



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region



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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE, AND REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, CENTRAL VALLEY REGION, TO ELIMINATE THE DISCHARGE OF GRAY WATER TO SHASTA LAKE

Shasta Lake is the only lake or reservoir in the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (Regional Board) where the discharge of gray water from houseboats is permitted. Gray water is defined as waste discharging from showers, kitchen sinks, bathroom sinks, wet bar sinks, dishwashers, washing machines, and hot tubs. Studies conducted by the California Department of Health Services, and samples collected by Regional Board staff, indicate that the concentration of pollutants in gray water, including pathogenic bacteria, is similar to domestic sewage. Therefore, the Regional Board has concluded that the continued discharge of gray water has caused and threatens to cause pollution, nuisance, and impairment of beneficial uses of waters of the state. As a result, on 6 September 2001, the Regional Board adopted Resolution No. 05-01-211 authorizing the Executive Officer to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service), to eliminate gray water discharges from houseboats to Shasta Lake after 6 September 2006. In January 2004, the Executive Officer and Forest Supervisor signed MOU No. 04-MU-11051458-004.

Regional Board and Forest Service staff are working to accomplish the goals outlined in the MOU, as resources allow. In calendar year 2004, the following MOU tasks were completed:

- Regional Board and Forest Service contact person(s) were designated to implement the MOU;
- Regional Board staff provided a copy of the MOU to the Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, which has jurisdiction for Trinity Lake;
- Forest Service staff notified all holders of special use permits for houseboats on Shasta Lake that the Regional Board prohibits gray water discharge while moored at marinas immediately, and will prohibit gray water discharge anywhere within Shasta Lake by September 2006;
- Regional Board staff notified Forest Service staff when contacted by other agencies, businesses, or individuals regarding proposals for gray water disposal facilities. This task will continue into 2005;



- Meetings were held on a quarterly basis to identify progress in achieving the goals outlined in the MOU. This task will continue into 2005;
- The public and other agencies affected by the MOU were provided opportunities to attend meetings. This task will continue into 2005;
- Forest Service staff included information about the gray water ban in their meetings with owners of private and commercial houseboats on Shasta Lake. This task will continue into 2005;
- To the extent allowed by law, policies, and regulation, Forest Service staff have assisted marina operators in identifying National Forest System lands available to facilitate gray water disposal. This task will continue into 2005;
- Regional Board staff have posted Resolution 05-01-211 and the gray water MOU at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/available_documents/index.html#water;
- Forest Service staff have posted information related to the gray water MOU at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity/faq/gray-water/index.shtml>.

SUMMARY

Several gray water-related tasks were completed in 2004, while other tasks remain to be completed to prepare for the elimination of gray water discharges to Shasta Lake after 6 September 2006. Regional Board and Forest Service staff are actively working on these tasks, as resources allow. Additional items to be completed by Regional Board staff include revision of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the ten marinas on Shasta Lake and preparation of a Basin Plan amendment to prohibit the discharge of sewage and gray water from all vessels to any lake or reservoir in the region.

Each marina on Shasta Lake has submitted a conceptual design for treating additional wastewater generated by the capture of gray water from houseboats. Each design proposes an extension or addition to an existing septic tank leachfield system and has been reviewed by Regional Board, Forest Service, and Shasta County Environmental Health Department staff. Shasta County staff requested additional site and/or design information that will be submitted by the marinas and reviewed by the three agencies in 2005. Regional Board staff anticipate preparing tentative WDRs for Regional Board consideration based on each marina's selected wastewater disposal design. The Forest Service will conduct a consolidated environmental review (NEPA) for these projects prior to approval for construction.

Both the Regional Board and Forest Service will continue to advise houseboat owners about the immediate and impending requirements for gray water capture on Shasta Lake. Frequent discussions indicate that many private and commercial houseboats are currently being retrofitted to capture gray water, and that newly constructed houseboats destined for Shasta Lake are being built with holding tanks for gray water. The Forest Service will add language to their annual monitoring forms to help track houseboat sanitation systems, including the capture of gray water.

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