

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Thursday, November 20, 2014
Regional Water Board Office
Santa Rosa, CA

- ITEM: 10
- SUBJECT: Update on the Development and Early Implementation of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Total Maximum Daily Loads for Nutrients, Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature, and Sediment (*David Kuszmar*)
- BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item. No action will be taken by the Regional Water Board.
- BACKGROUND: The Laguna de Santa Rosa is the largest tributary of the Russian River, draining 254 square miles of watershed area in Sonoma County, California. The Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed (Watershed) is the urban center of the North Coast Region, encompassing the cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sebastopol, and the Town of Windsor. Major tributaries to the Laguna de Santa Rosa include Windsor Creek, Mark West Creek, Santa Rosa Creek, Blucher Creek, and Copeland Creek. Land cover varies widely across the Watershed, ranging from high-density residential and commercial, to croplands and pastures, vineyards and orchards, and forested areas.
- Working with public and private stakeholders, staff is developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address impairments in the Watershed for nutrients, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and sediment.
- Since staff's last presentation to the Regional Water Board on December 6, 2012, considerable progress has been made in several key areas, including:
- Nutrient and sediment source analyses
 - Stakeholder outreach and coordination
 - Municipal wastewater and stormwater permit development and implementation
 - Historical ecology studies and aquatic resource mapping
 - Development of a water quality credit trading market for the Watershed, and
 - Other early TMDL implementation actions, including the development of stream restoration options and assistance with non-dairy livestock management.

DISCUSSION: Staff will provide the Regional Water Board with an overview of the progress to date in TMDL development and early implementation efforts. Staff will also provide the Regional Water Board with an update on the current project schedule for the Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDLs.

In short, given current ongoing efforts, staff expects to release a public review draft of the Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDLs in the spring of 2018, followed by Regional Water Board consideration during a public hearing in the fall of 2018.

As part of this informational item to the Regional Water Board, staff has invited three key partners who will describe the important work they are doing to complement and enhance staff's TMDL development and early implementation efforts. The partners and their primary contributions include:

Sonoma County Water Agency

Michael Thompson
Assistant General Manager

- Stream maintenance and enhancement activities
- Ecosystem uplift and restoration planning

Sonoma and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation Districts

Brittany Heck
Executive Director, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

- Water quality credit trading market development
- Resource conservation and watershed stewardship activities

San Francisco Estuary Institute / Aquatic Science Center

Chuck Striplen, Ph.D.
Environmental Scientist

- Historical ecology studies
- Aquatic resource mapping and assessment

Staff is grateful for the ongoing contributions of many stakeholders and external partners, and especially appreciates the willingness of those listed above to participate in this informational item.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: None