

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2014
Prepared on August 20, 2014

ITEM NUMBER: 21

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.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS [Kim Sanders 805/542-4771]

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from June 7, 2014 – August 7, 2014

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received June 7, 2014 – August 7, 2014

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact ¹	Status
Aera Energy, LLC - Chris Skeels	6/10/2014	Idle Pipeline Removal Project	To properly remove idle pipeline segments crossing Sargent Creek and unnamed drainages in a safe and environmentally-sensitive manner.	San Ardo	Monterey	Sargent Creek and unnamed tributary to Salinas River	3.68 acres	Incomplete Application
Monterey County Water Resources Agency - David E. Chardavoyne	6/25/2014	Bryant Canyon Channel	To complete construction of the Bryant Canyon channel to prevent flooding in the event of a 100-year storm.	Soledad	Monterey	Salinas River	1.9 acres	Under Staff Review
Monterey Peninsula Country Club - Michael J. Bowhay	7/1/2014	Monterey Peninsula Country Club Dunes Golf Course Renovation	To renovate the existing Dunes Golf Course including roads, paths, bridges, landscaping, and restoration of Sawmill Gulch Creek.	Unincorporated Monterey County	Monterey	Sawmill Gulch Creek, Pacific Ocean	0.35 acre	Under Staff Review
Margarita Ranch SLO, LLC - Dennis Moresco	7/3/2014	Margarita Ranch Tract 2428	To provide drainage crossings associated with a residential development.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributary to San Luis Obispo Creek	1.02 acres	Under Staff Review
Hollister Enterprise, LLC - Peter Hellmann	7/23/2014	Roberts Ranch Residential Development	To construct a residential development	Hollister	San Benito	San Benito River	0.08 acre	Under Staff Review
Fort Hunter Liggett - Gary Houston	8/4/2014	Fort Hunter Liggett TASS Training Center	To construct a facility and up-to-date furnishings and equipment to support Fort Hunter Liggett's full-time and Army Reserve personnel.	Fort Hunter Liggett	Monterey	Unnamed tributary to San Antonio River	0.007 acre	Incomplete Application
City of Goleta - Rosemarie Gaglione	8/4/2014	Ekwill Street and Fowler Road Extensions Project	To relieve traffic along Hollister Avenue and improve access within Old Town Goleta and between Old Town Goleta and Santa Barbara Airport.	Goleta	Santa Barbara	Old San Jose Creek	0.14 acre	Incomplete Application

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact¹	Status
Gillie Orchards, LLC - Dan Emmett	8/7/2014	Gillie Ranch Bridge and Cate School Crossing Removal Project	To improve instream habitat conditions and better access across the creek for property owners.	Carpinteria	Santa Barbara	Gobernador Creek	0.11 acre	Incomplete Application

^[1] Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

401 Water Quality Certifications Issued June 7, 2014 – August 7, 2014

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	Receiving Water	Includes LID Retention Feature²	Total Impact¹
Stacy and Witbeck, Inc. - Kurt Kniffin	6/16/2014	MP 4.87 - Harkins Slough Bridge Repair Project	To make necessary safety repairs to the MP 4.87 Harkins Slough Bridge.	Harkins Slough	Unnamed tributaries to Harkins Slough	N/A	0.0005 acre
Stonecreek Properties - Larry Anderson and Guerra Nut Shelling - Frank Guerra	6/18/2014	Santana Ranch Project	To develop 292 acres into housing, schools, and commercial and office space, widen a right-of-way, implement other various street improvements, and construct 2 stormwater basins.	Unincorporated San Benito County	Unnamed seasonal wetlands	Y	0.4 acre
County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works - Todd Sexauer	7/11/2014	Graham Hill Road Bridge Storm Damage Repair Project	To repair a wing wall on the Graham Hill Road Bridge at the San Lorenzo River and repair scour damage at a bridge pier.	Felton	San Lorenzo River and Channel 1 (tributary to San Lorenzo River)	N/A	0.057 acre
County of San Luis Obispo Dept of Public Works - Dave Flynn	7/11/2014	Branch Mill Road Bridge Replacement Project	To improve public safety and fish passage by replacing the structurally deficient bridge, providing standard roadway widths, and adjusting the roadway alignment.	Arroyo Grande	Tar Spring Creek	N	0.923 acre
Lennar Homes of California - Brent Reed	7/15/2014	Polo Ranch Project (Recertification)	Develop 40 residential units including roadways, infrastructure, parking, and other facilities. Project will impact 0.006 ac wetlands and 0.026 acres of waters of the US.	Scotts Valley	Carbonera Creek	N/A	0.032 acre
Laguna County Sanitation District - Martin Wilder	7/15/2014	Laguna County Sanitation District (LCSD) Recycled Waterline Phase 3	To deliver recycled water to end users.	Orcutt	Pine Canyon Creek	N/A	0.038 acre
UC Santa Cruz-Mr. Dean Fitch	7/17/2014	Marine Science Campus Project	To establish and enhance wetlands as mandated by the UC Santa Cruz Marine Science Campus Coastal Long Range Development Plan.	Santa Cruz UCSC Campus	Younger Lagoon	N/A	0.0412 acre
Dan VanBeveren - City of San Luis Obispo	7/17/2014	Toro Street Stream Bank Stabilization Project	Repair the degrading concrete bank stabilization structures within San Luis Obispo Creek to help prevent future damage through the installation of three boulder wing reflectors (or riprap) as well as conduct sediment removal activities.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo Creek	N/A	0.16 acre
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association - Irma Lagomarsino	7/17/2014	Scott Creek Coho Salmon Drought Contingency Plan	To facilitate the adult migration of coho salmon into Scott Creek and smolt coho salmon out to the ocean during periods of drought.	Davenport	Scott Creek	N/A	0.884 acre

^[1] Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

^[2] Low Impact Development (LID) Retention Features are stormwater management structures designed to retain stormwater on-site, such as bioretention cells, infiltration trenches, etc.

Groundwater Protection Section Case Closures [John Robertson 805/542-4630]

Table 3 lists the closure performance for the Underground Tank and Site Cleanup Programs from July 1, 2013, through April 20, 2014.

Table 4 lists the individual sites closed since the start of the fiscal year.]

General Order and Waiver Enrollments [Harvey Packard 805/542-4639]

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.

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Update [Chris Rose 805/542-4770]/ [John Robertson 805/542-4630]

The following information is to update the Board regarding implementation of Agricultural Order No. R3-2012-0011.

ILRP Activities at a Glance

- Effective July 1, 2014, Chris Rose replaced Angela Schroeter as the program manager of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). Angela will supervise a new unit that includes two ILRP staff who are focusing on groundwater-related activities of the Ag Order, such as groundwater coalitions, drinking water exceedances, and follow-up.
- Staff finalized the total nitrogen reporting form, forwarded it to consultants and technical service providers, and posted it on our website.
- ILRP Permit Fees
 - State Board sent 209 invoices in June 2014. State Board followed with 108 late notices that were sent on August 22, 2014. The status of the other 101 include one of the following:
 - Invoice cancelled (operation terminated, demonstrated not required to pay, etc.)
 - Referred back to Central Coast Water Quality Preservation Inc. for billing
 - Invoice paid
- Staff is conducting routine tiering analysis. Improvements in GIS analysis will result in tier change letters to enrollees. To date, we anticipate about 200 tier increases, most of which are from tier 1 to tier 2; this change will require these growers to complete the annual compliance form for the first time by October 1, 2014. Staff is communicating with consultants and technical service providers in anticipation of tier change letters to enrollees.
- Staff continues to follow up on compliance issues. We sent notices of violation for failure to update annual compliance forms. Staff will summarize these notices in the enforcement report consistent with the reporting period for that report.
- Expert Panel: Chapter 1 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2008 (SBX2 1, Perata), required the State Water Board to develop pilot projects focusing on nitrate in groundwater in the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley, and to submit a report to the Legislature on the scope and findings of the pilot projects, including recommendations. The State Water Board made 15 recommendations. Recommendation 14 of the State Water Board's report to the Legislature was to convene a panel of experts (Expert Panel) to assess existing agricultural nitrate control programs and develop recommendations, as needed, to ensure that ongoing efforts are protective of groundwater supply quality. The Expert Panel released a draft report in July. Staff provided written comments to the State Water Board following the public release of the

draft report. The draft report is provided online at the following URL:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/docs/swrcb_ilrp_expert_panel_draft_report.pdf

- Written comments are provided at the following URL:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/comments080714.shtml/

- The Expert Panel discussed the draft report and comments at a meeting held on August 20, 2014, in San Luis Obispo; Central Coast ILRP staff was present. The Expert Panel is currently scheduled to present its final report to State Water Board in Sacramento on September 23-24, 2014.

Items for Discretionary Review by the Regional Board

- The Ag Order identifies discretionary actions by the Executive Officer that are subject to review by the Regional Board. Staff has posted items subject to discretionary review at the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) section of our internet site and will update it quarterly for review. We will notify interested parties of the updates through subscription to a Lyris list.

Discretionary Review items include the following:

- Provision 11 - Approval or denial of a third-party project or program.
 - On August 14, 2014, the Executive Officer approved a pilot project submitted by the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner (SBCAC). The pilot project is specific to application of chlorpyrifos where participating growers will use granular chlorpyrifos under controlled conditions with the objective of having no runoff or toxic effects of the pesticide. The SBCAC will work closely with participating growers and DPR to implement, monitor, and verify effective management practices and use conditions in an effort that could ultimately lead to a SBCAC permit specific to granular chlorpyrifos use. At this time, participation in the pilot project does not trigger a lowering of the tier status of the participating grower; however, once the project is proven successful, the Executive Officer could reconsider this. Staff will include the information surrounding the pilot project in the next update regarding items for discretionary review.
- Part 2 of the MRP – Approval or denial of a cooperative groundwater monitoring programs.
 - On July 3, 2014, Central Coast Water Board staff received a [request](#) from California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) for discretionary review of the following items:
 - Alignment of the coalition's notification process with the Central Coast Water Board's individual monitoring notification process. This item was originally considered as part of the July 31, 2014 Water Board meeting Drinking Water Notification item ([Item No. 13](#)). This hearing was continued to the November 13-14, 2014 Water Board meeting.
 - Consideration of contour mapping as a supplement, not a substitute for the display of individual well location, obscured by ½

mile. The hearing for this item is tentatively scheduled for the January 2015 Water Board meeting.

- We have received no additional new proposals for cooperative groundwater monitoring programs since the last update in the Executive Officer's Report.
- Provision 18 – Approval of a farm to transfer to a lower tier, or requirement of a farm to transfer to a higher tier.
 - Staff will post quarterly tier changes to the discretionary review portion of the ILRP website and will notify interested parties through Iyris list subscription. The current list was updated in July 2014.

Drinking Water Notifications

- Based on results of individual groundwater monitoring, staff continues to issue "Drinking Water Notification" letters to those growers and landowners whose domestic water supply wells exceed the drinking water standard for nitrate or nitrogen.
- As of August 13, 2014, the Water Board has issued approximately 106 drinking water notification letters to growers and landowners who have one or more domestic drinking water wells which exceed the drinking water standard—some farms/ranches have multiple groundwater wells with exceedances.

Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring - Central Coast Groundwater Coalition

- Staff continues to coordinate closely with the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CCGC) to implement cooperative groundwater monitoring program requirements, and develop the data management structure for this relatively new component of the Ag Order. Staff met with CCGC staff on August 21, 2014, regarding, among other topics, reconciling the two drinking water notification processes, in follow up to the July board meeting.
- The CCGC issues drinking water notification letters for growers and landowners who are CCGC members. As of August 7, 2014, the CCGC issued approximately 173 drinking water notification letters to growers and landowners who have one or more domestic drinking water wells which exceed the drinking water standard.

Outreach

- ILRP Manager Chris Rose participated in a three-day California Ag Leadership Exchange in August 2014. The goal of the outreach was information exchange between growers and California regulatory agencies. Chris's host was a grower in the Salinas valley. The host spent much of the first day with Chris touring the host's farming operation. The host also provided housing at his home; Chris spent two evenings with the host and his family. Other activities included touring vegetable processors, vintners, and cattle ranching operations. Chris reports the time was well spent and very informative.
- On August 27, 2014, Groundwater Section manager John Robertson and ILRP staff engineer Hector Hernandez met with CCGC board chairman Tim Borel of Blanco Farms and toured farms throughout the Salinas Valley, learning some of the complexities of farming in various portions of the Salinas. The purpose of this and future meetings is to hear directly from individual CCGC members and listen to their perspectives, such that it can inform how staff works with growers. Water Board staff initiated this meeting and will continue outreach efforts going forward with other CCGC members.
- In August 2014, ILRP staff participated in an outreach effort to Chinese-speaking growers in Morgan Hill. The goal was to help the growers understand Ag Order requirements and help them enroll and update. Consultants provided computers and

translators and ILRP staff provided technical (computer) and translation services to help growers enroll and update at the workshop. About 50 growers participated.

Presentations, Training, and Significant Staff Meetings

Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan Interagency Meeting [Phil Hammer/805-549-3882]

On August 22, 2014, Executive Officer Ken Harris and staff member Phil Hammer attended an interagency meeting for the Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan. The plan will serve to guide long-term improvements to the wharf. The purpose of the meeting was for regulatory agencies to learn about the plan and provide early input. City of Santa Cruz staff provided a description of planned improvements to the wharf, including improved structural stability and greater recreational and educational opportunities. Regulatory agency staff then provided preliminary information on potential issues the plan should address as it moves forward, such as protection of water quality and wildlife, improvement of public access, and other factors. As a follow-up to the meeting, the City of Santa Cruz will organize subsequent meetings with the regulatory agencies to discuss these issues in more detail.

Cambria Emergency Water Supply Project Meeting [Thea Tryon/805-542-4776]

On August 27, 2014, Executive Officer Ken Harris and staff members Harvey Packard, Thea Tryon, Chris Adair, Howard Kolb, and Ryan Lodge attended a meeting to discuss progress on the Cambria emergency water supply project. In attendance were representatives from the Cambria CSD, CDM-Smith (Cambria CSD consultant), Coastal Commission, US Fish and Wildlife, Calif. Fish and Wildlife, County of San Luis Obispo, State Parks, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. CDM-Smith presented an overview of the emergency water supply project and provided details on the hydrology, biological resources, and land use and mitigation measures within the project area. The meeting provided a forum for agencies to ask questions about the various components of the project, share information about permit requirements for the various permits, and discuss next steps.

Attachments

1. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
2. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
3. Table 5 - General Waiver/General Order Enrollment Table