

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 19 2002

Prepared on March 18, 2002

ITEM: 21

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

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

Watershed and Cleanup Branch Reports

**REGULATION SUMMARY OF
FEBRUARY 2002**

[Corinne Huckaby 805/549-3504]

Orders

Reports of Waste Discharge Received	1
Requirements Pending	37
Inspections Made	13
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (WB)	111
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (CB)	49
Stormwater Reports Reviewed	15

Enforcement

Non-Compliance Letters Sent:	
NPDES Program	1
Non-Chapter 15 WDR Program	1
Chapter 15 Program	0
Unregulated	0
Stormwater	7
CAOs Issued	0
ACL Complaints	0

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Corinne Huckaby 805/549-3504]

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 15 to March 15, 2002.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM FEBRUARY 15 THROUGH MARCH 15, 2002

Date Received	Applicant	Project Location	Project Description	Receiving Water	Action
February 27, 2002	San Luis Obispo County Dept. of Public Works	Arroyo Grande Fringe	Branch Mill Road Repair-Site 2	Unnamed Tributary to Arroyo Grande Creek	Pending
February 27, 2002	San Luis Obispo County Dept. of Public Works	Arroyo Grande Fringe	Branch Mill Road Repair-Site 1	Unnamed tributary to Arroyo Grande Creek	Pending
February 28, 2002	San Lorenzo Valley WD	Santa Cruz	Kings Creek Concrete Removal	Kings Creek	Pending
March 4, 2002	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District	Monterey County	Improve Steelhead Passage at Four Sites	Carmel River	Pending
March 4, 2002	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District	Monterey County	Spawning Habitat Restoration Project-Pilot Gravel Injection Program	Carmel River	Pending
March 4, 2002	Monterey Peninsula Water Management	Monterey County	Inflow Bypass-Ranch San Clemente Reservoir	San Clemente Creek	Pending
March 5, 2002	BEACON (Beach Erosion Authority of Clean Oceans and Nourishment)	Goleta	Restoration of 2,000 feet of sandy shoreline at Goleta Beach County Park	Pacific Ocean	Pending
March 5, 2002	Unocal Corporation	Pt. Conception to Cojo Bay	Unocal Cojo Marine Terminal/Point Conception Facilities Decommissioning	Unnamed, ephemeral drainages/Ocean	Pending
March 6, 2002	San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building	San Luis Obispo County	River Grove Drive at Pine Creek Bank Stabilization	Pine Creek	Pending
March 7, 2002	Soquel Creek Water District	Soquel	Soquel Creek Water District: Tannery Well No. 2 Pump Station	Soquel Creek	Pending
March 11, 2002	Caltrans	Carmel	Culvert replacement, Highway 1 north of San Jose Creek Bridge	San Jose Creek	Pending

WATERSHED BRANCH REPORTS

Status Reports

Basin Plan Exemption, Santa Barbara County
[Mike Higgins 805/542-4649]

Chapter VIII.D of this Region's 1994 Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) specifies requirements and limitations for the installation of individual, alternative, and community disposal systems. Prohibition No. 10 on Page IV-65 prohibits discharge from soil absorption systems (leachfields) less than 200 feet from a drinking water storage tank.

Following approval by the Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services Department, the applicant submitted scaled drawings showing the locations of a proposed water storage tank and septic tank/leachfield systems. The drawings showed the water supply tank approximately four feet vertically higher on the sloped lot than the treatment/disposal systems. Additionally, a six-inch rim will protect the manhole opening on the water tank. Based on these factors, staff concluded any wastewater escaping to the ground surface would not flow upslope toward the water tank, but rather down slope.

Additionally, Regional Board staff concurs with the applicant's assessment that it is extremely unlikely wastewater, overflowing from the septic tank, will migrate through the soil and contaminate water in the storage tank. The combined 30-foot horizontal distance and the water tank's position above the septic tank, make negative impacts to the water supply tank realistically infeasible. Wastewater will likely percolate downward, but not laterally over this distance. Second, the cast-in-place tank will be designed according to the Uniform Building Code and will therefore be designed to resist lateral forces caused by a reasonable seismic event. If the water supply tank were to leak, the escaping water would prevent the entry of any sewage present until the storage tank is repaired. Therefore, in a February 26, 2002 letter, the Executive Officer granted an exemption to the Basin Plan prohibition.

CLEANUP BRANCH REPORTS

Status Reports

Unocal Guadalupe Oil Field, San Luis Obispo County
[Katie DiSimone 805/549-3690]

Summary - The following is a status report of Unocal's Guadalupe oil field cleanup. This information was current on March 13, 2002.

Approximately 360,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil are currently stockpiled at the Guadalupe oil field. This stockpile contains spoils from approximately half of the excavations ordered in the Board's April 1998 cleanup order. Unocal and resource agencies have been in the process of evaluating options for additional soil treatment and disposal. Proposed options include land treatment, slurry injection, soil washing, on-site landfill, on-site treated material storage, and off-site disposal. The County of San Luis Obispo has selected a consultant, A.D. Little (ADL), to conduct a supplemental environmental impact report (SEIR) for the proposed options. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced that it will cover the proposed options under its Nationwide Permit 38, Cleanup of Toxic and Hazardous Wastes, for excavation areas in its jurisdiction. Therefore, environmental review under the National Environmental Protection Act will not be needed, and an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

ADL has submitted a revised SEIR proposal (to reflect the updated federal announcement) to the County of San Luis Obispo. The revised proposal and contract is scheduled to be heard at the Board of Supervisors' April 16, 2002 meeting. Unocal and several resource agencies, along with ADL, are working together to identify potential data needs for the SEIR. Unocal is preparing an updated schedule for the SEIR, to incorporate changes to the scope and potential data needs. Unocal still expects the SEIR to be completed in first or second quarter 2003.

Unocal and the Regional Board are making significant progress in mediation to resolve site characterization issues. Draft reports for the risk assessments are due in June and July 2002, with finalization in September 2002. Reports on

confining unit integrity and natural attenuation are also being completed over the next several months.

Underground Tanks Summary Report dated March 26, 2002 [Jay Cano 805/549-3699]

(See Attachment No. 1)

Regionwide Reports

Regional Monitoring [Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

Monitoring – The CCAMP monitoring team has been very busy with the spring field season. For a period of three months from January through March we overlap monitoring in two of our watershed rotation areas; we are currently finishing the Santa Barbara area monitoring and have begun monitoring in the Santa Lucia area. Sampling has included benthic invertebrate community sampling at approximately 44 sites, water column toxicity and organophosphate pesticide sampling at the same 44 sites, sediment chemistry and toxicity sampling at twenty sites, and the usual monthly conventional water quality sampling at 90 sites.

Karen Worcester attended the San Francisco Estuary Institute's annual meeting on the Regional Monitoring Program for San Francisco Bay. This program has undergone substantial redesign over the last several years to incorporate a probabilistic study design approach to bay monitoring. The program is also refocusing to develop a better understanding of sources and fate of pollutants, to better characterize higher food chain impacts of these pollutants, and to learn more about other types of chemicals which may be affecting the Bay, such as detergents, endocrine disrupting chemicals, pharmaceuticals, etc.

Karen also attended a symposium on the Program for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) at Cal State Monterey Bay. PISCO studies are showing that intertidal systems are far more dynamic than anticipated and large shifts are seen in distribution of major community groups over time, probably associated with large-scale oceanographic events such as changing ocean temperature, wave action, etc. This high variability may indicate that it could be challenging to use intertidal communities for

monitoring effects of anthropogenic impacts like land runoff, which is an area of particular focus for the CCAMP program. Recent monitoring studies of several Cal Trans slide areas along the Big Sur coastline indicated that except in several localized areas where inundation by sediment was extreme, the natural movement of sediment onshore and offshore by seasonal wave patterns was the most significant effect measurable. The Long-Term Ecological Research program in Santa Barbara is more directly measuring effects of land-based runoff on kelp forests. At this point in time, this relatively new program is geographically focused in the Santa Barbara Channel area only. Lessons learned from these long term monitoring programs will aid us in building marine monitoring activities in the future which are best able to detect impact and change associated with anthropogenic impacts to water quality.

Mary Adams met with the Carmel Watershed Council to tour some of our CCAMP sites in the Carmel valley area, and to discuss the different methods and techniques we use to collect and assess scientific data. The Watershed Council is initiating a volunteer-based watershed monitoring effort and was seeking technical input on water quality parameters of local importance, methods and techniques, equipment and quality assurance issues. She also gave a presentation on our program at the Monterey County Information Exchange, which provides a forum for sharing watershed information and activities.

We completed an amended task order for fiscal year 00-01, adding \$20,000 of "spare change" from the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) program for toxicity and sediment sampling in the Santa Lucia rotation area. We also completed the 01-02 task order for the Santa Lucia area, which is primarily focused on benthic invertebrate sample analysis. We have begun drafting the work plan for 02-03 SWAMP funds, which is due in mid-April. Because of known and anticipated budget cuts we have considered eliminating or greatly reducing our "coastal confluences" monitoring program next year until we have a larger funding base. We began this program almost a year ago and feel it provides an important "profile" of the region's creek and river inputs to the ocean. We do not want to compromise our ability to conduct a thorough watershed assessment next year, when we will be working in the complex and large

Pajaro and North Coast areas. We will continue coastal confluences monitoring through the end of the fiscal year and reassess our resources at that point to determine whether we need to reduce or eliminate that program.

We are completing a re-write of the Pajaro watershed characterization report, to address several data quality issues, and to include data that was received back from the labs after the first version of the report was completed. Basin Planning staff are using information from this report and from the literature to complete an assessment of major water quality issues to be addressed in the watershed. We are also beginning a rewrite of the Salinas report to add sections related to more recently acquired data. We have been strategizing how to better integrate written interpretive text into our web site structure.

Karen attended a Technical Advisory Committee meeting for the Morro Bay Volunteer Monitoring Program. We are also preparing to support the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Citizen Monitoring group on Snapshot Day using updated electronic and web-based data entry tools from last year.

Basin Planning – Basin planners have completed first drafts of the Basin Plan glossary and index. These have been circulated for comment by technical staff, and the documents are now being amended based on comments received. Angus Lewis has developed a prototype web version of the Basin Plan, using the existing document as it currently is written. He will be working on finding and attaching electronic copies of related documents, such as the Ocean Plan, to increase the utility of the document, and we will make it available for use through our web site within the next several months.

Angus Lewis has been ranking well data for nitrates and TDS in the Gilroy-Hollister area to get a better understanding of how well groundwater in that area is meeting Basin Plan criteria. He is writing an assessment report of groundwater issues in the Pajaro area that will be combined with a surface water summary of issues, and will be made available through the Basin Plan web site as an informational attachment.

Data Management - We have completed the update of the Water Quality Assessment (305(b)

report) using the GeoWater Body System (a Geographic Information System based program). This has included significant changes to 303(d) listed waterbodies and has been a long and time-consuming process involving staff from both the TMDL and Regional Monitoring groups.

Volunteer Dave Paradies has incorporated all of the water criteria available in the State Board's Water Quality Goals document into our CCAMP format so we can scan data for exceedance of any of a number of water quality criteria. We are using the most conservative of these numbers as our CCAMP attention level. We are also working on new tools for our data management system, including regression analysis and a new Criteria Exceedance Factor for evaluation of sites which have multiple exceedances of several different chemicals.

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

(See Attachment No. 2)

Administrative Reports

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

On February 28, 2002, Matt Thompson taught a lesson on how to prevent water pollution to Mr. Clevenger's 6th grade class at Santa Margarita Elementary School. He used a scale model of a watershed (our office "Enviroscape") to demonstrate the concepts of point and non-point sources of pollution, land uses, erosion, and the difference between sanitary sewers and storm sewers. He also discussed careers related to water quality.

Department of Defense Program staff member, Carol Kolb, attended a four-day Water Quality conference on March 18-23, 2002.

Mary Adams participated in the "Expanding Your Horizons" conference on March 2, 2002. This conference brings together women with careers in Math and Science and 7th through 9th grade girls. Mary conducted a watershed workshop, demonstrating the Regional Board's watershed model, and helping each of the girls to create their own watershed model using diatomaceous earth

and a drip line to simulate the headwaters of a creek. The goal was to explore the interactions of land and water as they observed the ability of water to shape the landscape and carry sediment. The girls then hypothesized how they could control the erosion and deposition of fine sediment. They constructed levies and reservoirs, reinforced banks, used cloth to simulate vegetative cover, and made culverts and other diversion devices. This was a great opportunity to share enthusiasm for watershed science and to encourage young women to continue their studies in science and math.

Mary Adams gave a talk on the CCAMP monitoring strategy and data availability at the Monterey County Information Exchange on March 20, 2002. The meeting was attended by several watershed groups as well as by representatives from the Coastal Commission and Monterey County planning commissioners. Mary gave a similar talk on March 26, 2002 to the Friends of the Estuary at Morro Bay.

Karen Worcester attended a class on Biomarkers held by U.C. Davis Extension. This course described the numerous tools available to aid in assessing biological effects from exposure to contaminants. Biomarkers are a broadly classified group of methodologies, which include physiologic, metabolic, genotoxic, immunologic, and other approaches to assessing toxicological effects on organisms. We have incorporated biomarkers in one pilot study we are currently involved in and will evaluate others for use in our monitoring programs.

Carol Hewitt attended Time Management training in Sacramento on March 11, 2002.

Chris Rose made a presentation on Total Maximum Daily Loads for Nutrients, Pathogens and Priority Organics in San Luis Obispo Creek to the San Luis Obispo City Council on March 12, 2002.

Doug Gouzie, Dominic Roques, and Bill Arkfeld attended the Watsonville Sloughs Wetlands Enhancement Plan Meeting on March 5, 2002 and presented staff support for this plan.

Offsite Regional Board Meeting [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

The Board had an offsite meeting last June to discuss Board procedures, to go over some basics of hydrology and some programs, and to evaluate how the Board and staff are coordinating. The session concluded with a desire by the Board to have such a meeting at least annually. Last year's meeting was timed to be in conjunction with the annual staff recognition meeting and BBQ, so that Board Members could attend. This year's BBQ is June 19. Mr. Briggs will discuss this issue with the Board at our April meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Underground Tanks Summary Report dtd 3/26//02
2. TMDL Components to be Completed During Fiscal Year 2001-2002