

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
NORTH COAST REGION**

Intraoffice Communication

To: File **Date:** 8/24/2001
From: David Leland
Subject: Stemple Creek CWA Section 303d listing history

This memo is intended to capture information regarding the history of the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listings of Stemple Creek and Estero de San Antonio, and to suggest a modification to the current stressors shown for these waterbodies to reflect the intent of staff and the observed threats to the beneficial uses of these waterbodies.

Stemple Creek and Estero de San Antonio were first proposed for listing in the 1990 listing cycle. The original fact sheet developed during that listing cycle identified sedimentation, low dissolved oxygen, and high ammonia from nonpoint source discharges as having impaired fish and wildlife habitat, and associated beneficial uses. At the time, the 303(d) list identified waterbodies as impaired but was not explicit about stressors associated with the impairments.

During the 1996?? listing cycle, specific stressors associated with impairments to particular waterbodies were included in the 303(d) list. At that time, Stemple Creek and Estero de San Antonio were listed as impaired for nutrients. This constitutes a condensation of the dissolved oxygen and ammonia concerns into a single stressor. The sedimentation problem was inadvertently not included as a stressor.

That not including sedimentation was inadvertent is supported by the Total Maximum Daily Load and Attainment Strategy for the Stemple Creek Watershed, prepared by Dennis Salisbury and approved by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on December 11, 1997. This document identifies excessive sediment as a stressor causing impairment, quantifies sediment yield from the watershed, associates sediment discharges with management activities in the watershed, quotes Basin Plan narrative standards for sediment, analyzes the sources of increased sediment yield in the watershed, includes numeric targets for sediment yield, sets a TMDL for sediment, and allocates responsibility for reduced sediment yields, includes an implementation plan for reducing soil erosion, and proposes a monitoring plan that includes sediment. In other words, all of the elements of the TMDL process are addressed.

Regional Board staff recommend amending the current Section 303(d) list to include sediment as a stressor adversely affecting beneficial uses in the watershed, consistent with the original intent of the listing and with the existing approved TMDL for the watershed.