

Napa River and Sonoma Creek Conditional Grazing Waiver

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Regional Water Quality Control Board

Today's Presentation

- ◆ Background
- ◆ Elements of Conditional Grazing Waiver
- ◆ California Environmental Quality ACT (CEQA)
- ◆ Next Steps

Napa River and Sonoma Creek Conditional Grazing Waiver

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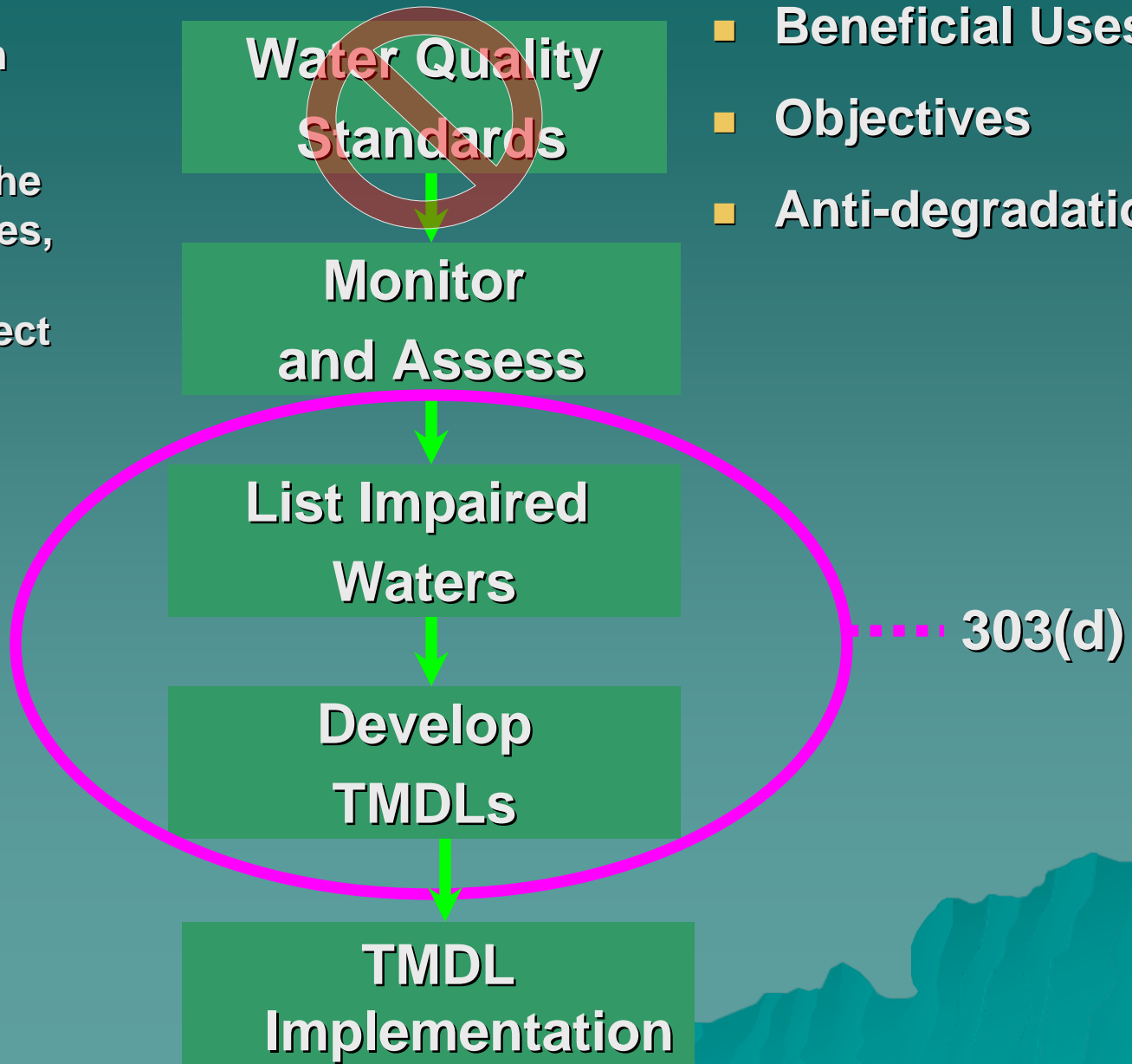
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TMDLs and 303(d) Listing Process

➤ Total Maximum Daily Load –
Assessment of the problems, sources, and remedies to restore and protect water quality in individual water bodies

➤ Allocates pollutant loads to sources



Napa River and Sonoma Creek TMDL Status

Waterway	Pollutant / Stressor	Associated Action / Status
Napa River	Nutrients Pathogens Sediment	Under evaluation TMDL complete (2008) TMDL complete (2011)
Sonoma Creek	Nutrients Pathogens Sediment	Under evaluation TMDL complete (2008) TMDL complete (2010)

Why me?

Sources of sediment include –

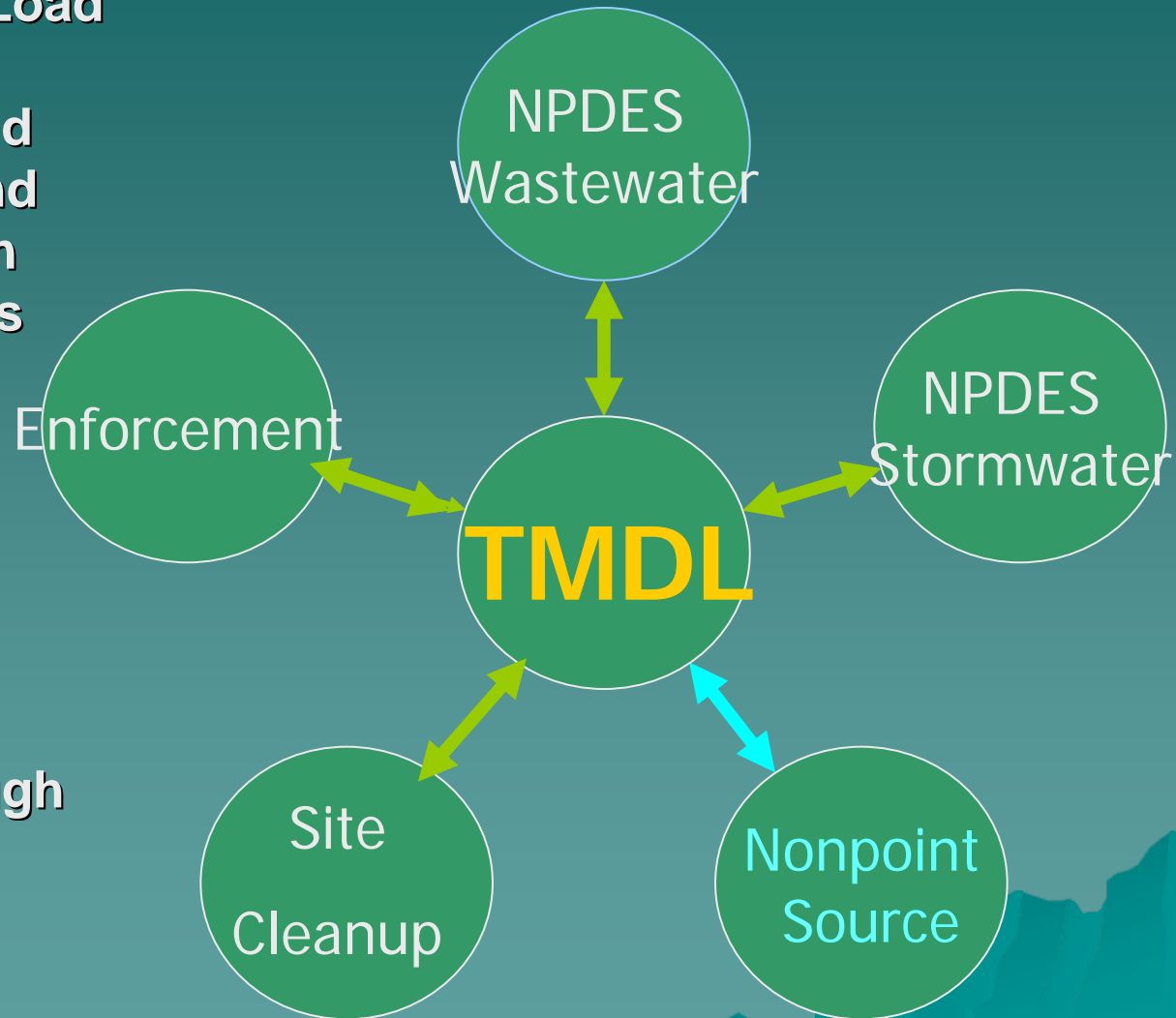
- Vineyards – Vineyard operators
- **Grazing – Ranchers (landowners and lessees)**
- Rural lands (roads) – Rural landowners
- Parks and Open Space/ Municipal Public Works – County stormwater agencies, CA Dept. of Parks and Rec., Caltrans, County transportation and public works
- Urban lands
 - Construction stormwater runoff
 - Industrial stormwater runoff
 - Municipal stormwater runoff
 - State highway stormwater runoff

Sources of pathogens include –

- On-site sewage disposal systems – Napa and Sonoma County
- **Grazing lands – Ranchers (landowners and lessees)**
- Confined animal facilities – Operators of confined animal facilities
- Municipal stormwater runoff – County stormwater agencies
- Municipal waste water treatment discharges - County sanitation districts

How is a TMDL Implemented?

- Total Maximum Daily Load
 - Assessment of the problems, sources, and remedies to restore and protect water quality in individual water bodies
- Allocates loads to sources
- Implemented across Board programs through permits



Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution

- ◆ Pollution discharged over a large land area – not one specific location
- ◆ May include:
 - Sediment
 - Pathogens
 - Nutrients, or
 - other organic or toxic substances

Why a Permit?

- ◆ **Policy for the Implementation and Enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program**
 - Explains how NPS program will be implemented and enforced – meet California Water Code
 - Any person discharging or proposing to discharge waste that could affect water quality must file a report of waste discharge (RoWD) with the Water Board
 - Water Board evaluates RoWD information and determines appropriate action to take:
 - ◆ Waste Discharge Requirements
 - ◆ General Waste Discharge Requirements
 - ◆ **Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements**

Background

- ◆ Napa River/Sonoma Creek TMDLs
- ◆ Tomales Bay Grazing Waiver (2008)



Grazing Operations

◆ Definition:

- Animals are fed or kept at least 45 days in any 12 month period
- Vegetation for forage is sustained during the normal growing season

◆ Eligibility:

- Large operations (100 Acres +) or threat to water quality
- No dairies

Elements of the Conditional Grazing Waiver

- ◆ Waiver Conditions
- ◆ Notice of Intent/Notice of Termination
- ◆ Ranch Plan
- ◆ Compliance Monitoring & Reporting

Waiver Conditions

- ◆ Minimize water pollution from sediment, pathogens, and nutrients



Waiver Conditions

- Manage manure to avoid runoff to waterbodies
- Manage animal use areas
- Manage ranch roads to minimize erosion
- Manage grazing to minimize additional erosion from gullies
- Design and manage animal crossings to reduce polluted runoff

Forms

Notice of Intent

- 2-page form
- Certifies intent to comply with waiver conditions

Notice of Termination

- Operations have ceased
- New owners

**ATTACHMENT A
GRAZING WAIVER NOTICE OF INTENT**

SECTION I. FACILITY OPERATOR INFORMATION

Name: _____		Contact E-mail: _____
Mailing Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Contact Person: _____		Contact Phone: _____

SECTION II. LANDOWNER INFORMATION (IF OPERATOR IS NOT THE OWNER)

Name: _____		Contact E-mail: _____
Mailing Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Contact Person: _____		Contact Phone: _____

SECTION III. FACILITY INFORMATION * Please fill out an additional sheet if Ranch Lands are not contiguous

A. Facility Name: _____		County: _____
Mailing Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Contact Person: _____		Contact Phone: _____
Provide Latitude and Longitude only if facility does not have a valid street address	Decimal minutes/seconds Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____	Decimal Form _____
B. Total Size of land: _____ animals	C. Operation Type: (check one) 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Cattle 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Goat 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list)	D. Start & End Date of Current Operations: ____/____/____ ____/____/____

SECTION IV. ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Send Correspondence to Facility Operator Mailing Address (Section I) Landowner Mailing Address (Section II)

SECTION V. RECEIVING WATER INFORMATION

Does your facility's clean storm water flow directly and/or eventually into waters of the State such as a stream, river, lake, irrigation flows, ocean, etc?
 Yes No
If yes, name the receiving waterbody: _____

May 2008

Ranch Plan

◆ Contents

- No public access
- Self directed

- Map and inventory of physical features

- Inventory of animals on the property

PASTURE/FIELD ASSESSMENT (required and kept on-site)

The following questions are intended to help assess ranch/farm water quality and potential sources of pollution in the watershed. It is important to note that identified pollution sources may not be caused by current livestock grazing activities. This assessment is intended to be used on each pasture/field utilized for agricultural production purposes on the ranch/farm. Multiple fields or the entire ranch may be assessed at once. Describe the condition and pasture/field location. Note any recorded problem conditions as caused by: Current livestock management (C), a Historic legacy site (H), or Natural causes (N).

Question	Potential Source	Describe Condition & Location (pasture/field)	Cause (C, H, or N)
SEDIMENT			
RANGELAND & PASTURE/CROP FIELDS			
Bare soil visible throughout the rainy season?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Rill or sheet erosion present?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Gullies, slumps, or headcuts present?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
ROADS			
Surface erosion present on road(s) (rills, gullies)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Culverts or ditches cause gullies or erosion?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Sediment fills drainage ditches after winter?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
NUTRIENTS AND PATHOGENS			
LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION			
Storm runoff from corrals connects to stream?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Corrals used throughout the winter?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Feeding, salting, or watering areas near stream?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Do livestock congregate in the stream?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
MANURE MANAGEMENT			
Manure stockpile runoff connects to stream?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Manure applied to pasture less than 2 weeks before a runoff generating rain storm?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Manure applied to pastures is stored (aged) less than one month?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
MERCURY (for Walker Creek & Arroyo Sausal and Salmon Creek just upstream of the confluence)			
Floodplain soil disturbed, tilled, or eroding?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable		
Stock ponds or sediment basins on the floodplain?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable		

Ranch Water Quality Plan & Compliance Monitoring 11

Ranch Plan

◆ Contents

- Detailed description of existing best management practices
- Detailed description of future projects to reduce polluted runoff
- Schedule for completion

FUTURE WATER QUALITY PROJECTS (required and kept on-site)

List all future potential water quality concerns on the ranch/farm with the expected pollutants from each. A concern does not indicate that livestock grazing or current management caused it. This includes locations where your current maintenance prevents problems such as maintaining ranch roads following winter storms. Consider multiple options for fixing water quality concerns such as implementing new practices, and changing management or maintenance routines. Estimate the approximate cost of each option as well as the amount of time needed to conduct maintenance. Give each project a priority, relative to other potential projects, indicating preferred order implementing the project. Assignment of priority recognizes that the availability of financial and technical assistance determines when work is done. List the steps taken to plan for the project including participation in technical & financial assistance programs (ranch visits, meetings, applications, expected contract dates, etc). Use additional sheets if needed.

Water Quality Concern		Location (pasture/field)	Options for Maintenance, Management Changes, or Practice(s) to Implement	Estimate Cost of Each Option	Priority	Implementation Planning
#	Describe					

Ranch Water Quality Plan & Compliance Monitoring 14

Compliance Monitoring & Reporting

- ◆ No Water Sampling

- ◆ Visual Inspections

- 2X during dry season

- Monthly during wet season or

- Before and after anticipated storm event

- Verify that BMPs are in place

Compliance Monitoring & Reporting

◆ Annual Report

- Dates of visual inspections
- Description of any current or potential WQ problems
- Schedule for improvements
- Signature

ANNUAL CERTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE MONITORING DOCUMENTATION (required and must be submitted)

This ranch/farm is in compliance with the Grazing Operations Waiver Program (Conditional Waiver in the Tomales Bay Watershed, R2-2008-0054).

Farm/Ranch Name:	Phone:
Mailing address or P.O. Box:	City, State and Zip Code:
List all Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) or legal description (Township, Range, Sections) for each parcel, pasture, or silage field included in this plan:	

Ranch Plan (check one)

- A Ranch Water Quality Plan was completed in ____ (year) and will be updated in ____ (year).
 The Ranch Water Quality Plan is expected to be finished in ____ (year).

Compliance Monitoring Inspections (fill-in dates of monitoring inspections were completed)

- 1) Wet season inspections conducted on: Dec _____ Jan _____ Feb _____
 March _____ April _____
- 2) Dry season inspections occurred on: June _____ Sept _____
- 3) Survey of stream(s) below and above ranch facility completed on: _____
- 4) Are further management practices needed to improve water quality? Yes No Not Sure

If yes is indicated in question 4, list any new potential water quality projects identified during ranch or stream inspections and describe planned or implemented fixes and any maintenance. Use additional pages if needed.

Date	Location (Pasture/ Field)	Describe Water Quality Concern	Notes (action taken, success, & future needs)

Completed by: Landowner Tenant Other _____

(Print name) _____

(Signature) _____ (Date) _____

Phone #: _____

**Make copies for landowner & tenant.
Mail completed form before November 15 to:**
 San Francisco Bay RWQCB
 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
 Oakland, CA 94612
 ATTN: Grazing Operations Waiver Program

Documentation

Submitted to Water Board:

- Notice of Intent
- Annual Report
- Notice of Termination

Remains on site:

- Ranch Plan

Grazing Waiver Process/Next Steps

1. Draft Conditional Waiver and supporting documents – available for review:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/grazing/index.shtml
2. Public review and written comments – 30-day review period ends July 26, 2011
3. Water Board hearing for waiver approval – September 14, 2011
4. Submit NOI – November 2011
5. Complete Ranch Plan – November 2012

For more information...

- **Napa River Sediment TMDL**
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/napariver_sedimenttmdl.shtml
- **Napa River Pathogen TMDL**
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/napariver_pathogen_tmdl.shtml
- **Sonoma Creek Sediment TMDL**
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/sonomacrk_sedimenttmdl.shtml
- **Sonoma Creek Pathogen TMDL**
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/sonomacrk_pathogen_tmdl.shtml
- **Tomales Bay Grazing Waiver**
http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2008/R2-2008-0054.pdf



Napa River and Sonoma Creek Conditional Grazing Waiver

Initial Study/Negative Declaration

Environmental Review Process

- ◆ A Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) that applies to new facilities is a “Project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- ◆ S.F. Regional Water Quality Control Board is Lead Agency

CEQA Requires Identification of:

- ◆ Potential adverse environmental impacts of the project
- ◆ Mitigation Measures to reduce the severity of potential impacts
- ◆ Full public disclosure of documents and decision-making process

Environmental issues considered in the Checklist

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural resources
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Geology/soils
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Hazards & hazardous materials
- Water quality and hydrology
- Land use/planning
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Population/housing
- Public services
- Recreation
- Transportation/traffic
- Utilities/service delivery systems

Environmental issues

◆ Air Quality

- Dust due to grading and earth moving activities

◆ Biological Resources

- Potential impacts while doing work in creeks
- Movement of wildlife

Environmental issues

- ◆ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - Emissions from heavy construction equipment
- ◆ Geology/Soils
 - Potential erosion during grading
- ◆ Hydrology/Water Quality
 - Potential impacts while doing work in creeks

Questions ?

