Executive Officer's 2015 Water Quality Stewardship Award Goes to the Beretta Family Farm Dairy & Russian River Salmonid Life Support Team of 2015

Matt St. John

The Executive Officer's Water Quality Stewardship Award is an annual award given to an individual or group whose exceptional work contributes to the preservation and enhancement of surface water and groundwater quality. The Regional Water Quality Control Board and its staff spend much of its time and energy focused on the task of controlling waste discharges to the region's waters. This award is designed to acknowledge and honor our partners in water quality protection who augment the Regional Water Board's work with their own efforts in pollution prevention, waste minimization, water quality enhancement, and beneficial use restoration.

Having received many worthy nominations this year, I have decided to present two awards this year. The first is to the Beretta Family Dairy, and the second is a team award to the newly named (by me) Russian River Salmonid Life Support Team of 2015.

Beretta Family Dairy

Regional Water Board staff Cherie Blatt and David Kuszmar (along with partners from the City of Santa Rosa and the Sonoma Resource Conservation District) nominated the Beretta Family Dairy for its exemplary performance in a number of areas. The dairy has been a family-owned and operated business in Sonoma County for four generations.

Since the dairy's founding, the Beretta family has earned a reputation for being standout watershed stewards and early adopters of environmentally friendly practices. For example, in the 1950s, the family ceased using chemical fertilizers on its farm, and emphasized raising the herds in pastures and growing its own feeds. In 2007, the Beretta Family Dairy became 100% certified organic. More recently, the family made water quality and drainage improvements at the dairy by working with the Sonoma Resource Conservation District, was one of the first to accept City of Santa Rosa recycled water for irrigation (thus avoiding the need for groundwater pumping), and volunteered its dairy as the first site for implementation of a nutrient offset project for the City of Santa Rosa.

The Berettas have also long served as leaders for their industry and the local agricultural community. By virtue of some of the early adoptions listed above, the Beretta Family Dairy has maintained an excellent record of compliance under the Regional Water Board's Water Quality Compliance Program for Dairies, and has inspired other local operators to adopt similar practices. In the mid-2000s, when faced with the listing of the California Tiger Salamander (CTS) as a federally endangered species, Doug Beretta (3rd generation) met the challenge on behalf of local ag producers by participating on the Sonoma County CTS Task Force, and by serving as an advocate and educator to his fellow dairymen. Doug and his

daughter Jennifer continue their family's tradition of leadership today, by participating on various boards and committees, including those for the Sonoma County Fair, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, the Ag Trust Board for the Santa Rosa Junior College, 4-H, and Future Farmers of America.

Russian River Salmonid Life Support Team of 2015

The Voluntary Drought Initiative (VDI) program was initiated jointly by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to address stream flow concerns associated with the California drought. In March of 2015, CDFW began asking rural land owners to sign agreements to voluntarily reduce water demand and contribute water stored in reservoirs in four critical Russian River subwatersheds - Dutch Bill, Green Valley, Mark West and Mill creeks.

In response to CDFW's requests, three flow augmentation projects were initiated. CDFW and NMFS, in cooperation with the Russian River Coho Water Resource Partnership, were instrumental in helping landowners design and implement the projects. Jackson Family Wines came forward to contribute over 7 acre-feet of water from a vineyard reservoir in the Green Valley Creek watershed. Its contributions also included a significant amount of labor to make the project happen, and a $40,000 contribution to Trout Unlimited's Flows for Fish Program. The generous contribution funded the purchase of storage tanks for rural residences to reduce summer water diversions, and covered the costs associated with the Camp Meeker Parks and Recreation District's flow augmentation project.

The Camp Meeker Parks and Recreation District enthusiastically agreed to contribute water to Dutch Bill Creek to augment flows in response to CDFW's requests. The flow releases were a great success, providing for subsistence flows for salmon and steelhead, and keeping temperature and oxygen levels in check until the fall rains arrived.

The third flow augmentation project was a contribution to upper Green Valley Creek from a pond owned by Michael Paine and Chris Panym. The contribution of water, upstream of the Jackson Family Wines release, was also critical for maintaining survivable conditions for salmon and steelhead in Green Valley Creek.

Finally, Gallo Vineyards continued a second year of flow releases to Porter Creek. The project supported coho salmon and steelhead populations in another critical Russian River tributary, providing critical habitat for the two species.

The Executive Officer's Water Quality Stewardship Award is a statement of appreciation by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for the recipients' progressive achievements in resource conservation and beneficial use protection.

Please join me in recognizing the 2015 recipients: the Beretta Family Dairy and CDFW, NMFS, the Russian River Coho Water Resource Partnership, Jackson Family Wines, Camp Meeker Parks and Recreation District, Michael Paine and Chris Panym, and Gallo Vineyards for their outstanding work. We are grateful for your efforts.

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Climate change, sea level rise, and El Niño for coastal California: projections and adaptation. *Lance Le*

Looking back on the previous year, the words El Niño have been on the lips of anyone that had a conversation about the weather. On Thanksgiving weekend, tide stations in southern

California recorded their highest sea levels based on a century-long record. These "King Tides" broke 1.5-3 feet above predicted heights[1]. The Ocean Protection Council has explained the tides as the exacerbating effect of El Niño and the unusually high ocean temperatures on the California coast[2].

Conventional experience of El Niño dictates wetter than average conditions for California; but, this characterization is incomplete. The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a phenomenon defined by the periodic variations in sea surface temperatures (SST) of the tropical Pacific Ocean. Whether a year is in the warm or cold phase is measured by the surface air pressure difference between the island of Tahiti in the Pacific Ocean and Darwin, Australia in the Indian Ocean. El Niño is the warm phase of the ENSO, with the cold phase being La Niña. By the measure of surface air pressure difference, the current El Niño is one of the strongest on record[3].

During El Niño episodes, air pressure in the eastern Pacific is lower than the western due to warmer SST, hindering the east to west transfer of atmospheric moisture. The hindrance could result in greater rainfall for California and other parts of the United States. Yet, for the North Coast and from data going back to 1933, the correlation between ENSO phases and precipitation totals is weak. The average difference in precipitation between phases is approximately 8 percent of the average from all years[4]. The difference hardly fits the narrative of El Niño being an ominous or dramatic departure from the norm. Thus, for the North Coast, El Niño is not always a series of storm events and neither is La Niña a period of drought. The ENSO is simply the natural variations in SST and subsequent effects on weather.

Research on the intersection of climate change and ENSO, along with other ocean-atmospheric circulation cycles[5], is active. A plurality of computational climate change models project that the central and eastern Pacific may experience more warming than the western in the future. However, model results disagree on the change in frequency of ENSO warm phases. The International Panel on Climate Change has thus far expressed low confidence in the projections of climate change impacts on the ENSO[6].

Despite the low confidence, the recent storms and tide events have resulted in elevated sea levels similar to the modeled projections for the year 2100 of a mean sea level rise of 5.5 feet[7]. If the conditions observed now repeat in the future, with the added inclusion of sea level rise from climate change, the flooding risks to coastal zones and facilities become a considerable concern. Along with homes and businesses, transportation infrastructure and waste discharge sites face inundation and the subsequent damages pose a threat to water quality.

The State Water Board and the Regional Water Boards have made expedited permitting of flood control projects a priority due to possible El Niño flooding. An example of a flood control project within the coastal zone is wetland restoration. Functioning coastal wetlands and estuaries decrease storm surge energy, improve water retention, attenuate runoff, and reduce peak flows. As an example, on July 28, 2015, the

[1] https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/stations.html
[2] http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2015/12/RecordBreakingSeaLevelsMemo.pdf
[3] http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/enso.shtml
[4] https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso/enso-climate-change-headache
[5] Collins, M., et al. 2010. The impact of global warming on the tropical Pacific Ocean and El Niño. *Nature Geoscience*, 3(6), 391-397.
[6] Working Group I Contribution to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Solomon S, Qin D, Manning M, Marquis M, Averyt K, et al., eds. *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009, 747–845.
[7] http://cal-adapt.org/sealevel/

Regional Water Board approved the water quality certification for the White Slough Tidal Wetlands Project submitted by the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge[8]. The primary purpose of the project is to restore salt marsh habitat and enhance brackish and freshwater wetlands. As designed, the restored wetlands will have higher ecological function and become self-sustaining ecosystems adaptive to sea level rise. For other projects that are not specifically designed for restoration or flood control, the Regional Water Board may require the projects consider sea level rise, increased rainfall and storm intensity, and other climate change impacts that relate to flooding risks and damages.

Permitting actions including Water quality certifications are immediate ways that the Regional Water Board may address climate change impacts to water quality. In the near future, the Regional Water Board may modify or enhance regulatory requirements and non-regulatory tools as part of an emerging climate adaptation strategy. Such modifications may be necessary to account for projected impacts derived from climate and hydrological models and other predictive tools, impacts that have not yet been experienced in the North Coast, nor fully addressed by planning agencies.

For additional information on climate change impacts to water quality in the North Coast and adaptation at the Regional Water Board, please contact Dr. Lance Le at (707) 576-6727 or lance.le@waterboards.ca.gov .

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[8]http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/public_notices/water_quality_certification/

New Water Quality Trading Framework for the Laguna de Santa Rosa

David Kuszmar & Clayton Creager

Staff recently celebrated the release of a technical report containing recommendations for a Water Quality Credit Trading Framework in the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed. The report is the final output of a three-year-long collaborative effort facilitated by the Sonoma Resource Conservation District, and primarily funded by a USDA Conservation Innovation Grant. Contributors to the project included federal, state, and local agency partners, as well as local resource conservation experts, working land managers, and environmental interest groups.

An overview of the project team's work appears as the next article in this report. Additional information, including the aforementioned technical report, can be found at the following website: www.lagunawaterquality.org

The completion of this project represents an important milestone in staff's ongoing efforts to utilize pollutant offsets, water quality trading, and other market-based regulatory tools for restoring the beneficial uses of impaired water bodies such as the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Previously, the Regional Water Board adopted the Santa Rosa Nutrient Offset Program (Resolution No. R1-2008-0061), which gives the City of Santa Rosa the option to implement beneficial nutrient offset projects in the Laguna watershed as a means to comply with stringent NPDES permit limits on nutrients in the City's treated wastewater discharges.

The newly released Water Quality Trading Framework presents an opportunity to make improvements to the existing Nutrient Offset Program and to expand its availability to include both the City of Santa Rosa and the Town of Windsor. NPDES permits for both municipalities

currently contain 'no net loading' effluent limitations for total phosphorus discharges to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Staff therefore proposes to incorporate elements of the recommended framework into a revised Nutrient Offset Program for both municipalities, and to bring the revised program to the Regional Water Board for consideration of adoption (by resolution) in May or June.

In the longer term, staff remains interested in developing expanded options for water quality trading, and incorporating them into its implementation plan for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), which are currently under development.

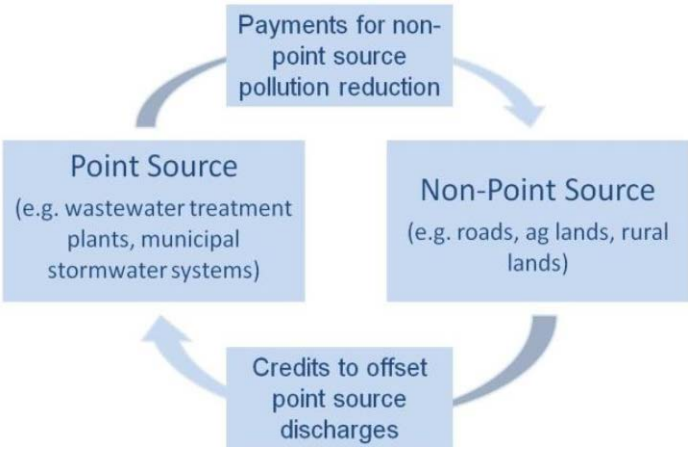
For further information about water quality trading or the Laguna TMDLs, please contact David Kuszmar, Laguna TMDL Project Lead, at david.kuszmar@waterboards.ca.gov or (707) 576-2693.

Water Quality Credit Trading in the Laguna de Santa Rosa – Program Overview

Sonoma Resource Conservation District- Reprinted with permission

Introduction

Water quality credit trading is a concept that allows point source dischargers (e.g., wastewater treatment plants or municipal stormwater systems) to meet pollution reduction needs by paying for quantifiable nonpoint source reductions voluntarily implemented elsewhere in the watershed (e.g., manure management projects or erosion controls). For example, if a streambank restoration project or an agricultural buffer can prevent 5,000 pounds of phosphorus from entering a waterbody through erosion control, then that project could possibly be used to generate credits that offset an equivalent or lesser nutrient discharge from a point source. This helps agencies continue to cost-effectively operate vital services such as sewer systems and stormwater drainage systems and provide opportunities to improve infrastructure and management practices on rural and agricultural lands while improving water quality.



Guiding Principles

A successful water quality credit trading program will be:

Beneficial to the watershed and its residents:

- Net water quality benefits are realized. Those benefits are greater and occur faster than they would without trading.
- The program is voluntary for both buyers and sellers of credits, and is economical for those participating.
- The program is flexible, adaptable and scalable, so that it can change and grow with future needs, and achieve maximum benefit to the beneficial uses of the watershed.

Accountable to watershed stakeholders:

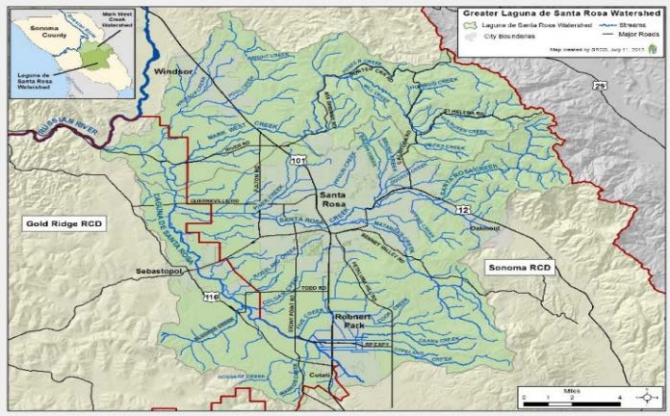
- Projects that generate credits result in actual pollutant reductions.
- The process is transparent, open and accessible.
- Trading rules are clear and enforceable.

Defensible to watershed stakeholders:

- Projects and credits are science-based.
- Crediting is equitable and non-biased.

Project Area

The project area encompasses the entire Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed, an ecologically and economically important area of Northern California. The Laguna is the largest tributary of the Russian River, draining approximately 254 square miles through approximately 435 stream miles, and is the largest freshwater wetlands complex on the northern California coast. The Laguna is home to the City of Santa Rosa, the largest city in California's North Coast Region, and the 12th largest metropolitan area in California. In addition to urban development, the Laguna watershed contains over 70 square miles (over one quarter of the watershed's area) of important farmland.



This material is based upon work supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Department of Agriculture, under number 69-3A75-12-190.

Credit Projects

Credits can be generated by voluntary projects (above and beyond regulatory compliance) on properties throughout the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed. Credits can be generated by farming operations, vineyards, landowners, municipalities, or other agencies. Project types that could generate credits include:

- Livestock and Manure Management Practices
- Road-related Practices (surface treatments and stream crossings)
- Vegetation Enhancement, Buffer & Filter Strips
- Tillage and Cover Crops
- Stream Channel Reconfiguration and Habitat Restoration
- Wetland Creation and Enhancement
- Water and Sediment Basins

In order to generate credits, projects must be carried out according to specific design criteria and must include a commitment to monitor and maintain the projects over time to meet set performance standards. Credits are calculated using pre-determined calculation methods, where available, or using new methods which must be approved by the Regional Water Board.

Third-party Verification

All credit-generating projects will undergo a third-party verification process. Verifiers will be accredited experts who work directly in the field with credit generating project developers to ensure that practices are implemented and functioning as planned. Specific verification responsibilities may vary between project sites but generally the process will involve a combination of desktop and field activities. Desktop verification activities include review of credit calculations, review of annual monitoring reports, and documentation of all verification steps. Field verification will follow a checklist formulated for the specific type of project, and will occur 1) after the project is complete and before credits are issued, 2) after the first rainy season, and 3) on periodic intervals, determined by the length of the credit life.

Tracking and Reporting

Credit Buyers or Aggregators will be required to submit completed forms detailing credit projects and transactions to an Administrator (Sonoma RCD). The Administrator will track all information in a Registry, and will report necessary information to the Regional Water Board and the public annually. While the Regional Water Board will set final requirements for information reported, it is anticipated that not all tracked information will be publicly reported, but rather that private information (such as names and contact information) will be excluded from reporting.

Stakeholder and Technical Input

This program was developed through a 3-year stakeholder process to collect feedback on all program elements. This process involved a *Project Advisory Committee* representing a broad assortment of expertise from consultants, local, state and federal agencies, and local watershed stakeholders. The *Stakeholder Advisory Committee* included representatives of various agricultural sectors that are active in the Laguna, representing potential future sellers of water quality credits. Before this program can be implemented, it must be approved/adopted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Such approval/adoption will afford another opportunity for stakeholder involvement, through a formal public process carried out by the Regional Water Board.

For More Information please visit: http://www.lagunawaterquality.org/ or contact:

Valerie Minton, vminton@sotoyomercd.org, 707-569-1448 x 102

SONOMA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Brittany Heck, brittany@goldridgercd.org 707-823-5244

GOLD RIDGE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Benbow Dam Removal Project

Brendan Thompson

On December 3, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Board issued a Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification to California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) to address potential water quality impacts associated with removal of the Benbow Dam from the South Fork Eel River (SFER). The Benbow Dam is within the Benbow Lake State Recreation Area, approximately 2 miles south of Garberville and approximately 3,000 feet downstream of the historic Benbow Inn and SFER/East Fork SFER confluence.

Initial construction of the approximately 60 foot-wide, 300 foot-long, by 20 foot-high hollow-core, steel-reinforced concrete dam was completed in 1931 by the Benbow Development Company. The dam was built to provide water and electricity for not only the Benbow Inn, but also for the communities in Garberville and the Benbow valley. Electricity generation was abandoned in the 1950s. Approximately forty steel I-beams and wooden flashboards were placed in the two dam sockets each summer to provide an additional nine vertical feet of river blockage. As a result, an approximately 123-acre lake would form 1.3 miles upstream behind the dam that was used for swimming, fishing, and boating recreational opportunities.

CDPR purchased the dam and an adjacent 1,200 acres of land in 1958, and the area was designated the Benbow Lake State Recreation Area in 1962. The dam was last installed in 2007 due to the need for extensive repairs, environmental concerns, and the significant expenses associated with addressing these issues. CDPR subsequently decided that removing the dam was the best option for reasons described below.

Significant impacts to SFER beneficial uses and hydrology are associated with Benbow Lake. Salmonids may have been negatively affected by the warmer lake and river temperatures. The river temperature downstream of the dam increase and discourage or prevent salmon from moving upstream. Invasive fish such as pike minnow likely preyed upon juvenile salmonids. The wave-driven erosion of the river banks undermined riparian redwoods and contributed sediment to the river through bank erosion. Recruitment of riparian vegetation was also negatively affected due to continual soil saturation.

The dam also represents a threat to beneficial uses. Although a low-flow fish passage structure aids fish passage past the dam for part of the year, fish passage is likely impeded in winter when the dam overtops and river velocities increase by as much as 14 feet per second forty feet downstream of the dam. The dam also captures large woody debris and inhibits its downstream distribution.

Benbow Dam during flows of approximately 10,000 cfs, March 2011. The river overtops the dam crest at approximately 12,000 cfs. Photo by courtesy of Questa Engineering.

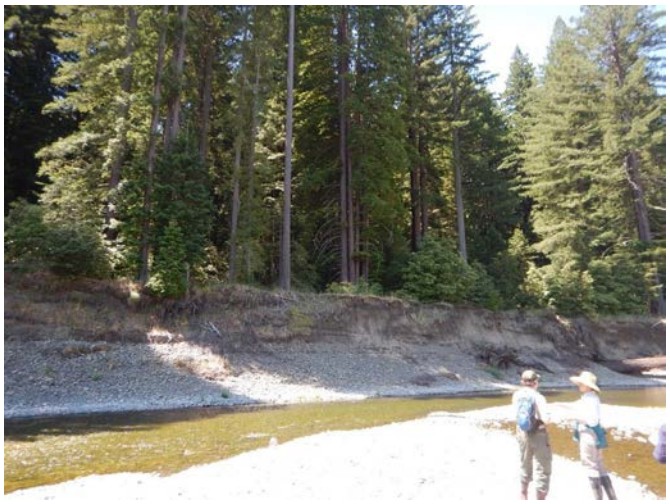
CDPR determined that removal of the entire dam was impracticable and instead proposed removal of the structure to an elevation that would be unlikely to be re-exposed in the future. Demolition of the dam will require removal of approximately 13,000 tons of reinforced concrete and construction of a temporary access road across the SFER gravel bar from the existing Lake Benbow Recreation Area parking lot. CDPR has not determined whether explosives, expanding grout, or some other mechanism will be employed to break apart the reinforced concrete. The 401 water quality certification requires that a chemical or explosive agent workplan be submitted for staff review and approval to ensure its use is protective of water quality.

A 2012 engineer's report prepared for CDPR by Questa Engineering concluded that sediment aggradation above Benbow Dam is not significant due to the hydrologic continuity maintained through the dam associated with its seasonal operation. A longitudinal profile prepared for this river reach indicated that the impact of the dam to channel slope and sediment transport was minor. The engineer's report concluded that dam removal "will not initiate any significant release of stored sediment or cause channel incision." Although an approximately four to five-foot deep, 570-foot long and 110-foot wide mass of native gravel and small cobble material has aggraded behind the dam along the left bank, it may be more the result of its location along an inside bend of the river than due to the dam.

A view of the dam looking north towards fish passage columns and right bank fishway; upstream is to the right. Photo by Brendan Thompson.

CDPR is planning to remove the south side of the dam in 2016 between June 15 and October 31, before pausing for the rainy season and salmonid migration, whereupon the remainder of the dam would be removed during the 2017 work season. The SFER will be diverted around the work area during the work season and water removed from work areas will be captured, tested, and treated for sediment, as appropriate, prior to being released downstream. The 401 water quality certification requires submittal of a diversion and dewatering plan for staff review and approval prior to conducting those activities.

CDPR will remove invasive plant species and plant native riparian shrub, herb, and grass species within an area adjacent the south side of the dam, totaling approximately 0.9 acres. CDPR will also plant native riparian tree species along approximately 1,400 linear feet of the south river bank further upstream to speed recovery of the riparian zone impacted by bank erosion. The riparian tree planting palette at both locations includes various native willow species, black cottonwood, alders, and redwoods.



South bank of the South Fork Eel River upstream of Benbow dam. CDPR will plant riparian vegetation along at this location to speed up recovery of the river bank damaged by wave action and saturation from Lake Benbow. Photo by Brendan Thompson.

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Russian River Watershed Association Environmental Column – January 2016

Safe Medicine Disposal Update

It's a question that we have all found ourselves asking at one point or another: what do I do with my old prescription and over the counter medicines? Proper disposal of medicines has been a long standing issue where, for many years, the public was directed to throw old medicines away in their trash or flush them down the toilet. However, studies have shown that these two disposal methods, although easy and very convenient, are also not environmentally appropriate. Statistics are also telling us there are real problems with prescription medicine abuse – including accidental poisonings - among all segments of our population, fueled in large part by availability of surplus medicines from family members or friends.

The regional partners that comprise RRWA membership, from both Mendocino and Sonoma Counties, have enacted a free Safe Medicine Disposal program to take back old, unused, unneeded, expired, or otherwise no longer desired medicines. In Mendocino County, Ukiah has 3 take-back locations, Willits and Fort Bragg each have one, and the Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority operates a HazMobile collection program. In Sonoma County, there is at least one take back location in the Cities of Cotati, Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, and the Town of Windsor. There are additional locations in unincorporated areas of the County. The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency also collects unwanted medicines at its Household Toxics Facility at the Central Disposal Site, via weekly Community Toxic Collection (CTC) events held all over Sonoma County, and through the Toxic Rover household pick-up service. More than twenty secure mailbox-like bins are located in pharmacies and police departments throughout the two counties to keep unused medications out of the wrong hands and the environment. To find the closest drop off location near you, please visit www.safemedicinedisposal.org/drop-off-locations

SAFEMEDICINE
DISPOSAL PROGRAM

The Safe Medicine Disposal program provides a means for proper disposal of unwanted medicines. Currently, there are a limited number of take-back locations, in part, because the cost of running the program is borne by the local government. Since 2008, the program has safely transported more than 90,000 pounds of collected medications to a certified disposal facility, but the cost of collection, hauling, and disposal is high.

Recently, nearby counties have developed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) ordinances which shift the burden of medicine disposal to medicine manufacturers and distributors.

One of the pioneer Extended Producer Responsibility programs was developed by Alameda County and recently passed the ultimate legal test. The United States Supreme Court chose to allow a decision by the 9th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals in favor of the Alameda ordinance to stand against legal challenges and establish a comprehensive take-back program. The responsibility and expense for medicine take-back programs in Alameda is now placed with medicine manufacturers and distributors, thus putting the burden of disposal back to the parties that profit from the medicines' sale.

Mendocino and Sonoma County leaders are discussing establishing an ordinance for medicine disposal similar to Alameda County's. Recently, Andy Rodgers (RRWA Executive Director) and Mark Landman, Cotati City Council Member and RRWA Chair, visited all the local municipality governing bodies to explain Safe Medicine Disposal and discuss the opportunity to develop an extended producer responsibility ordinance. Eight cities in Sonoma County have signed letters of support to evaluate the feasibility of extending responsibility of medicine disposal in Sonoma County to medicine producers and manufacturers.

Who do you think should pay for the safe disposal of medicines? What do you currently do with your unwanted medications? Tell us at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SonomaMedsSharps

This article was authored by Henry Mikus of the City of Sebastopol on behalf of RRWA. Reprinted with permission.

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Current Grants in the North Coast Region

Rebecca Fitzgerald

The Water Board has a long history of awarding and managing successful grants that make a tangible, immediate difference on the ground. The goal of our grant program is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of the Region's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment and public health for present and future generations.

Currently, North Coast Regional Water Board staff are managing fifteen grants totaling approximately $5.2 million throughout the region.

For information on grants, please contact Rebecca Fitzgerald at 707-576-2650 or rebecca.fitzgerald@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please see next page for the listing of the current North Coast grants awarded.

Current North Coast Grants

Grant Name Agreement # Grant Type	Grantee	Description of Major Work	Amount
Navarro River Headwaters TMDL Implementation Project 11-091-551 319 Implementation Grant	*Mendocino Resource Conservation District*	Sediment control for 9.3 miles of roads, upgrade 3 fish passage barriers, and construct riparian restoration demonstration project, including invasive plant removal, and planting 300 plants in the Navarro River Watershed.	450,000
Laguna de Santa Rosa Dairy Enhancement 12-401-551 319 Implementation Grant	*Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District*	Develop comprehensive nutrient management plans, install approx. 7,945 feet of electric riparian fencing (4,995 feet exclusionary fencing along the main-stem of Laguna and 2,950 feet fencing to enhance pasture management), and install two 500 gallon concrete water troughs and pasture pipe.	578,280
Accelerating Water Quality Improvement in the Klamath Basin 12-402-551 319 Implementation Grant	*Klamath Watershed Partnership*	Track & develop webpages for 4 pilot projects under the Klamath Tracking and Accounting Program. Adjust Shade-a-lator and Nutrient Tracking Tool for application in Upper Klamath Basin.	123,100
Shasta River Irrigation Water Management & Watershed Stewardship 13-501-251 319 Implementation Grant	*Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District*	Implement 2 water management projects from the Shasta Springs Study, implement 2 irrigation water or tailwater management projects, and develop the Shasta Watersheds Stewardship Report.	610,000
Garcia River TMDL Implementation Project, II 13-502-251 319 Implementation Grant	*Mendocino Resource Conservation District*	Implement 3 erosion control plans on approx. 20.3 miles of forest roads & 370 feet of stream bank on 3 ranches in the Garcia River Watershed	750,000
Historical Ecology for Guiding TMDL Implementation in the Laguna de Santa Rosa 13-505-251 319 Planning Grant	*San Francisco Estuary Institute*	Enhance existing and planned best management practices for nutrient reduction through the collection and synthesis of historical data to identify wetland restoration opportunities.	125,000
Assessment & Planning Analysis of Shasta River: Dwinnell Reservoir Parks Creek Confluence 13-508-251 319 Planning Grant	*California Trout Inc.*	Identify and assess limiting factors, prioritize opportunities to improve habitat conditions and survival of coho salmon, and develop final designs for two projects to improve ranch irrigation water management.	115,380
Collaborative TMDL Planning For Navarro Watershed 14-418-251 319 Planning Grant	*Mendocino Resource Conservation District*	Identify 60 miles of prioritized roads for sediment improvements; inspect 30-35 miles of prioritized roads; and prioritize sites for future treatment. Run BasinTemp model for current shade, topo shade, and reference shade. Create Heat Index GIS layer and identify restoration sites.	169,284

Current North Coast Grants

Redwood Creek, South Fork Eel River Water Conservation, Planning, Assessment & Education Project 14-419-251 319 Planning Grant	*Salmonid Restoration Federation*	Monitor summer flows and temperatures in Redwood Creek to identify impairments, and develop solutions, to build capacity for a water conservation program.	75,000
South Fork Eel River Water Conservation Program 14-420-251 319 Planning Grant	*California Trout Inc.*	Conduct water resource investigations in Sproul Creek as the initial phase of a program to refine water conservation methodologies in the South Fork Eel River.	175,000
Focused Implementation of Sediment/Temperature TMDLs in Navarro using Fish Friendly Farming 14-421-251 319 Implementation Grant	*California Land Stewardship Institute*	Implement Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) projects and enroll 5,000 acres of vineyard/orchard parcels in the Navarro River Watershed in the FFF program.	250,750
Elk River Stewardship Program 15-xxx-xxx 319 Planning Grant	*Humboldt County*	Initiate stewardship framework, host website, and convene steering committee. Convene work group meetings to address/develop alternative water supply strategy, road/bridge project study report, instream remediation feasibility assessments, potential instream remediation projects, and monitoring plan.	174,956
Bogus Creek Watershed Riparian Protection Project 15-xxx-xxx 319 Implementation Grant	*Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District*	Fence riparian areas along 6 stream miles and install 2 alternative stock water systems.	421,659
Elk River Sediment Remediation Pilot Implementation Projects 15-xxx-xxx Timber Fee Fund Grant	*California Trout Inc.*	Implement 3 pilot projects to remove floodplain sediments, cull riparian vegetation, and recontour channels in Elk River reaches with nuisance sediment deposits.	638,557
Large Wood Augmentation Projects in the Mendocino Hydrologic Unit 15-xxx-xxx Timber Fee Fund Grant	*Trout Unlimited*	Install large wood in coho streams throughout the Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit. The sites and number of projects will be determined by a technical advisory group	569,005
			$ 5,225,971

Enforcement Report for January 2016 Executive Officer's Report

Diana Henrioulle

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of January 12, 2016
10/12/15	City of Etna Collection System	Stipulated Order for ACLO	Failure to comply with Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems	Paid/Resolved

Comments: On October 12, 2015, the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board issued Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order WQ-2015-0151-EXEC to the City of Etna Collection System for failure to comply with the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems, including late submittal or non-submittal of various technical information and reports. The penalty amount is $19,182. The Discharger has paid the assessed penalty amount and this matter is resolved.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of January 12, 2016
10/26/15	Samoa Pacific LLC	NOV	WDR	Resolved

Comments: On October 26, 2015, the Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Samoa Pacific LLC for failure to comply with WDR Order No. R1-2007-0026 and Monitoring & Reporting Program Order No. R1-2007-0026 (MRP). Under the MRP, the Discharger is to submit monthly self-monitoring reports. The NOV requires that the Discharger submit monthly reports for February, April, and May of 2011 and January through December, 2013 by November 13, 2015. The Discharger has submitted the required reports and this matter is deemed resolved.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of January 12, 2016
11/3/15	City of Santa Rosa Laguna	EPL	MMP	Ongoing

Comments: On November 3, 2015, the AEO issued an Expedited Payment Letter (EPL) to the City of Santa Rosa Water Department for Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) violations in the amount of $12,000. The discharger has proposed to pay the penalty, and the proposed settlement has been posted for a 30-day public comment period ending January 4, 2016. Staff received no comments on this matter during the public comment period.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of January 12, 2016
11/13/15	Mendocino Railway-Skunk Train	13267	Threatened sediment discharges	Ongoing

Comments: On November 13, 2015, the AEO issued a 13267(b) order to Mendocino Railway/Skunk Train requiring submittal of short and long term erosion control plans to control or minimize sediment discharges into Pudding Creek associated with repairs to a recently collapsed railway tunnel. The discharger has thus far failed to provide an adequate response. This matter is ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of January 12, 2016
12/3/15	Marble Mountain Ranch	NOV	Unregulated discharges to waste in waters of the state	Ongoing

Comments: On December 3, 2015, the Planning, Stewardship, and Compliance Assurance Division Chief issued an NOV to Marble Mountain Ranch for unauthorized discharges of waste in waters of the state. This NOV is part of a coordinated enforcement effort with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Water Rights (Water Rights) to direct the discharger to address public trust and water quality impacts associated with a water diversion ditch that originates on Stanshaw Creek and discharges to Irving Creek, both tributaries to the Klamath River. The diversion has been in place since the 1800s, and currently provides water for domestic uses and power generation on the Marble Mountain Dude Ranch. On an inspection with Water Rights staff in early 2015, Regional Water Board staff noted numerous locations along the ditch where it has failed in the past, may fail in the future, or where it is or may be causing active erosion/sediment delivery at this time. These features represent active or potential violations of the Basin Plan, the Water Code, and/or the Clean Water Act. Water Rights and Regional Water Board staff have sent to the discharger and the discharger's counsel a package comprised of inspection reports prepared by respective agencies, the Regional Water Board's NOV, and a draft CAO under a cover transmittal letter directing a response within 30 days (by January 2, 2016) discussing the discharger's plan to address violations. Counsel for the discharger has requested, and been granted, an extension to January 19, 2016 to respond.