

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 13-14, 2004

Prepared on April 7, 2004

ITEM NUMBER: 10 and 48

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

Brief discussion of some items of interest to the Board follows. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

**Watershed and Cleanup Branch Reports**

**REGULATION SUMMARY OF  
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2004**

[Sandy Cheek 805/542-4633]

Orders

General Order ROWDs Received	1
General Order Requirements Pending	24
Individual Order ROWDs Received	1
Individual Order Requirements Pending	10
Inspections Made	20
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (WB)	268
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (CB)	13
Stormwater Reports Reviewed	15

Enforcement

Non-Compliance Letters Sent:	
NPDES Program	1
Non-Chapter 15 WDR Program	14
Chapter 15 Program	4
Unregulated	0
Stormwater	3
CAOs Issued	0
ACL Complaints	4

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS**

[Sandy Cheek 805/542-4633]

In general, staff recommends "Standard Certification" when the applicant proposes adequate mitigation. Measures included in the application must assure that beneficial uses will be protected, and water quality standards will be met.

Conditional Certification is appropriate when a project may adversely impact surface water quality. Conditions allow the project to proceed under an Army Corps permit, while upholding water quality standards.

Staff will recommend "No Action" when no discharge or adverse impacts are expected. Generally, a project must provide beneficial use and habitat enhancement for no action to be taken by the Regional Board. A chart on the following page lists applications received from February 1, 2004 to March 31, 2004.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004

County	Date Received	Applicant	Project Description	Receiving Water	Project Location	Action Taken
Monterey	February 6, 2004	Brady Rider Department of Transportation	Monterey Operational Improvements Project (B)	Prunedale Creek	Prunedale	Standard Certification
Santa Cruz	February 6, 2004	Brady Rider Department of Transportation	Santa Cruz Emergency Storm Damage Repair Route 9, PM 4.77	San Lorenzo River	Santa Cruz	Standard Certification
Santa Barbara	February 5, 2004	Mary Hale/Martin Woodworth Southern California Gas Company	Line 1005 Maintenance, Cold Springs Creek Crossing Repair	Cold Springs Creek	Montecito	Standard Certification
San Luis Obispo	February 4, 2004	Bruce Buckingham Bermant Development	Dove Creek Development	Paloma Creek and Salinas River	Atascadero	Pending
San Luis Obispo	February 6, 2004	Glen Priddy	Los Berros Creek Bank Stabilization Project	Los Berros Creek	Oceano	Pending
San Luis Obispo	February 10, 2004	Steve Boneso Doug Filipponi	Residential Development Las Tablas Tract 2559	Toad Creek to Salinas River	Santa Margarita	Pending
San Luis Obispo	February 10, 2004	Paavo Ogren, Deputy Director of SLO Department of Public Works	Replacement Project Salinas Pipeline at Trout Creek	Trout Creek to Salinas River	Santa Margarita	Pending
Santa Barbara	February 6, 2004	Joy Hufschmid Santa Barbara County Public Works	Cathedral Oaks Road Bridge Replacement	San Antonio Creek	Goleta	Pending
San Luis Obispo	February 20, 2004	Fred Schott Martin Resorts Inc.	Ocean Bluff Protection System – Bluff Stabilization	Pacific Ocean	Pismo Beach	Standard Certification
San Luis Obispo	March 1, 2004	Eugene Yuan	Retaining Wall	Laguna Lake	San Luis Obispo	Standard Certification Pending
Santa Barbara	February 26, 2004	James and Marybeth Vogelzang	Vogelzang Vineyards Reservoir Grading and Drainage Plan Project	Santa Agueda Creek	Santa Ynez	Pending
San Luis Obispo	March 8, 2004	Glen Priddy, Deputy Director SLO Department of Public Works	Turri Road at Los Osos Creek Remediation Project	Los Osos Creek	Los Osos	Pending
Santa Barbara	March 4, 2004	Karen Ramsdell, Santa Barbara Airport Director	Verhelle Bridge Replacement	San Pedro Creek, San Jose Creek, Pacific Ocean	Santa Barbara	Pending
San Luis Obispo	March 8, 2004	Harvey Billing	Templeton Medical Facility Relocation of Drainage Swale/Channel	Toad Creek to Salinas River	Templeton	Pending
Santa Cruz	March 11, 2004	Steve Palmisano City of Watsonville	Fish Screen Replacement for Eureka Canyon Surface Water Intake	Corralitos Creek	Corralitos	Pending
San Luis Obispo	March 17, 2004	Chad Wittstrom	Monte Vista Sewer Line and Access Road	Salinas River	Paso Robles	Pending
San Benito	March 29, 2004	California Department of Parks and Recreation	Expansion of Off- Highway Vehicle Trails within Hollister Hills	Bird Creek and San Benito Creek	8 miles south of Hollister	Pending

## WATERSHED REPORTS

### Status Reports

#### Los Osos Wastewater Project [Sorrel Marks 805/549-3695]

Following is a brief summary of issues relating to the Los Osos wastewater project since the last update provided in the February 6, 2004 Executive Officer's Report

In November 2003, project opponents appealed San Luis Obispo County's approval of the Coastal Development Plan Permit to the California Coastal Commission. Staff sent detailed letters to the Coastal Commission addressing appeal issues, and a letter from Chair Daniels requesting that the Commission address the appeal without further delay (see **Attachments 1, 2, and 3**). Regional Board Chair Young and staff plan to participate in the Coastal Commission appeal hearing and give presentations supporting the project. State Board staff also plans to attend the Coastal Commission hearing to address State Revolving Fund loan (SRF) related issues (the likelihood of losing the SRF loan if the project is further delayed).

In the meantime, planning and permitting of the wastewater project is proceeding and the Los Osos Community Services District (CSD) has submitted its 100% design documents. The CSD is currently in the process of accepting bids for construction of the project, with bid opening scheduled for the end of April. Barring unforeseen delays, project construction is expected to begin by this summer.

#### County of San Luis Obispo Beach Sampling Data, Near Pismo Beach Pier [Gerhardt Hubner 805/542-4647]

At the February 6, 2004 Regional Board meeting, during the hearing on the Mandatory Minimum Penalty for the City of Pismo Beach, a discussion ensued regarding the development of Supplemental Environmental Projects and the possibility of investigating pollution sources near Pismo Beach pier. The Regional Board also had several questions of staff regarding beach sampling data, specifically the availability of the County of San Luis Obispo's beach sampling data, and what

comprised Heal the Bay's Annual Beach Report Card.

As follow-up, staff contacted the County of San Luis Obispo's Environmental Health Services (County Environmental), and inquired about their beaching sampling efforts and data availability. County Environmental collects water quality information through the routine water quality monitoring (sampling and analysis) of coastal marine waters. County Environmental, through a California State grant, takes weekly ocean water samples at the County's most visited beaches. The water is tested for total coliform, e-coli, and enterococcus bacteria (indicators of human pathogens). The program runs from April 1st to October 31st each year. County Environmental monitors thirteen (13) locations on a weekly basis year round, from as far up coast as Cayucos State Beach and as far south as Pismo State Beach in Oceano. Most samples are collected 25 yards north or south of the mouth of a storm drain or creek. Staff receives on a weekly basis (via email), an excel spreadsheet with County Environmental's beach bacterial data.

The County also maintains a website with this information at:

[http://www.slopublichealth.org/environmentalhealth/rec\\_water.htm](http://www.slopublichealth.org/environmentalhealth/rec_water.htm)

For the week of April 6, 2004, County Environmental reported all beaches open/no beach closures, and no health advisories. The data provided to staff from County Environmental for the week of March 30, 2004 showed no results exceeding standards.

Finally, beach sampling data County Environmental collects and analyzes is provided to the organization "Heal the Bay", which produces an Annual Beach Report Card described in more detail below.

**Heal the Bay 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Beach Report Card -** Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization founded in 1985, dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay, and Southern California Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life. The organization provides and utilizes research, education, community action and policy programs to achieve its goal. The first Beach Report Card

Heal the Bay published in 1990 covered 60-plus monitoring locations in Los Angeles County from Leo Carrillo Beach to Cabrillo Beach in Los Angeles County. Since that time, Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card has grown in coverage, expanding from Los Angeles County to all of California (where monitoring programs exist).

The 13th Annual Beach Report Card (Report Card) summarizes the results of beach water quality monitoring programs throughout California, from Del Norte County south to San Diego County, over the last 12 months (April 2002 - March 2003). The summary includes an analysis of water quality during dry and wet weather conditions, a brief review of proposed Clean Beach Initiative projects, and a review of the number of sewage spills that impacted recreational waters over the past year. The information derived from this analysis is used to develop recommendations for solving water quality impairments at problem beaches. The report also includes updates on issues that have an impact on beach water quality, such as legislation, regulatory programs and scientific studies.

A-F grading scale has been developed that is based on daily and weekly fecal bacteria pollution levels in the surf zone. The Annual Report Card is issued every May at the beginning of summer season. A Summer Report Card is issued every October with provides grades for the June through September dry weather months. A Weekly Report Card with the latest water quality analysis is updated every Friday, every week.

As stated on Heal the Bay's website: "The Annual and Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. The grades are based on daily and weekly bacterial levels in the surf zone that indicate pollution from numerous sources, including fecal waste. The higher the grade the lower the risk of illness to ocean users. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at California beaches."

The entire report can be read at: <http://www.healthebay.org/brc/annual/2003/default.asp>.

Heal the Bay's Grading System: The Annual Beach Report Card methodology utilizes four thresholds, or specific bacterial densities, that are

associated with increased health risks. These thresholds were derived from California Department of Health Services standards set forth in AB411 and findings from the 1996 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project's (SMBRP) Epidemiological Study on swimmers at urban runoff polluted beaches. Heal the Bay's grading system takes into consideration the magnitude and frequency of an exceedance above indicator thresholds over the course of a year. Furthermore, those beaches that exceed multiple indicator thresholds in a given day received lower grades than those beaches that exceeded just one indicator threshold. The grades are based on a 100-point scale. For each monitoring location, points are subtracted from a perfect score of 100 points depending upon where the data falls within the designated thresholds. As the magnitude or frequency of bacteria density threshold exceedance increases, the number of points subtracted increases. Water quality drops dramatically during and immediately after a rainstorm, but often rebounds to its previous level within a few days. For this reason, wet weather data was analyzed separately in order to avoid artificially lowering a location's grade. A wet weather data point is any sample collected during or for three days following the cessation of a rainstorm. Heal the Bay's annual report card and weekly report cards utilized a definition of a significant rainstorm as precipitation more than or equal to one tenth of an inch ( $\geq 0.1$ "). Also, in response to requests from health agency officials, the Beach Report Card now analyzes dry weather water quality data for two time periods, 1) April 2002 to October 2002 (AB411 time period), and 2) April 2002 to March 2003.

According to Heal the Bay: "Dry weather water quality at all beaches in San Luis Obispo County was excellent. Of the 13 water quality monitoring locations, 92% of the locations received excellent water quality marks. The monitoring location exception was Pismo Beach Pier-southside of the pier, which received a B. Wet weather water quality at beaches in San Luis Obispo County was generally excellent. Only three monitoring locations received fair-to-poor water quality marks: Cayucos State Beach between Cayucos Creek and the Pier (C), and Avila Beach at both San Juan Street (F) and San Luis Street (F). For the second year in a row, there were zero (0) reported sewage spills in San Luis Obispo County

that led to beach closures." This analysis can be viewed at:

<http://www.healthebay.org/brc/annual/2003/counties/slo/analysis.asp>

Unfortunately, Heal the Bay's Annual Report Card included on its 2002-2003's "Beach Bummers List" Pismo Beach Pier for the worst San Luis Obispo County Monitoring location based on dry weather water quality. In addition, Avila Beach at San Juan and San Luis Streets received an F for sampling conducted during wet weather season.

For the four-week period ending April 6, 2004 (latest report available to view at staff report preparation time) all monitoring locations in San Luis Obispo County received grades of A or B.

In summary, County bacteria monitoring data is just one of many sources of information used to prioritize non-point source efforts and grant funding opportunities.

Groundbreaking Ceremony for City of Pismo Beach's New Wastewater Treatment Plant [Gerhardt Hubner 805/542-4647]

**Background** - The City of Pismo Beach (City) currently owns and operates an overloaded and outdated wastewater treatment facility. The plant is near its design capacity, is unable to handle peak holiday weekends, and regularly falls into upset conditions. Over the years the Regional Board has requested improvements in the City's collection and treatment system. In 1998, the Regional Board issued CAO Order No. 98-83 to the City, ordering them to make improvements in their collection system, and requiring them to develop a wastewater master plan. In the past couple of years, the City Council considered a number of other options and alternatives; including consolidation with another sanitation district, relocation/construction of the facility at another site, and retrofitting the existing facility. In July of 2002, the City Council certified a Final Environmental Impact Report, and voted to proceed with the alternative of repair/replacement at the existing site. The City hired a design consultant, and the project is now ready for construction.

On April 6, 2004, Regional Board staff members Scott Phillips and Gerhardt Hubner attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility. The ceremony marked the long anticipated start to much needed upgrades and improvements for this wastewater treatment facility. Staff has spent considerable time working with City staff the past three years to assist with the environmental review, permitting and financing for the project, including attendance and participation at City Council meetings. A portion of the financing for the project comes from the SWRCB's State Revolving Fund loan program. The event was attended by the Pismo Beach City Council, City staff and their consultant, contractors, media, and members of the public. Several attendees, including Regional Board staff received golden shovels to commemorate the event.

When completed, in approximately two years, the improvements at the wastewater treatment plant will include construction of two oxidation ditches, two new 65-foot diameter secondary clarifiers, a new biosolids pump station, a new headworks, a new standby generator to replace the two existing smaller generators, and a new operations center/lab. At the September 2004 Regional Board meeting, staff proposes, as part of the renewal of the City's existing NPDES permit (Order No. 99-31/CA0048151), to incorporate the facility's new description and processes into a revised Order/Permit.

City of Lompoc, State Revolving Fund Request [Corinne Huckaby 805/549-3504]

On February 1, 2002, the Executive Officer issued a letter to interested parties soliciting projects for inclusion on the Fiscal Year 2002-03 Revolving Fund Loan Program Priority List. The City of Lompoc submitted a project for wastewater treatment plant upgrades. The City estimated the project would cost \$60 million dollars.

The City of Lompoc's proposal included plant upgrades to eliminate ongoing discharge violations and to construct facilities to comply with their NPDES permit adopted May 18, 2001. Plant improvements are expected to eliminate discharge violations for toxicity, coliform, nutrient removal, and metals reduction. The current Lompoc plant permit includes interim discharge limits for several

metals. The upgrades proposed with this package should ameliorate these chronic violations. The Lompoc treatment plant discharges to the Santa Ynez River which has a 303(d) listing for nutrients.

The Regional Board at its April 19, 2002 meeting, agreed with the Lompoc project and a memo (dated April 24, 2002) requesting that this project, along with 3 other projects, be included on the priority listing was transmitted to State Board. The final Priority Project listing for FY 2002-03 adopted by State Board, reflected the \$60 million dollars that the City of Lompoc was requesting. The FY 2003-04 Priority project listing reflected the \$60 million dollars that the City of Lompoc was requesting.

The most recent project priority listing (distributed by State Board to regions in January 2004) soliciting projects for FY 2004-05 listed a reduced project cost allocation of \$4 million dollars for the Lompoc project. The reason for the reduction in requested funding was unclear to both Lompoc and Regional Board staff. In response, the City of Lompoc resubmitted their original project proposal, requesting a dollar value (\$50 million dollars) that more accurately reflects the projected costs for the necessary improvements. Following the March 19, 2004, Board Meeting, the Executive Officer sent a memo to State Board on April 2, 2004 requesting that the allocation for the Lompoc project be revised from \$4 million dollars to \$50 million dollars.

Joseph Gallo Farms Feed Lot, Gonzales, Monterey County [Martin Fletcher 805/549-3694]

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted NPDES Permit No. CA0050601, Waste Discharge Requirements for the Joseph Gallo Farms Feed Lot, Order No. R3-2003-0126, at its public meeting in San Luis Obispo on December 5, 2003. At the time of adoption, Board members requested that staff follow up at a future meeting with an update regarding historical information, nitrate studies, and preliminary soil monitoring.

The following information is a brief historical summary of the feedlot site. The facility began operating as a feedlot for beef cattle in 1969. From 1973 to 1975 it maintained a herd of about

300 head. The facility's peak beef cattle population was approximately 86,000 head from 1979 to 1985. Between 1985 and 1990, there were approximately 36,000 head at the feedlot. From 1990 to 2000, the population gradually declined to approximately 24,000. Also, during the late 1990s the feedlot was shifting from beef cattle to dairy heifers. This is important because mature dairy heifers produce less waste than mature beef cattle. From 2000 to 2003 the feedlot's cattle population ranged from 8000 to 15,000 head of cattle, most of which were dairy heifers. Since Joseph Gallo Farms purchased the feedlot in May of 2003, the facility has had a population of approximately 11,000 dairy heifers. The overall size of the feedlot prior to May 2003 was approximately 420 acres, which included 150 acres of pens for cattle. The facility size is currently 373 acres, which includes 101 acres of pens for dairy heifers; there is an additional 272 acres used for dry storage, irrigated croplands, runoff control, and composting.

In response to Board member requests, Regional Board staff reviewed the following four reports:

- "Nitrate in Drinking Water", Report to the Legislature, Report No. 88-11 WQ, Division of Water Quality
- "Report of the Ad Hoc Salinas Valley Nitrate Advisory Committee", November 1990, Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- "Nitrates in Ground Water 1987 - 1993 Salinas Valley, California", August 1995, Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- "Water Resources Data Report", Water Year 1994-1995, Monterey County Water Resources Agency

The reports indicate various degrees of nitrate contamination throughout the Salinas Valley and do confirm Board Member concerns of elevated levels of nitrate in groundwater in areas near the City of Gonzales and the feedlot. The applicable wells used in the reports appear to be located in agricultural crop/farm areas east of the City and west of the feedlot. As discussed at the December Board Meeting, the feedlot historically sampled agricultural supply wells to satisfy its groundwater monitoring requirements. These wells have not demonstrated elevated levels of nitrate and it is important to note are located between the feedlot

and cropland containing the well locations of the reports.

As requested by Board members, the Monitoring and Reporting Program requires Joseph Gallo Farms to perform pen area soil monitoring at depths of 4, 8, and 12 feet, analyzing for nitrate, ammonia, total kjeldahl nitrogen, and phosphorous. In order to establish a baseline, pen area soil monitoring will be performed quarterly in three different pens for one year and if results warrant a reduction, pen area soil monitoring will be reduced to one pen annually. The first sampling event indicates significant reductions with depth for nitrate and total kjeldahl nitrogen. Nitrates were not detected in any pens at 12 feet. Ammonia was not detected at any locations except the 4-foot zone of one pen. Total phosphorous had unusual results in two of the pens in that the 8 foot zone had higher values than the 4 foot and 12 foot zones. Regional Board staff will continue to evaluate future monitoring for similar trends or other issues that may require action.

Rancho San Carlos, Carmel Valley, Monterey County [Scott Phillips 805/549-3550]

Rancho San Carlos, also known as Santa Lucia Preserve, is a relatively new development. The wastewater is handled by a package tertiary treatment plant. The facility is designed for around 75,000 gpd, but currently only receives about 15,000 gpd. Because of this low flow, the facility is forced to run in recycle mode most of the time. This recycling contributes to some of the salts violations. As flow increases the plant should operate more efficiently and more consistently meet the existing salt limits. Treated effluent is discharged to a lined pond where it is blended with well water and used for golf course irrigation. Another cause of the regular exceedences of BOD and salts effluent limits is the very stringent effluent limits. Regional Board staff now intends to propose Waste Discharge Requirements revisions to make the BOD and salts effluent limits (as well as nitrate limits) more attainable while still being protective (we do not yet know the date for a Regional Board meeting for this proposed update). However, from a threat to water quality perspective, this renewal has remained a fairly low priority.

## CLEANUP REPORTS

### Status Reports

Petroleum Contamination in the Community of Avila Beach [Diane Kukul 805/542-4637]

Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo County, has been host to several environmental investigations from as early as 1989, when a property owner detected hydrocarbon-contaminated soil on his lot in Avila Beach. In November 2000, a large-scale remediation effort along Front Street was designated "case closed" by the Regional Board. While petroleum contamination along Front Street was cleaned up to the Regional Board's satisfaction, the following additional areas of known contamination remain in the Avila Beach community:

- Intersection of San Miguel Street and Avila Bay Drive.
- East of San Luis Creek/Estuary, in the vicinity of the Avila Beach Golf Resort property, Avila Bay Drive, and First Street.
- West of San Luis Creek, at the landward end of the Cal Poly Pier (formerly the Unocal Pier).
- Unocal's Avila Beach tank farm.
- Avila Pier plume (also referred to as the Intertidal-Subtidal Plume, and the Outlier Plume).

Unocal investigated each of these areas to some extent in the mid-to-late-1990s. During that time, Unocal agreed to fully address these areas after the Front Street contamination was cleaned up. Staff is currently reviewing Unocal's request for No Further Action for contamination present at the landward end of the Cal Poly Pier. At the Regional Board's direction, Unocal is in the process of further addressing the other areas noted above as well. Staff will be discussing the Avila Pier plume at the September 10, 2004 Regional Board meeting (rather than the May 14, 2004 meeting, as stated at the February 6, 2004 Regional Board meeting).

In addition to locations noted above, Mr. Tom Guernsey of Avila Beach reported at the February 6, 2004, Regional Board meeting that Unocal should be required to investigate (or further investigate) and clean up other areas within Avila Beach that may contain petroleum contamination. In a March 9, 2004 conference call with Mr.

Guernsey, staff reviewed and discussed Mr. Guernsey's concerns, and outlined the path forward for addressing remaining petroleum contaminant issues in Avila Beach. Staff continues to evaluate existing data and look into historical information to determine the thoroughness of petroleum contamination characterization in Avila Beach. In the event that staff identifies data gaps, Unocal will be directed to take appropriate actions to address the lack of information. These actions could include environmental sampling and analysis, as well as remediation.

Santa Ynez Valley Airport Landfill [Hector Hernandez 805/542-4641]

#### Summary

The following is a status report on recent developments concerning the Santa Ynez Airport Landfill, Santa Barbara County.

#### Background

The Santa Ynez Airport Landfill (Landfill) was operated by Santa Barbara County (County) as a municipal solid waste landfill and accepted waste material generated in the Santa Ynez Valley during an approximately 11-month period, between 1969 and 1970. Land disposal operations at the Landfill began upon closure of the Ballard Canyon Landfill and ceased when land disposal operations were shifted to the Foxen Canyon Landfill. The Landfill is an unpermitted landfill site that became inactive prior to the promulgation of the Title 27 Landfill regulations.

The Landfill is located approximately one mile southeast of the community of Santa Ynez in an undeveloped, open space setting approximately 500 feet south of State Highway 246 [see **Attachment 4**, (Figure 1)], on land leased and operated by the Santa Ynez Airport Authority. The Landfill site is comprised of three separate waste filled trenches, occupies a total area of approximately 1.6 acres, and is estimated to contain up to 55,000 cubic yards of waste material [see **Attachments 5 and 6**, (Figures 2 & 3)]. Two trenches (B-1 and B-2) are located in the northeast corner of the parcel and occupy an area of approximately one acre. The third trench (B-3) is located southwest of B-1 and B-2 and occupies an area of approximately six-tenths of an acre. Trenches B-1 and B-2 are surrounded on the north

and east by a vineyard, on the west by a soil storage area, and on the south by open space. Trench B-3 is surrounded on the north by a soil storage area, on the east and west by open space, and on the south by the airport runway. There are no temporary or permanent structures located within the Landfill boundary. Several structures are located within 1,000 feet of the perimeter of the Landfill. These structures include a U.S. Forest Service building, County Fire Station #32, and the Gainey Winery Administration building.

The principal aquifer in the basin is the Pliocene-Pleistocene Paso Robles Formation. The Paso Robles Formation consists of heterogeneous lenticular beds of poorly consolidated gravel, and silt and clay. The regional direction of groundwater flow in the vicinity of the site is to the north. The Paso Robles Formation is an unconfined aquifer in the area, and has been penetrated by all existing groundwater-monitoring wells at the site. Groundwater has been measured between 52 and 79 feet below ground surface in monitoring wells around the Landfill. Monitoring of groundwater elevations in the groundwater monitoring wells indicates a relatively consistent flow direction to the north to northwest, with an average groundwater velocity at 0.33 feet/day.

#### Groundwater Monitoring, Degradation and Remediation

- Groundwater-monitoring requirements were established through the issuance of a Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in April 2003. The present water quality monitoring system consists of eight groundwater-monitoring wells, which are sampled on a semi-annual basis.

Historically, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been detected in down-gradient and side-gradient monitoring wells. Down-gradient impacts were first identified in 1998, when groundwater monitoring was first implemented. Current monitoring data indicates the following VOCs are currently detected: cis-1, 2-dichloroethene (Cis-1, 2 DCE) at up to 53.0 parts per billion (ppb); tetrachloroethene (PCE) at up to 2.08 ppb; trichloroethene (TCE) at up to 1.74 ppb; and, benzene at up to 2.64 ppb. The corresponding maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for the VOC constituents detected are 6 ppb, 5 ppb, 5 ppb, and 1 ppb, respectively. The existing groundwater plume extends approximately 500 feet beyond the northern-most boundary of trenches B-1 and B-2.



There are no known water supply or irrigation wells directly downgradient from the Landfill. The nearest downgradient wells are the groundwater monitoring wells depicted on [see **Attachment 6, (Figure 3)**]. Existing groundwater pollution is attributed to Landfill gas migration and/or the infiltration of leachate to underlying groundwater.

Presently, the County is in the process of evaluating the feasibility of "clean-closing" the Landfill as a corrective action measure. The County would like to cease management of the Santa Ynez Landfill by removing all of the waste material, consolidating the excavated waste at the Foxen Canyon Landfill, and equipping the Foxen Canyon Landfill with a final cover system. At this time, the County estimates the earliest date project implementation could occur is approximately mid-2006. The County has prepared a CEQA document (Negative Declaration), which has been distributed for public comment. At the end of the comment period, the County will finalize the CEQA document and present it to the County Board of Supervisors for a final decision on how to proceed.

Based on public concerns regarding the proposed "clean closure" alternative, County staff anticipates the CEQA document may require significant changes. If and when the proposed "clean closure" option is approved, the County intends to apply for and obtain a grant from the FAA. The County is relying on the FAA grant to proceed with the proposed "clean closure" project. If the grant cannot be obtained, the County would have to pursue other alternatives (e.g., in-place final closure and groundwater remediation).

Based on County estimates, "clean closure" would cost approximately 2.5-million dollars. However, most of the "clean closure" costs would be offset by the FAA grant, resulting in minimal expenses to the community. Although the in-place closure alternative would result in a much lower initial capital expense, the community would likely be responsible for the final cover system construction costs and other long-term expenses including, a gas collection system, groundwater remediation system, long-term monitoring, analysis and reporting, staff resources, and long-term maintenance. These expenses would be required for as long as the landfill poses a significant threat to water quality. The County estimates the long-

term savings and environmental benefits associated with the "clean closure" option far outweigh the high initial capital expenses.

#### **Summary**

The Regional Board staff's primary goal at this site is to stop or minimize (to the extent feasible) impacts to underlying groundwater. Considering the existing groundwater impacts at the Santa Ynez Airport Landfill, Regional Board staff would support a proposal to permanently cap the waste in-place or excavation and removal of the waste material ("clean-closure"). However, from a water quality perspective, the "clean closure" option appears to be the best alternative for water quality protection. Since all existing waste would be completely removed (source removal), all generation of landfill gas and leachate would cease, resulting in no further contribution of pollutants to underlying groundwater. Staff will work closely with the County to evaluate appropriate groundwater remedial alternatives to address pollutants that are already in the groundwater. The appropriate groundwater remedy to address remnant pollutants will depend on whether the County moves forward with the source removal option.

Further, the "clean closure" option would result in expedited final closure of the Foxen Canyon Landfill. Presently, the Foxen Canyon Landfill has approximately 85,000 cubic yards of remaining capacity. If the "clean closure" option is approved and necessary funding is secured, consolidation activities would be implemented and the Foxen Canyon landfill would be equipped with a final cover system immediately thereafter. The proposed project ("clean closure" of Santa Ynez Landfill and permanent closure of Foxen Canyon Landfill) would result in an overall benefit for water quality and the environment at both locations.

Underground Tanks Summary Report dated April 2, 2004 [Burton Chadwick 805/542-4786]

**[See Attachment 7]**

## REGIONWIDE REPORTS

### Regional Monitoring and Basin Planning [Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

**Monitoring** - Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program staff and our Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) contractors held a conference call with central coast harbor masters on March 19th to describe the upcoming study we will be conducting this June in five of the Region's six harbors. The study design is being conducted in a manner consistent with the U.S. EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP). This will include six randomly selected sites in each harbor, with sediment chemistry, toxicity, benthic invertebrate, and water column data collected at each site. Mussel tissue data will also be collected at two of the sites in each harbor. Mussels have already been deployed for this study. We are seeking additional funding to conduct fish tissue bioaccumulation data as well. This work will be consistent with sampling conducted last spring in Morro Bay by the EMAP program. The meeting provided an opportunity for harbor masters to ask questions about the study design and the potential use of the data.

CCAMP collaborated with a consultant from the Resources Legacy Foundation and staff from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to plan and present at a workshop on the state of monitoring in the Sanctuary on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004. We invited diverse representatives from various agencies and organizations involved in aspects of water quality monitoring and related research. After several presentations, including one by Karen Worcester on CCAMP and related State monitoring activities, the group undertook an exploratory discussion of monitoring gaps and needs. This included a mapping exercise displaying locations of existing monitoring activities by the various participants. The Sanctuary's SIMON program was highlighted as a mechanism to organize metadata from different monitoring programs. We are now compiling input from the workshop to develop recommendations for building more comprehensive and coordinated monitoring in the Sanctuary. With the resulting information, we are hoping that funding can be procured through the Resources Legacy Foundation's Packard funds, or through other sources, to address identified gaps

and needs. Workshop recommendations included establishment of an ongoing working committee to ensure follow-up on ideas generated by the workshop; Karen will be participating on that committee.

The CCAMP field season is in full swing, with benthic invertebrate sampling at our coastal confluence sites underway. CCAMP samplers are coordinating with SWAMP field crews, who are simultaneously gathering toxicity and sediment data at the same sites. We have resumed our monthly monitoring of these sites after a long hiatus due to lack of funding and stalled laboratory contracts.

Karen sat in on the Peer Review for the Moss Landing Harbor Environmental Risk Assessment on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Initial Army Corps findings going into the review were that disposal of dredging spoils should not result in significant human or environmental impacts. The peer review panel had a number of significant comments on the study design. They concluded that objectives needed to be clarified, baseline conditions, environmental fate and transport of sediment needed better characterization; selected ecological receptors were inadequate; and assumptions about exposure needed to be more scientifically defensible. Army Corps staff will address peer review comments in their upcoming revision of the Risk Assessment Report.

CCAMP staff has been meeting with U.S. EPA to provide data and monitoring contacts for the 303(d) listing effort EPA is undertaking. They have asked for our assistance related to development of tools for scanning for exceedance of various criteria. We have a comprehensive collection of guideline values in our Excel-based data management program that we have shared with EPA staff.

We have been making major improvements to the CCAMP web site. To view examples of these improvements, visit <http://www.ccamp.org/ca/3/Sites/304apt/304APT.htm> to view an example of one of our coastal confluence sites, and <http://www.ccamp.org/ca/3/305/305.htm> to view new access to USGS flow data and other resources.

**Agricultural Waiver Program Development** - CEQA documents for the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements from Irrigated Lands have been prepared and sent to the State Clearing House for circulation and a 30-day public

input period. The Board decision on this issue has been postponed until the July agenda because of the large number of agenda items for May.

Alison Jones has been developing a task list for staff implementation of the program and met with the Region 3 nonpoint source (NPS) workgroup to discuss resources and tasks. The workgroup has identified total available funding resources for all NPS related activities at 7.2 personnel years (PYs), but actual bodies at 6.2. In other words, the current workload already exceeds existing staffing levels. Resources include Watershed Management Initiative (WMI), NPS (319h), grant management (Propositions 13, 40 and 50), and TMDL implementation resources. The agricultural waiver program's critical short term needs (starting next fiscal year) are about 4 PY and include database development (urgent) in order to manage the projected 2500 enrollees, extensive outreach before the currently proposed enrollment deadline of December 1, monitoring program development, and agricultural grant funding process participation. WMI and the NPS program are able to provide approximately 1.8 PY that can be dedicated to agricultural waiver implementation. The NPS workgroup is still discussing where the other resources will come from and what other priorities must be addressed. Alison is exploring with EPA staff the option of contracting out database development to Tetrattech, through EPA funds.

Developing the agricultural waiver monitoring program provides a particular challenge. Staff and the Agricultural Advisory Panel have determined that the most effective approach will be group monitoring rather than individual monitoring. However, there is no existing entity that can collect funds from more than 2000 dischargers and administer the proposed monitoring program. Staff is exploring the possibility of devoting some of the

PG&E and Guadalupe settlement funds to establishing a monitoring entity that could work with the agricultural community and Regional Board staff to develop a monitoring dues schedule, collect and hold such dues, administer the monitoring program, and initiate limited monitoring prior to full implementation of the agricultural waiver monitoring program.

Storm Water Construction Sites Annual Reports  
[Jennifer Bitting 805/549-3334]

Regional Board staff worked with the Storm Water Construction Permit holders to attain 100% submittal of the 2003 Annual Compliance Status Reports for active construction sites in Region 3. We currently have 471 active construction permit holders.

Total Maximum Daily Load Program [Lisa McCann 805/549-3132]

Staff is progressing on the TMDL project tasks to be completed during fiscal year 2003-2004. Most of these projects focus on completion of TMDLs in development and initiation of preliminary studies for new TMDL projects. TMDLs nearing completion include San Luis Obispo Creek Nutrients and Pathogens TMDLs, Chorro and Los Osos Creeks Nutrients and Dissolved Oxygen TMDLs. New projects in the preliminary investigation phases include Salinas River Pathogens, Carpinteria Marsh multiple pollutants, Goleta Slough multiple pollutants, Santa Maria and Oso Flaco Nitrates, Santa Maria Bacteria, Pajaro River and Llagas Creek Salts, and Pajaro River Bacteria. See Table of Planned Completion Dates.

**TABLE OF PLANNED COMPLETION DATES FOR TMDL PROJECTS**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>PLANNED COMPLETION DATE</u>
San Luis Obispo Creek Nutrients TMDL	Recommend approval to Board	By June 2005 <sup>1</sup>
San Luis Obispo Creek Pathogens TMDL	Recommend approval to Board	September 2004 <sup>2</sup>
Chorro and Los Osos Creeks Nutrients and Dissolved Oxygen TMDLs	Recommend approval to Board	September 2004 <sup>2</sup>
Pajaro River and Llagas Creek Nutrient TMDL	Complete TMDL Report	June 2004
Pajaro River Watershed Sediment TMDL	Complete TMDL Report	June 2004
Aptos and Valencia Creek Sediment TMDLs	Complete Preliminary TMDL Report	June 2004

Watsonville Slough Pathogen TMDL	Complete Report	Preliminary TMDL	June 2004
Salinas River Pesticide TMDLs	Complete Report	Preliminary TMDL	June 2004

- 1) Depends on setting effluent limit for nitrate in California Men's Colony National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- 2) Depends on timely state scientific peer review.

Staff sent letters to all *implementing parties* and *responsible dischargers* for the Morro Bay and San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDLs, and the Morro Bay Pathogen TMDLs. The letter restated the actions and schedule of implementation required by the approved TMDLs. *Implementing parties* are those engaged in or committed to voluntary compliance, while *responsible dischargers* are those required to comply pursuant to regulation.

US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approved the Morro Bay Sediment and Pathogens TMDLs pursuant to Section 303(d)(2) of the Clean Water Act.

The State Board held two public hearings to seek comments on a Draft Functional Equivalent Document: Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List. The Public Hearings were held in Sacramento, California on January 28, 2004 and in Torrance, California on February 5, 2004. The TMDL Program representatives from all the regions, and the Executive Officers of many of the Regional Boards (including the Central Coast Region) submitted comments indicating that the draft policy as presented by State Board staff was unsatisfactory. Over the past two years, Regional Board staff provided direct technical input through participation on subcommittees, and prepared written recommendations and comments on internal drafts of this policy; however, Regional Board staff found that the State Board staff version, as distributed for public comment, did not include most of this input. The main issues or problems with the policy include:

1. Standard Statistical Method and a Weight of Evidence Method -Use the binomial method as an initial screen of numeric data to determine attainment of standards, and use the weight of evidence procedure recommended by the Regions if some evidence contradicts the conclusion reached from the binomial method. Also, allow

use of other statistical methods to assess attainment where they already exist.

2. Confusing, Redundant, or Unnecessary Language- The Policy should be brief, non-repetitive, and focused on the requirements State Board wishes to establish to assess the status of the State's surface waters. Any guidance or suggestions should be developed as separate technical modules (as is being done with the TMDL Guidance).

3. Proposed Policy goes beyond assessing attainment of standards- Eliminate burden on Regional Boards beyond performing the assessment of whether water quality standards are being attained. (Effort and approaches to address water bodies once they are listed are spelled out in the TMDL Guidance.)

4. Priority and TMDL Schedules- The priority of a listing and the schedule for a TMDL should be separate. Priorities for addressing all identified impairments should be established. Work planning (stating when an impairment should be addressed) can be dealt with in the context of the USEPA/State Board partnership agreement and each Fiscal Year's work plan.

Region Board staff continue to be available and are committed to working with State Board staff on the development and implementation of an improved policy.

The State Board continues to receive comments on the public-noticed version of the TMDL Guidance, A Process for Addressing Impaired Waters in California, and the proposed Water Quality Control Policy (Policy) to implement the regulatory aspects of the Guidance. The draft Guidance and Policy will be considered for adoption at a future State Board Meeting. Regional Board staff has already developed recommendations for TMDL approval consistent with the Draft Guidance and will bring those

recommendations to the Regional Board once the Guidance is approved.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### Presentations and Training [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

On February 26-27, 2004, staff Engineer, Michael Higgins, attended training provided by USEPA contractors on the Development of Site-Specific Water Quality Objectives (SSOs). Dischargers may develop SSOs, with Regional Board approval, if objectives in the California Toxics Rule cannot reasonably be met. SSOs apply only to inland surface waters, bays, and estuaries.

On March 11, 2004, the California Water Environmental Association Tri-Counties Section (CWEA) conducted its annual training program at El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant in Santa Barbara. Staff Engineer Michael Higgins presented basic information on the Mandatory Minimum Penalties required in State law for violations of effluent limitations specified in NPDES permits

Mary Adams attended SWAMP Bioassessment Data Analysis Training through the Training Academy on February 17 - 19.

Mary Adams attended SWAMP Probabilistic Monitoring Design and Analysis Workshop through the Training Academy on March 15 - 17.

Karen Worcester gave an overview of CCAMP and other related state-levels monitoring programs at the February 26<sup>th</sup> monitoring workshop sponsored by the Resources Legacy Foundation, the California Coastal Conservancy, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Karen also served on the steering committee to organize this workshop.

Karen Worcester, Dave Paradies and Mary Adams presented a poster at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Currents Symposium on Saturday, March 6. The poster described key findings of the CCAMP program in the Sanctuary and its watersheds. These included spatial distribution of nutrient pollution in the Region, our new biostimulatory risk index, contaminants in bioaccumulation test species and an overall summary of the CCAMP program. We received a conference award for Best Thematic Poster.

Alison Jones assisted staff from State Board in presenting a workshop to receive public input on the agricultural water quality grants that will be provided under Propositions 40 and 50. Approximately \$20 million dollars will be available. The first workshop was held in San Luis Obispo on March 3 and a second workshop is scheduled for May 6. In addition, Alison has been participating on a workgroup that is developing guidelines for use of the funds. The tentative timetable for release of a Request for Proposals is early fall 2004.

Alison Jones made a presentation on the agricultural waiver to the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Task Force on April 7. She is scheduled to make a similar presentation to the statewide meeting of the Natural Resources Conservation Service on April 22 and to a workshop for greenhouse horticulturalists on April 29.

Roger Briggs gave a presentation as part of a panel for an Environmental Career Symposium organized by the Cal Poly Biological Sciences Department on April 13<sup>th</sup>. About 250 students and faculty attended. Also, Mr. Briggs gave a presentation on Regional Board regulatory activities that affect cities and counties at the Public Works Officers Institute/League of California Cities conference in Santa Barbara, with over 370 people in attendance.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. February 3, 2004 letter to Steve Monowitz
2. February 6, 2004 letter to Mike Reilly
3. February 26, 2004 letter to Steve Monowitz
4. Figure 1 – Santa Ynez Airport Landfill Location Map
5. Figure 2 - Santa Ynez Airport Landfill Site Map
6. Figure 3 – Santa Ynez Airport Landfill Groundwater Monitoring Well Locations
7. Underground Tanks Summary Report dated April 2, 2004.

EO rptMAY04/Carol