

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2016
Prepared December 22, 2015

ITEM NUMBER: 11

SUBJECT: Transformation and Recovery: Santa Rosa Channel Island, 20 Years after Issuance of Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 95-064

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KEY INFORMATION: Compliance with CAO 95-064
Presentation by Kate Faulkner, National Park Service

LOCATION: Santa Rosa Island, Channel Islands National Park, Santa Barbara County (26.5 miles from the nearest mainland, off the coast of Santa Barbara)

THIS ACTION: Informational

This is an informational item to update the Central Coast Water Board and public about the outcome of the Board's Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 95-064.

In 1995 the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer issued Cleanup or Abatement Order No. 95-064 (Order) to the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Channel Islands National Park, for impacts to water quality from rangeland and road management activities at Santa Rosa Island. In compliance with the Order, the National Park Service began monitoring water quality in 1995. The National Park Service also implemented road maintenance practices consistent with the Order in 1997. Additionally in 1997, a settlement agreement provided for removing cattle from Santa Rosa Island by the end of 1998 and for phasing out deer and elk and removing them altogether by the end of 2011. The National Park Service removed the cattle, deer, and elk as scheduled.

The results from implementation of road management practices and removal of the cattle, deer and elk show increased riparian habitat, positive changes in water temperatures, reduced suspended sediments, reduced nutrient concentrations, and reductions in bacteria concentrations at various monitoring sites. On September 30, 2015, Central Coast Water Board staff toured Santa Rosa Island and confirmed the removal of grazing animals, revitalized riparian and terrestrial habitat, and implementation of road management practices which reduce sediment transport into surface waters.

In a December 4, 2015 letter to the National Park Service, the Water Board confirmed the removal of the cattle, deer, and elk and that the National Park Service's actions demonstrate that the requirements of the Order have been met.

Additional information about Santa Rosa Island can be found at this website:
<http://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/historyculture/santarosaisland.htm>