

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

Prepared on August 1, 2003

ITEM NO: 26

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

Brief discussion of some items of interest to the Board follows. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

Watershed and Cleanup Branch Reports

**REGULATION SUMMARY OF
JUNE/JULY 2003**

[Corinne Huckaby 805/549-3504]

Orders

Reports of Waste Discharge Received	10
Requirements Pending	79
Inspections Made	5
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (WB)	254
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (CB)	16
Stormwater Reports Reviewed	303

Enforcement

Non-Compliance Letters Sent:	
NPDES Program	2
Non-Chapter 15 WDR Program	11
Chapter 15 Program	0
Unregulated	0
Stormwater	4
CAOs Issued	0
ACL Complaints	2

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Corinne Huckaby 805/549-3504]

In general, staff recommends "Standard Certification" when the applicant proposes adequate mitigation. Measures included in the application must assure that beneficial uses will be protected, and water quality standards will be met.

Conditional Certification is appropriate when a project may adversely impact surface water quality. Conditions allow the project to proceed under an Army Corps permit, while upholding water quality standards.

Staff will recommend "No Action" when no discharge or adverse impacts are expected. Generally, a project must provide beneficial use and habitat enhancement for no action to be taken by the Regional Board. A chart on the following page lists applications received from June 7, 2003 to August 8, 2003.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM JUNE 7, 2003 THROUGH AUGUST 8, 2003

County	Date Received	Applicant	Project Description	Receiving Water	Project Location	Action Taken
Monterey	July 3, 2003	King Ranch, LLC	King Ranch, LLC	Ranchito Canyon Ck	Southern Monterey Co.	Pending
	July 9, 2003	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District	Monterey Peninsula Horizontal Directional Drilling Feasibility Testing	Monterey Bay	Sand City	Incomplete
	July 9, 2003	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District	Monterey Peninsula HDD Feasibility Testing	Pacific Ocean	Sand City	Incomplete
	August 7, 2003	Fort Ord Reuse Authority	Demolition of Drainage Outfall Structures	Monterey Bay	former Fort Ord property	Pending
	August 7, 2003	Cannery Row Marketplace	Ocean View Plaza Desal Facility Intake/Outfall Installation	Monterey Bay	Monterey	Standard Certification (supplements 7/99 cert)
San Benito	July 14, 2003	County of San Benito	Nash Road Bridge Replacement Over San Benito River	San Benito River	Near City of Hollister	Pending
San Luis Obispo	June 16, 2003	ConocoPhillips	Line 400 Dent Repair - San Luis Obispo Creek	San Luis Obispo Creek	San Luis Obispo	Pending
	June 18, 2003	CVM Properties LLC	Culvert Replacement Parcel #046-221-050	Unnamed tributary to Morro Creek	South of Atascadero	Incomplete
	June 26, 2003	John Swift	Los Osos Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration	Los Osos Creek	Rural Los Osos	Pending
	June 30, 2003	City of San Luis Obispo	Mission Plaza Bank Walkway Wall	San Luis Obispo Creek	San Luis Obispo	Pending
	June 30, 2003	Morro Bay State Park	South Bay Boulevard Road Removal	Morro Bay Estuary	between Morro Bay and Los Osos	Pending
	July 8, 2003	Paso Robles Vineyards	Paso Robles Vineyards Culvert Installation and Road Construction	Huerhuero Creek	Paso Robles	Pending
	July 9, 2003	Cambria Community Services District	Cambria Cross Town Trail	Santa Rosa Creek	Cambria	Pending
	July 25, 2003	San Luis Obispo Coast District	Culvert Removal at Estero Bluffs State Property	Morro Bay Estuary	2 miles North of Cayucos	Pending
	August 1, 2003	Weyrich Development	Santa Ysabel Ranch Turtle Pond Enhancement	Salinas River	Paso Robles	Pending
	Santa Barbara	June 16, 2003	Channel Islands YMCA	Santa Barbara YMCA - Creek Band Restoration	San Roque Creek into Arroyo Burro	Santa Barbara
June 24, 2003		CalTrans	Santa Barbara Wingwall Stabilization	unnamed drainage into Mission Creek Watershed	Santa Barbara City	Incomplete
July 1, 2003		Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	Sanja Cota Avenue, Bridge and Domestic Waterline Improvement	Zanja de Cota Creek	Santa Ynez Indian Reservation	Pending

	July 3, 2003	Union Pacific Railroad, Western Division	Union Pacific Railroad Milepost 325.03 Culvert Clean-Out	Pacific Ocean	Near Hollister Ranch	Pending
	August 4, 2003	Santa Barbara County Flood Control District	Updated Debris Santa Barbara Basin Maintenance Plan	Various	Santa Barbara	Pending
Santa Cruz	June 11, 2003	CalTrans	Santa Cruz Sediment Removal	Little Baldwin Creek	Near Santa Cruz	Pending
	June 13, 2003	City of Watsonville	Watsonville Sloughs Trail Master Plan	Pajaro River and Pacific Ocean	Watsonville	Pending
	June 13, 2003	CalTrans	Santa Cruz Highway Interchange Merge Lanes	Branciforte and Carbonera Creeks	Santa Cruz	Pending
	June 20, 2003	Mount Hermon Assoc.	Mount Hermon Assoc. Dam Improvement Project	Zayante Creek flows into San Lorenzo River	Mount Hermon	Pending
	June 30, 2003	Coast Dairies and Land Co.	Yellow Bank Dam Spillway Repair	Yellow Bank Creek	Davenport	Pending
	July 25, 2003	Santa Cruz Port District	South Harbor Launch Ramp Refurbishment	Santa Cruz Harbor and Pacific Ocean	Santa Cruz	Pending
	August 4, 2003	Lompico Watershed Conservancy	Old Lompico Pool Fish Passage and Improvement	Lompico Creek	Lompico/Felton	Pending

WATERSHED BRANCH REPORTS

Status Reports

Power Plant Evidence and Analysis; Preparation and Presentation [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

The Chair and Vice Chair asked for an opportunity for the Board to relay to staff any expectations for future power plant permitting items, in light of the Board's recent experience with power plant permit deliberations. Therefore, Board members should give this issue some thought prior to the meeting, and be prepared to discuss what has been good about previous power plant staff preparation and presentations, and what could be improved. One Board member has already indicated that he would like staff to consider the following when presenting mitigation or "offset" proposals that have to do with watershed protection and enhancement:

If land is proposed for enhancement or protection, what and how much land is really available in the watershed, what is its character, and how much

"offset" does it provide? What is the true restoration value from each candidate area?

Likely follow-up questions/information would be:

How much of a nexus is there between such lands and the power plant impacts?

Similar information (per above questions) would be helpful for any intertidal and subtidal areas that are under consideration (e.g., restoration of eel grass areas).

Institute Golf Course, Morgan Hill [Kimberly Gonzalez 805/549-3150]

The 192-acre Institute Golf Course is located on the southeast Corner of Maple Avenue and Foothill Avenue, Morgan Hill, in Santa Clara County.

The Institute (discharger) is enrolled in the State's General NPDES Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (General Permit). Construction reportedly commenced at the site in March 1998, approximately two years before they enrolled in

the General Permit in January 2000. The site is almost entirely built, except for construction of a 59,000-square-foot American Institute of Mathematics headquarters building (to replace an old restaurant), and an on-site bridge and culvert.

The golf course was constructed without satisfying California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. In January 2003, the City of Morgan Hill issued a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the completed golf course and pending construction of the headquarters building. The discharger's consultants later submitted their own report and proposals, which differ from and have not been incorporated in the Draft EIR. Regional Board staff commented on the Draft EIR during the review period and supported designating the 'Reduced Impact Alternative' as the preferred project. Regional Board staff expressed the need for public review of the discharger's documents if they are to be considered in the EIR. The City of Morgan Hill has not responded to comments, and is planning to submit a revised Draft EIR.

A site inspection on February 6, 2003, revealed the absence of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, which is a violation of the General Permit. The Regional Board could pursue penalties in accordance with California Water Code Section 13385 for the discharger's failure to have and implement a SWPPP. Regional Board staff sent a Notice of Violation, and the discharger subsequently developed and submitted a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

The Institute Golf Course began construction without appropriate permits, project review, and/or approvals from the Regional Board, Santa Clara Valley Water District, the City of Morgan Hill, California Department of Fish and Game, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the Committee for Green Foothills submitted a complaint dated July 10, 2003 (attached), regarding the Institute's violations of environmental regulations. Issues such as high nitrate levels in underlying and downgradient groundwater must be further investigated before it can be determined whether or not the Institute Golf Course is responsible. Regional Board staff is investigating these issues

and is preparing a response to the July 10, 2003 complaint. Regional Board staff will require the discharger to monitor onsite surface waters and underlying groundwater, and data collected from this monitoring will help identify and quantify current water quality impacts.

Staff from the Regional Board, Santa Clara Valley Water District, the City of Morgan Hill, California Department of Fish and Game, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service met on July 30, 2003, to discuss the July 10, 2003 complaint and the property owner's request to the City for a temporary use permit. The City asked each agency's perspective about granting the discharger's request for a temporary use permit. Regional Board staff responded that from strictly a water quality perspective, underlying groundwater and onsite creeks would benefit if golf course fertilization and pesticide application ceased, and irrigation and mowing were minimized. The City suggested agencies prepare a list of conditions that could be included in a temporary use permit that would mitigate impacts. Regional Board staff pointed out that impacts and mitigation measures have not been identified, reviewed by the public, and approved through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. Mitigation measures developed now (outside the CEQA process) for inclusion in a temporary use permit may not adequately protect the public and the environment. On August 6, 2003, the City requested a list of conditions for a temporary use permit from Regional Board staff. Staff is preparing a written response to the City's request, which will reiterate staff's comments during the meeting.

Update on City of Pacific Grove Wastewater Collection System [Matt Thompson 805/549-3159]

At the May 2003 meeting, the Regional Board requested an update on efforts to improve the City of Pacific Grove's wastewater collection system. In response, staff sent a letter to the City on June 13, 2003. A copy of the letter is included as **Attachment No. 1**. The letter points out an apparent lack of adequate expenditures for collection system improvements called for in a City-commissioned Capital Improvement Plan.

The letter asked the City to:

- Clarify if the City has developed a new, more precise, capital improvement program;
- Provide documentation of an assessment the City is undertaking to prioritize improvements;
- Clarify if the City has developed written criteria for determining whether or not repair or replacement is necessary;
- Provide verification that adequate sewer capacity is available for a proposed senior housing project;
- Provide an update on grease control efforts; and
- Provide an update on development of the Sewer System Management Plan that is required by Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2002-0078.

The City of Pacific Grove submitted the following responses on August 4, 2003. A copy of the letter is included as **Attachment No. 2**.

- The City has not developed a new capital improvement program, but is conducting a comprehensive assessment of the collection system to obtain information necessary to develop a more appropriate program.
- 100% of the collection system has been smoke tested and 80,000 lineal feet (or more than 25% of the entire system) has been cleaned and videotaped to date. As a result, multiple sources of infiltration and inflow into the collection system have been discovered and owners are being asked to eliminate the sources.
- Written criteria for determining whether or not repair or replacement is needed are still pending. The City's approach has been to replace sewer lines in areas of greatest concern with larger diameter lines (Note: staff interprets this to mean much of the collection system remains undersized and in need of replacement).
- The City's Public Works Director/City Engineer has determined that the collection system has capacity for the proposed 49-unit senior housing project. Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) has questioned the ability of the receiving pump station to handle the additional flow. If the pumps need to be upgraded to accommodate the additional flow, the senior housing project will be required to pay for it.

- 100% of grease-producing food service establishments have installed grease removal equipment. Annual inspections continue to ensure this equipment is properly cleaned and maintained. An extensive public education program continues. City staff continues meeting with local plumbers to discuss grease control efforts and collection system improvements.
- The City has been meeting regularly with other sewerage entities that are members of MRWPCA, to collaborate on development of the required Sewer System Management Plan (due November 1, 2004).

The City emphasizes they are committed to preventing any sewage from entering Monterey Bay. On August 4, 2003, the City began construction of a dry-weather stormwater diversion project at Lovers Point, which will capture dry-weather storm sewer flows, including any sewage spills, and divert it to the sanitary sewer system. The City expects to receive additional grant funding for the second phase of the project, which will expand the captured area to 500 acres, including the oldest portions of the City's collection system.

Staff will continue working closely with the City to ensure they continue their efforts to improve their collection system. City representatives plan to attend the September 12, 2003 meeting to address any Regional Board questions or concerns.

On a related note, the following summary of our sewage spill records demonstrates continued improvement in the total volume of sewage spilled each year since 2000.

Year	Spills for Which the City is Responsible	Approx. Volume Sewage Spilled (gal.)	Beach Closures or Advisories
2003 (as of 8/1)	1	30	1
2002	12	1,600	2
2001	12	2,500	4
2000	10	75,300	4

CLEANUP BRANCH REPORTS

Status Reports

Santa Cruz Landfill, Santa Cruz County [David Athey 805/542-4644]

Regional Board staff recently approved additional groundwater corrective action for the Santa Cruz Landfill. The corrective action is for a Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) release near the landfill's Material Recovery Facility. The release is suspected to be caused by landfill gas that is migrating toward the property boundary. The Discharger will construct a 1150 foot-long and 25 foot-deep interceptor trench to capture both landfill gas and contaminated groundwater. In addition, the City will be installing two additional groundwater wells to provide additional groundwater data.

The extracted landfill gas will be scrubbed of non-methane VOC and hydrogen sulfide then vented to the atmosphere. Groundwater entering the trench will flow by gravity to the existing leachate collection system ponds, where it will be pumped to the City's wastewater treatment plant. Regional Board staff will periodically review the systems effectiveness to ensure the system is operated and maintained.

Underground Tanks Summary Report dated July 30, 2003 [John Goni 805/542-4628 and Burton Chadwick 805/542-4786]

[See Attachment No. 3]

REGIONWIDE REPORTS

Regional Monitoring and Basin Planning [Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

Monitoring Activities

New funds for watershed monitoring are not materializing for the next year, so Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) staff plan to spend time in the upcoming months updating the 305(b) Water Quality Assessment report in a comprehensive manner, and using this as a basis

for a standardized reporting format. We also will be working on several fronts to build our program through better coordination with other data gathering programs. To this end, we have new language in our lab contract requiring that all data be reported in the standardized electronic format now being required for groundwater data only. We are working with staff on agricultural and timber waiver monitoring requirements, to strategize ways to ensure that monitoring conducted by these programs will be coordinated with the CCAMP strategy. We will also work more closely with grant managers, to ensure that data gathered through implementation monitoring is captured in our database and is of the highest possible quality.

We have provided Tetrtech (USEPA contractors) with the entire five-year CCAMP database, and have also met with them to demonstrate our new "biostimulatory risk" tool. Tetrtech will be developing nutrient criteria for the State of California. CCAMP provides one of the few comprehensive databases in the State for evaluating nutrients relative to associated impacts like algal growth, chlorophyll a concentration, oxygen depression, and benthic invertebrate community composition. Our data will be important in development and testing of the proposed criteria. The biostimulatory risk tool combines a variety of different measurements into a single value, which represents relative nutrient impact at a given site. We have asked staff in the Watershed Assessment group to assist us in testing the tool to validate its performance, and intend to use it to assess relative nutrient impairment in our assessment reports.

Staff attended the California Critical Coastal Areas meeting held by Coastal Commission and State Board staff. This program will select a watershed in our Region from a list of identified Critical Coastal Areas. The designated areas are primarily our major river mouths (with the exception of the Santa Maria River), and were selected because of presence of sensitive habitat designations in combination with TMDL listings. The program will focus on watershed protection issues and will help direct various grant funds towards the selected watershed.

Karen Worcester has been selected to participate on the Advisory Council for the Center for Integrative Coastal Observation, Research, and Education (CI-CORE). CI-CORE involves several State Universities along the central and north coast of California, working together to build a coordinated monitoring network, particularly focusing on hyperspectral imagery, moored instrumentation collecting real-time data, side-scan sonar, and other technologically advanced tools. The first Advisory Council meeting was held on June 26th. The program emphasizes the need to provide relevant data to decision-makers, and a great deal of time was spent at this meeting discussing what the most important data needs are for management and regulatory agencies, particularly the Regional Board and the Department of Fish and Game.

CCAMP staff served as volunteer staffing for a Plumes and Blooms research cruise in the Santa Barbara Channel. This program is organized through U.C. Santa Barbara and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Once every two weeks instruments are deployed along a seven-station transect across the Channel. Measurements collected include temperature, salinity, ocean color spectra and water column profiles of red light transmission and chlorophyll fluorescence. These latter two measurements provide indices of suspended particulate load and phytoplankton abundance. This data will ultimately be tied to satellite imagery to develop numeric models linking ocean color to water conditions in the Channel.

CCAMP staff met with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMON) team. This program facilitates ecological research by releasing focused Requests for Proposals on monitoring and research topics of interest to the Sanctuary. It also will be developing a geographically linked website which will provide information on research and monitoring information that is available throughout the Sanctuary. We have begun a discussion about how to best link CCAMP data to the SIMON website, so that it will be readily accessible through the SIMON metadata structure.

Mary Adams spent a day in the field with incoming California Conservation Corps members, providing basic water quality training. This

training has been included as part of the CCC's 40-hour watershed curriculum. Mary provided a one-hour classroom training on land uses, water quality and Best Management Practices, followed by three hours in the field looking at water quality (DO, water temp, pH, conductivity and chlorophyll a) and benthic invertebrate community assemblages above and below BMP implementation sites on Pennington Creek and Santa Rosa Creek.

Mary met individually with both Central Coast Salmon Enhancement and Morro Bay Volunteer Monitoring Program staff to discuss new tools available with the most recent CCAMP database software. Both groups will be using the database to make their data available on their website (in a format similar to the CCAMP website). In coordination with CCAMP, Salmon Enhancement is about to start their Nipomo Creek watershed monitoring program.

In coordination with Katie McNeill and the Morro Bay Volunteer Monitoring Program, Mary set up monitoring probes to take hourly dissolved oxygen measurements for 36 hours at five sites in the Morro Bay watershed. During the same time period, volunteer monitors were taking measurements at 5 am and 5 pm. Data will be used by Katie for her TMDL work on dissolved oxygen, and will be used by the volunteers to quality check their data.

Basin Planning

Since the Basin Planning program lost Angus Lewis, groundwater basin planning tasks have not been picked up by other staff. During staffing prioritization exercises it became clear that several of the groundwater items were of higher priority to staff than some of the upcoming surface water items on the Triennial Review List. Consequently, Howard Kolb will reorganize his upcoming tasks to take on revision of salts objectives for groundwater basins.

Update on Process to Develop a Replacement for Agricultural Waivers

Pursuant to a recent amendment to California Water Code section 13269, all waivers of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) that existed on January 1, 2000, expired on January 1, 2003. This applied to several waivers adopted by the Central Coast Region in 1983, including two waivers

applicable to irrigated agriculture. One of these waivers was for irrigation return water (tailwater) and the other was for non-NPDES storm water discharges. In order to develop an effective replacement for the expired waivers, staff of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has convened a panel of representatives from environmental and agricultural organizations throughout the Central Coast Region. The purpose of the panel is to assist staff in developing recommendations to the Regional Board for a replacement to the expired waivers.

The panel began meeting in March 2003. During the initial meeting, the panel adopted meeting ground rules, discussed the consensus-based process to be employed, and heard presentations by Regional Board staff and researchers on current water quality data. Regional Board staff outlined regulatory issues, and the Coalition of Central Coast County Farm Bureaus presented information on some of the current efforts by agriculture in the region to address nonpoint source pollution. During subsequent meetings the panel listened to and documented each representative's issues and concerns related to water quality protection and potential impacts of new regulation, developed a goal statement, and looked for areas of agreement on how best to protect water quality in the agricultural areas of the Central Coast.

The panel developed a conceptual framework for an agricultural water quality regulatory program, which relies on a combination of waivers and Waste Discharge Requirements. The proposed program consists of a phased and tiered approach that builds on existing efforts by agriculture in the region. The intent of the proposed program is to more fully protect water quality through requirements that all growers implement water quality-protective management practices. The program recognizes and provides incentive for participation in existing agricultural water quality protection efforts and ensures accountability through reporting requirements and water quality monitoring.

The panel made considerable progress during the initial series of meetings, but recognized that several issues, such as monitoring and funding, had not been fully addressed. Because the consensus-based process was successful in

bringing agricultural and environmental interests together to work on the issue of agricultural discharges, staff felt that it was important to continue the work of the panel. Staff requested that the panel continue its work through the formation of subcommittees that would further develop the initial recommendations of the panel and present conclusions to the entire panel for discussion and agreement. The panel has formed two subcommittees to continue working on details of the program. One subcommittee is reviewing a draft monitoring program developed by Regional Board staff; the other is working on details of the enrollment process and compliance conditions. The subcommittees will present their results to the entire panel in September. Panel recommendations will be included in staff's report to the Board for the October 24, 2003 Board meeting. At that time, staff will present a workshop on the draft program and invite Board and public discussion. The program will be presented to the Board for action at the December 5, 2003 Board meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Presentations and Training [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

With assistance from Army staff, Regional Board staff Engineering Geologist, Grant Himebaugh, operated a water taste test booth at the former Fort Ord's Community Open House held on June 21, 2003 in Marina. The community was invited to see if they could tell the difference between popular bottled and local tap waters. The primary goal was to educate the community regarding taste preferences versus origin and quality standards.

Alison Jones attended a three-day class entitled "Facilitating and Negotiating in Collaborative Processes" in Riverside. Information from the class has been useful in setting up and managing meetings with the panel of environmentalists and agriculturalists working on a replacement program for agricultural waivers.

2002-2003 Performance Report [Brad Hagemann
805/549-3697]

Fiscal year 2002-03 proved to be another productive year despite significant staffing reductions, contracts reductions and our office relocation in December. Notwithstanding these "distractions" staff managed to meet or exceed most goals established in program work plans. This report provides a brief summary of major program efforts (primarily in tabular or graphic format) and where, available we provided a comparison with the other eight Regional Boards.

Budget

Our two major budget components are personal services (\$5.4 million) and operating expenses (\$1.2 million). We met our budget obligations by expending personal services at 97%, while spending our operating expenses budget at a little lower rate of 95%. **Attachment No. 4** provides a tabular summary of our year-end totals.

Storm Water Program

Our Storm Water Program had another very successful year. We conducted numerous workshops throughout the Region, exceeded our scheduled inspections and processed and reviewed all of the annual reports. **Attachment No. 5** provides a summary of the statewide storm water program accomplishments, broken down by Region.

NPDES program

Our NPDES program generally met work plan goals. We fell a bit short in the re-issuance of Major permits due to the public interest and increased workload that came along with re-issuance of the power plant permits. We anticipate that we will get "caught up" this fiscal year and reduce our permit backlog to include only those facilities that are under pending litigation. A program summary is provided on **Attachment No. 6**.

Waste Discharge Requirements (Less Land Disposal)

The Waste Discharge Requirements program met or exceeded work plan goals in all areas except individual updates. We chose to emphasize issuance of general waste discharge requirements over individual updates with the intent of

optimizing our regulatory program in the future. A program summary is provided on **Attachment No. 6**.

Land Disposal Program

For the second year in a row the Land Disposal Program exceeded work plan goals for facility inspections. (see program summary – **Attachment No. 6**) The high number of inspections is the result of numerous liner and cover construction projects at the Region's landfills. Oversight of these projects is a top program priority. Discharge Requirement revisions were below the mark (5 of 7) slightly. Staff reviewed each monitoring report received.

Department of Defense (DoD) Program

The DoD program continued progress on clean up at seven military facilities across the Region. By far, the largest effort is ongoing at Vandenberg Air Force Base where hundreds of individual sites are being addressed. This year, from Vandenberg alone, we received, reviewed, and commented on 126 reports..

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program

The UST cleanup oversight program had a good year, generally performing near or above the level of work plan commitment. One major success was overseeing the cleanup of sites that actually achieved cleanup endpoints. We were able to close twelve sites. Another major success was that the unit modified business practices in order to align with a new GeoTracker (our program tracking software) feature - automated workplan commitment tracking. Request for initial workplan and case closure counts were somewhat down (below 70%) reflecting the difficulty in projecting the number of new cases and when active cases might be ready for closure. The informal enforcement numbers are low. This was due to a definitional misunderstanding when the workplan commitments were made. In fact, nearly all of the unit's enforcement activities were formal (e.g., issuance of a Water Code Section 13267 letter) which is reflected by achieving over 440 % of these formal enforcement actions. A program summary is provided on **Attachment No. 6**.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program

The TMDL program met essentially 100% of the work plan commitments, while expending about

90% of the program resources. One of the biggest challenges on the horizon is, how to move from the TMDL adoption phase into the implementation phase. A program summary is provided on **Attachment No. 7.**

Spill Leaks Investigations and Clean-ups (SLIC) Program

The efforts of the SLIC program staff were highlighted by our continuing work at the Major Unocal sites (Guadalupe Oil Field, Avila Beach and Tank Farm Road) and oversight/involvement in the extensive perchlorate contamination issues in the Gilroy/Morgan Hill area.

2003-2004 Budget and Priorities [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

We have reported to the Board on an on-going basis on our budget cuts and loss of positions due to the state budget deficit. The last Executive Officer's report described the loss of 11 positions/staff and the consequent need to shift workload and constantly re-prioritize work assignments as we lose positions/staff. Since that report, we had to let go of our two part-time retired annuitants who did invaluable work for us: Joan Smithen, who worked in our Administration Unit (personnel assistance, vehicle fleet maintenance, filing, etc.), and Vern Jones, who provided office-wide support in both the administrative and technical areas (inspections, pesticide site regulation, etc.). They were funded out of our temporary help budget, which was completely cut.

Our program manager for the Unocal Guadalupe Oil Field Cleanup, staff engineer Katie DiSimone, left us to take a job with the City of San Luis Obispo. With these three losses, we are up to 14 positions/staff lost and not replaced, leaving us with 57 line staff, nine supervisors, and two managers (EO/AEO).

We previously provided overall, large scale priorities (TMDLs, Non Point Sources,

Groundwater Cleanups) and a more detailed breakdown of priorities earlier in the year (considering different drivers: 1. water quality, 2. expectations of others, 3. statutory requirements). As stated already, as we have continued to lose staff, we have continued to prioritize and adjust work assignments to try to cover the most important bases. Our individual supervisors are currently taking the broader priorities already presented to the Board and refining those concepts in a manner that will allow more detailed unit by unit adjustments in priorities. The September 16th deadline looms for our four employees who received surplus notices. By that date, the layoff plan will either be implemented, or the state will need to start over once the "surplus" clock runs out on the 16th. If the layoff plan is activated, and if it requires us to lay off one or more staff, we will need to make more adjustments in work assignments, in line with priorities. Even though this priority setting at the detailed unit level is a work in progress, some specifics of items that "fall off the table" currently under consideration are:

- Reduce inspections on general permit discharges for underground tank sites
- For underground tank cleanup oversight, most "C" priority site work will be dropped unless it is an MTBE site
- Reduce inspections on minor permits and low threat to water quality waste discharge requirement sites, where there is a good compliance history.
- Reduce CEQA Statewide Clearinghouse Reviews
- Streamline Water Quality 401 Certification work, perhaps to the point of not reviewing most submittals
- Reduce non-point source work by focusing only on the highest priority sources
- Stormwater – triaging inspections
- Reducing 303(d) listing (impaired waters) tasks
- Deferring surface water Basin Planning work to work on the highest priority groundwater Basin Plan improvements
- Defer landfill site WDR updates that are primarily for administrative changes (only update those that are necessary for operational needs)
- Limited response to illegal dump sites
- Suspend watershed and coastal confluence monitoring

The above list is not set in concrete and is only intended to give an indication of the type of

priority setting decisions we are considering. We will provide more detail as this effort gets.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Regional Board Letter dtd June 13, 2003 to City of Pacific Grove
2. Letter from City of Pacific Grove dtd July 30, 2003 to Regional Board Staff
3. Underground Tanks Summary Report dated July 30, 2003
4. 02/03 Year End Totals
5. 02/03 Storm Water Program Accomplishments
6. 02/03 Program Performance At-a-Glance
7. TMDL Program Performance at a Glance

EOrptSEP03/Carol