

FIELD TRIP
April 26, 2000

The Regional Water Board members and staff participated in a field trip touring the Freshwater Creek and North Fork Elk River watersheds. The tour ran from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. including five designated stops along the route. Areas of interest included:

- (1) Ms. Wrigley's property near the North Fork of the Elk River. She stated that due to logging practices in the 1990s, 60% of the area's timber was harvested in the watershed. As a result of those excessive timber-harvesting practices, the river bottom should be 5' lower than present due to excessive sediment.
- (2) Bridge Creek crossed Elk River Road as it drains north to south into the North Fork of the Elk River. A short walk upstream along Bridge Creek allowed a view of an old railroad trestle, a stream channel that has been modified by silt and landslides that originated from a timber harvest. This site was a good example of a cut bank failure that resulted in a landslide and mass wasting.
- (3) A side road off Elk River Road illustrated a visible road failure/landslide. The soil materials were washed downslope impacting the watershed below. This failure occurred when the heads of steep ravines are crossed. The combination of cutting the road into the slope and the weight of the additional fill destabilizes the ravine and led to the failure. Materials transported downslope in this matter are the direct source of sediment to local watercourses.
- (4) A monitoring station was set up at Terry Roelof's residence. At this site, a stream gauging station was installed by Redwood Sciences Laboratory and Salmon Forever. The only permanent monitoring station in the watershed measures water temperature and height, suspended sediments, and turbidity.
- (5) Our last stop was on Howard Heights Road Bridge down the road from the Cook residence. Mr. Cook explained they have experienced twelve major flooding events in four years.

Field trip participants expressed their appreciation to Regional Water Board staff members Reichmuth and Gill who organized the informative field trip.

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

MINUTES OF MEETING
April 27, 2000
Eureka City Council Chambers
531 K Street
Eureka, California

Chairman Bill Hoy opened the April 27, 2000 meeting of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board at 9:00 a.m. Board member Liles led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions

Chair Hoy introduced the Board members present, Executive Officer Lee Michlin, and Legal Counsel Phil Wyels.

Board Members Present

Daniel Crowley, Leslie Dahlhoff, Jason Liles, Bill Massey, Bev Wasson, and Bill Hoy

Staff Present

Lee Michlin, Craig Johnson, Susan Warner, Frank Reichmuth, Ranjit Gill, Dave Engel, Tuck Vath, Holly Lundborg, Dave Evans, Terry Dean, Bill Rodriguez, Kathleen Daly, Terry Barnes, Jean Spath, and Phil Wyels

Minutes of Meeting

Bev Wasson moved adoption of the March 22 and March 23, 2000 minutes as presented. Dan Crowley seconded the motion and it carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Consent Calendar

Susan Warner stated Item No. 4, **Willits Environmental Remediation Trust**, was removed from the agenda. A public hearing is scheduled for the first week in May.

- 1. Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Old Coal & Gas Plant 119-1**, Railroad Avenue, Eureka, Humboldt County. Approval of a Negative Declaration for a Removal Action/Site Cleanup
- 2. City of Yreka and E. C. Flock and Sons**, Siskiyou County, New Waste Discharge Requirements for biosolids discharge, WDID No. 1A00016RSIS

3. State of California, Department of Fish and Game, Mad River Fish Hatchery, Humboldt County, Renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements, NPDES Permit No. CA0006670, WDID No. 1B80073OHUM

Dan Crowley moved adoption of the Consent Calendar as modified. Bev Wasson seconded the motion and it carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Forum

Oral testimony was presented by Bob Martel, Executive Director, Humboldt Watershed Council; Teresa Lucchesi-Cook, Eureka resident; Maggy Herbelin, Eureka resident; Richard Gienger, Humboldt Watershed Council and Whitethorn resident, Traci Thiele, Humboldt Watershed Council; and Robert DiPerna, Environmental Protection Information Center.

Chairman Hoy thanked all staff members and interested public who participated in the watershed tour.

5. PUBLIC HEARING to Consider Whether to Affirm, Reject, or modify a Complaint R1-2000-11 for Administrative Civil Liability. The Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to Roy Hauser dba Tall Timber Forest Management in the amount of \$10,000. Sediment was allegedly discharged from an area of timber harvest operations in amounts that violated the North Coast Water Quality Control Plan. The alleged violations concern discharges to String and Tartar Creeks in Mendocino County

Lee Michlin discussed the difficulty with serving Mr. Hauser in Oregon. He stated the hearing would be continued to May 2000. Board member Dahlhoff stated the California Department of Forestry has unresolved issues with Mr. Hauser as well.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Update on Timber Harvest Division Activities and Board of Forestry Forest Practice Rules Modifications

Frank Reichmuth discussed the Timber Harvest Division and the four units responsible for reviewing timber harvest plans in specific areas of the region. He stated the Division has twenty trained staff who has provided increased timber harvest plan inspections and review of hillside conversions to vineyards. This year the staff has received more complaints on vineyard constructions and have issued and received payment in two administrative civil liability cases. He stated the herbicide monitoring program is working well with staff continuing to work cooperatively with the timber industry to ensure protection of water quality through voluntary implementation of best management practices. Mr. Reichmuth summarized the proposed key forest practice rule changes and stated the Office of Administrative Law must review these changes before adoption on July 1, 2000. Several shortcomings in the rules include: (a) lack of protection for listed salmonid species in Class

II and Class III streams, (b) no prescriptive standards for 303(d)-listed waters and inadequate standards for assessment of potential impacts and recovery of impaired beneficial uses, and (3) no prescriptive standards for watersheds where Endangered Species Act species are listed. He concluded his presentation with a discussion of Regional Water Board options to remain in compliance with the Basin Plan and Clean Water Act.

b. Salmonid Restoration Federation March 2000 Conference Update

Holly Lundborg was in attendance at the March 2-5, 2000 conference held in Fortuna. The four-day conference was organized into two days of workshops and the remaining time reserved for informative lecture sessions. Ms. Lundborg participated in the timber harvest rule revision session that is working with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop a revised set of rule and regulations to ensure protection to the fisheries of California. She summarized the timber harvest rule revisions that were discussed at the conference. Tapes and transcripts of the conference are available through Ms. Lundborg.

Oral testimony was presented by Traci Thiele and Richard Gienger both representing the Humboldt Watershed Council.

c. Progress Report on Pacific Lumber Company (PALCO) Watersheds

Frank Reichmuth reported on the recent meetings with PALCO and introduced Dr. Ranjit Gill who addressed current activities with PALCO.

Dr. Gill's presentation included a brief overview of ongoing issues that he discussed during his February 2000 presentation. His graphic slides illustrated the Freshwater, Elk River, Jordan, Stitz, and Bear Creek watersheds as sediment-impaired due to the increased rate of timber harvesting which has caused landslides, flooding, and road-related failures. Significant cumulative impacts are present in each watershed. The increased sediment has altered stream morphology and degraded water quality as well as impaired caused the impairment of the watershed's beneficial uses. Implementation of revised timber harvest practices include: (1) select cut harvesting, (2) full suspension skyline yarding, (3) helicopter yarding during the winter months, (4) no broadcast burning, (5) no skid trail or layout constructions, and (6) no new road construction or reconstruction until their watershed analysis is complete. Included in the discussion was water quality control and recommended practices for impaired waterbodies and suggestions for effective in-stream monitoring.

Oral testimony was presented by Sue O'Connell, Eureka resident; John Kennon, Scotia resident; Kristi Wrigley, Eureka resident; Ken Miller, McKinleyville resident and Salmon Forever; Paulette Kallo, Eureka resident; Darryle Story, Eureka resident; Charles Fuentes, Scotia resident; Robert Overholt, Fortuna resident; and Clint Bush, Scotia resident.

d. Habitat Conservation Plan on Pacific Lumber Company (PALCO) Lands

John Campbell, Pacific Lumber Company President, introduced Dr. Jeffrey Barrett who would provide an update on the Company's compliance with their habitat conservation plan.

Dr. Barrett, Director of Fish and Wildlife Programs, Pacific Lumber Company, discussed the highlights of the Headwaters Agreement that is a 120-year plan to manage timber for maximum sustained productions while protecting the environment. A ten-year aquatic conservation strategy will be implemented including buffers for Class I, II, and III streams. Roads within PALCO land holdings will be improved, upgraded, and inspected at the rate of 75 miles per year to minimize their sediment inputs to streams. Dr. Barrett stated PALCO's science-based watershed analysis process implements activities including mass wasting, surface erosion, stream channel protection, preservation of riparian and fish habitat, and cumulative watershed management effects. He referenced two 1999 timber harvest plans approved in the Elk/Freshwater watershed that were approved calling for less restrictive timber harvesting guidelines than those imposed on PALCO. Dr. Barrett suggested the Regional Water Board regulate within the framework of the Habitat Conservation Plan to create a collaborative working relationship.

Art Baggett, State Water Board Member, reported on the April 7 & 8, 2000 Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting in San Diego. He stated the Bay-Delta water rights hearings will begin on August 6. Mr. Baggett welcomed Pete Silva, as a new State Water Board member effective May 1.

d. Habitat Conservation Plan on Pacific Lumber Company Lands (Continued)

Oral testimony was provided by Michael Evenson, Petrolia resident; Traci Thiele, Humboldt Watershed Council; Dennis Schlotzhauer, Fortuna resident; Garry Shewizy, Hydesville resident; Kristi Wrigley, Eureka resident; Joe Russ, Ferndale resident; and Richard Gienger, Humboldt Watershed Council.

Frank Reichmuth and Ranjit Gill addressed comments in Dr. Barrett's presentation. There was a lengthy discussion among Board members, Phil Wyels and staff members on PALCO's watershed analysis process and areas of concern which are not addressed but whose implementation is required by the Clean Water Act and the Basin Plan. Mr. Reichmuth summarized the enforcement options under consideration by the Board. Dr. Gill asked for a copy of Dr. Barrett presentation.

e. Report by *Friends of the Van Duzen* to give the Van Duzen River a Higher Priority for Restoration of Water Quality Under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act

Sal Steinberg introduced several graph slides to illustrate his watershed sediment source analysis. He stated the Van Duzen River should be given a higher priority for restoration of water quality

under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. He said recent clear cut logging in the watershed has increased the danger of flooding, continued erosion, mass wasting and further degradation of water quality. If timber harvest plans could be modified to protect the water ways, then reduced sediment sources would stop further damage to the watershed.

Oral testimony was presented by Sharon Green, Carlotta resident; Naomi Steinberg, Carlotta resident; and Dr. Howard May, Weaverville resident.

7. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

a. Update on Dairy Waste Management in Humboldt County

Terry Dean referenced his April 24, 2000 correspondence that addressed the release of nutrients and sediment that cause the impairment of beneficial uses of non-attainment of water quality objectives. A survey form and brief instruction sheet was enclosed with the letter addressed to North Coast dairy owners and operators for voluntary compliance with Basin Plan objectives. He described dairy waste issues and efforts to target inspection, compliance assistance and regulatory enforcement strategies in Humboldt County. Regulatory strategy would include a three-tiered progressive enforcement plan.