

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 4-5, 2008

Prepared on August 6, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 27

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Matt Thompson 805/549-3159]

In general, staff recommends "Standard Certification" when the applicant proposes adequate mitigation. Measures included in the application must ensure that beneficial uses will be protected, and water quality standards will be met.

Conditional Certification is appropriate when a project may adversely impact surface water quality. Conditions allow the project to proceed under an Army Corps permit, while upholding water quality standards.

Staff will recommend "No Action" when no discharge or adverse impacts are expected. Generally, a project must provide beneficial use and habitat enhancement for no action to be taken by the Regional Board. A chart on the following pages lists applications received from April 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM APRIL 1, 2008 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage ¹	Mitigation ²	Certified
Chad Pankey	Indian Valley Sand and Gravel	Extracting sand and gravel from Salinas River and Vineyard Canyon Creek using a tractor and a pull scraper. Project will also clean out Vineyard Canyon Creek around the Indian Valley Road Bridge.	San Miguel	San Luis Obispo	Salinas River, Vineyard Creek	48.93		Application withdrawn
Jim Hoey-- Hecker Pass Specific Plan Property Owners	Hecker Pass Specific Plan Backbone Infrastructure	Reconfiguring approximately 390 linear feet of an unnamed drainage and filling in the remaining channel downstream to Uvas Creek.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	Unnamed drainage to Uvas Creek, Uvas Creek	0.44	0.86	Accepted amendment July 9, 2008
Leavesley Road Partners	Leavesley Road Development	Constructing an access road to 4 lots and replacing two 15-inch culverts.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	Alamitas Creek	0.01		July 15, 2008
Candace Salway -Plains Exploration and Production-PXP	PXP Arroyo Grande Produced Water Reclamation Facility	Construction of a reclaimed water riprap outfall structure on the banks of Pismo Creek. Riprap is pre-existing and outfall pipes will be installed with Sonotube concrete columns and the riprap will be coated with gunite to minimize erosion on the banks.	Pismo Beach	San Luis Obispo	Pismo Creek	0.62		To be determined

¹ Total Acreage includes both temporary and permanent impacts to riparian, streambed, and/or wetland environments within federal jurisdiction.

² Mitigation acres are reported only for Certified projects. Water Board compensatory mitigation requirements are determined based on area impacted. They are generally 2:1 for streambed impacts and degraded wetland impacts, 1:1 for riparian impacts, and 3:1 for wetland impacts. Mitigation acreage is final upon issuance of certification and not shown unless the Water Board has issued certification.

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage ¹	Mitigation ²	Certified
Paul Viborg	Viborg Sand and Gravel	Extracting sand and gravel from the Estrella River for use throughout San Luis Obispo County	Paso Robles	San Luis Obispo	Estrella River	7.1		Application withdrawn
Julie Adams-- Rancho Nipomo Homeowners Association	Sycamore Creek Lane Road Repair	Creek bank stabilization and erosion repair by the installation of vegetated riprap and engineered fill on 80 linear feet of eroding stream bank along a 300-foot reach of Sycamore Creek	Nipomo	San Luis Obispo	Sycamore Creek	0.14		July 7, 2008
Cachuma Conservation Release Board	El Jaro Creek Fish Passage Enhancement	Construction of five rock weirs with associated vegetated rock keys constructed at the end of the weirs and 250 feet of bank restoration, including removing old pipe/wire revetment and gabion baskets.	Lompoc	Santa Barbara	El Jaro Creek	0.14	0.14	July 29, 2008
City of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works	San Lorenzo River Federal Flood Control and Restoration Routine Maintenance	Removing sediment from 5 to 6 gravity outfall structures by constructing a coffer dam and dewatering the concrete apron structures, excavating existing riprap levee slopes around outfall structures and replacing the valves in the outlet structures.	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	San Lorenzo River	1.86		July 29, 2008
Falcon Crest Builders Corp	Clubhouse Estates	After the fact certification for a stormwater outlet and energy dissipation structure that have been placed into the margin of a wetland.	Vandenberg Village	Santa Barbara	Davis Creek	0.009		To be determined

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage¹	Mitigation²	Certified
Ted R. Cooper Properties	Agricultural Road Connection to North Ryan Road	Install two 34-ft cast-in-place concrete box culverts with flat wingwalls.	Creston	San Luis Obispo	Two unnamed drainages tributaries to Huerhuero Creek	0.1	0.105	To be determined
Southern California Gas Company	Line 1010 Correlation Dig and Repair	Excavate a 16-inch diameter natural gas transmission pipeline to inspect and repair corrosion as identified by In-line inspection tool. The pipeline crosses an unnamed seasonal creek perpendicular to flow and below riprap.	Gaviota	Santa Barbara	Canada Del Barro	0.002		Awaiting CEQA compliance
Morro Creek Ranch	Morro Creek Road Crossing at Morro Creek Ranch	Replacing a 4-barrel CMP culvert crossing with a 20x20x10-foot high concrete box culvert and two rock weir fish passage structures.	Morro Bay	San Luis Obispo	Morro Creek	0.25		To be determined
Gerrie Fausett-Hope School District	Check Structures at Barger Canyon Creek	Installation of a 31-foot long check structure keyed into the east and west banks and 1-3 ton rock riprap will be placed to form pools and eddies to eliminate erosion at the bridge footing.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Barger Canyon Creek	0.058		To be determined
Arianne Rettinger-- RCD Santa Cruz Co.	Sycamore Creek Bank Stabilization	Grading slopes to 2:1, installing a 3 to 5 feet bench, removing concrete riprap and debris, installing a sheetpile wall and 5 rock vortex weirs	Morgan Hill	Santa Clara	Sycamore Creek	0.16		August 8, 2008
Smith Held--GGH Ranch	Ranch Conservation and Restoration Project Monitoring Plan	Reduce sediment into Old Creek, stabilize eroding banks to limit further bank erosion, stabilize toe of existing landslide and enhance wildlife habitat in creek.	Cayucos	San Luis Obispo	Old Creek	--		July 29, 2008

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage¹	Mitigation²	Certified
Harold L. Hill-- City of Santa Barbara	Cabrillo Boulevard Over Mission Creek Replacement	Demolition and removal of the existing bridge and retaining walls, construction of a new bridge , creation of 7595 square feet of new wetlands and the removal of non-native plant species and replacement with native plants.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Pacific Ocean	0.58		Awaiting additional information
Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board	Bottomless-Arched Culvert Installation at Crossing 6 on Quiota Creek	Improving fish passage conditions at crossing 6, replacement of an existing temporary Santa Barbara County Bridge and the abandoned "at-grade" concrete crossing with a bottomless-arched culvert.	Santa Ynez	Santa Barbara	Quiota Creek, tributary to the Santa Ynez River	0.05		To be determined
Kevin R. Riedler Colonel, US Army Commanding	Nacimiento-Ferguson Bridge Retrofit	Seismic upgrade of Nacimiento Ferguson Bridge. Expand piers, headwalls, upgrade steel decking and approach roads.	Fort Hunter Liggett	Monterey	San Antonio River	0.21		August 8, 2008
Rob Mendiola Gilroy Unified School District	Christopher High School	Repair Lions Creek bank which was eroded during January 2008 rains, 120 feet west of existing box culvert at Santa Teresa Blvd.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	Lions Creek	0.006		To be determined
Gary Ruggerone, Department of Transportation	Gaviota Creek Storm Damage	Repair the existing slope protection and grade control on Gaviota Creek in the vicinity of Gaviota State Park Bridge that was washed out in a storm event during the winter of 07/08. The project will protect the remaining slope protection, the existing State Park Bridge, emergency access to the Las Cruces Gaviota School and the	Unincorporated Area near Gaviota	Santa Barbara	Gaviota Creek, Pacific Ocean	0.45	0.5	July 14, 2008

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage ¹	Mitigation ²	Certified
		Highway 101 embankment from imminent failure.						
Jean Pierre Wolff, Wolff Vineyards	Wolff Vineyards Creebank Restoration Project	Restore eroded bank, improve function to the stream, and vegetate slope for habitat enhancement	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Pismo Creek	--		Awaiting additional information

REGIONAL REPORTS

Regional Monitoring [Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

Since 2005, the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) has managed data delivery from the Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture through a web-based data delivery system developed by CCAMP. Recently, we have been making major improvements and modifications to this system to support a statewide citizen's monitoring data delivery project being managed at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. These changes will support and benefit our own Regional users, in that we are significantly increasing the level of documentation, ease of use, and utility of this tool. We are adding a feature that will provide users access to a map of all sites entered into the system, so that users can determine if their own sites are at the same locations as other registered sites. This tool will help us document and manage site duplications. Also, the system will be set up to run through the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Data Help Desk, which will reduce burden on our staff for managing incoming data. The system will include a Project Registration page that will document sufficient information about each project to enable us to "tier" the project in terms of its data quality. This format is in direct support of a new Statewide Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) effort to tier quality assurance requirements to the final use of the data.

Updating the Central Coast Water Board's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments (Impaired Waters List) for 2008 has been a major effort for CCAMP staff over the last year. We decided that we wanted to compile and scan data from multiple sources to develop staff's listing recommendations electronically. This goal has required that many individual data sets be reformatted for use in our system, and has required significant staff time to document data quality issues and sources of information, to work with data providers to correct errors in the data, and to develop the necessary software tools. At this point we have developed thousands of "lines of evidence" related to water body status in our Region, for use in the Integrated 303(d)/305(b) Report. Each "line of evidence" represents the outcome of evaluating data from one source (e.g., CCAMP), for one pollutant, relative to one water quality standard, usually for one beneficial use, for a single water body. Though this task has been an enormous undertaking, it has resulted in tremendous benefit to our program by solidifying a data management, quality control and data assessment process that we can continue using in the future.

We are now working to incorporate the tools developed for both the data delivery system and the update of the Impaired Waters List into our Central Coast Water Board Vision Assessment work. We will adapt the data delivery system so that it can be used by various in-house and external data providers. The data checker will provide basic format checking so that data being delivered into the Vision project is consistent, complete, and well-documented. Similarly, we will incorporate results from the data scanning process associated with the Integrated 303(d)/305(b) Report into our assessments of "health" and will make this information available through our new website design.

CCAMP monitoring is on track in Santa Barbara coastal watersheds. We are entering the summer field season, when we conduct dry weather toxicity and 24-hour monitoring for oxygen sags, and when declining flows result in fewer sites to sample. For the first time in many years, our laboratory contract has started essentially on schedule, so we will not need to fall back on funding contingency plans, which is excellent news. Also, because of our funding through the CCAMP Endowment, we have not been subject to budget cuts that affected student contracts this summer.

Vision staff and the Groundwater and Assessment teams have been working with State Board staff and contractors involved in developing upgrades to the State's Geotracker system. We have requested that we be able to query the system in a way that will provide us access to well data without violating well location confidence requirements. These queries will enable us to associate land use and surface water quality data with characteristics of underlying groundwater to further our Vision Assessment efforts.

Irrigated Agriculture Program Update [Alison Jones 805/542-4646]

Ag Waiver Enrollment Status as of June 30, 2008

Enrollment Status	Number of Operations	Irrigated Acres	Tailwater Acres
Tier 1 (15 hours ed + farm plan)	1203	358,424	79,107
Tier 2 (incomplete ed or farm plan)	526	37,120	5,517
Growers with >14 hrs ed	1127	319,320	71,120
Growers with completed farm plan	1419	379,022	80,974
Total Enrolled	1735	396,030	84,802
Percent of Region Total	~80%	~90%	NA

Water Quality Data

Staff is developing water quality reports for each monitoring site (50) and upstream areas. These reports summarize water quality, land uses that are contributing to the site, pesticide applications and other information into short reports that will be made available to staff, growers and the public. Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. is conducting follow-up upstream monitoring and continuous flow monitoring in several watersheds. Preservation Inc. is also conducting education and outreach to provide growers with on-farm sampling in several watersheds. Follow-up monitoring is a mandatory component of the Cooperative Monitoring Program established by the Conditional Waiver. Follow-up projects are developed by Preservation, Inc. and approved by the Water Board. Follow-up projects are funded by regular program fees and by a Proposition 40 grant.

Inspections

Staff is conducting inspections throughout the region in order to assess and improve compliance with the agricultural program requirements. Staff issued a Notice of Violation as a result of a complaint, requiring the grower to complete an engineering report and implement corrective actions to eliminate sediment discharges before the rainy season. Staff is also conducting comprehensive watershed wide inspections in the Santa Maria area, beginning with Oso Flaco Creek watershed. By inspecting all of the growers in a watershed, staff can identify watershed scale problems and involve other entities as necessary. Staff is also following up on complaints expressed at our last Board meeting by Ms. Robin Lee about runoff in the Boronda area of Monterey County.

Enforcement Actions

Staff is in the process of settling the five administrative liability complaints that were issued to non-filing farming operations. All five have enrolled and paid all past due monitoring charges.

Conditional Waiver Renewal Process

Staff is planning internal stakeholder meetings in August to solicit management and staff input on the irrigated agriculture program and to consider how to best integrate the agriculture program with the Region's Vision and Goals. Staff will hold external stakeholder meetings with the Agricultural Advisory Panel and other stakeholders throughout the fall.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Budget [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

The Budget stalemate in Sacramento and the Governor's Executive Order produced a series of conflicting messages. We were told to lay off our student assistants (we have 19), and so we did, telling them we hoped the budget would be signed soon and we could call them back. The State Board filed an exemption request and passed along word to us that we could keep our students on board while the request was pending. We were able to get ahold of some of the students and get them back to the office. The Governor ordered minimum wage for line staff, \$2003/month for supervisors/managers, and no pay for attorneys. State Controller John Chiang's position is that the Governor's order is unfounded legally and fiscally, and as the State's chief financial officer, it's his responsibility to continue to pay employees' contracted earnings.

All purchasing is suspended unless considered "emergency" and is pre-approved by the Business Services (BMS) Manager. We've almost run out of copy paper. An order has been placed through BMS. Hopefully the vendor will agree to send us the paper, even though they won't get paid until we have a budget. Staff will not receive reimbursement for travel, training, membership, etc., until we have a budget. We can't service our region owned vehicle until we have a budget (all of our other vehicles are leased through Fleet Administration and can be serviced during the impasse). We can't get phone lines moved for new staff. We can't pay for training; staff pays out of pocket and waits for reimbursement.

Contracts that are suspended:

- * printer maintenance contract
- * plant service contract
- * copier maintenance contract (2 contracts)

We have a couple of TMDL monitoring contracts where the work has been halted (UC Davis and Santa Barbara).

Presentations and Training [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

Mary Adams continues to participate in monthly Leadership Training through the U.C. Davis Extension Program. This program is as well received by staff taking it now as it was when it was offered here at the Central Coast Water Board.

Mary Adams is being trained to sample lake waters for mercury in sediment. This includes complex "clean hands dirty hands" gloving procedures to avoid contamination. This sampling will provide us a robust data set on mercury in sediment from both Nacimiento and San Antonio lakes that we have not had to pay for, as the project is part of a larger statewide assessment.

Because Mary is volunteering her own boat and time for this project, she has also recently taken Boating Safety Training.

The Monterey Channel Keepers have hired a staff person, Andy Hess, who will be involved in monitoring activities in Central Coast watersheds, particularly in agricultural areas. CCAMP staff is working with Andy to ensure that he has sound training in monitoring principles and procedures before he begins any sampling.

Ag staff gave a presentation on agricultural program requirements and pesticide toxicity problems to the annual meeting of Pest Control Advisors in Santa Maria on June 25.

Ag staff and Board member Russ Jeffries attended a meeting and field tour at Fresh Express to view field trials being conducted by UC Cooperative Extension to improve irrigation and nutrient management in lettuce.

Two thirds of our staff members attended Paperless Office trainings given by John Edmondson of Neko Industries on July 1, 2008 and August 5, 2008 at our offices. The remaining staff will be able to participate in the training within the next couple of months.

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