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California Environmental Protection Agency

# NEWS RELEASE

**State Water Resources Control Board**

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**For Immediate Release**  
**July 31, 2000**  
**00-05**

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## **FACT SHEET:** **PLAN FOR CALIFORNIA S NONPOINT SOURCE (NPS)** **POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM (PROGRAM)**

### Nonpoint Source: Defining the Problem

- Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, also known as polluted runoff, is the leading cause of water quality degradation in both California and the nation;
- Nonpoint source pollution is the major contributor of contaminants to impaired streams, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, marine waters, ground water basins, and harbors and bays;
- Unlike pollution from distinct, identifiable point sources such as industrial or wastewater treatment plant discharges, NPS pollution comes from many different and varied sources;
- Rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation water help carry NPS pollutants over and through the ground;
- As the runoff moves, it picks up natural and human-made pollutants and deposits them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, ground water and other inland and coastal waters.

### The NPS Program

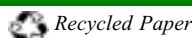
The NPS Program is the first state NPS plan in the Nation that successfully combined into one document the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act.

- Sets forth plan to involve all Californians in fighting the NPS problem
- Under development for four years
- Joint federal approval from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on July 17, 2000
- Prepared and administered by State Water Resources Control Board, the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards and the California Coastal Commission
- More than 20 other State regulatory agencies will assist in implementing NPS Program

### To combat NPS pollution, the NPS Program :

- Adopts 61 management measures as goals for the reduction of polluted runoff generated from five major NPS categories [agriculture, forestry, urban areas, marinas and recreational boating, and hydromodification — i.e., dams, man-made channels, etc.] and the expanded use of wetlands/riparian areas/vegetated treatment systems as methods for NPS pollution control.
- Management measures are economically achievable measures to control the addition of pollutants to runoff that reflect the greatest degree of pollutant reduction available. Management practices are specific

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technologies, processes, siting criteria, operating methods, or other alternatives that are used to achieve the management measures.

### The Management Measures

Management measures address the following components:

- **Agriculture:**
  - Erosion and sediment control; facility wastewater and runoff from confined animal facilities; nutrient management; pesticide management; irrigation water management; and grazing management.
- **Forestry:**
  - Harvest planning, streamside management areas; road construction/reconstruction; road management; timber harvesting; site preparation and forest regeneration; fire management; revegetation of disturbed areas; forest chemical management; wetland forest management; and postharvest evaluation.
- **Urban Areas:**
  - Controlling runoff from existing areas and construction sites; on-site disposal systems; and transportation development.
- **Marinas and Recreational Boating:**
  - Assessment, siting, and design of marina facilities considering water quality assessment, marina flushing, habitat assessment; shoreline stabilization, storm water runoff, fueling station design, sewage facilities, and waste management facilities and
  - Operation and maintenance of marina facilities considering: control of solid waste, fish waste, liquid material, and petroleum products; boat cleaning and maintenance; maintenance of sewage facilities; and boat operation.
- **Hydromodification;**
  - Physical and chemical characteristics of surface waters; erosion and sediment control for dams; and streambank and shoreline erosion.
- **Wetlands, Riparian Area and Vegetated Treatment systems;**
  - Wetlands protection and restoration.

Additionally, all six categories include educational and outreach components.

### NPS Program Implementation

- Provides a 15-year strategy for fully implementing the management measures;
- Uses the Three Tiered Approach for addressing NPS pollution problems;
  - Tier 1: Self-Determined Implementation of Management Practices, formerly referred to as voluntary implementation;
  - Tier 2, Regulatory Based Encouragement of Management Practices; and
  - Tier 3, Effluent Limitations and Enforcement Actions;
- Provides the first of three, five-year implementation plans targeting activities consistent with state and regional practices in specific watersheds.

### Program Funding

- The California Water Bond (approved March 2000), will provide
  - \$100,000,000 for NPS activities;
  - \$90,000,000 for Coastal NPS activities.
  - Implement activities for the first five-year plan.
  - Develop/deploy work plan database system.

### Other Funding Assistance

- \$10.5 million from the United States Environmental Protection Agency
- \$5 million from the California Budget to Combat Stormwater Pollution

### First-Year Activities:

- Develop an initial list of critical coastal areas;
- Develop the Interagency Coordinating Committee and related subcommittees to provide a regular working forum to collaborate on NPS Program Plan implementation and problem-solving; Update existing and develop new working agreements (memoranda of understanding, management agency agreements), as necessary, with other State and federal partner agencies;
- Develop guidance that establishes the process by which the State Board and the Regional Boards will enforce their authorities as outlined in the NPS Program ;
- Assess existing water quality monitoring programs and begin preparation of statewide surface water quality monitoring program;
- Prepare a report to the Legislature on a plan to monitor the quality of State coastal watersheds, bays, estuaries, and coastal waters and their marine resources for pollutants
- Finalize the first five year implementation plans for all State agencies that have regulatory authorities in the NPS Program .
- Share all Reports with Governor s Office, Legislature, public and stakeholders

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