

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2020

Prepared on September 3, 2020

ITEM NUMBER: 16

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

STAFF CONTACTS: Matt Keeling 805/549-3140
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ACTION: Information/Discussion

COVID-19 UPDATE

We began implementing our Return to Office Plan (phase one) on September 1, 2020 with a limited number of staff returning to the office on a mix of fixed and rotating schedules. Per CalEPA guidance to maintain a minimum 75% telework rate and maintain appropriate social distancing, only 15 staff are allowed to be the office at any given time. This includes a mix of essential staff and staff voluntarily requesting to return to the office. The plan includes specific healthy workplace measures and protocols such as general hygiene and disinfection procedures, maximum room occupancies, ingress and egress traffic flows, social distancing, face covering expectations, COVID reporting and tracking guidelines, etc. consistent with statewide public health and human resources guidelines. The plan also includes links to specific travel and field work guidance and protocol documents. Based on CalEPA guidance, it is anticipated that teleworking and virtual meeting requirements will continue through December 31, 2020 unless directed differently in response to changes associated with the COVID pandemic. It has been nice seeing [masked] faces in the office again.

GRANT PROGRAM

Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant Associated with the 2017 Thomas Fire and Subsequent Debris Flow:

[Katie McNeill (805) 549-3336]

The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program Review Committee approved grants state-wide for the 2020 funding cycle, including a post-fire recovery grant associated with the 2017 Thomas Fire in the Central Coast Region. The Grant Program Review Committee is composed of staff from the US EPA, State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), and one representative from each Regional Water Board.

Central Coast Water Board staff assisted with the solicitation, development, and selection of the post-fire recovery project as part of a competitive state-wide process.

Funding for this grant comes from the 2020 319(h) funding cycle and was approved by the State Water Board in May 2020. This grant will be managed by Central Coast Water Board staff.

Project: Carpinteria Creek Sediment Reduction and Habitat Enhancement Project

Grantee: Earth Island Institute/South Coast Habitat Restoration

Project Description: Project addresses road-derived sedimentation and bank erosion, enhances floodplains, and restores riparian vegetation in order to improve habitat for the anadromous Southern California Steelhead Trout on Carpinteria Creek (a high-quality water). Project targets priority sites identified in the 319(h)-funded Carpinteria Creek Watershed Plan developed in response to the 2017 Thomas Fire and subsequent debris flow.

CWA 319(h) Total Project Amount: \$798,653

Approximately \$4M is available annually for state-wide CWA 319(h) grants. For more information on the CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program, visit the State Water Board website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/.

For a list of current and recently completed grants managed by staff, see the Central Coast Water Board's Grants Program webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/grants/open_and_completed_grants#319h.html.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Please see the following standard attachments.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Table 1 - 401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received
2. Table 2 - 401 Water Quality Certifications Issued
3. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
4. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
5. Table 5 - Enrollments In General Orders/Waivers

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