

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

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 14-15, 2013**

Prepared on February 19, 2013

**ITEM NUMBER: 14**

**SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board**

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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.

**TECHNICAL/STATUS REPORTS**

**Point-Source Salinity and Nutrient Control Strategy  
[Harvey Packard 805-542-4639]**

Salts and nutrient concentrations in groundwater, which are increasing in many parts of the Central Coast Region, represent a significant, long-term threat to the beneficial uses of those groundwater resources, and therefore are a priority issue to be addressed by our agency. Available data indicate non-point sources of salts and nutrients, particularly from irrigated agriculture, are the most regionally significant source. Point-source discharges from municipal wastewater facilities, onsite wastewater treatment systems, and industrial discharges are also a source and have been shown to cause groundwater impairment in various areas on a localized scale. Many dischargers regularly violate their waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for salts (sodium, chloride, and total dissolved solids) and nutrient(s). In order to protect water resources and support increased use of recycled water as mandated by the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy (Resolution No. 2009-0011), the Central Coast Water Board must develop a strategy to address salts and nutrient limits in WDRs.

The State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy requires that local entities develop salt and nutrient management plans (SNMPs) by 2014 (in special circumstances 2016 if adequate progress is demonstrated). Each regional board must consider adopting each implementation plan as a basin plan amendment. Throughout the Central Coast Region, stakeholder groups are (or soon will be) developing SNMPs. The SNMPs will consider basin- or sub-basin-specific land use, hydrogeological, and geochemical conditions for the development of regional salinity and nutrient control strategies and may include proposals to revise water quality objectives. Subsequently, the Central Coast Water Board is required to consider these proposals. The adopted SNMP implementation plans will likely specify WDR requirements (e.g., provisions, prohibitions, objectives, etc.) for similar types of discharges within given basins/sub-basins. Staff anticipates holding workshops and public hearings to inform the Water Board and stakeholders of the pending SNMP implementation plan recommendations once the plans are sufficiently developed.

Central Coast Water Board WDR staff expending significant resources drafting new and updated WDRs with salts and nutrient(s) limits, responding to violations of existing salts and nutrient(s) limits, performing data entry relative to salts and nutrient(s) violations, and preparing enforcement reports regarding these violations. None of these actions are proactive in protect

water quality. The Central Coast Water Board needs to be more effective in addressing this issue via a long-term, regional strategy versus a short-term point source strategy (i.e. updating WDRs that will likely change as a result of the pending salt and nutrient management plans). The following outlines our plan to address salts/nutrient(s) in WDRs in a stepwise, technically sound, and resource-effective manner:

1. Shift permitting staff resources from reviewing/updating WDRs to getting SNMPs done. Postpone non-vital WDR renewals until the SNMP implementation plans have been formally adopted such that the SNMP implementation measures can be incorporated into the updated WDRs. Staff have been assigned specific SNMPs. Specific Regional Board staff actions include:
  - a) Develop SNMP guidance and website resources to facilitate consistency of SNMPs. This action has been initiated and is ongoing as new information becomes available.
  - b) Attend stakeholder meetings and review draft SNMP documents (ongoing action).
  - c) Develop consistent nutrient monitoring requirements, limitations and methodologies for determining points of compliance for WDRs in conjunction with the SNMP process (action pending).
  - d) Integrate WDR monitoring requirements with regional groundwater monitoring programs (action pending).
  - e) Develop and send letters to stakeholders (local agencies and dischargers) requesting SNMP participation and support as appropriate within areas where SNMPs efforts are lacking (action pending).
2. Facilitate and support local source control efforts by adopting Water Code 13148 findings (supporting local salinity control ordinances) within WDRs or resolutions similar to those recently adopted for San Benito County and Mission Hills. Action includes:
  - a) Develop and send letters to each county and/or significant discharger requesting documentation needed for Section 13148 findings (action pending). Such letters could be sent to dischargers violating salts limits, or any discharger with salts management requirements in its WDR. If the source identification information is not already available, it is a required component of SNMPs and will be developed in the next year or two.
3. Include standard salt/nutrient requirements within new or revised WDRs that need to be adopted prior to adoption of the SNMP implementation plans. Action includes:
  - a) Include standard findings and conditions in all new/updated WDRs (where salts and/or nutrients are a potential issue) that require 1) discharger to either develop an individual plan or participate in a regional plan; 2) consistent monitoring for water supply, influent and effluent salt/nutrient parameters; and 3) implement best management practices for reducing salt and nutrient discharges. The standard language/finding may also include placeholders for salt/nutrient limits and implementation measures from the SNMP (when complete). Standard SNMP related findings and conditions have already been developed and are being included within WDRs. Standard monitoring requirements are currently being developed.
4. Update WDRs incorporating effluent limits, water quality objectives, monitoring requirements, salt/nutrient minimization plans, implementation measures, etc. contained within the adopted SNMP implementation plans.

**City of Salinas Municipal Stormwater Permit - Opening of Storm Drain Inlet Grates**

[Jennifer Epp/805-594-6181]

At the January 31, 2013 Central Coast Water Board meeting, Board members received comments from Steve Shimek of Monterey Coastkeeper regarding City of Salinas (Salinas) storm drain management practices. Mr. Shimek commented that he has observed open storm drain grates on Salinas streets. The Central Coast Water Board directed staff to provide information on this issue in the Executive Officer Report for the March 2013 Board meeting.

Salinas's actions are not in violation of their stormwater permit (Order No. R3-2012-0005), since the permit does not specify how storm drain grates must be managed. Salinas staff have stated storm drain grates are only opened in very limited circumstances, in order to prevent street flooding and reduce associated traffic hazards. Less than 2% of Salinas's grates are opened, and those are only opened during heavy or long duration rain events. In light of the limited scope of the grate opening, combined with Salinas's need to provide public safety, staff finds Salinas's management of its storm drain grates to be reasonable. Further, storm drain grates are not particularly effective pollutant control devices, so staff finds that opening of storm drain grates in limited circumstances will not significantly impact water quality.

Following is a brief summary of the history on this issue and the response from Salinas staff:

Steve Shimek sent a photo to Central Coast Water Board staff on November 28, 2012. Central Coast Water Board staff contacted Salinas on November 28, 2012 and learned the details of Salinas's practice of opening storm grates. At the time the photo was received, significant storm events were predicted for the Salinas area. Central Coast Water Board staff followed up with Steve Shimek on December 3, 2012 via e-mail and later on the phone. Central Coast Water Board staff contacted Salinas again on February 1, 2013 as a follow up to the comments from Steve Shimek at the Central Coast Water Board meeting on January 31, 2013.

The following is the response from Ron Cole, Wastewater Manager with the City of Salinas:

"This is in response to your question regarding the opening of storm drain grates during storm events.

Rain events are typically in the fall and winter when there is still a significant amount of fall leaves on the street. The leaves are moved by the rain water at the curb and gutter and will pack up on top of the grates during significant storm events. This typically does not cause a problem or concern. In all but a few cases the storm drain size will accommodate a significant amount of leaves and still allow water to pass through even during heavy rainfall. However there are specific drains that are more susceptible to leaves accumulating on the grates or are of a size that will not allow water to pass through at the higher rate needed during a significant storm event and this results in street flooding of the adjacent traffic lanes.

The picture example that you provided may be one of two types of storm drains that are opened when a heavy rainfall or a rain event of long duration is expected.

One type of storm drain where this occurs is the drain inlet that is in an area of heavy fall leaf accumulation. The City makes every effort to minimize the number of drains that are opened during heavier than normal storm events. Of the estimated 3,555 storm drains in Salinas approximately 30 storm drains are historically known to be more susceptible to leaves accumulating on the grates or are of a size that inhibits water pass through during significant

storm events to the point of causing flooding of the adjacent traffic lane or lanes. Typically the clearing of leaves off these drains is a very temporary measure as a storm event that produces rainfall significant enough to move quantities of leaves to these inlets repeatedly clogs the inlet cover and starts the street flooding process over again in quick succession.

We typically open those specific drains and place a barricade over the drain when we know that the rain events are likely to be significant enough to cause this to happen. The flooding of traffic lanes present a liability and a danger to the public and is a particular liability and danger during the nighttime and weekends when there is no regular staff on duty. Barricades are typically removed and storm grates closed within 48 hours or two working days after a storm event. I say two working days because of timing issues associated with 4 day work weeks for City staff and consideration for weekends or holidays. In these cases the storm grates may stay open longer until staff is available to perform the work. If a second storm event is expected within two or three days we will leave the drains open and the barricades out until that event passes. We do not leave the barricades out for long periods after a storm event as the open drains and barricades present a minor hazard as the barricades may get knocked over in the street from gusting wind or curious pedestrians. Without the barricade safely in place the open storm drains pose a hazard to pedestrians or to cars parking at the curb and gutter.

It is important to note that approximately 30 storm drains have been identified to be opened and that these types of drains are not opened during every rain event. They are typically only opened prior to storm events that are likely to produce a significant rainfall over a short time period or over a multi-day storm event. The storm catch basins are inspected and cleaned as needed prior to the wet weather season.

The other type of storm drain that is opened prior to significant rain events are drains that are siphon's. A siphon drain allows the water to enter into the drain on one corner of the street and come back up and out the drain on the next corner where the water continues on its course down the curb and gutter to the next drain inlet that is attached to a storm pipeline. It serves as a conduit to allow water to flow from one curbside to the other without flowing over the surface of the street. In the case of a siphon storm drain, material will accumulate on the bottom side of the drain as it flows back up to the surface. These drains are opened to prevent street flooding due to material accumulating on the underside of the storm drain grate and to allow the free flow of water from one curbside to the other. There are approximately 36 siphon drains in the Salinas storm water collection system. Siphon storm drains and the pipelines that join them are cleaned prior to the wet weather season.

We believe that it is important that it is understood that considering the initial 30 drains, we are talking about a total of 30 drains out of 3555 or 0.84% of our total drains. Including the 36 siphon drains there are 66 drains involved out of 3555 or 1.8% of our total drains. Until which time we can acquire funding to improve this situation we must take these steps to protect public health and safety. "

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS**

[Kim Sanders 805/542-4771]

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from December 20, 2012 – February 8, 2013.

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Impact <sup>1</sup>	Status
Andrew Carlos/Collen Peach-KISAQ/RQ	1/7/13	Fort Hunter Liggett ECS-TEMF Project	To complete construction of a Temporary Equipment Maintenance Facility (TEMF) at Fort Hunter Liggett.	Fort Hunter Liggett	Monterey	Unnamed tributary to San Antonio River	0.11 acre	Incomplete application
Fariba Zohoury - Caltrans	1/14/13	Hecker Pass Safety Improvement Project EA 2A250	To improve safety by widening existing shoulders, overlaying existing pavement, removing trees, constructing retaining walls and adding left-turn lane on State Route 152.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	Bodfish Creek and Blackhawk Creek	0.15 acre	Application under review
Pacific Gas and Electric	1/14/13	Pacific Gas and Electric Company Gas Line 300B MP 469.70 Erosion Control Project	To protect integrity of high pressure natural gas line where landslide occurred, by grading hill, installing drainage system, and covering with backfill.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	Rucker Creek	0.0008 acre	Application under review
Santa Cruz Harbor	1/15/13	Santa Cruz Harbor Pile Replacement Project	To maintain harbor facilities by removing and replacing pile sleeves, existing piles, pile guides and appurtenant hardware.	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz Harbor	0.0067 acre	Application under review
Jill Zachary – City of Santa Barbara	1/15/13	Andree Clark Bird Refuge Vegetation Maintenance and Habitat Restoration Project	Removing vegetation to restore water flow and conveyance in the lake and culverts, for the purpose of reducing mosquito production, flooding and protecting wildlife.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Bird Refuge Lake and Pacific Ocean	0.89 acre	Application under review (Recertification due to expired Nationwide Permit)

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Impact <sup>1</sup>	Status
Dave Flynn – County of San Luis Obispo	1/22/13	La Panza Road Washout Repair; ED12-096 (245R12B501)	To place fill and rock slope protection to stabilize eroded road shoulder/bank in an ephemeral drainage.	Creston	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributary to Huerfuro Creek	0.02 acre	Incomplete application
County of Santa Cruz	1/25/13	Lompico Road Bridge Replacement Project at postmile 1.82	To repair scour holes under Lompico Bridge and portion of roadway by excavation of streambed, filling holes with rock and grout, and backfilling with soil.	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	Lompico Creek, tributary to Zayante Creek	0.013 acre	Incomplete application
Dennis Jordan	1/28/13	4835 Hecker Pass (Culvert Repair)	To complete repairs to culvert that applicant began without a permit.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	Unnamed seasonal tributary to Bodfish Creek	100 linear feet	Incomplete application

<sup>[1]</sup> Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to riparian, streambed, and/or wetland environments within federal jurisdiction.

**401 Water Quality Certifications Issued December 20, 2012 – February 8, 2013.**

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Impact <sup>1</sup>
Roger Keech	12/21/12	Crossing for Lot 3 of See Canyon Fruit Ranch	To access new Lot 3 by crossing an ephemeral drainage.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	See Canyon Creek	0.06 acre
City of Santa Barbara Public Works, Engineering-James Colton	1/11/13	Chapala Street Bridge Replacement Project	To remove and replace a structurally deficient bridge over Lower Mission Creek.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Lower Mission Creek	0.1 acre
Chevron Environmental Management Company - Greg Underwood	1/18/13	Casmalia Mineral Fee and Tompkins Lease Remediation	To excavate and remove petroleum hydrocarbon-containing soils from former oil well features, pipelines, and three concrete footings.	Casmalia	Santa Barbara	Shuman Creek	4.29 acres

<sup>[1]</sup> Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to riparian, streambed, and/or wetland environments within federal jurisdiction.

**Groundwater Protection Section Case Closures**

[Two tables are provided in the EO Report: Table 3 lists the closure performance for the Underground Tank and Site Cleanup Programs at approximately the one-half point through the current fiscal year, July 1, 2012 through February 12, 2013. Table 4 lists the individual sites closed since the start of the fiscal year.]

**General Order and Waiver Enrollments**

[One table is provided in the EO Report: Table 5 lists the enrollments under various State-wide and Central Coast Region general orders and waivers. The table also includes enrollment dates and the staff contact for each enrollee.]

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 3: Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard

Attachment 4: Groundwater Case Closures

Attachment 5: General Waiver/General Order Enrollment Table