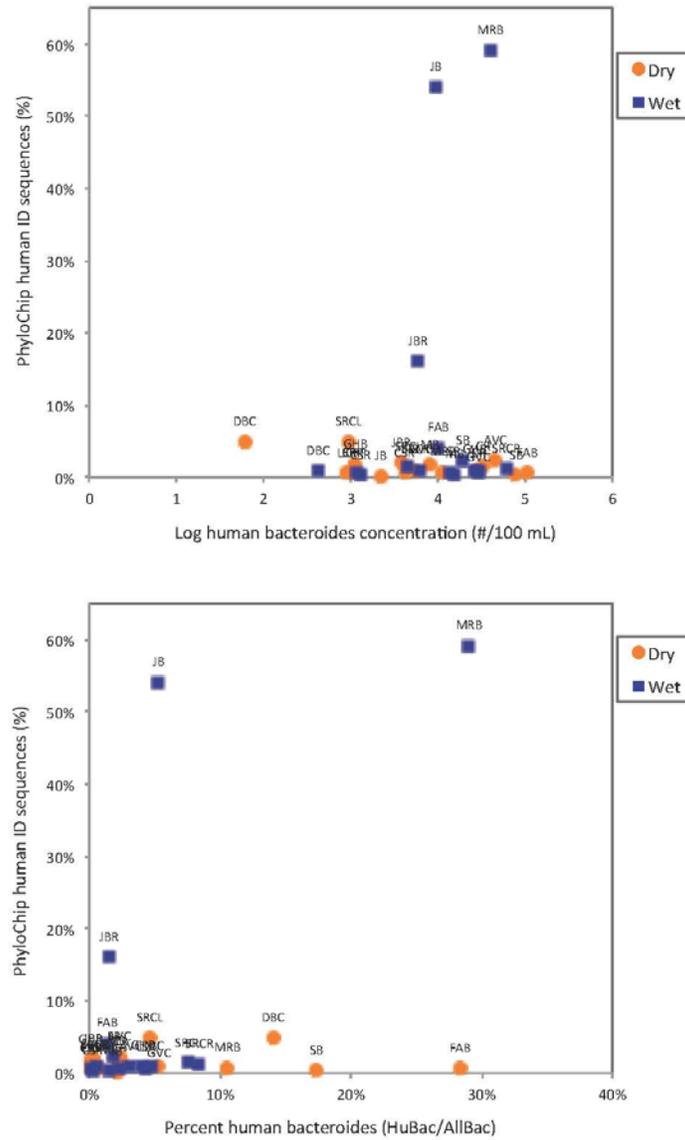
**Figure 2-4:** Relationship between bacteria community structure and concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria. NMDS ordination configurations are identical to Figure 2-2 but symbol areas are scaled to maximum *Enterococcus*, *E. coli* and coliform concentrations (MPN/100 mL) measured by conventional fecal indicator tests.



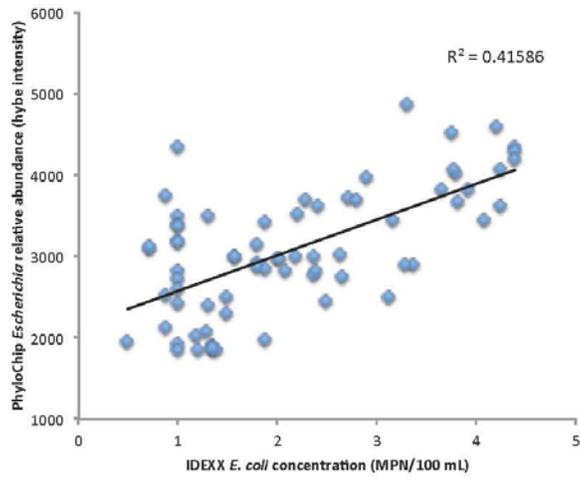
**Figure 2-5.** Fecal source detection results during dry and wet periods. Values are the percent of source-specific 16S rRNA gene targets that were detected out of 654, 721 and 593 specific targets for human, grazer and shorebird fecal sources, respectively.



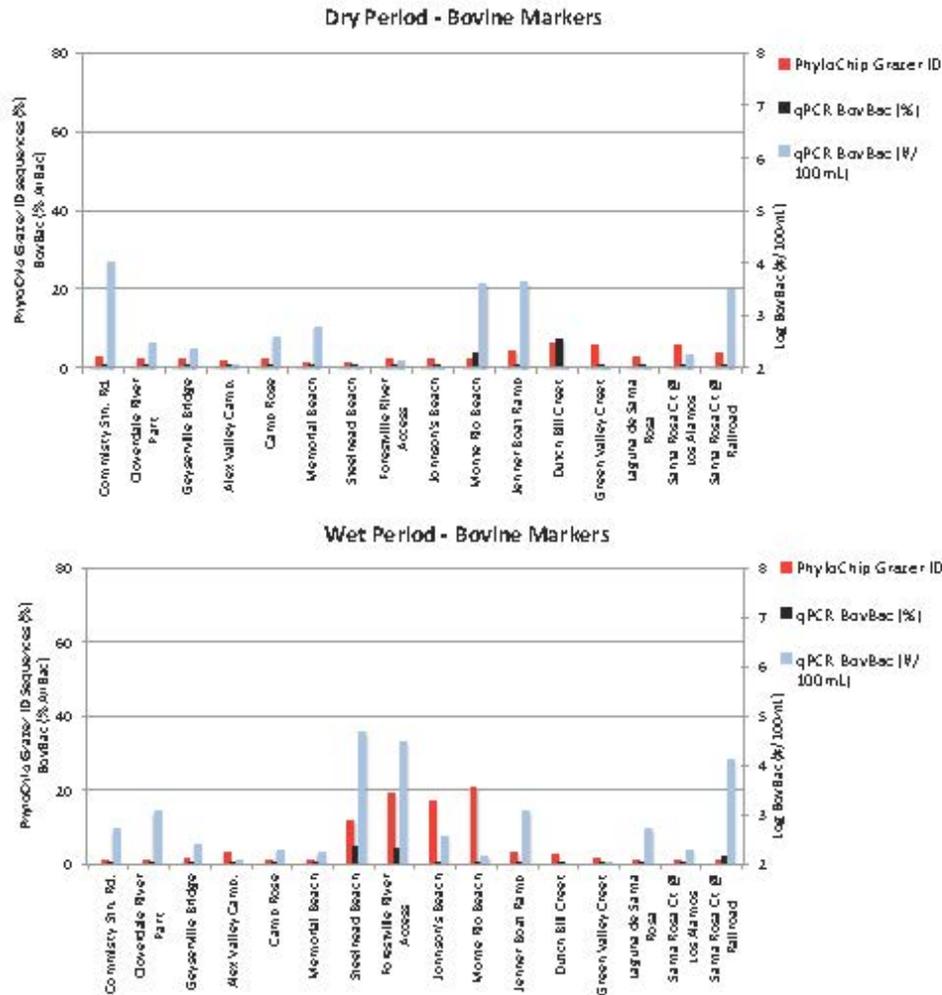
**Figure 2-6.** Comparison of PhylloChip human fecal ID results from Task 1 to qPCR estimates of human *Bacteroides* measured by the HuBac test. PhylloChip results are reported as the percent of 16S rRNA gene sequences that were detected out of 654 human-specific sequences targeted by the test. HuBac results are reported as both estimates of concentration (#/100mL) and concentration relative to total *Bacteroides* measured by the AllBac qPCR test.



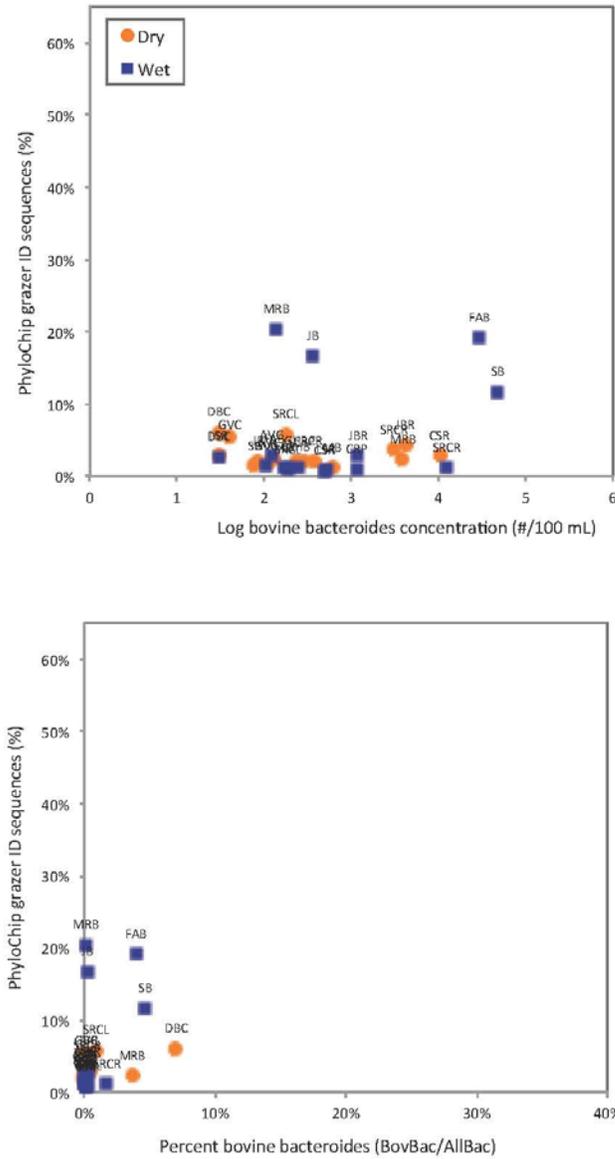
**Figure 2-7.** Relationship between PhyloChip human fecal ID results from Task 1 to qPCR estimates of human *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and human *Bacteroides* relative abundance (b). Correlation  $r=0.13$  and  $r=0.42$  for PhyloChip human ID % vs human *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and relative abundance (b), respectively.



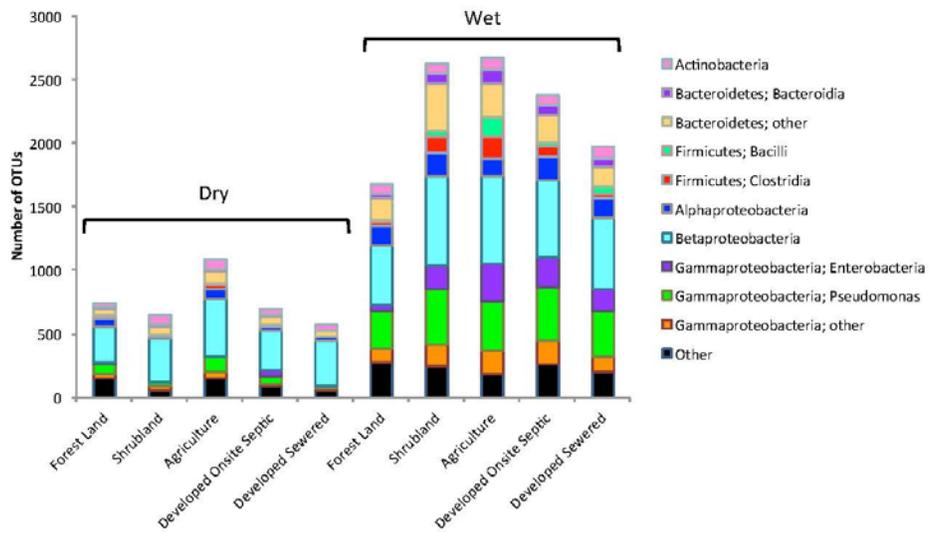
**Figure 2-8.** Relationship between IDEXX *E. coli* concentration and PhyloChip *Escherichia* relative abundance measured as the mean hybridization intensity of all detected *Escherichia* OTUs.



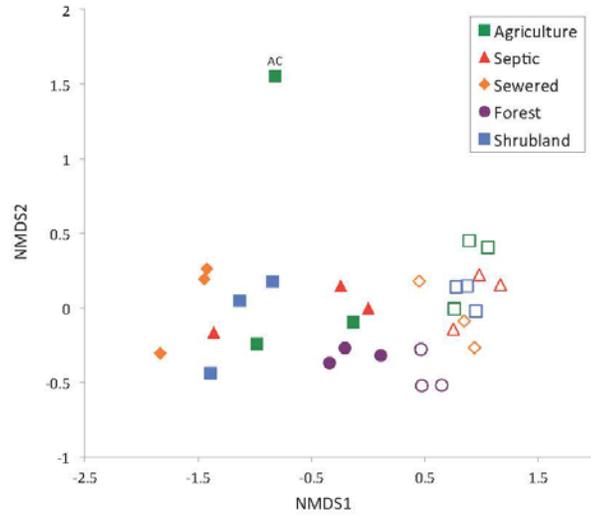
**Figure 2-9.** Comparison of PhylloChip grazing mammal fecal ID results from Task 1 to qPCR estimates of bovine *Bacteroides* as measured by the BovBac test. PhylloChip results are reported as the percent of 16S rRNA gene sequences that were detected out of 721 grazer-specific sequences targeted by the test. BovBac results are reported as both estimates of concentration (#/100mL) and relative abundance to total *Bacteroides* as measured by the AllBac qPCR test.



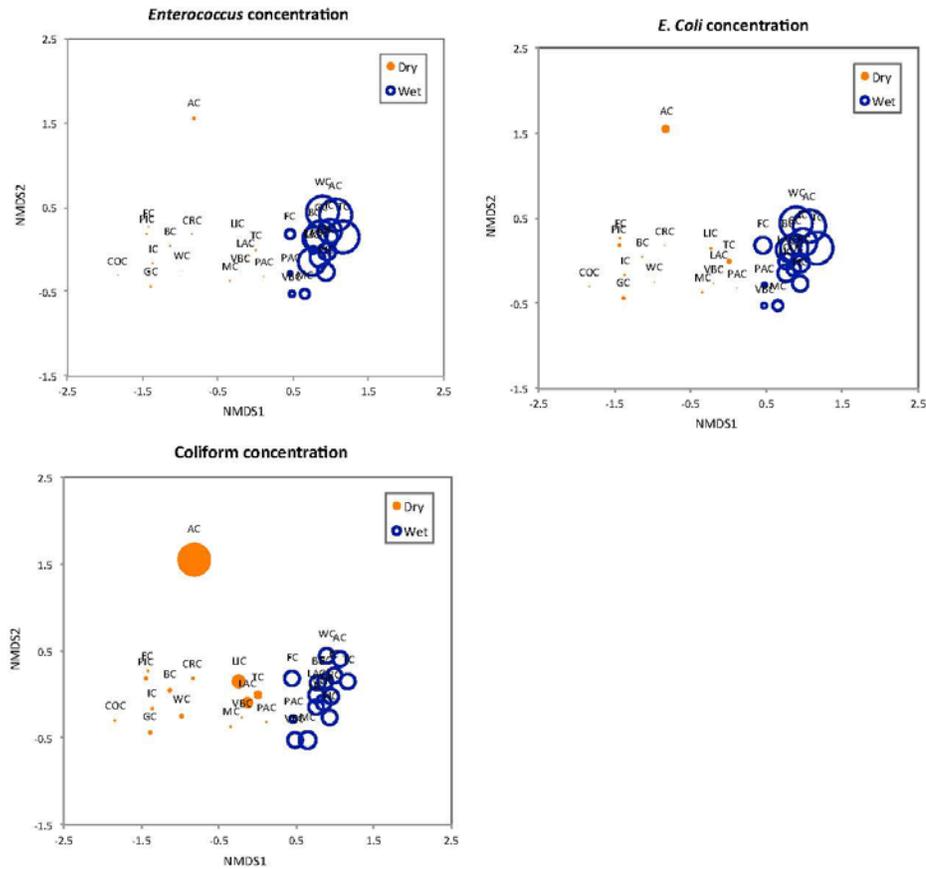
**Figure 2-10.** Relationship between PhyloChip grazer fecal ID results from Task 1 to qPCR estimates of bovine *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and bovine *Bacteroides* relative abundance (b). Correlation  $r=0.25$  and  $r=0.35$  for PhyloChip grazer ID % vs bovine *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and relative abundance (b), respectively.



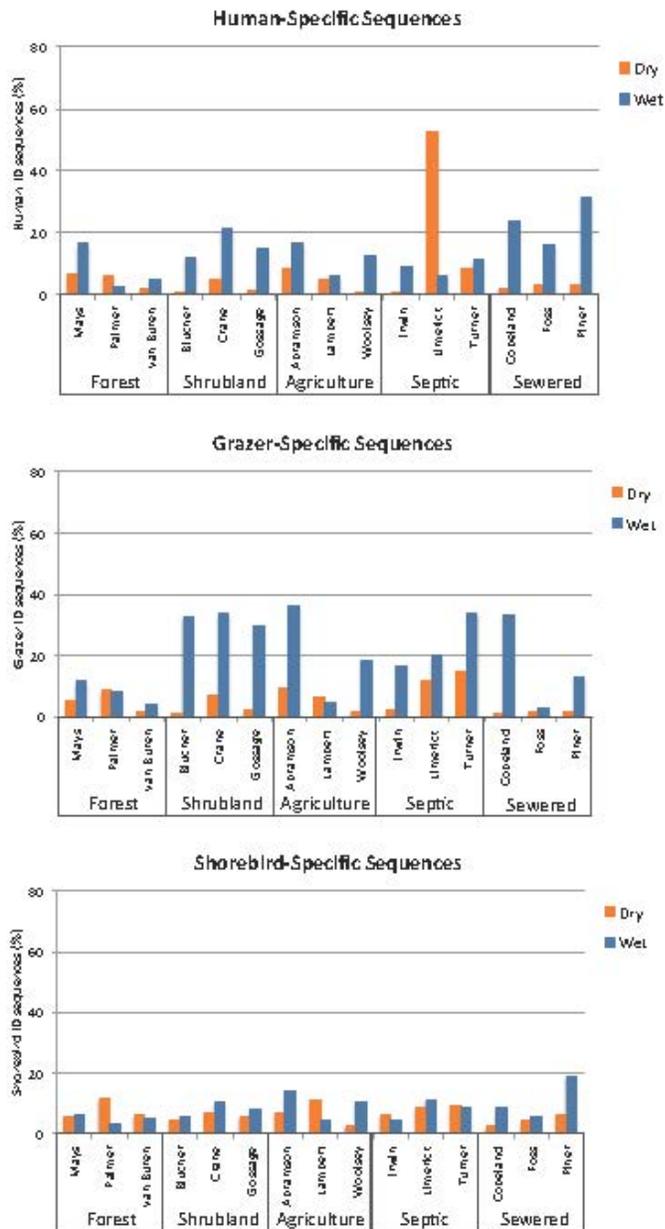
**Figure 3-1.** Bacterial community composition in different land use types during dry and wet periods. Taxonomic richness of the bacterial community is shown as the median number of different operational taxonomic units (OTUs) in major bacterial phyla or classes.



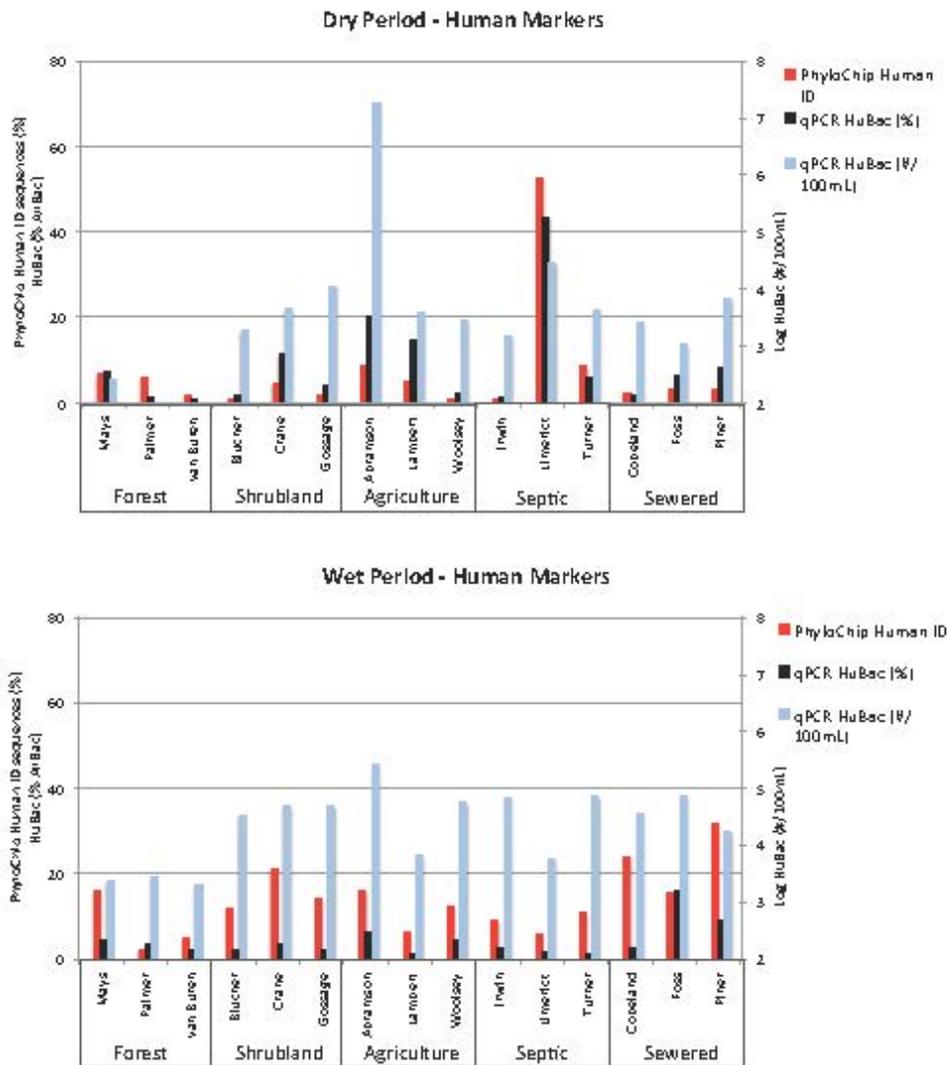
**Figure 3-2:** Variation in bacterial community structure in different land use types during dry (closed symbols) and wet (open symbols) periods. Ordination conducted by NMDS with Bray–Curtis distance metric (2D stress = 0.06). The data point labeled AC is Abramson Creek.



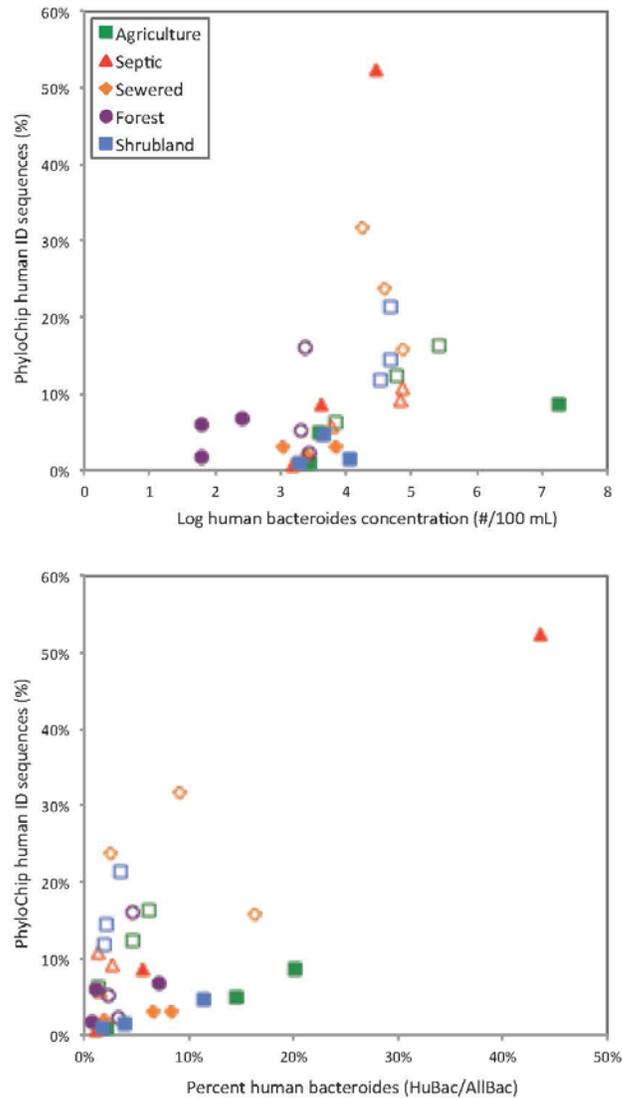
**Figure 3-3:** Relationship between bacteria community structure and concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria. NMDS ordination configurations are identical to Figure 3-2 but symbol areas are scaled to maximum *Enterococcus*, *E. coli* and coliform concentrations (MPN/100 mL) measured by conventional fecal indicator tests. The data point labeled AC is Abramson Creek.



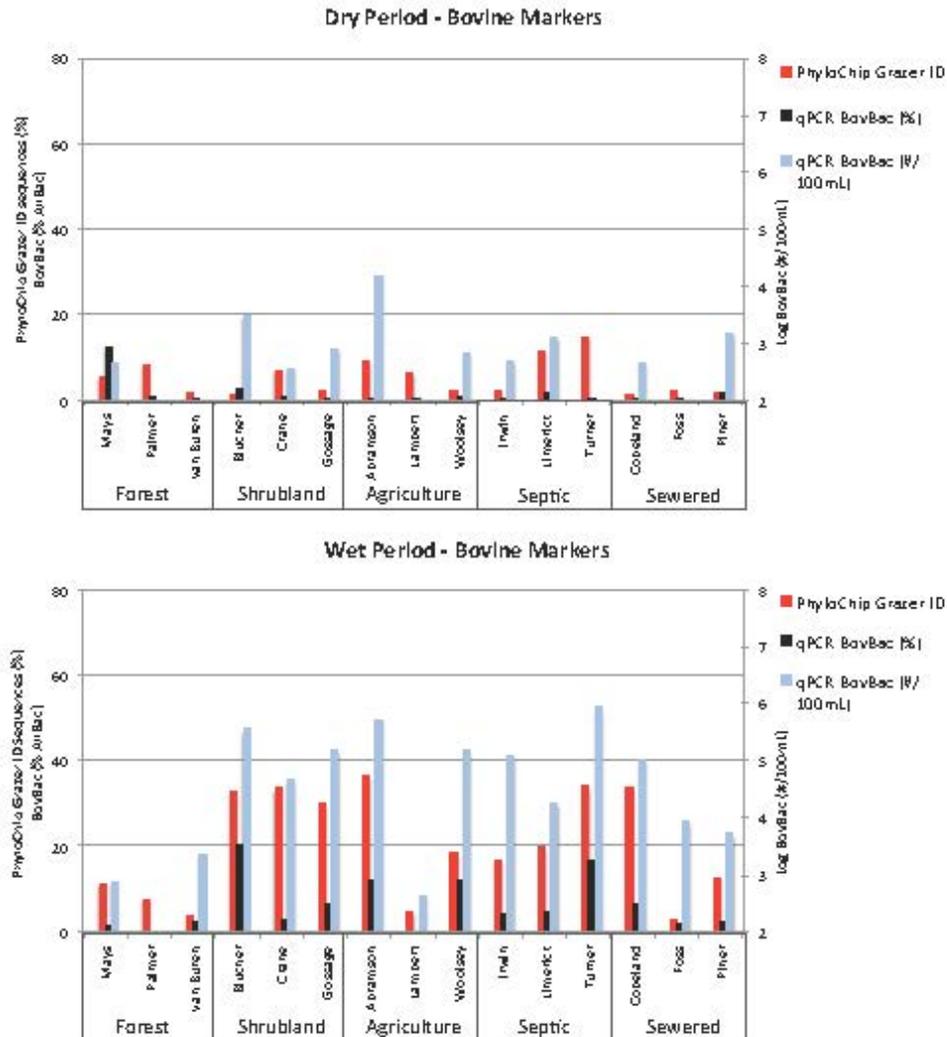
**Figure 3-4.** Fecal source detection results during dry and wet periods in different land use areas. Values are the percent of source-specific 16S rRNA gene targets that were detected out of 654, 721 and 593 specific targets for human, grazer and shorebird fecal sources, respectively.



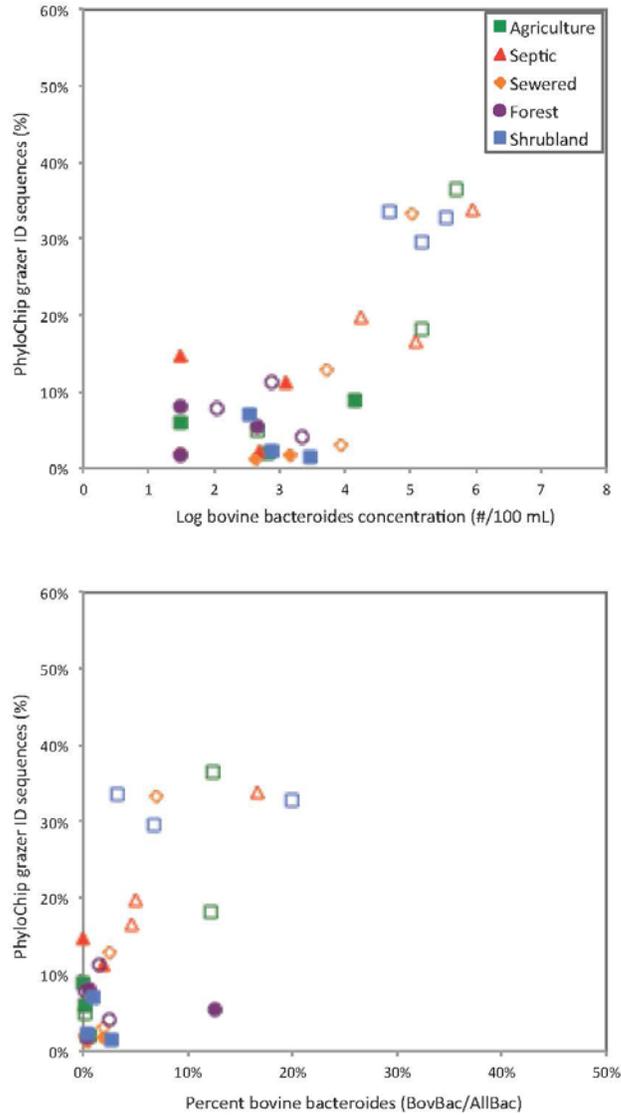
**Figure 3-5.** Comparison of PhylloChip human fecal ID results from Task 2 to qPCR estimates of human *Bacteroides* measured by the HuBac test. PhylloChip results are reported as the percent of 16S rRNA gene sequences that were detected out of 654 human-specific sequences targeted by the test. HuBac results are reported as both estimates of concentration (#/100mL) and concentration relative to total *Bacteroides* measured by the AllBac qPCR test.



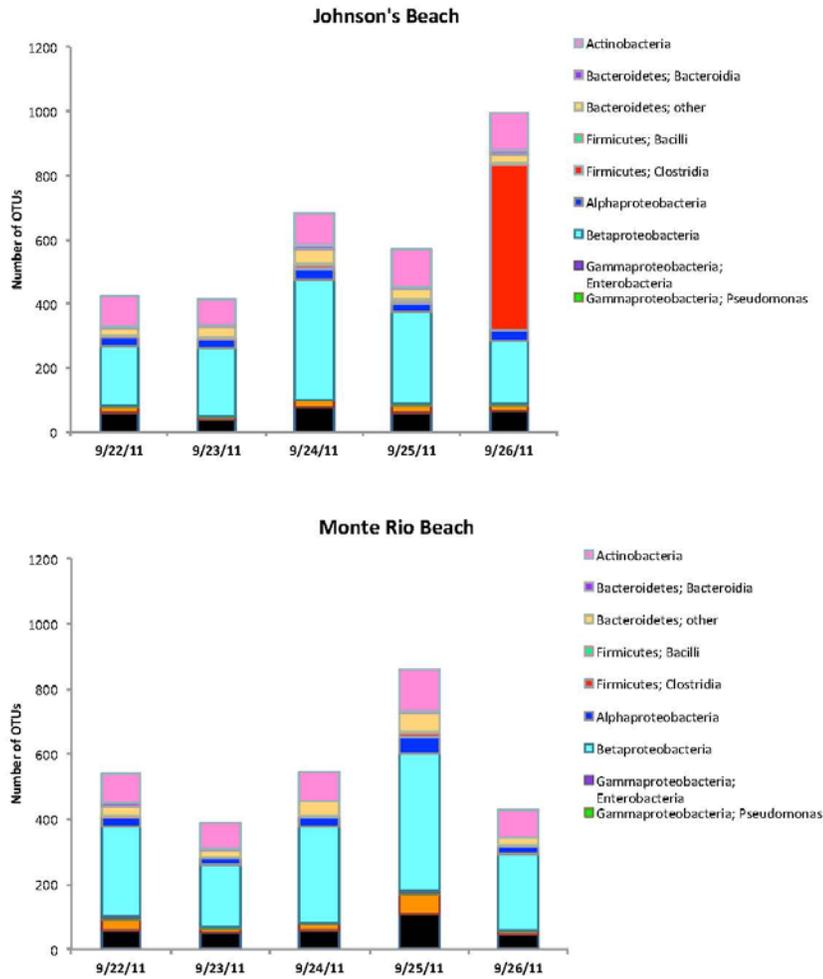
**Figure 3-6.** Relationship between PhyloChip human fecal ID results from Task 2 to qPCR estimates of human *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and human *Bacteroides* relative abundance (b). Correlation  $r=0.38$  and  $r=0.66$  for PhyloChip human ID % vs human *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and relative abundance (b), respectively.



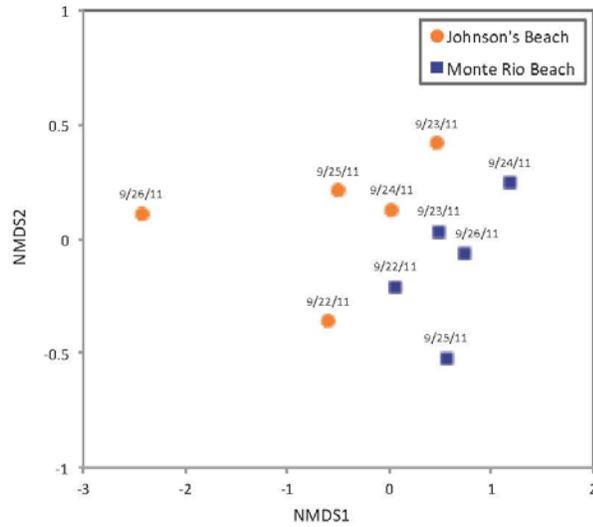
**Figure 3-7.** Comparison of PhyloChip grazing mammal fecal ID results from Task 2 to qPCR estimates of bovine *Bacteroides* as measured by the BovBac test. PhyloChip results are reported as the percent of 16S rRNA gene sequences that were detected out of 721 grazer-specific sequences targeted by the test. BovBac results are reported as both estimates of concentration (#/100mL) and relative abundance to total *Bacteroides* as measured by the AllBac qPCR test.



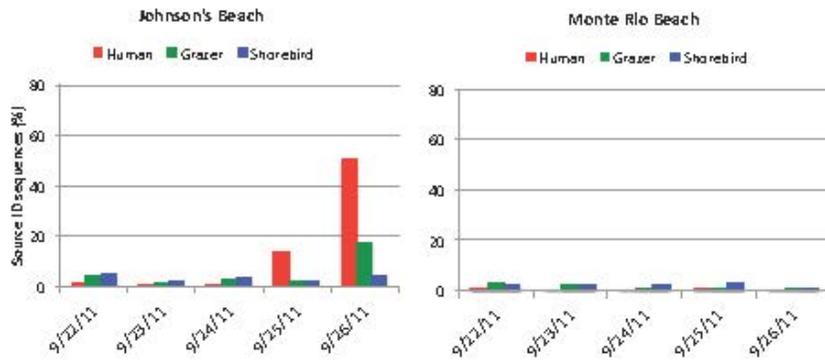
**Figure 3-8.** Relationship between PhyloChip grazer fecal ID results from Task 2 to qPCR estimates of bovine *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and bovine *Bacteroides* relative abundance (b). Correlation  $r=0.78$  and  $r=0.70$  for PhyloChip grazer ID % vs bovine *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and relative abundance (b), respectively.



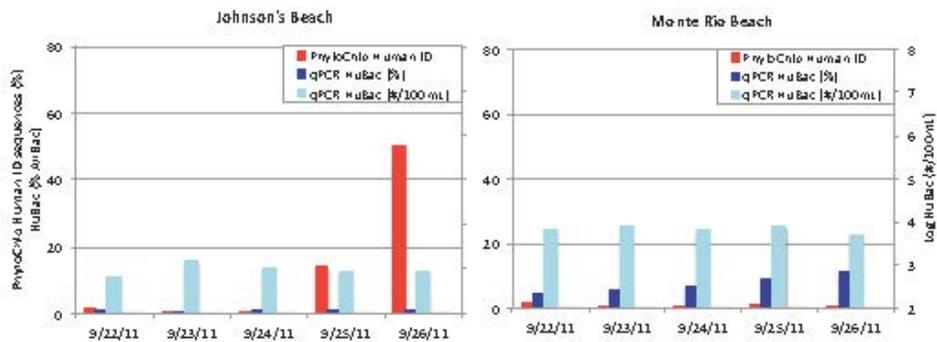
**Figure 4-1.** Bacterial community composition at Johnson’s Beach and Monte Rio Beach during a period of heavy recreational use. Taxonomic richness of the bacterial community is shown as the number of different operational taxonomic units (OTUs) in major bacterial phyla or classes.



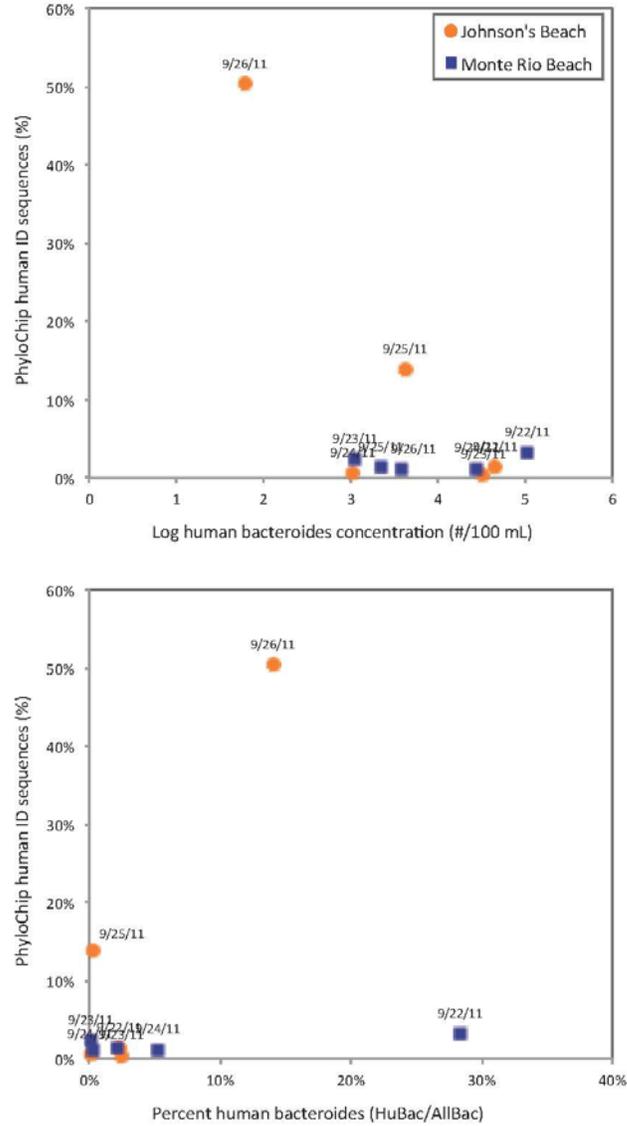
**Figure 4-2:** Variation in bacterial community structure at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach during a period of heavy recreational use. Ordination conducted by NMDS with Bray-Curtis distance metric (2D stress = 0.03).



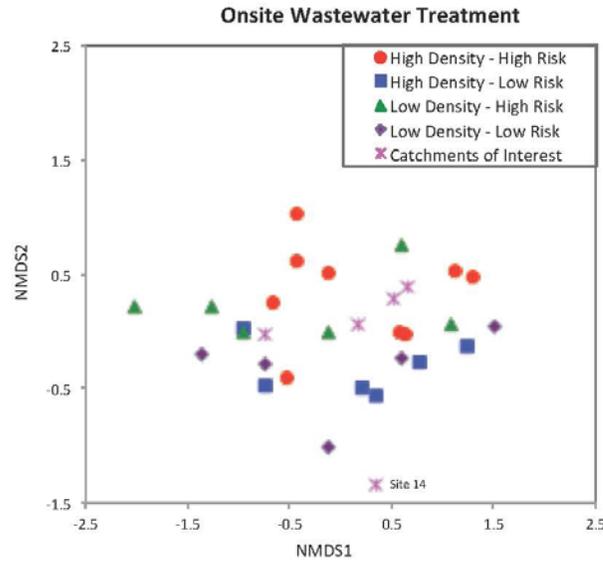
**Figure 4-3.** Fecal source detection results at Johnson's Beach and Monte Rio Beach. Values are the percent of source-specific 16S rRNA gene sequence targets that were detected out of 654, 721 and 593 specific targets for human, grazer and shorebird fecal sources, respectively.



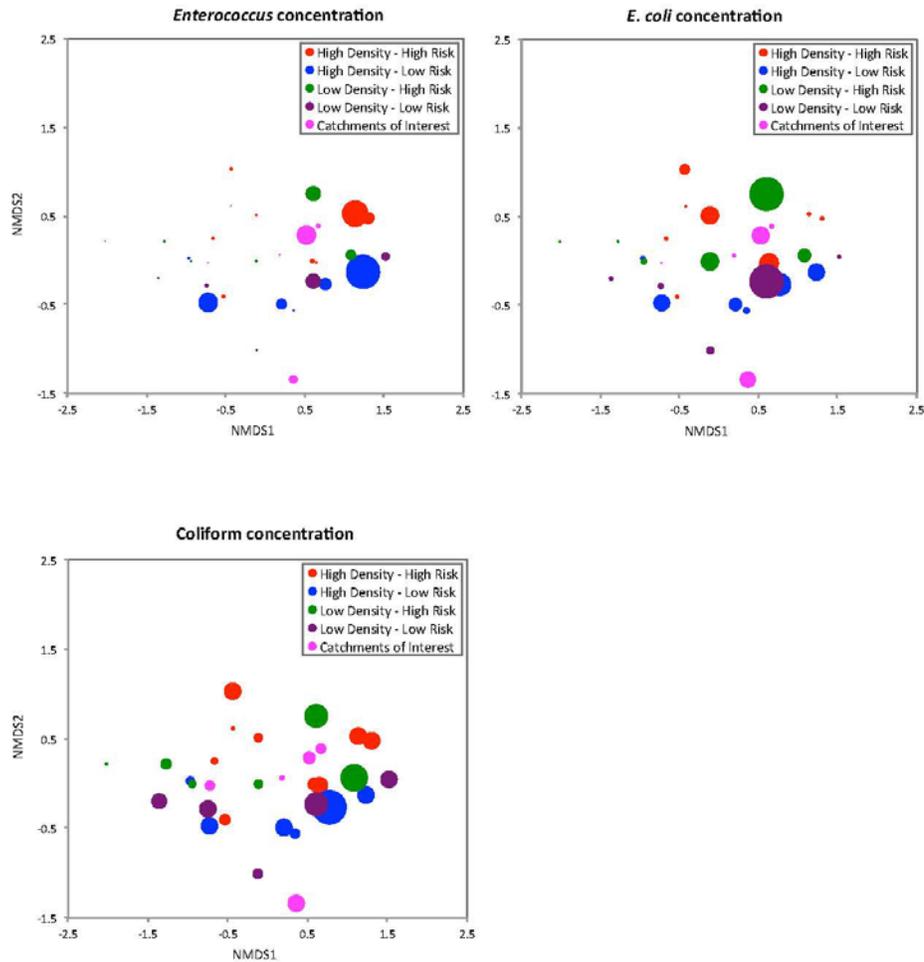
**Figure 4-4.** Comparison of PhyloChip human fecal ID results from Task 3 to qPCR estimates of human *Bacteroides* measured by the HuBac test. PhyloChip results are reported as the percent of 16S rRNA gene sequences that were detected out of 654 human-specific sequences targeted by the test. HuBac results are reported as both estimates of concentration (#/100mL) and concentration relative to total *Bacteroides* measured by the AllBac qPCR test.



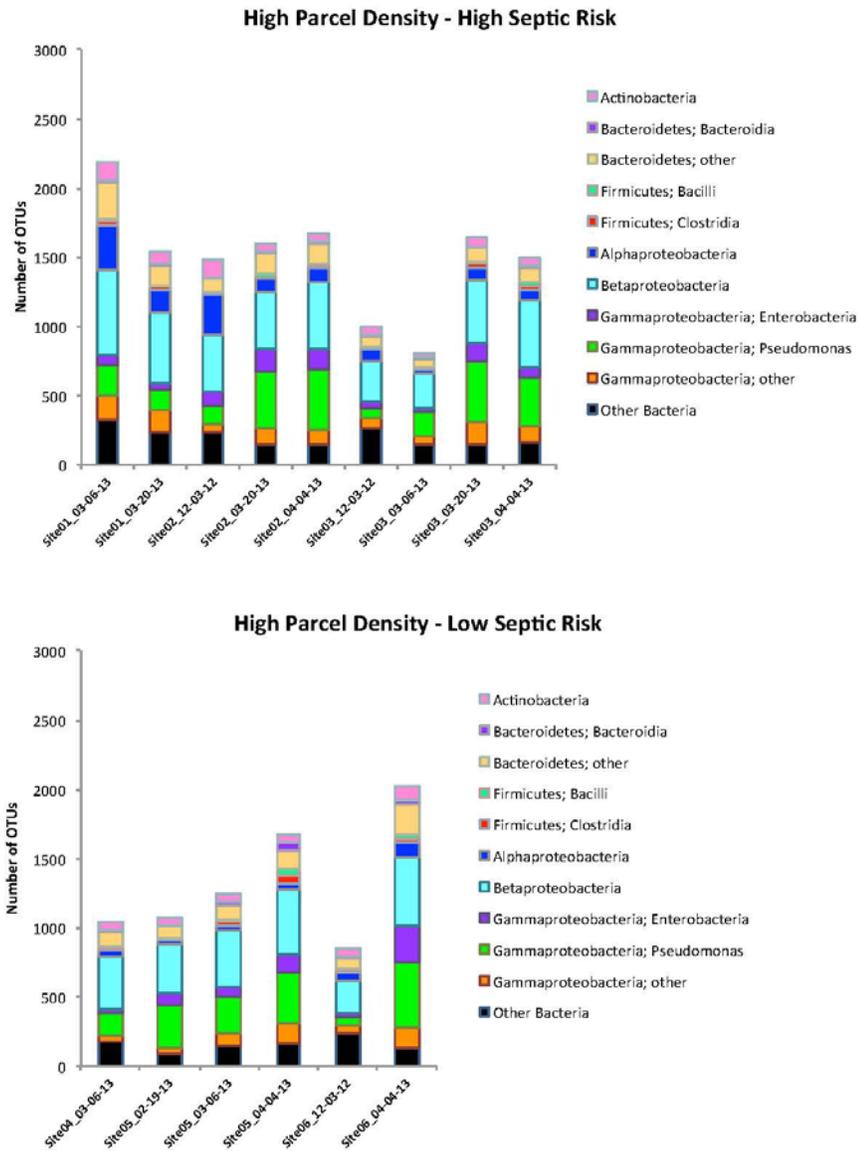
**Figure 4-5.** Relationship between PhyloChip human fecal ID results from Task 3 to qPCR estimates of human *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and human *Bacteroides* relative abundance (b). Correlation  $r=-0.68$  and  $r=0.29$  for PhyloChip human ID % vs human *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and relative abundance (b), respectively.



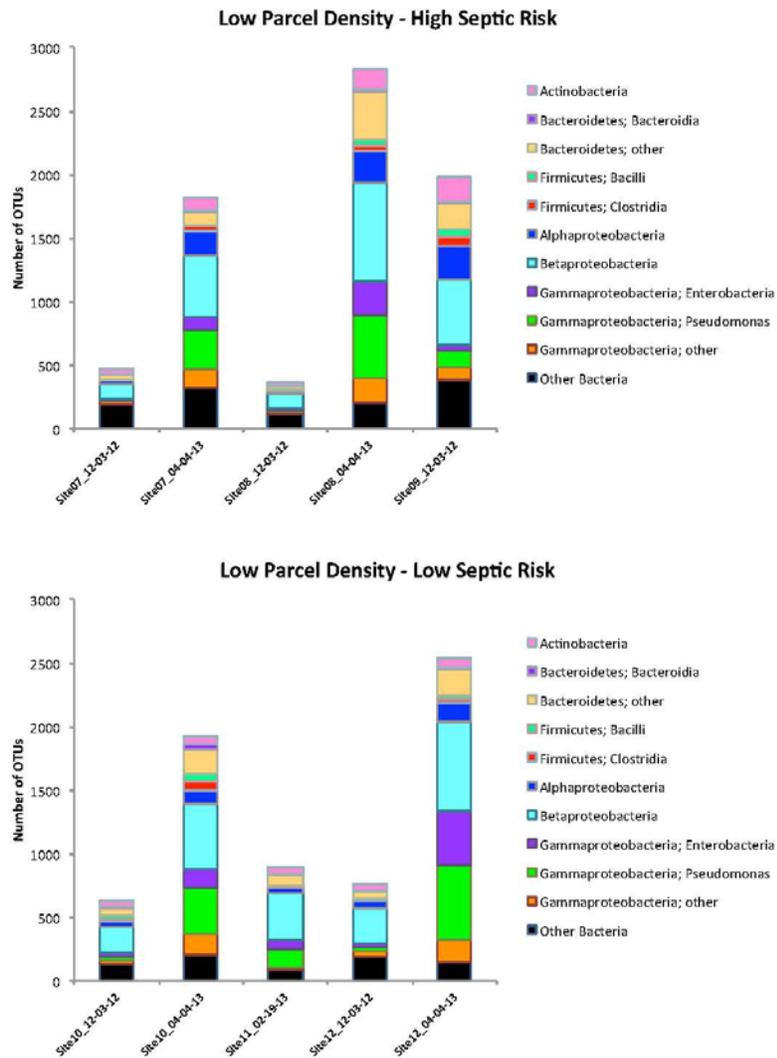
**Figure 5-1:** Variation in bacterial community structure in high and low parcel density areas with both high and low risk of septic contamination. Ordination conducted by NMDS with Bray–Curtis distance metric (2D stress = 0.13).



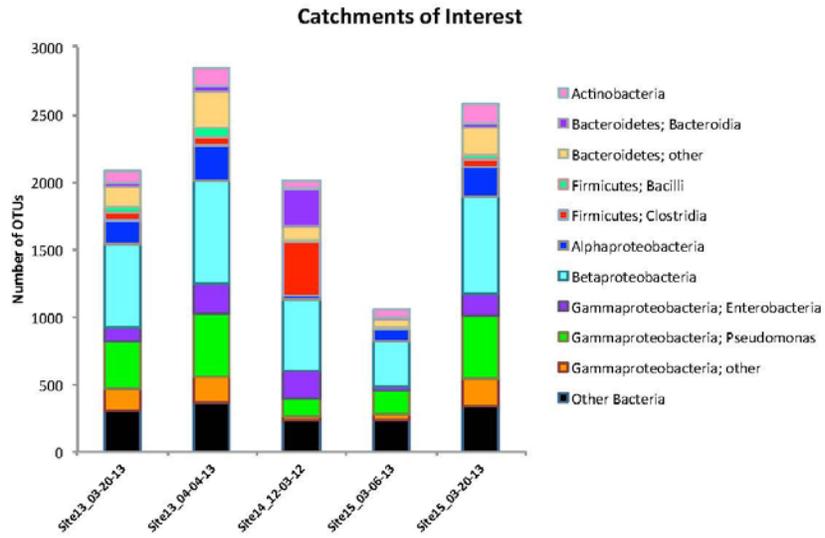
**Figure 5-2:** Relationship between bacteria community structure and concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria. NMDS ordination configurations are identical to Figure 5-4 but symbol areas are scaled to maximum *Enterococcus*, *E. coli* and coliform concentrations (MPN/100 mL) measured by conventional fecal indicator tests.



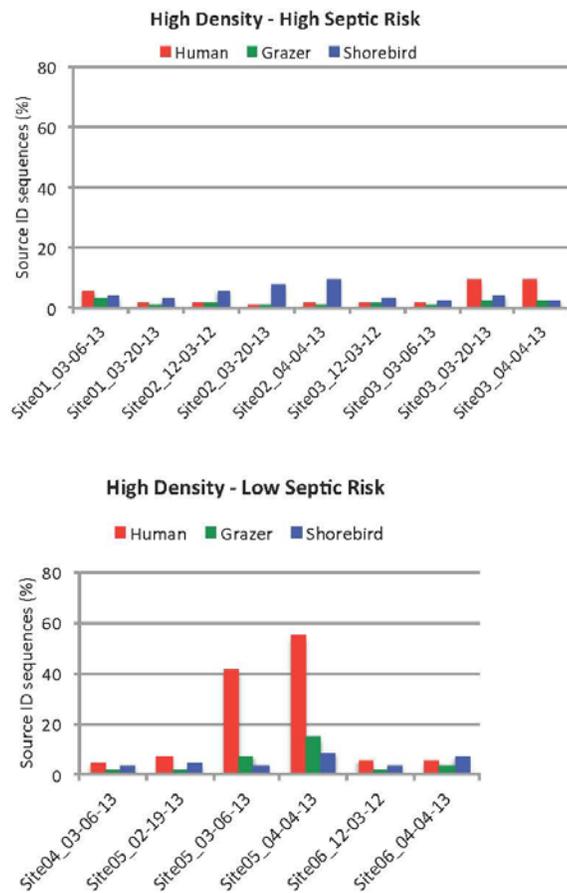
**Figure 5-3.** Bacterial community composition in high parcel density areas with high and low septic risk. Taxonomic richness of the bacterial community is shown as the number of different operational taxonomic units (OTUs) in major bacterial phyla or classes.



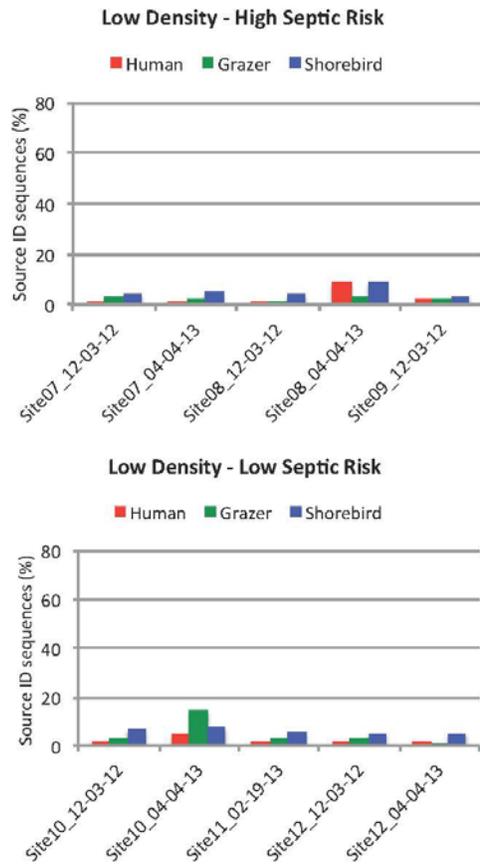
**Figure 5-4.** Bacterial community composition in low parcel density areas with high and low septic risk. Taxonomic richness of the bacterial community is shown as the number of different operational taxonomic units (OTUs) in major bacterial phyla or classes.



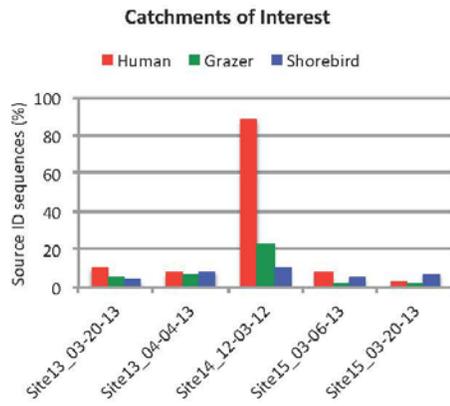
**Figure 5-5.** Bacterial community composition in catchments of interest (Sites 12-15). Taxonomic richness of the bacterial community is shown as the number of different operational taxonomic units (OTUs) in major bacterial phyla or classes.



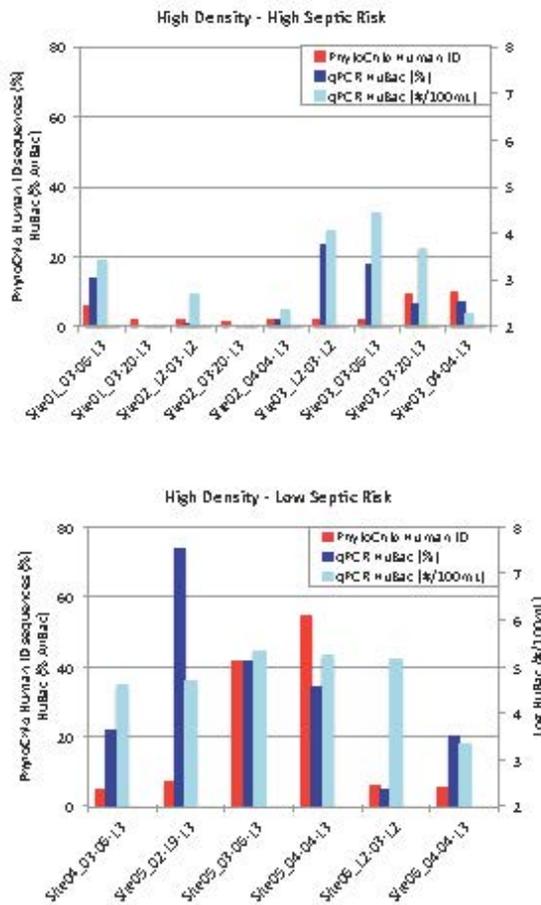
**Figure 5-6.** Fecal source detection results in high parcel density areas with high and low septic risk. Values are the percent of source-specific 16S rRNA gene sequence targets that were detected out of 654, 721 and 593 specific targets for human, grazer and shorebird fecal sources, respectively.



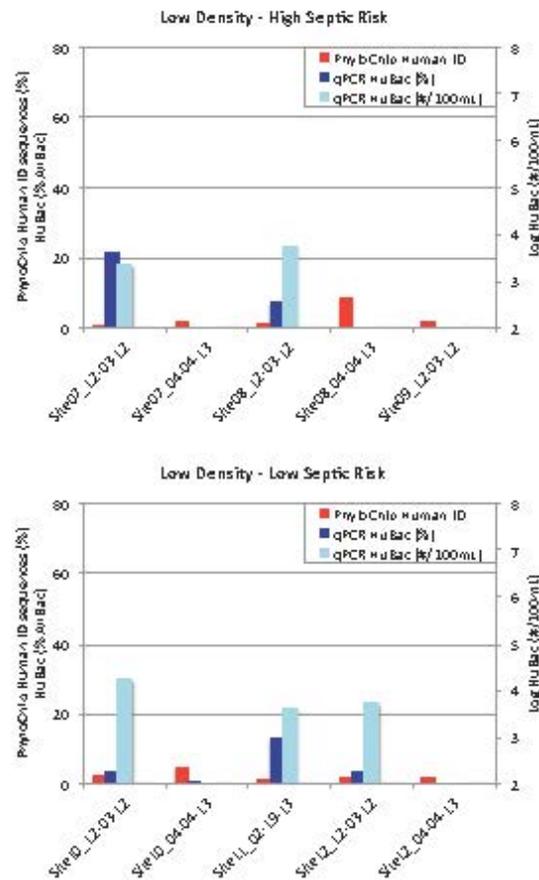
**Figure 5-7.** Fecal source detection results in low parcel density areas with high and low septic risk. Values are the percent of source-specific 16S rRNA gene sequence targets that were detected out of 654, 721 and 593 specific targets for human, grazer and shorebird fecal sources, respectively.



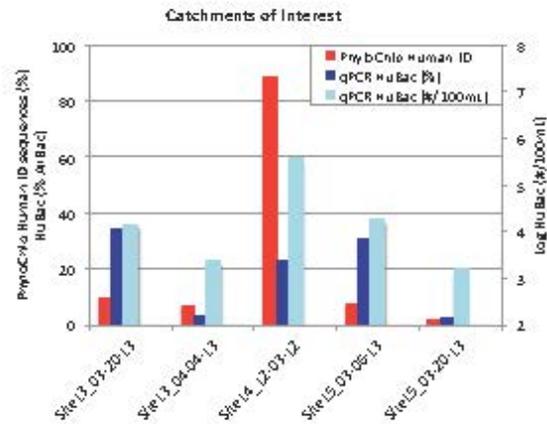
**Figure 5-8.** Fecal source detection results in catchments of interest. Values are the percent of source-specific 16S rRNA gene sequence targets that were detected out of 654, 721 and 593 specific targets for human, grazer and shorebird fecal sources, respectively.



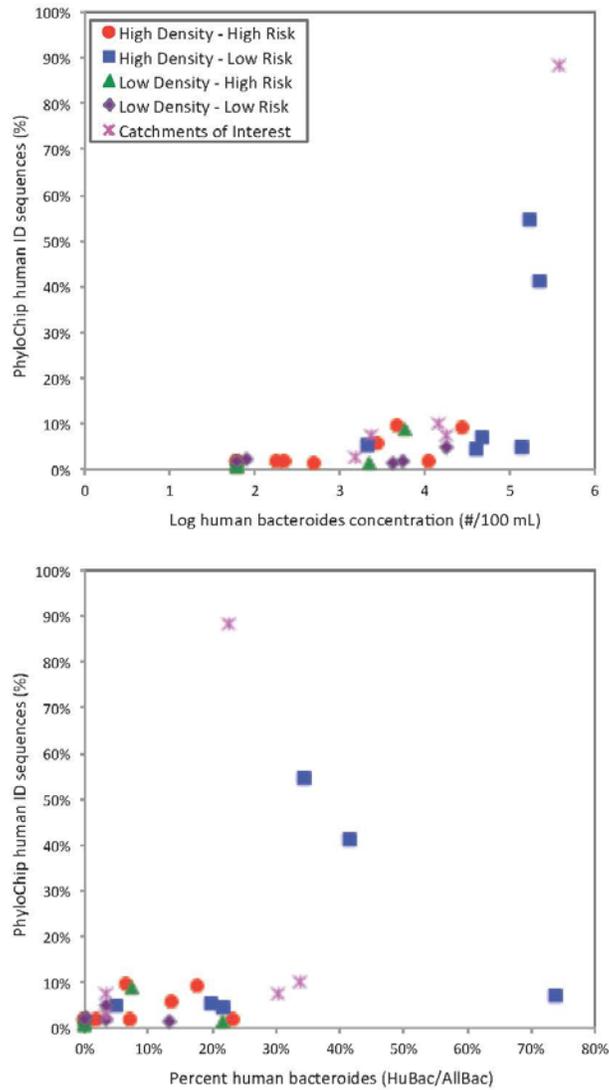
**Figure 5-9.** Comparison of PhyloChip human fecal ID results from high-density parcels to qPCR estimates of human *Bacteroides* measured by the HuBac test. PhyloChip results are reported as the percent of 16S rRNA gene sequences that were detected out of 654 human-specific sequences targeted by the test. HuBac results are reported as both estimates of concentration (#/100mL) and concentration relative to total *Bacteroides* measured by the AllBac qPCR test.



**Figure 5-10.** Comparison of PhylloChip human fecal ID results from low-density parcels to qPCR estimates of human *Bacteroides* measured by the HuBac test. PhylloChip results are reported as the percent of 16S rRNA gene sequences that were detected out of 654 human-specific sequences targeted by the test. HuBac results are reported as both estimates of concentration (#/100mL) and concentration relative to total *Bacteroides* measured by the AllBac qPCR test.



**Figure 5-11.** Comparison of Phylo Chip human fecal ID results from catchments of interest to qPCR estimates of human *Bacteroides* measured by the HuBac test. Phylo Chip results are reported as the percent of 16S rRNA gene sequences that were detected out of 654 human-specific sequences targeted by the test. HuBac results are reported as both estimates of concentration (#/100mL) and concentration relative to total *Bacteroides* measured by the AllBac qPCR test.



**Figure 5-12.** Relationship between PhyloChip human fecal ID results from Task 4 to qPCR estimates of human *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and human *Bacteroides* relative abundance (b). Correlation  $r=0.60$  and  $r=0.37$  for PhyloChip human ID % vs human *Bacteroides* concentration (a) and relative abundance (b), respectively.



APPENDIX A

Potential pathogens detected by PhyloChIP in samples analyzed for Tasks 1 through 4. Values in red are number of detected OTUs that potentially include pathogenic strains. Counts of fecal indicator bacteria (yellow) and % diagnostic fecal source bacteria (blue) are included for comparison.

Task	Sample name	Station Name	Period	Land Use	Total coliform (MPN/100mL)	E. coli (MPN/100mL)	Enterococcus (MPN/100mL)	Human ID (%)	Grass ID (%)	Shewanella ID (%)	Wohlfahrtia pneumoniae	Proteus mirabilis	Salmonella enterica	Shigella flexneri	Staphylococcus epidermidis	Staphylococcus haemolyticus	Streptococcus sp.	Vibrio cholerae	Yersinia sp.
Task 3	JB.03	Johnson's Beach	Dry	NA	921	20	58	1	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 3	JB.04	Johnson's Beach	Dry	NA	1046	16	30	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 3	JB.05	Johnson's Beach	Dry	NA	980	24	37	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Task 3	JB.06	Johnson's Beach	Dry	NA	864	7	30	14	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Task 3	JB.07	Johnson's Beach	Dry	NA	1553	22	63	50	18	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Task 3	MRB.03	Monte Rio Beach	Dry	NA	1703	3	11	2	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 3	MRB.04	Monte Rio Beach	Dry	NA	1300	22	9	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 3	MRB.05	Monte Rio Beach	Dry	NA	1986	22	14	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 3	MRB.06	Monte Rio Beach	Dry	NA	1300	15	18	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Task 3	MRB.07	Monte Rio Beach	Dry	NA	1300	22	21	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	01_03-06-13	Site 01	Wet	Hi PD-Hi risk	6588	3179	220	6	3	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	01_03-20-13	Site 01	Wet	Hi PD-Hi risk	1337	51	20	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	02_03-20-13	Site 02	Wet	Hi PD-Hi risk	24196	152	24196	1	1	8	21	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	02_04-04-13	Site 02	Wet	Hi PD-Hi risk	24196	187	5172	2	1	10	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0
Task 4	02_12-03-12	Site 02	Wet	Hi PD-Hi risk	24196	1019	384	2	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	03_03-06-13	Site 03	Wet	Hi PD-Hi risk	7804	160	432	2	1	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	03_03-20-13	Site 03	Wet	Hi PD-Hi risk	24196	3654	216	9	2	4	25	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	03_04-04-13	Site 03	Wet	Hi PD-Hi risk	12997	146	613	10	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Task 4	03_12-03-12	Site 03	Wet	Hi PD-Hi risk	4106	159	295	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	04_03-06-13	Site 04	Wet	Hi PD-Lo risk	24196	2613	12997	4	1	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	05_02-19-13	Site 05	Wet	Hi PD-Lo risk	7933	293	96	7	2	4	17	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	05_03-06-13	Site 05	Wet	Hi PD-Lo risk	38188	1656	2079	41	7	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	05_04-04-13	Site 05	Wet	Hi PD-Lo risk	24196	4892	4950	54	14	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	05_04-04-13	Site 06	Wet	Hi PD-Lo risk	24196	2758	23296	5	4	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	05_12-03-12	Site 06	Wet	Hi PD-Lo risk	4686	244	211	6	2	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	07_04-04-13	Site 07	Wet	Lo PD-Hi risk	1808	31	278	2	2	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	07_12-03-12	Site 07	Wet	Lo PD-Hi risk	462	52	10	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	08_04-04-13	Site 08	Wet	Lo PD-Hi risk	24196	1696	3551	9	3	9	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	08_12-03-12	Site 08	Wet	Lo PD-Hi risk	5604	62	171	1	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	09_12-03-12	Site 09	Wet	Lo PD-Hi risk	5172	207	86	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	10_04-04-13	Site 10	Wet	Lo PD-Lo risk	24196	11199	7701	5	14	8	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Task 4	10_12-03-12	Site 10	Wet	Lo PD-Lo risk	24196	202	410	2	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	11_02-19-13	Site 11	Wet	Lo PD-Lo risk	3664	598	128	1	3	6	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	12_04-04-13	Site 12	Wet	Lo PD-Lo risk	24196	121	2310	2	1	5	8	1	3	7	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	12_12-03-12	Site 12	Wet	Lo PD-Lo risk	1985	171	159	2	3	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	13_03-20-13	Site 13	Wet	COI	2142	122	98	10	6	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0
Task 4	13_04-04-13	Site 13	Wet	COI	13997	3076	13997	7	7	8	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	14_12-03-12	Site 14	Wet	COI	24196	2489	2481	99	23	10	47	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Task 4	15_03-06-13	Site 15	Wet	COI	6164	31	41	8	2	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4	15_03-20-13	Site 15	Wet	COI	3664	238	605	3	2	7	0	0	1	3	1	3	0	1	0