

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

June 2007

The next regular scheduled Board meeting is June 13, 2007.

See <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/> for latest details and

Items in this Report (Author[s])

Kinder Morgan Agrees to Pay \$1.3 Million to Water Board (Yuri Won)	Page 1
Urban Creeks Pesticide TMDL Approved and Implemented (Tom Mumley)	Page 2
U.S. EPA Awards Brownfields Grants (Randy Lee)	Page 3
Brownfield MOA Update (Stephen Hill)	Page 3
Wastewater Permits Delayed (Lila Tang)	Page 4
Inspection of MacArthur Maze Cleanup (Cleet Carlton, Brendan Thompson)	Page 6
Bolinas Brownfield Restoration (Chuck Headlee)	Page 7
Yosemite Creek Contaminated Sediment Site (Naomi Feger)	Page 7
Mercury TMDL Basin Plan Amendment (Richard Looker)	Page 8
Cyanide Site- Specific Objective Basin Plan Amendment (Barbara Baginska) .Page	8
LTMS Basin Plan Amendment Update (Beth Christian)	Page 8
Sediment Release to Arroyo Mocho, Pleasanton (Christine Boschen)	Page 9
Staff Field Trip to Napa River Flood Protection Project (Alec Naugle)	Page 10
DOD/Site Cleanup Program Field Trip to The Presidio (John Kaiser)	Page 11
Cal/EPA GeoSymposium '07 in Sacramento (Keith Roberson, Cleet Carlton)	Page 12
Strategic Plan Workshop (Dyan Whyte)	Page 13
In-house Training	Page 13
Staff Presentations and Outreach	Page 13

Kinder Morgan Agrees to Pay \$1.3 Million to Water Board (Yuri Won)

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners and its related entity SFPP LP (collectively, "Kinder Morgan") have agreed to pay the Board \$1.3 million for its 123,774 gallon pipeline oil spill in Suisun Marsh in Solano County in 2004. The agreement is part of a Consent Decree lodged in federal court in which Kinder Morgan has agreed to pay nearly \$5.3 million to resolve its liability to state and federal agencies for the Suisun Marsh spill, in addition to two other smaller spills in the Oakland Inner Harbor and in Summit Creek near Donner Lake in Placer County.

In March 2005, the Board approved a resolution authorizing the Executive Officer to seek judicial enforcement against Kinder Morgan and to coordinate with other agencies to ensure coordinated state action on the Suisun Marsh spill. The above settlement comes after more than two years of working together with state and federal agencies, including U.S. EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game, to negotiate a global settlement with Kinder Morgan. Under the settlement, Kinder Morgan has agreed not only to pay civil penalties, but also to pay natural resource

damages and to implement more stringent oil spill prevention, response and reporting practices under U.S. EPA's oversight.

The Suisun Marsh spill affected 242 acres of a managed wetland area, resulting in petroleum products in and on waters of the state and affecting soil, vegetation, and wildlife. It has been cleaned up, and the Board, which had also issued Kinder Morgan a cleanup and abatement order, is now overseeing ongoing monitoring.

The Consent Decree must be approved by the court after a 30-day public comment period. If and when it is approved, the Board will receive \$1.3 million to be deposited into the Waste Discharge Permit Fund, which the State Water Board expends, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to assist the Regional Water Boards and other public agencies with cleanup and abatement of waste discharges. We will keep the Board apprised of future developments with respect to the Consent Decree.

Urban Creeks Pesticide TMDL Approved and Implemented (Tom Mumley)

On May 16, USEPA approved the Urban Creeks Diazinon and Pesticide-Related Toxicity TMDL adopted by the Board in November 2005. The TMDL implementation plan provides the basis for forthcoming stormwater permit requirements for municipalities to manage their use of pesticides. It also includes a strategy to address water quality via pesticide regulatory actions that is already realizing positive results.

As an outgrowth of this TMDL, Tom Mumley has been spearheading ongoing efforts to coordinate water quality and pesticide regulatory actions with USEPA, the State Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), and the State Structural Pest Control Board. In response to our comment letters on over 30 pesticide re-registration actions, USEPA has changed its risk assessment procedures to improve consideration of water quality. It has also started to require that pesticide labels provide common sense user directions that protect water quality, and has restricted some urban uses of pesticides.

We reported to you last fall that DPR has initiated a regulatory review of pyrethroid pesticides. DPR convened a workshop in April to discuss water quality issues and the re-registration process with participants from the pesticides industry, municipalities, and the Water Boards, represented by Dr. Mumley. The workshop provided an unprecedented forum for the diverse stakeholders to present their interests and set the stage for future collaboration. Dr. Mumley is also serving on the Urban Pest Management Working Group convened by DPR to seek recommendations to address pest management challenges in urban settings that include preventing adverse water quality impacts from pesticides.

The Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB), which is responsible for licensing structural pest control professionals, has also responded positively to the TMDL implementation plan's call for action. It has convened a Water Quality Committee that Tom Mumley serves on, and in response to recommendations from this committee, the SPCB at its April meeting decided to re-open its marketing rules to allow truthful, enforceable and non-misleading environmental claims by pest control professionals. The SPCB also expressed

its intent to require integrated pest management training and examination requirements for pest control professionals.

U.S. EPA Awards Brownfields Grants (Randy Lee)

On May 14, USEPA awarded, as part of its Brownfields program, a collective \$1.2 million to cities and non-profit organizations throughout the Bay Area to clean up and prepare for redevelopment on a variety of contaminated sites. Nationally, the USEPA awarded 302 grants totaling \$75.9 million this year.

Brownfields are properties that remain vacant or under-utilized due to actual or perceived site contamination. Successful restoration of Brownfield properties promotes urban infill development and helps reduce urban sprawl, with its attendant water quality problems. Besides the job opportunities they create, USEPA's grants also leverage additional site assessment and cleanup.

The Bay Area Brownfields grants were distributed as follows:

- \$400,000 to the City of Emeryville to clean up the 4060 Hollis Street site, as well as a former railroad site at Sherwin and Halleck Streets.
- \$200,000 to the Fremont Redevelopment Agency to clean up a 5-acre property at 37592 Niles Blvd. that is contaminated with heavy metals.
- \$200,000 to Habitat for Humanity East Bay in Oakland to clean up polycyclic hydrocarbons and heavy metals at Habitat's "Edes B" site at 10800 Edes Ave.
- \$200,000 to the Taube-Koret Campus for Jewish Life in Palo Alto to clean up an 8-acre property tainted with volatile organic compounds at 901 San Antonio Ave. that will serve as the organization's new home.
- \$200,000 to the BRIDGE Housing Corporation in Palo Alto to plan and clean up the half-acre Fabian Way Senior Site at 901 San Antonio Way.

The last two sites listed above in Palo Alto are part of the former Ford Aerospace site that we oversee, for which the Board just recently adopted final Site Cleanup Requirements.

Brownfield MOA Update (Stephen Hill)

The Water Board is successfully implementing the March 2005 Brownfield memorandum of agreement (or MOA). In May, we passed the milestone of 100 new sites in our region that have gone through the MOA's lead-agency-determination process. The Brownfield MOA between the Water Boards and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is intended to improve coordination between the agencies in their oversight of Brownfield sites in California.

A key feature of the MOA is its requirement that the Water Boards and DTSC apply a standard process and criteria to determine the appropriate lead agency for new sites. Since the Brownfield MOA took effect in March 2005, the agencies have processed 252 MOA applications for agency oversight Statewide, including 100 in our region. With 40% of the applications coming from our region, the Bay Area plays a pivotal role in Brownfield restoration in California. The table below shows that more applications were submitted to Water Boards and slightly more sites were assigned to DTSC based on the lead-agency determination criteria. In sum, the Water Boards are experiencing a 20 to 30% decline in new Brownfield site intake as a result of the MOA. In virtually all cases, the agencies were able to rapidly agree on the appropriate lead agency; average MOA application processing took only 2 weeks. Randy Lee, our office's Brownfield coordinator, deserves much of the credit for this result. Another positive result of the MOA has been better coordination between Water Board and DTSC offices at the regional level, both on new Brownfield sites and other aspects of cleanup oversight.

Lead agency determinations		State-wide	This region
Applications*	To DTSC	105	25
	To Boards	147	75
	Total	252	100
Determinations	To DTSC	139	41
	To Boards	113	59
	Total	252	100
Net gain/loss	DTSC	+34	+16
	Boards	-34	-16

* excluding applications that are pending or ineligible

While the MOA focuses on lead-agency determinations, it also requires other steps to improve cleanup oversight. In that spirit, the Water Boards and DTSC recently completed a package of uniform site assessment tools, to improve oversight consistency. Use of the tools will assure that we consider all concerns at cleanup sites, including human health, water quality, and environmental protection. Chuck Headlee from our office was a key contributor to the tools document. Internal training and public website posting of the tools will follow shortly.

Wastewater Permits Delayed (Lila Tang)

NPDES permit reissuances are on hold until August or September while Board staff work to resolve new issues stemming from the State Water Board's May 2007 remand order. One result of the remand order is that there will be enforcement orders with nearly all future permit reissuances in the next year. Also, we will need to address concerns from

permittees on new ammonia limits now required by the remand order. These remand issues are discussed in more detail later in this report.

In anticipation of the remand order, we met with U.S. EPA in April to make adjustments to our future permit milestone commitments. These permit milestones became a high priority after January 2006 when, at U.S. EPA's urging, the Board directed staff to develop a schedule of commitments to meet U.S. EPA's goal of zero expired permits. Since that time, we have been aggressively reissuing permits and have met all milestone commitments thus far. The table below shows previous milestones and the recently adjusted milestones. U.S. EPA has also agreed to consider future adjustments depending on our progress with resolving the remand order issues.

Timeframe	Commitments (# of actions on expired permits)	Accomplished
March – June 2006	12	12
July – December 2006	15	13*
January – June 2007	6	8*
July – December 2007	11	
January – June 2008	9	
July – December 2008	8	

* Two permit actions were continued from December 2006 to January 2007 due to lack of quorum.

The State Board's remand order was on the 2005 permit and time schedule order for the East Bay Municipal Utility District's Wet Weather Facilities. However, most of the order's conclusions have broader implications for other permits in this region and Statewide. The two most critical issues are the

- disapproval of permit compliance schedules for mercury, cyanide, and selenium, and
- requirement for effluent limits for ammonia.

Cease and desist orders will be necessary to address the first issue. About 80 percent of the wastewater permittees in this region cannot meet new more stringent limits for mercury, cyanide, or selenium. The State Implementation Policy is the reason the limits became more stringent. In 2000, it superseded portions of our Basin Plan and prescribed more conservative methods of calculating effluent limits.

Since that time, Board staff has worked on solutions for these pollutants through Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and site specific objectives. The Board approved a TMDL for mercury last August and a site specific objective for cyanide last December. Full approval requires action by the State Water Board, Office of Administrative Law, and the U.S. EPA. Once fully approved, these region-wide actions will resolve compliance problems for all but about 10 percent of the permittees. However, until that time, permit non-compliances must be addressed through cease and desist orders.

On the issue of ammonia, the remand order struck down this region's more than 25-year old practice of receiving water limits rather than effluent limits for ammonia. Though federal regulations allow limits to be established in either the receiving water or effluent, in its remand order, the State Water Board determined that, for municipal wastewater discharges, receiving water limits were not adequate and effluent limits are necessary.

The main source of ammonia in municipal wastewater is urine. Industries can also be a significant source but only in some service areas.

To determine appropriate ammonia effluent limits is not a simple task because of two technical hurdles. The first is the translation of the Basin Plan's un-ionized ammonia objectives into total ammonia. This is needed because total ammonia is the only form that can be directly measured. Since un-ionized ammonia is dependent upon pH and salinity, both of which vary by location and season, the translation involves assessing the varying conditions in the Bay.

The second hurdle is mixing zones. Mixing zones are appropriate because ammonia rapidly disperses in the Bay. Without mixing zones, all municipal permittees would be in immediate non-compliance with the ammonia objectives. To determine a mixing zone that is protective of aquatic life without being overly generous or overly constrictive, we must assess each discharge's unique dilution characteristics. Some permittees currently do not have reliable information to support this assessment, so additional time will be necessary and permit reissuances must be re-scheduled accordingly.

We have made significant progress towards incorporating the remand order issues into upcoming draft permits. Staff has been revising those draft permits and developing companion cease and desist orders. In May, we met with permittees and the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies to describe and discuss the challenges posed by the ammonia issue. Also, we have arranged for dilution model training in July for Water Board staff. We are optimistic that we will back on track with permit reissuances by late summer or early autumn.

Inspection of MacArthur Maze Cleanup (Cleet Carlton, Brendan Thompson)

On April 29, a gasoline tanker truck overturned on an elevated portion of Interstate 880 in the MacArthur Maze, near the foot of the Bay Bridge in Oakland. The tanker's gasoline spilled, caught on fire, and destroyed an overpass and damaged the lower roadway. On May 1, two Board representatives, Cleet Carlton and Brendan Thompson, were invited by Caltrans to inspect the scene for potential impacts to surface water and groundwater.

Board staff observed and documented accessible areas where impacts might have occurred due to the fuel spill, and suggested soil sampling locations to confirm the presence and extent of contamination. Board staff identified one stormwater drain inlet in the accident vicinity that drains to the Bay; however, staff did not see evidence that contaminated flows reached the drain. Therefore, staff presumed that the extent of potential impact was limited to areas where gasoline, possibly mixed with some fire-suppressant water, pooled on the ground below the accident and seeped into the soil

before combustion. In addition, Board staff noted the potential for soil contamination due to lead from paint chips they observed on the damaged overpass.

After some initial soil removal at the site to allow for demolition and reconstruction activities, Caltrans conducted soil and surface water sampling. Caltrans will submit a final report of sampling results and remediation activities to Board staff. We will keep you informed of any further action needed to resolve this incident.

Bolinas Brownfield Restoration (Chuck Headlee)

On May 14, John Jang and Chuck Headlee attended the Bolinas Community Land Trust's dedication ceremony for the completion of its low-income housing project in Bolinas. In 2004, the Land Trust purchased the small Bolinas Garage with the goal of developing low-income housing at the site. The Land Trust investigated and cleaned up petroleum contamination from the former underground gasoline storage tanks (USTs) and a former underground waste-oil tank at this Brownfield site under the direction of the Water Board. The former service station building has been refurbished and now comprises two stores in front and two live/work units in back. A good portion of the town turned out for the reception, which featured good food and local musicians. Marin County supervisor Steve Kinsey, Fire Chief Anita Tyrell-Brown, and Dr. Thomas Peters of the Marin Community Foundation were all on hand for the ceremony.

One complication on this project has been the State Water Board's refusal to reimburse some of the cleanup costs. The State Water Board provided reimbursement for cleanup work by the prior owner, through the State's UST Cleanup Fund. However, the State Water Board has declined to reimburse the Land Trust's costs for cleanup of additional petroleum contamination that was discovered during site redevelopment. At issue is whether the additional contamination came from the USTs (eligible for reimbursement) or from surface spills (not eligible for reimbursement). I previously reported on this issue. At this point, the State Water Board has agreed to review its initial decision.

Yosemite Creek Contaminated Sediment Site (Naomi Feger)

Yosemite Creek is a channel in San Francisco Bay in the vicinity of Candlestick Park and Hunters Point Shipyard. It was identified by the Water Board as a contaminated "site of concern" in the Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program (BPTCP) report in 1998. Site investigations were conducted as a follow-up to the site's initial listing under the BPTCP, and PCBs and chlorinated pesticides were identified as the major contaminants of concern. U.S. EPA recently met with staff to discuss possible candidate sites for removal actions in the Bay. As an outcome of that meeting, I sent a letter to the U.S. EPA requesting its assistance in conducting a removal action at Yosemite Creek, using its authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, commonly called Superfund), the National Contingency Plan ("NCP") or other regulatory programs. This is an important site for cleanup as it is adjacent to a planned wetland restoration, park creation project by the California State Department of Parks and Recreation. We anticipate U.S. EPA moving forward on a removal action in the near future.

Mercury TMDL Basin Plan Amendment (Richard Looker)

I have made a minor correction to the Basin Plan amendment adopted by the Board in August 2006 to establish new water quality objectives and a revised TMDL and implementation plan for mercury in San Francisco Bay. The resolution adopting that amendment grants the Executive Officer the authority to make minor, non-substantive changes to the Basin Plan amendment and requires the Executive Officer to inform the Water Board of any such changes.

I have corrected the wasteload allocation for the C&H Sugar wastewater discharge from 0.0013 kg/yr to 0.45 kg/yr due to a calculation error in the loading estimate derived for the C&H Sugar wastewater discharge. The loading and wasteload allocation for this facility were previously in error due to use of an incorrect effluent volumetric flowrate. The corrected wasteload allocation is based on the same method used to calculate all the other wasteload allocations; the only change is the corrected flowrate. The correction does not affect the TMDL, any other wasteload allocation, or implementation of the TMDL.

Cyanide Site- Specific Objective Basin Plan Amendment (Barbara Baginska)

On December 13, 2006, the Board adopted a resolution amending the Basin Plan to establish site-specific marine water quality objectives for cyanide in San Francisco Bay. The purpose of this item is to inform you about a minor non-substantive correction to the Basin Plan amendment language that I approved. Before sending the amendment and the required supporting documentation to the State Water Board for review and final approval, we made a change to improve clarity. Footnote g to Table 3-3 now states: "... and apply, except ~~when~~ that site-specific marine water quality objectives for cyanide have been adopted for San Francisco Bay as set forth in Table 3-3c".

LTMS Basin Plan Amendment Update (Beth Christian)

In June 2001, the Board adopted a resolution amending the Basin Plan to implement the Long Term Management Strategy for the Disposal of Dredged Material in San Francisco Bay (LTMS), which decreases the amount of in-Bay disposal of dredged material while increasing the use of dredged material as a resource for wetland habitat restoration such as the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project and levee maintenance projects. The purpose of this item is to inform you about a non-substantive correction to the Basin Plan amendment language that I approved. In the course of its review of the administrative record, State Water Board staff requested that minor, non-substantive changes be made to the language of the Basin Plan amendment in order to improve clarity and consistency. We have made the changes and sent the revised Basin Plan amendment to State Water Board staff. We anticipate that State Water Board staff will consider approving the amendment this summer.

Sediment Release to Arroyo Mocho, Pleasanton (Christine Boschen)

The morning of Sunday, April 29, in violation of their NPDES permit, the Vulcan Materials Company facility (Vulcan) in Pleasanton released a large quantity of silt and clay into Arroyo Mocho, a tributary to Alameda Creek. Water Board staff are overseeing cleanup activities and are conducting an investigation in order to follow up with appropriate enforcement.

Vulcan operates a large sand and gravel mining operation in Pleasanton. The Vulcan facility is one of several in the area, and is covered under the General Permit for Discharges from Aggregate Mining and Sand Washing Facilities. The raw material that Vulcan mines must be washed to remove silt and clay. This generates large amounts of wash water, which Vulcan routes to a large settling pond (a former quarry pit). The silt and clay settle to the bottom of the settling pond. A floating pump pulls clean wash water from the top of the settling pond, and that water discharges to Arroyo Mocho. Over time, the settling pond fills up with sediment, and Vulcan has to retire that pond and start using another. The current pond has been in use for five years.

The day of the release, the floating pump started pulling silt and clay—the settling pond had reached its capacity. Because it was a Sunday, no workers were on site to notice the problem, and a significant amount of silt and clay escaped before Vulcan staff arrived to shut down the pump. The plume of muddy water was observed as far as 6 miles downstream of the Vulcan facility. The plume was reported to the State Office of Emergency Services by a local resident and by a Zone 7 Water Agency staff person who happened to be collecting samples that day, downstream of the release.

Arroyo Mocho is dry at this time of the year, except for the discharge from the Vulcan facility. After the release, at least 1.5 miles of Arroyo Mocho was covered with a heavy layer of silt and clay. One dead fish was observed downstream. Arroyo Mocho and Alameda Creek have important beneficial uses, including drinking water aquifer recharge, steelhead trout spawning beds, and wildlife habitat (notably, red-legged frog). Because of these varying beneficial uses, it was important to determine the extent of the impact, as well as the least harmful manner to proceed—should the sediment be removed, or carefully flushed through the system.

Board staff Janet O'Hara went out to the site on Monday, April 30, (the day after the spill) to assess the situation. Staff members Lourdes Gonzales and Christine Boschen are coordinating with the Department of Fish and Game to oversee clean up activities and collect information needed for taking enforcement. We have had several site visits and meetings with Vulcan staff, towards this purpose.

Clean up activities started a week after the spill, and are ongoing. The Department of Fish and Game determined that Vulcan must conduct a dry cleanup. The dry sediment peels off in big layers, so most of it can be removed this way. However, some sediment was trapped in the vegetation along the creek channel, and cannot be removed without causing habitat damage. Therefore, following the dry cleanup, Vulcan must capture several

flushes of water from the first 1.5 miles of Arroyo Mocho downstream from the discharge point. After the dry and wet cleanup stages are successfully completed, Vulcan will be allowed to resume normal discharge.

In addition to overseeing the cleanup activities, we are collecting information regarding the quantity of sediment recovered in the cleanup, the costs associated with proper maintenance or replacement of the sedimentation pond, the extent of the environmental impact caused by the event, and other factors relevant to our pending enforcement action. We hope to complete our investigation by mid-July.

Staff Field Trip to Napa River Flood Protection Project (Alec Naugle)

This year's staff field trip featured a tour of the Napa River-Napa Creek Flood Protection Project, from downtown Napa south to the scenic overlook near the Highway 29 Bridge. About sixty Water Board staff attended the May 24 field trip lead by Leslie Ferguson, Mary Rose Cassa, and Alec Naugle, with logistical support from Lindsay Whalin.

The \$311 million Napa River Flood Project is to provide 100-year flood protection for downtown Napa and the southern Napa Valley watershed. Historically, urban encroachment, low-lying bridges, and a natural river oxbow in the downtown area have caused the river to jump its banks during numerous floods over the past hundred years. Major floods in the 1980s and 1990s finally provided the impetus for a new plan.

The flood project, nearly two-thirds complete, is founded on "living river" principles that seek to restore the river to a more natural state, using marsh plain and flood plain terraces and wetlands to provide habitat and buffering capacity for flood waters. The downtown stretch highlights the balance among project goals: provide 100-year flood protection while at the same time restoring a living river, with opportunity for economic development and revitalization.

The field trip began at the Napa City library with a project overview presentation. Heather Stanton, Flood Project Manager with the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, provided a brief introduction, followed by Water Board staff presentations. The group then made its way on foot and by van to various stops.

The first stop was along the east side of the river in an area formerly known as Oil Company Road, the previous home of several fuel storage operations. Thanks to the low-tide, staff were able to walk on the marsh plain surface recreated in 2002 after cleanup. In 2001, the Water Board adopted a consolidated cleanup plan that paved the way for land acquisition and flood project construction. While much of the petroleum hydrocarbon polluted soil had to be disposed of at an offsite landfill, a portion of the soil removed from this area was clean enough to be reused at a nearby property intended for future residential development.

The first stop also highlighted the balance between the living river principles (i.e., flood and marsh plain terraces, native stabilizing vegetation, and habitat creation) along the east side of the river and the City's desire for economic revitalization of the downtown area

along the west side. Elements of the City's economic development plans could be seen in the form of a "river-walk"-style promenade and amphitheater currently under construction, two planned downtown hotels, and restored historic buildings and bridges.

Lunch was at the Napa Yacht Club's boathouse, located just north of the "Tannery Row" area on the west side of the river. This vantage point afforded views of recently created terraces at the former location of the Napa Sanitation District's treatment plant, preserved wetland areas, and a major bridge replacement. Following lunch Dyan White and Mike Napolitano described the fish friendly farming certification program that many Napa Valley vineyards subscribe to as a way to help restore Coho and Steelhead habitat.

After lunch we continued down river and stopped at the City's Kennedy Park and Grape-Crusher Park. Both vantage points afforded long views of the Southern Wetland Opportunity Area where former grazing land was acquired and set aside as permanent wetlands. Acquisition of these wetlands also provides a southern urban growth boundary for the City of Napa, which is necessary to maintain proper living river functions. Kennedy Park also demonstrated the ample public access that exists along the river's east side in the form of a bike/jog path, ball parks, picnic areas, and a boat launch. The west side wetland areas remain largely inaccessible and provide habitat to sensitive and endangered species.

Completion of the Flood Project has been slowed due to Federal budget. The project started in 2000 at the most downstream extent and has worked its way upstream to its current downtown position. Future work involves re-construction of two additional bridges, installation of flood walls, construction of the dry-bypass where flood waters will take the shortest path (across land) to bypass the Oxbow, and construction of the Napa Creek flood protection features. With continued Board staff involvement and favorable federal budgeting, the project could be completed in another four to six years.

Additional information on the flood project is available at the following website:

<http://www.napaflooddistrict.org/Flood.asp?LID=535>

The trip organizers would like to personally thank Lindsay Whalin for her outstanding logistical and planning support. We'd also like to thank Heather Stanton and Rick Thomasser of the Napa County Flood District for their support.

DOD/Site Cleanup Program Field Trip to The Presidio (John Kaiser)

As part of the Department of Defense (DOD)/Site Cleanup Program Roundtable held at our Board on May 21-22, both State and Regional Water Board program managers and Region 2 DOD staff attended a site visit of the Presidio. The visit showcased the end results of the Presidio cleanup efforts, largely the result of the successful coordination between staffs of the Water Board, the Presidio Trust, and the National Park Service. Both Brian Ullensvang of the National Park Service and Craig Cooper of the Presidio Trust were instrumental helping make the field trip a success.

The tour began with a visit to Crissy Field where over 100 acres of wetlands have been restored. National Park Service Biologist, Kristen Ward, provided the group with insight on the construction and development challenges faced with creating and maintaining the wetlands and adjacent beach area in an urban environment. It was readily apparent by the number of public present that the area is also considered a valued recreational resource.

Following the wetland tour, several remediated landfills were viewed that are under the jurisdiction of the Trust. Attendees were provided insight by Ryan Seelbach of the Trust into the history of the landfills as well as the challenges of performing remediation and vegetation restoration activities within an area so close to many historical buildings.

After lunch at the new Lucasfilm facility, formerly Letterman Hospital, staff visited the Lobos Creek area. Lobos Creek is unique in that it is a drinking water source for the Presidio, the only area of its kind in San Francisco. Adjacent to Lobos Creek and adjacent to a residential neighborhood is an old landfill, scheduled to be remediated sometime within the next year. The next stop was at the bluffs above Baker Beach where, despite the steep terrain, an old fill in a cliff area was removed and botanical restoration activities are currently underway.

As a wrap up, the group was taken to the first tower of the Golden Gate Bridge to view the Bay and shoreline areas. From this vantage point the intimate relationship of the Bay and its vulnerability to our urban environment is readily apparent.

Cal/EPA GeoSymposium '07 in Sacramento (Keith Roberson, Cleet Carlton)

Cal/EPA hosted "GeoSymposium '07" on May 9 and 10 at the Cal/EPA headquarters in Sacramento. The meeting was organized as a venue for technology exchange among engineering geologists employed by the state. The GeoSymposium series was started several years ago as a DTSC "in-house" event for DTSC geologists. This year, the meeting was expanded to include geologists from the Water Boards, Caltrans, and other state agencies that employ engineering geologists. The technical line-up included 18 speakers, 5 poster presentations, and an appearance by DTSC's Director, Maureen Gorsen. The speakers included 5 representatives from DTSC, 4 from the Regional Water Boards (representing the Central Valley, San Francisco Bay, and Lahontan regions), a paleontologist from Caltrans, and a representative from the California Board for Geologists and Geophysicists. Outside agencies were represented by speakers from the U.S. Geological Survey, USEPA Region IX, University of California at Berkeley, and Sandia National Labs. Speakers from the private vendors ProHydro, Inc., and ESRI also participated.

Dr. Keith Roberson of our Board's Groundwater Protection Division gave a presentation on the *Use of Batch Tests to Establish Soil Cleanup Levels for Leaching and Ground Water Protection Concerns*. This presentation was co-authored with former Board staff colleague, Dr. Roger Brewer, who is now with the Hawai'i Department of Health.

Strategic Plan Workshop (Dyan Whyte)

The Water Boards' strategic plan update process is coming to Oakland on June 13. Following the Board meeting, from 1-4 p.m., we will host a regional outreach session. The workbook for the session is posted on our homepage, <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay>. We emailed invitations to the event to more than 1100 stakeholders, and distributed the official notice with this month's agenda.

Board members and the public are cordially invited to participate in the planning process, which is designed to chart the state and regional Water Boards' course for the next five years. The State Water Board is providing a variety of means for people to contribute insights and ideas: at the regional session, by mail using the workbook, or through a web forum (<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/strategicplan/2007update.html>).

In-house Training

Our May training comprised field observation of the Napa River restoration project in Napa, reported above. Our June training will be on selected legal topics and will be presented by Dorothy Dickey and Wil Bruhns. Brownbag seminars included a May 30 session on sonic drilling methods (use of low-frequency vibration to facilitate soil borings and well installation).

Staff Presentations and Outreach

On April 24, Adrienne Miller and Lindsay Whalin, two UC Santa Cruz alumni and Board employees, recruited potential summer interns and full-time staff for all Water Boards at the UC Santa Cruz Career Fair. The event was extremely successful, and they spoke to a record number of science students totaling approximately 100. Most students submitting resumes were Environmental Studies, Earth Sciences, Biology, and Marine Biology majors. The event organizers recognized Adrienne and Lindsay as "100% Slugs". This honor is bestowed on all recruiters who are banana slugs, or UC Santa Cruz alumni. Adrienne and Lindsay received their undergraduate degrees in Environmental Studies and Earth Sciences, respectively.

Lila Tang spoke at the California Association of Sanitation Agencies' May 1 Conference on compliance schedules and future areas of litigation on wastewater issues.

At the invitation of Dr. Mario Menesini from the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Board, Sandi Potter made a presentation on May 21 at the Environmental Alliance Seminar at the Muir House in Martinez. A diverse audience of about 35 people was present, many from Central SAN and others from the community. Ms. Potter discussed the history of water quality regulation in the San Francisco Bay Area; explained our organization and current programs; and discussed future water quality challenges. The focus of the discussion was on surface water protection and questions posed emphasized attendee's interest in watershed management and in understanding more about the relationship between TMDLs and permit limits. We hope to follow-up with future presentations on these topics.

The Pacific Industrial and Business Association (PIBA) held its annual Regulatory Update conference in Santa Clara on May 22. This all-day event featured six presentations, including regulatory updates on Occupational Health and Safety, State & Federal Environmental Regulations, Brownfields Redevelopment, and on AB32 – California's Carbon Management Law. Two Water Board staff members gave invited presentations: Shin-Roei Lee spoke on *Stormwater Regulations and Stream Protection* and Keith Roberson spoke on *Setting Soil Cleanup Levels Where Soil Leaching and Groundwater Protection are the Primary Concerns*.

On June 5, Elizabeth Allen participated in a half-day seminar on subsurface vapor intrusion. The seminar was held in San Jose and was sponsored by the PIBA. Ms. Allen described the Water Board's regulatory approach to assessing and mitigating vapor intrusion problems at cleanup sites.