

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8-9, 2018
Prepared on January 9, 2018

ITEM NUMBER: 20

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

STAFF CONTACT: John Robertson 805/549-3140 or John.Robertson@waterboards.ca.gov

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

[Phil Hammer 805/549-3882]

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from October 18, 2017 - December 20, 2017.

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received October 18, 2017 - December 20, 2017

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact ¹	Status
County of Santa Cruz- Damon Adlao	10/18/2017	Felton Public Library Bull Creek Culvert Removal	To remove a culvert from Bull Creek to improve habitat for fish and red-legged frogs and to install two new bridges for the library.	Felton	Santa Cruz	San Lorenzo River	0.309 acres/384 linear feet	Incomplete Application
Caltrans- Karen Holmes	10/19/2017	La Gloria Road Curve Correction	To improve the safety of a segment of State Route 25.	Un-incorporated San Benito County	San Benito	Unnamed intermittent stream	0.032 acres/54.5 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Caltrans- Karen Holmes	11/2/2017	Pismo Creek Scour Repair	To ensure the long-term serviceability of the Pismo Creek Bridge and on-ramp by rehabilitating the embankments and protecting the bridge's piers and columns from further erosion or scour.	Pismo Beach	San Luis Obispo	Pacific Ocean	0.228 acres/222 linear feet	Under Staff Review
PG&E- Brian Spirou	11/2/2017	Willow Creek Crossing	To clean out two culverts in Willow Creek and repair erosional features to improve the long term stability of the access road.	Cayucos	San Luis Obispo	Willow Creek	0.059 acres/275 linear feet	Under Staff Review
AMC Machining, Inc.- Alex Camp	11/21/2017	Alex Camp Crossing	To abandon an existing Arizona crossing and a portion of the existing dirt access road and construct a new 16-foot wide all weather base access road.	Creston	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributaries to the Salinas River	0.023 acres/54 linear feet	Under Staff Review
City of Santa Barbara- Erin Markey	11/30/2017	Arroyo Burro Open Space Restoration	To restore 1400 linear feet of Arroyo Burro and create a wider, more diverse riparian zone with increased access to newly created floodplain habitat.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Arroyo Burro Creek	2.65 acres/1400 linear feet	Incomplete Application

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

401 Water Quality Certifications Issued October 18, 2017 - December 20, 2017

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Includes LID Retention Feature ²	Total Impact ¹
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District- Larry Hampson	11/2/2017	Sleepy Hollow Steelhead Rearing Facility (SHSRF) Raw Water Intake and Water Supply System Upgrade	To maintain and improve the SHSRF's ability to operate and contribute to the restoration and conservation of steelhead populations.	Un-incorporated Monterey County	Monterey	Carmel River	N/A	0.085 acres/114 linear feet
Monterey County RMA- Carl Holm	11/3/2017	Carmel River Interim Sandbar Management	To conduct sandbar management to encourage natural breaching of the sandbar at the mouth of the lagoon to alleviate flood risk.	Carmel-By-The-Sea	Monterey	Pacific Ocean	N/A	0.6 acres/300 linear feet
United Launch Alliance (ULA)- Toby Inboden	11/6/2017	Vandenberg Harbor Maintenance Dredging	To prepare the Vandenberg Harbor for transport of rockets and equipment.	Vandenberg Air Force Base	Santa Barbara	Pacific Ocean at Vandenberg Harbor	N/A	3.5 acres/550 linear feet
Venoco, LLC- Keith Wenal	11/14/2017	Casitas Pier Fender Pile Repair	To replace corroded and damaged fenders to enable safe transfer of personnel and equipment between the pier and vessels.	Carpinteria	Santa Barbara	Pacific Ocean	N/A	0.001 acres/26 linear feet
City of Goleta- Rosemarie Gaglione	11/29/2017	Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement Project	To provide a safe crossing over San Jose Creek along Hollister Ave for vehicles and pedestrians, while maintaining current traffic capacity.	Goleta	Santa Barbara	San Jose Creek	Y	0.6 acres/464 linear feet

^[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.

MONTECITO MUDFLOW AND RESPONSE

[Harvey Packard (805) 542-4639]

Incident Description

On January 8 and 9, 2018, the Montecito area received up to five inches of rain, including 0.54 inches in 5 minutes at one measuring station (estimated to be a 200-500 year event). The rain fell on areas recently severely burned by the Thomas fire. Resulting mudflows caused significant damage and loss of life, including (as of 1/16/18):

- 21 fatalities, 28 injured, and 2 still missing persons
- 30 square miles affected
- 357 single-family residences destroyed or damaged
- 25 commercial structures destroyed or damaged
- Loss of water, wastewater, natural gas, electricity, and other utilities to most parts of Montecito.
- US Highway 101 closed from January 9 to January 21, 2018
- Large amounts of sediment and debris deposited; up to 700,000 yards.

Incident Response

Incident response is coordinated by Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management. Multiple emergency response, resources management, and environmental agencies are involved. Water Board staff is communicating regularly with the incident management (IM) team and participating in daily IM calls. The two primary response agencies Water Board staff interact with are the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District (Flood Control District) and the Montecito Sanitary District (Montecito SD). Water Board areas of assistance include creek, debris basin, and town sediment and debris-removal and disposal permitting, and floodwater

and wastewater disposal via wastewater facilities, along with providing regular updates to internal and external stakeholders including State Water Board and the Central Coast Water Board Chair.

Debris Basin, Town, and Road Cleanup

Several agencies are principally involved in the removal and disposal of sediment and debris resulting from the debris flow: Flood Control District, Caltrans, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Central Coast Water Board staff has been working with each of these agencies to track removal and disposal and permit coverage.

The Flood Control District initially applied for emergency permit coverage on December 13, 2017, to clear debris basins and some channels in response to the Thomas Fire. Central Coast Water Board staff authorized that work under a general emergency 401 Water Quality Certification on December 13, 2017. Following the January 9, 2018 mudflow incident, the Flood Control District applied for emergency permit coverage for removal of debris and sediment in additional areas. As the scope of the debris flow became better understood over the next several days, the Flood Control District expanded its application to cover sediment and debris removal at approximately 11 basins and 10 creeks, as well as disposal of sediment on Carpinteria and Goleta Beaches. These beaches were previously identified for seasonal sand replenishment under separate programs. Material is assessed and debris (i.e., trees and stumps, boulders, waste material, etc.) is removed prior to transport placement on the beaches. As additional work areas and activities have been identified by the Flood Control District, Central Coast Water Board staff has expanded the initial authorization under the general emergency 401 Water Quality Certification, shifting the Flood Control District's response activities to an individual 401 Water Quality Certification on January 19, to cover those additional work areas and activities. Central Coast Water Board staff has been in constant communication with Flood Control District staff and management, and is continuing this coordination to assess monitoring, disposal, and permitting status and alternatives as the situation evolves from the rescue stage to the recovery stage.

Caltrans and the Corps are planning to remove sediment and debris from waterbodies, but are not planning to dispose of material in waterbodies. Caltrans applied for general emergency 401 Water Quality Certification on January 10, 2017, and Central Coast Water Board staff provided authorization on January 12, 2017. Caltrans work in waterbodies will focus at crossings with routes 101, 144, 150, and 192. Caltrans will continue to update staff as more detail about work sites is identified. The Corps has been tasked with a substantial portion of the debris basin and channel clearing previously proposed by the Flood Control District. Central Coast Water Board staff is working with the Corps to get this work permitted.

Effects on Wastewater Facilities

All of the south Santa Barbara County wastewater treatment plants are located on the ocean side of Highway 101, outside of the direct debris flow. On January 8, 2018, Montecito Sanitary District, Carpinteria SD, Summerland SD, and City of Santa Barbara wastewater staff reported that their wastewater treatment plants were operating in compliance with their respective National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. As of the date of this report, Montecito SD's plant has very low inflows because the town remains evacuated. Montecito SD's operator has had to add additional organic loading, in the form of dog food, to the influent to supplement the biological treatment processes at the plant.

Carpinteria SD, Summerland SD, and City of Santa Barbara wastewater staff reported that they experienced some inflow and infiltration into their lift stations due to high groundwater or surface water, but were able to manage their wastewater flows so they have not had any NPDES permit

violations or collection system spills. Carpentaria SD reported that it had a sewer line replacement project in progress and this project site weathered the storm well.

Montecito SD's collection system lines have been buried under the debris flows, and the main water supply line through the community has ruptured. As of the date of this report, Montecito SD has not been able to survey its collection system. It is expected to have suffered significant damage. Montecito SD will survey the system as soon as its staff can get access and will develop a plan to restore service.

Emergency Preparedness

Following the October 2017 Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) and November 2017 Management Coordinating Committee (MCC) meeting discussions regarding the Santa Rosa fire response, MCC tasked the Office of Research, Planning, and Performance (ORPP) with convening a working group (Emergency Response Technical Working Group, or ERTWG) composed of State and Regional Water Board staff to (1) identify and address technical and administrative needs related to improving the Water Boards' emergency response preparedness, with an initial focus on the Water Boards' wildfire emergency response and recovery efforts and (2) develop proposals for statewide actions (e.g., statewide permits). The first ERTWG meeting will be held on February 5, 2018, in Sacramento. Section Manager Thea Tryon serves on the ERTWG for the Central Coast Region. The ERTWG will initially focus on internal collaboration and coordination among the Water Boards and completing the following short-term actions by May 2018:

1. Develop emergency checklists, standardized forms, and guidance documents
2. Identify and provide emergency preparedness and response training
3. Identify technical and administrative needs for emergency response efforts
4. Create "Emergency Preparedness and Response Toolkit" intranet website

Conclusion

The work associated with the Montecito debris flow cleanup is a clear priority for us and for other agencies. At the time of writing of this staff report, the response has required significant Central Coast Water Board staff time during the past two weeks. Two staff have been working full time and four others are working at 30-50 percent on this project, displacing other lower priority work.

We will continue to provide the Board with updates on the Montecito response both as part of this meeting and at subsequent board meetings.

GRANTS PROGRAM -

[Katie McNeill (805) 549-3336]

This report provides an update on grant projects in the region.

The Army National Guard recently announced their 2017 Environmental Award Winners. Camp San Luis Obispo was selected for their work on the Morro Bay Watershed Erosion Prevention Project (Clean Water Act 319[h] Grant # 12-407-553). In partnership with the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, Camp San Luis Obispo improved and repaired 2.3 miles of high country roads, 10 stream crossings, one spring, and seven road drainage discharge points, resulting in an estimated reduction of 570 cubic yards of sediment per year into the Morro Bay Estuary. The resulting reduction in erosion improves water quality, wetland function, and habitat for two federally listed species, while also enhancing military training capabilities in areas of the installation that were previously inaccessible. This project was managed by Howard Kolb and was completed in June 2016. Camp San Luis Obispo will be among the installations competing nation-wide for Secretary of the Army and Secretary of Defense environmental awards.

Grant proposals are currently being solicited for 2018. For more information on the 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program, visit the following website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/319grants.shtml

ILRP: REQUEST LETTER REGARDING RENEWAL TIMEFRAME OF AG ORDER 3.0 AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDER 4.0 [Chris Rose (805) 542-4770]

Background

On December 15, 2017, Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff and Executive Officer John Robertson received an email and attached letter (Attachment 4), sent to the Central Coast Water Board, from Abby Taylor-Silva of Grower Shipper Association. Signatories of the letter included Ms. Taylor-Silva, Norm Groot (Monterey County Farm Bureau), Rick Tomlinson (California Strawberry Commission), Gail Delihant (Western Growers), Claire Wineman (Grower Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties), Kari Fisher (California Farm Bureau Federation), Tom Broz (Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau), Janet Burbach (Santa Clara County Farm Bureau), Anna Negranti (San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau), Parry Klassen (Central Coast Groundwater Coalition) and Kay Mercer (KMI).

The signatories are requesting that the Board "...reassess the current Ag Waiver 3.0 three-year term..." to extend the term to March 2022, rather than the current expiration date of March 2020. The reasons supporting the request are that additional time would be used to reconcile the next Agricultural Order (Ag Order 4.0) with: 1) the precedential components of the State Water Board's East San Joaquin Order (currently in draft form and scheduled for adoption on February 7, 2017), 2) pending court decisions involving the previous Ag Order 2.0 (currently at appellate court stage), 3) antidegradation analysis, and 4) challenges to the current Ag Order 3.0. The signatories suggest that the current expiration of March 2020 could result in a "...less than thoughtful adoption" and "...rushed patchwork regulation" of Ag Order 4.0.

All of the above cited uncertainties existed during the development and adoption of Ag Order 3.0 and we anticipate that these and/or other challenges and uncertainties will continue to exist for the foreseeable future. In light of this reality, staff recommends continuing on the present timeline and project scope for the development of Ag Order 4.0. Central Coast Water Board staff developed a well-thought out plan and schedule for Ag Order 4.0, informed by stakeholders and vetted by the Board at the September 2017 meeting. ILRP staff and staff across multiple other Water Board programs are working on preliminary options and associated assessments of those options with the intent to bring these analyses to the Board at the June 2018 meeting. We have data and information necessary to make informed decisions about protecting water quality. We also continue to closely track development of the East San Joaquin Order, particularly the precedential portions of this draft order, as well as the other cases mentioned. Therefore, we plan to continue moving forward with the development of Ag Order 4.0 to improve water quality based on existing data and information. The Board controls the process and timeline for the existing and new Ag Orders and can revisit decisions as needed.

Attachments

1. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
2. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
3. Table 5 - Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers
4. Letter from Abby Taylor-Silva dated 12/15/17