

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2002

Prepared on October 3, 2002

ITEM: 26

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
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2002**

[Corinne Huckaby 805/549-3504]

Orders

Reports of Waste Discharge Received	6
Requirements Pending	50
Inspections Made	7
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (WB)	164
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed (CB)	0
Stormwater Reports Reviewed	7

Enforcement

Non-Compliance Letters Sent:	
NPDES Program	3
Non-Chapter 15 WDR Program	9
Chapter 15 Program	0
Unregulated	0
Stormwater	19
CAOs Issued	1
ACL Complaints	2

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 August 1, 2002 to September 30, 2002.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM AUGUST 1 THROUGH SEPT. 30, 2002

Date Received	Applicant	Project Description	Project Location	Receiving Water	Action Taken
August 2, 2002	Monterey Co PWD	Elkhorn Road @ Campagna Way	Royal Oaks/Prunedale	Elkhorn Slough to Pacific Ocean	Inc. Appl. Ltr 8/30/02
August 2, 2002	Jay Braun	Braun Creek Bank Protection	Santa Barbara	San Roque Creek	Pending
August 5, 2002	Cal Trans	Bank/Culvert	north of Vandenberg AFB main gate	Unnamed tributary to the Santa Ynez River	Pending
August 5, 2002	Santa Barbara Co Flood Control	Lower Devereux Creek proejct	Goleta	Devereux Creek	Pending
August 6, 2002	DKB Homes	Gonzales Slough Box Culvert Replacement	Gonzales	Gonzales Slough	Standard Certification
August 7, 2002	Santa Cruz Co Flood Control	Pajaro , Salsipuedes and Corralitos Cl Mgmt/Restore Plan	Watsonville	Pajaro River, Salsipuedes Creek, Corralitos Creek	Pending
August 9, 2002	Southern Ca Gas Co.	Emergency Repair and Maintenance	Goleta	Unnamed tributary to Atascadero Creek	Pending
August 9, 2002	Goleta SD	Emergency Sewer Outfall Pipeline Repair (after the fact)	Goleta	Goleta Slough, Pacific Ocean	Pending
August 12, 2002	Scotts Creek Watershed Council	Mill Creek Sediment Reduction	Davenport	Mill Creek	Pending
August 12, 2002	CalTrans	Sediment Removal	Lompoc	Unnamed tributary to Santa Ynez River	Pending
August 15, 2002	CalTrans	Embankment Reconstruction/ Sediment Removal	Ben Lomond	San Lorenzo River	Standard Certification
August 16, 2002	AT&T	Fiber Optic Cable Conduit Repair	San Luis Obispo	San Bernardo Creek	Standard Certification
August 19, 2002	Santa Cruz Co Flood Control	Pajaro River Mouth Sandbar Breaching	Pajaro Dunes	Pajaro River	Pending
August 21, 2002	Goleta SD	Renew NPDES Permit	Goleta	Pacific Ocean	Denial 401 application
August 22, 2002	Santa Barbara Park and Recreation	Bohnett Park Old Mission Creek Restoration Project	Santa Barbara	Old Mission Creek and Mission Creek	Pending
August 23, 2002	William Mitchell	Seventeen Mile Drive Channel Restoration	Pebble Beach-Monterey County	Unnamed tributaries to Carmel Bay/Ocean	Standard Certification
August 23, 2002	Oak Shores Estates, LLC	Tract 2162	San Luis Obispo County	Lake Nacimiento	Pending
August 23, 2002	Donna Mehlschau	Culvert Replacement	Nipomo	Nipomo Creek	Standard Certification
August 26, 2002	Santa Barbara Co PWD	Bell Street Bridge Replacement	Los Alamos	San Antonio Creek	Standard Certification
August 28, 2002	San Benito Co WD	Modify Hernandez Dam Intake Tower	San Benito County	Hernandez Reservoir - San Benito River	Standard Certification
August 28, 2002	Department of Mental Health	Replace Phone System Conduits	Atascadero	Unnamed tributary to Salinas River	Pending
August 29, 2002	Port San Luis Harbor District	Maintenance of Existing Structures	Avila Beach	Pacific Ocean	Standard Certification
August 29, 2002	Port San Luis Harbor District	Maintenance Dredging Existing Basins	Avila Beach	Pacific Ocean	Pending
August 30, 2002	Madonna Construction	Froom Ranch/Home Depot Site Mitigation	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed seasonal wetlands	Standard Certification
August 30, 2002	Unocal Corp.	Casmalia Catch Basin Investigation	Casmalia	wetlands	NWP 6 Precertified by SWRCB
September 5, 2002	Llagas Hale Investors LLC	Monte Villa Subdivision	Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County	freshwater marsh	Pending
September 18, 2002	Santa Barbara Co PWD	Kinevan Road 2001 Storm Damage	San Marcos Pass, Santa Barbara County	Atascadero Creek	Pending

	Co PWD	Storm Damage Repair	Santa Barbara County		
September 19, 2002	City of San Luis Obispo	Lopez Canyon Rd Dip Crossings Repair	Arroyo Grande	Huffs Hole/Wittenberg/Dry Creeks	Standard Certification
September 23, 2002	Santa Cruz PWD	Market Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit	Santa Cruz	Branciforte Creek	Pending

WATERSHED BRANCH REPORTS

Status Reports

San Luis Obispo Airport Storm Water Discharge
 [Bruce Paine 805/542-4782]

In Spring of 2001, Regional Board staff noticed that wastewater from rental car washing at the San Luis Obispo Airport was being discharged to off-site surface drains. The Airport had filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the General Storm Water Industrial Permit. The discharge was in violation of that permit. Consequently Regional Board staff asked that the Airport correct the violation. The portion of the Airport from which the waste discharge was occurring, was being leased by a second party that subleased it to the various car rental companies that were responsible for the car washing activity. The leasing entity, with the support of the Airport, took responsibility for eliminating the violation by proposing to construct a conventional car washing facility and directing the related wastewater to the sanitary sewer. Although Regional Board staff accepted the leasing party as the lead entity for bringing about compliance, they also reminded the Airport that having filed the NOI, they were legally responsible and would be held accountable if the violation was not corrected in a timely manner. Unfortunately, under the leasing entity, progress stalled and eventually one of the car rental companies became proactive in providing the washing facility and related sewer connection. As a result the proposed facility was completed and operational this August.

Discharges from Carpinteria Valley Greenhouses, Santa Barbara County [Mike Higgins 805/542-4649]

Several creeks in the Carpinteria area, including Santa Monica, Franklin, and Arroyo Paredon Creeks (creeks), contain elevated nitrate concentrations above water quality objectives. Elevated nitrate concentrations from both Franklin and Santa Monica Creeks discharge to, and are adversely impacting the Carpinteria salt marsh (marsh). Marsh monitoring and restoration efforts have been underway for several years. The University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County's Project Clean Water, and this Region's Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program have monitored the creeks and marsh. The data show the creeks often discharge elevated nitrate concentrations to the marsh. Additionally, data obtained from the County Agricultural Commission demonstrate substantial use of pesticides in the area. Discharges to surface waters from greenhouses, row crops, orchards, confined animal areas, and surfacing groundwater are thought to be likely sources of nitrates and, with the exception of confined animal areas and groundwater, sources for pesticides.

In recent years, the Carpinteria Valley's mild climate and proximity to large markets in Southern California prompted horticulturists to substantially increase the number of greenhouses in the area. To reduce expenses and increase production, most greenhouses improved their growing practices, thereby reducing adverse effects on water quality. The greenhouses often converted to hydroponic systems, which generate much less wastewater and require much less fertilizer than earlier in-ground or potted growing methods. Many greenhouse operators capture, treat, and return the small flows of wastewater to the irrigation system for reuse. However, some greenhouses discharge irrigation runoff and water softener wastewaters directly to ditches, which then drain to the creeks.

In June 2001, staff inspected six greenhouse facilities suspected of discharging wastewater to Santa Monica and Franklin Creeks. Inspections found that all had converted to hydroponic systems, and recycled all irrigation runoff. However, four greenhouse operators still discharged small flows of water softener wastewater to the creeks and marsh.

Currently there are no permits for the discharge of wastewater from the greenhouses in the Carpinteria Valley, although there are known wastewater discharges. As a result, in a July 2001 letter, the Executive Officer advised all greenhouse owners and operators in the Carpinteria Valley:

- of the applicable legal requirements and recommended they cease wastewater discharges to surface waters without coverage under an NPDES permit;
- to submit, in accordance with Water Code Section 13267(b), a technical report from each describing existing and proposed waste disposal methods;
- to submit an application for an NPDES permit, in which the Regional Board would require pollutants to be eliminated from the discharge (required those who wish to continue discharge wastewater to surface waters), and
- if the greenhouse proposes to cease discharging wastewater to surface waters, submit a technical report to propose appropriate measures, and to include a time schedule to implement them.

In August 2001, a subcommittee of the Regional Board conducted a public workshop to discuss issues raised in the July 2001 letter with greenhouse operators. Subsequently, all 51 greenhouse operators, representing more than 175 greenhouses, responded to the July 2001 letter request. Almost all stated they intended to cease discharging to surface waters and provided compliance time schedules and plans to do so.

A small work group comprised of Regional Board staff was formed in March 2002 to address greenhouse wastewater discharges in the Carpinteria Valley. Members of this work group are confirming the information submitted by greenhouses operators through inspections of each facility. Regional Board staff has completed initial compliance

inspections at 44 of 51 greenhouse operations, with seven initial inspections remaining. Follow-up detailed inspections will be conducted at selected facilities, including those indicating a schedule for compliance for elimination of their discharge. Regional Board staff continues to work with greenhouse operators that have not yet eliminated their discharges, accepting the operators' compliance schedule where reasonable. The goal of this effort is to eliminate all contaminant-laden surface water discharges from greenhouses in the named watersheds. Regional Board staff will continue to inspect selected greenhouses over the near term - it is hoped that less frequent inspections will be needed over the long term - to help ensure continued compliance. This staff work group is using the methods outlined by Malcolm Sparrow in his "environmental problem solving" techniques. This greenhouse issue is serving as a pilot project to try the Sparrow method as recommended by the State Board for all regions for fiscal year 2002-2003.

In late September, local citizens submitted information pointing out possible greenhouse discharges. Regional Board staff will follow-up on this information by inspecting the suggested discharge locations. The greenhouse work group will also conduct periodic surface water monitoring in these creeks to evaluate the impact of greenhouse discharge elimination on water quality as measured against existing baseline data. The surface water monitoring will also be used to as a means to identify other potential sources of contaminants within each watershed. The work group will update the Regional Board again at the next May or July Board meeting.

CLEANUP BRANCH REPORTS

Status Reports

Underground Tanks Summary Report dated October 2, 2002 [Jay Cano 805/549-3699]

See Attachment No. 1

Regionwide Reports

Regional Monitoring [Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

Monitoring and Data Management

Monitoring staff has been focusing on data quality issues over the last several weeks. This was initiated in response to a State Board request that TMDL staff reanalyze all data used in developing recent listing recommendations using a 10% exceedence threshold (we originally used 50%). We have developed software tools that scan our database for any criteria, at a given threshold value, so reanalyzing the data was not difficult and fact sheets were developed for submittal to the State Board. Following submittal however, several problems were discovered in the master database, primarily related to the Santa Maria dataset. Data had in several instances been entered twice, resulting in erroneous counts by the scanning tool. This problem has been resolved, but required reevaluation of the fact sheets. We also recommended to State Board staff that they eliminate fact sheets based on dissolved oxygen saturation. Applying the 10% threshold to the 85% saturation criteria does not make sense, as the Basin Plan criteria applies to a median value. State Board staff agreed with this recommendation.

Monitoring staff is continuing a comprehensive data quality review of our entire database. We are developing tools to flag and qualify data in a consistent fashion, based on quality assurance information provided by the laboratory. These flags are being developed in a way that is compatible with those provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Storage and Retrieval (STORET) database.

Dave Paradies has been working with the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program's (SWAMP) Master Contractors to adapt our Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) database as a data distribution tool for Regional use. It is currently proposed that SWAMP data will be initially stored in a Microsoft ACCESS database, and then will be ported into a CCAMP structure to make the data more readily accessible to Regions.

The CCAMP tool will also be used to port data into STORET.

Basin Planning

Basin Planning staff have submitted revisions to Chapters 4, 5, and 6 for public review in preparation of the December staff meeting. Revisions include substantial changes and reorganization to Nonpoint Source and monitoring information. An action item has been prepared for the November meeting regarding a Basin Plan amendment requiring a minimum of secondary treatment for all ocean dischargers.

Miscellaneous

An analytical laboratory contractor has been selected based on the lowest and most qualified bid submitted. In evaluating the bids we compared both a straight base cost and a weighted cost based on frequency of use. We calculated a sum of percent difference between analyte reporting limits for the two bids to determine which lab had best performance overall. We also evaluated each lab's ability to meet our required minimum detection limits. BC Laboratory was clearly most qualified.

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

Regional Board staff in the Watershed Assessment Unit continue to implement priority activities of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program.

See Attachment No. 2: Planned TMDL Components/Projects to be Completed During Fiscal Year 2002-2003.

Main activities in progress during the *second* quarter of fiscal year 2002-2003 include the following:

- Participate in development of State Policy for Identifying Impaired Waters pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 303(d) and development of State TMDL guidelines pursuant to Assembly Bill 469;
- Prepare and propose Basin Plan Amendments for Las Tablas Creek Mercury TMDL, Chorro and Los Osos Creeks Nutrient and Dissolved

Oxygen TMDL, and the Morro Bay Pathogens TMDL;

- Complete Draft TMDL Reports for Salinas River Siltation TMDL;
- Continue preparation of Draft TMDL Reports for San Luis Obispo Creek Nutrients and Pathogen TMDLs, and Pajaro River Nutrients TMDL;
- Complete preliminary TMDL components (problem statements, numeric targets, and/or source analysis) for several additional TMDLs
- Scope TMDL development needs for additional listed waterbodies.

Specific activities to be accomplished during the *second* quarter of fiscal year 2002-2003 include the following:

- Prepare and/or review internal draft sections of the State Policy for Identifying Impaired Waters and State TMDL guidelines;
- Recommend adoption of Basin Plan Amendments for Las Tablas Creek Mercury TMDL, Chorro and Los Osos Creeks Nutrient and Dissolved Oxygen TMDL, and the Morro Bay Pathogens TMDL to the Regional Board;
- Complete Draft TMDL Reports for Salinas River Siltation TMDL;
- Prepare draft source analysis OR delisting recommendation (depending on final data analysis) for Morro Bay Metals TMDL;
- Prepare documents and participate in meetings for annual program performance review.
- Rescope the Santa Cruz County Pathogen TMDLs project;
- Prepare Administrative Record for San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL and submit to State Board;
- Prepare draft source analysis of San Luis Obispo Creek Pathogen TMDL;
- Implement sampling program for Waddell Creek Nutrient TMDL; and
- Rescope/redirect funds for Watsonville Slough Oil and Grease and Metals TMDLs, as they are being recommended for delisting.

Administrative Reports

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

Amanda Bern, Environmental Scientist, gave a presentation on October 7, 2002 on Regional Board efforts at implementing the Farm Bureaus plan for grower groups and self-determined implementation of management practices that reduce non point source pollution. The presentation was given to the Inter Agency Coordination Committee (representatives from CalEPA Agencies and other state resource management agencies).

Shanta Duffield and Mark Angelo attended "How to Manage Multiple Projects, Meet Deadlines, and Achieve Objectives," on October 1, 2002 in San Luis Obispo.

Mark Angelo and staff from the Watershed Institute at California State University, Monterey Bay, attended two kick-off meetings for the Salinas River Pesticide Monitoring; one with the Executive Director of the Monterey County Farm Bureau and one with the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioners Office in the City of Salinas on August 28th.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee Meeting (WQCC) (Roger Briggs 805-549-3140)

This is the meeting for the State and Regional Board Members to get together and talk about mutual issues. The Chairs have been working on development of an agenda, etc., for the next WQCC meeting(s). In the interest of limiting travel expenses the Chairs decided to have two separate meetings as follows:

Nov. 7 and 8 --Regions 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 will meet in Ontario. Nov. 18 and 19 --Regions 1,2, 3 (that's us), and 5 will meet in Sacramento.

The hope is that almost all of the Regional Board Members and Executive Officers will be able to drive to one of the two locations, in the interest of saving expenses. State Board Members and appropriate staff will attend both meetings. The meetings will start at 1:00 on the first day and end at noon on the second day. We'll also get together

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at a dinner to provide time for more informal interaction. The draft agenda currently includes discussion on TMDL's, stormwater phase II, Senate Bill 390 discharge waiver status, enforcement, petition and stay hearings, and the usual session with the Chief Counsel.

Board Meeting Schedule 2003 Status Report
[Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

Following are the results for locations for the 2003 Board Meeting Schedule:

<u>Proposed 2003 Regional Board Meetings</u>	
February 7	San Luis Obispo
WQCC, Spring	Unscheduled
March 21	San Luis Obispo
May 16	Watsonville
July 11	San Luis Obispo
September 12	Salinas
WQCC, Fall	Unscheduled
October 24	Santa Barbara
December 5	San Luis Obispo

ATTACHMENTS

1. Underground Tanks Summary Report dated October 2, 2002
2. Planned TMDL Components/Projects to be Completed During Fiscal Year 2002-2003