

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 A.M., Thursday, July 15, 2010
Regional Water Quality Control Board
David C. Joseph Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Item: 9

Subject: Update on Status of Russian River Watershed TMDL Development
Projects

Introduction

On June 3, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) adopted the 2010 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments (List), also known as the List of Impaired Waters via Resolution No. R1-2009-0047. A waterbody or segment that does not meet one or more water quality standards is considered "impaired." The List identifies the pollutant(s) or stressor(s) not being met for a specific waterbody or segment, and identifies a priority ranking. Placement of a waterbody on the List generally triggers development of a pollution control plan called a total maximum daily load (TMDL).

The impairments within the Russian River watershed on the 2010 List are shown in Table 1. The entire Russian River Hydrologic Unit is listed as impaired for sedimentation/siltation and temperature. In addition, a number of the tributary watersheds (called hydrologic sub areas or HSAs) are listed for other pollutants, including indicator bacteria, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and mercury.

Regional Water Board staff is currently developing TMDLs to address a number of the listed impairments within the Russian River watershed. Staff has grouped many of the impairments into three TMDL projects: the Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDLs project, the Lower Russian River Watershed indicator bacteria TMDLs project, and the Russian River Reservoirs mercury TMDLs project. At the July 15, 2010 Regional Water Board meeting, staff will present on the approach, status, and schedule for completing these three TMDL projects.

Table 1	
2010 303(d) Impaired Waters within the Russian River Watershed	
Waterbody Name	Pollutant/Stressor
Russian River HU	Sedimentation/Siltation
	Temperature
Laguna de Santa Rosa	Nitrogen
	Phosphorus
	Dissolved Oxygen
	Temperature
	Sedimentation/Siltation
	Mercury
	Indicator Bacteria
Santa Rosa Creek	Sedimentation/Siltation
	Temperature
	Indicator Bacteria
Geyserville HSA, Mainstem Russian River at Healdsburg Memorial Beach from the railroad bridge to the Hwy 101 bridge	Indicator Bacteria
Geyserville HSA, Unnamed Tributary (Stream 1) at Fitch Mountain	Indicator Bacteria
Guerneville HSA, Mainstem Russian River from Fife Ck to Dutch Bill Creek	Indicator Bacteria
Green Valley Creek Watershed	Indicator Bacteria
	Dissolved Oxygen
Coyote Valley HSA, Lake Mendocino	Mercury
Warms Springs HSA, Lake Sonoma	Mercury
Upper Main Eel River HA, Lake Pillsbury	Mercury
Big Sulphur Creek HSA	Specific Conductivity

Before initiating TMDL development efforts to address the listed dissolved oxygen impairment in Green Valley Creek and specific conductivity impairment in Big Sulphur Creek, staff intends to conduct additional monitoring to assess conditions in these water bodies. Staff is not currently developing TMDLs to address the sedimentation/siltation and temperature impairments within the Russian River watershed areas outside of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, Mark West, and Santa Rosa HSAs. However, the TMDL implementation strategy for sediment-impaired water bodies in the North Coast Region is set forth in the *TMDL Implementation Policy Statement for Sediment-Impaired Receiving Waters in the North Coast Region*, and the *Work Plan to Control Excess Sediment in Sediment-Impaired Watersheds* identifies priorities and tasks for addressing sediment impairment within the Russian River watershed. Further, staff

intends to develop a temperature TMDL implementation policy for the North Coast Region, which will be summarized under Item 9 of the July 15, 2010 Regional Water Board meeting.

Russian River Watershed TMDL Development Projects

- 1) Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDLs** addressing nitrogen, phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and sedimentation/siltation impairments. The Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDL project includes the Laguna Hydrologic Sub Area (HSA), Mark West HSA, and Santa Rosa HSA. The Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDL project does not address the mercury or indicator bacteria impairments.
- 2) Lower Russian River Watershed Indicator Bacteria TMDLs** covers the indicator bacteria impairments within the entire Geyserville, Guerneville, Laguna de Santa Rosa, and Santa Rosa Creek HSAs.
- 3) Russian River Reservoirs Mercury TMDLs** includes Lake Pillsbury, Lake Mendocino, and Lake Sonoma and the watersheds draining to these reservoirs. Lake Pillsbury is actually within the Upper Main Eel River hydrologic area, but it is included in this TMDL project since portions of the water that drain from Lake Pillsbury are pumped to Potter Valley within the Russian River watershed. This TMDL project does not address the mercury impairment in the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational item only.