

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

November 2005

The next regular scheduled Board meeting is November 16, 2005.

See <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/> for latest details and agenda

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Gambonini Mine Celebration (Dyan Whyte)



On October 21, Water Board staff, including Board member Shalom Eliahu, and U.S. EPA Region 9 Water Division Director Alexis Strauss hosted a multi-agency celebration of the successful mercury remediation efforts at the Gambonini Mine in the Walker Creek watershed near Tomales Bay. The program included a tour of the site that gave attendees a first-hand understanding of mining activities that

◀ Dyan White describes the collaborative remediation work at the former Gambonini Mine to attendees.

took place on the property (the mine closed in 1968) and the many aspects of the remediation work.

Since the late 1990s, we have been working with U.S. EPA, the Coast Guard, the Marin Conservation Corps, and local groups to reduce mercury-laden runoff by re-engineering and revegetating the site and restoring stream channels below the mine. The Gambonini Mine has become a showcase for mercury remediation efforts that use low-tech, relatively low-budget techniques to protect and restore water quality.

Dyan Whyte's involvement with the project goes back to 1990. Her work quantifying the hundreds of pounds of mercury flowing down to Salmon Creek from tailings piles during rainy weather led to involvement of U.S. EPA's Superfund Division and funding for the remediation project. It also provided a topic for her Master's thesis at UC Berkeley. Water Board graduate student Alex Meyers is now documenting mercury reductions resulting from the cleanup.

Board staff is currently developing the Walker Creek mercury TMDL project report. The report will describe the overall benefits of the Mine remediation project and the additional work that needs to be done in this watershed to restore all beneficial uses. The TMDL report will be distributed for public review next month.

Notice of Violation Issued to City of Milpitas (Sue Ma)

I issued a Notice of Violation to the City of Milpitas in early October for failure to implement an adequate construction site inspection program. This is a violation of the City's municipal stormwater permit, which requires adherence to construction performance standards. The Notice of Violation required the City to review and revise, as appropriate, its enforcement procedures and ensure that its inspectors are adequately trained to follow these procedures.

The violation was identified during a joint program evaluation funded by U.S. EPA and conducted by Tetra Tech and Water Board staff in April 2005. During the inspection, Tetra Tech and Board staff observed sediment-laden water from the Parc Place construction site entering the storm drain. Construction site entrance sediment controls and storm drain protection had been inadequately installed. Although the City's construction inspector noted that the sediment controls for the construction entrances and the storm drain inlet were inadequate, he failed to identify the sediment discharge as a major violation and gave the site's contractor 24 hours to remediate the problem. Board staff, with the support of the Tetra Tech inspector, determined that the City inspector's actions were inappropriate and directed the contractor to take immediate steps to stop any more sediment-laden water from entering the storm drain.

We have found these annual program evaluations conducted by Tetra Tech to be invaluable because they augment limited Board staff time and resources, and provide a very detailed review of individual municipal stormwater programs. Unfortunately, Tetra Tech's assistance has been discontinued this fiscal year when the funding for this assistance was redirected to fund a State Board project.

Citizen's Suit Against the Sonoma County Water Agency (Mike Chee)

On September 30, the Northern California River Watch provided notice of its intent to file suit against the Sonoma County Water Agency for NPDES permit violations. This is the third such notice in this region in as many months. We reported in recent E.O. Reports (September and October 2005) on two other notices filed for Richmond/West County Wastewater District, and Marin

County. We anticipate more of these citizen suits in the future, because the data on effluent violations and sewer overflows are now readily available through electronic reporting databases that we've developed.

Similar to the two other notices, the notice for the Agency alleges unpermitted sanitary sewer overflows, effluent and reclamation limit violations, and reporting violations. As in the other cases, we determined that some of the allegations are incorrect or unverifiable. Other allegations already have corresponding enforcement actions by the Board. These actions include two mandatory minimum penalty complaints, one administrative civil liability (ACL), and one Cease and Desist Order for effluent violations. Another ACL was also assessed for a sanitary sewer overflow in 2003.

While there are still occasional violations, the Agency's compliance with permit limits has improved since our enforcement actions. These have been accomplished primarily through treatment plant upgrades starting in 2001. Another \$5 million in upgrades are planned, which should further reduce the potential for effluent violations. For sewer overflows, in response to our staff Notices of Violations in 1999, and the ACL noted above, the Agency undertook, and continues, a collection system rehabilitation and replacement program, as well as constructing parallel piping for relieving wet weather flows. Significant work remains, however, as most of the collection system is between 40 and 80 years old, well beyond expected life.

Because of the work already underway by the Agency, we do not plan to shift enforcement staff away from other ongoing enforcement actions to address the violations cited in the River Watch notice.

Impervious Surface Data Collection Update (Shin-Roei Lee)

At the October 11 workshop conducted by the Board staff, there were several agreed upon action items. I would like to update you on the progress of those action items:

1. *Pilot project of data collection* – We have received existing impervious surface data from Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton will also provide their existing data to us. BASMAA has polled its member agencies to see if other municipalities may have existing data to share with us.
2. *Use of the data* - We will analyze whatever data we have in December and use it to address the questions about what should be the appropriate regulatory thresholds for treatment and flow controls. Future workshops for the Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) will provide opportunities for further discussion.
3. *Definition of impervious surface*. There is a need for further definition of what is “not directly connected impervious surface” - the New and Redevelopment Workgroup for the MRP has agreed to work on developing an appropriate definition.

Contra Costa County HMP -- Update (Janet O'Hara, Christine Boschen)

Contra Costa has submitted a proposed Hydromodification Management Plan (HMP). Staff have been working with Contra Costa County Municipal Stormwater Program staff, and their technical consultants, to resolve some remaining technical and policy/implementation issues, prior to bringing the HMP to the Board for approval, now tentatively scheduled for the February 2006 Board meeting.

Key features of the proposal include implementation for all new and redevelopment projects, in applicable areas, including projects one acre and greater in size. A straightforward design method based on use of the same type of "IMPs" or "Integrated Management Practices" will be used to treat stormwater, to manage changes in stormwater runoff volume and duration, and to prevent damage to creeks.

Review of Statewide Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (Karen Taberski)

Karen Taberski presented the design and results of our region's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) at a three-day meeting of the Scientific Planning and Review Committee (SPARC) held in Santa Ana in October. Preliminary findings from the review call for:

- Placing a higher priority on monitoring at the State and Regional Water Boards, and
- Developing a new monitoring design that puts regional programs in statewide context

A final report is due in March 2006 to Cal EPA, which called for the review.

The SWAMP was initiated in 1999 after passage of California Assembly Bill 982, which required that the State Board report on water quality monitoring efforts around the state and develop a plan for a comprehensive monitoring program for all waterbodies in California. Although the program was funded with only 4 percent of the proposed budget, the Water Boards have worked hard to accomplish their monitoring goals.

Our SWAMP resources have been used to measure contaminants in fish in reservoirs, Tomales Bay, and in the ocean where people catch and consume fish; and to assess water quality in watersheds throughout the region. Fish tissue studies have led to fish consumption advisories being issued for 10 reservoirs and Tomales Bay. Watershed monitoring has taken place in 16 planning watersheds. Karen is currently preparing a report interpreting the data from 9 of these watersheds.

Toxic Blue-Green Algae Blooms (Karen Taberski)

On November 8, Karen Taberski and Peter Krottje attended a U.S. EPA conference on blue-green algae blooms in California. Blooms of *Microcystis aeruginosa*, a toxic form of blue-green algae, have been identified in the Delta, in Los Vaqueros and Mallard reservoirs in Contra Costa County, and in Rodeo Lagoon in Marin, as well as in the Klamath River and waterbodies throughout Oregon. Water purveyors are beginning to monitor reservoirs for blue-green algae. Blooms tend to occur between June and September and when nutrients in the water are elevated.

Depending on the duration and intensity of exposure to *Microcystis* and its microcystin toxin, possible health effects range from mild skin conditions to permanent kidney or liver damage and death. Exposure generally comes from direct skin contact, accidental or intentional swallowing (because cultured blue-green algae species, such as *spirulina*, are marketed as dietary supplements, some people may assume all blue-green algae is safe for ingestion), or inhalation of contaminated aerosols such as spray from jet skis. Children and animals are at greatest risk due to their smaller body size and higher water ingestion rates.

On September 30, U.S.EPA, the North Coast Regional Water Board, and the Karuk tribe issued a press release warning residents and recreational users of the Klamath River to use caution near blue-green algae blooms. *Microcystis* was measured at concentrations as high as 46.8 million cells/mL along the shoreline, exceeding World Health Organization standards for recreational use by 468 times. These levels were among the highest recorded in the United States.

TMDL Meetings held in Napa (Dyan Whyte)

In a double-header on November 7, Michael Napolitano, Peter Krottje, and Dyan Whyte held public meetings at the Napa City/County Library to solicit input from stakeholders and other interested citizens on two upcoming TMDLs for the Napa River. The sediment TMDL, in preparation by Mike, includes a sediment reduction and habitat enhancement plan. The pathogens TMDL, which is being prepared by Peter, was the focus of the morning's second meeting. The meetings also served as "scoping meetings" required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Project reports on both TMDLs were released this past summer. We are now considering comments received at these meetings, along with other comments on the project reports. We will soon prepare the draft Basin Plan Amendments and Staff Reports that will support these two TMDLs.

Public Meeting to Discuss Pathogens in Sonoma Creek (Tina Low)

A workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting on the upcoming TMDL for pathogens in Sonoma Creek will be held on the evening of Thursday, December 1 at the Sonoma Community Center in Sonoma. Sonoma Creek and its tributaries are listed on the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) list as impaired by pathogens, as well as sediment and nutrients. Recent water quality studies confirm that water quality objectives for recreational uses are exceeded for pathogens at a number of locations in the watershed at all times of the year.

Tina Low and Peter Krottje are preparing a draft TMDL and proposed Basin Plan Amendment for pathogens in Sonoma Creek. At the next Board meeting they will present findings from studies of Sonoma Creek and a proposed implementation plan to reduce pathogens.

As they develop the draft Basin Plan Amendment incorporating the TMDL and implementation plan, Peter and Tina will consider comments from this meeting as well as other comments on their project report, which is scheduled for release later this month.

Revising the State's CWA Section 303(d) Impaired Waters' List (Thomas Mumley)

The State Water Board has scheduled workshops in Southern and Northern California to accept comments on recommendations for changes to the CWA's Section 303(d) list. The Northern California workshop will be held December 6, 2005. Written comments are also due December 6.

Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to identify waters that do not meet applicable water quality standards. Generally, the list is reviewed and revised every two years starting with recommendations from the Regional Water Boards. However this listing cycle (and only this cycle) is being conducted directly by the State Board in accordance with the *Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List* that became effective in December 2004. We provided some but limited assistance to the State Board in the development of recommended revisions.

Recommended revisions and supporting documentation are available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/docs/303d_update/r2_v2.pdf. The more significant recommendations include listings for several reservoirs in the Region for mercury, PCBs, and/or legacy pesticides such as DDT. These listings are based on data generated through our Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) and reflect levels in fish that pose health risks to the

public. Delistings are recommended for all Bay segments for diazinon based on Regional Monitoring Program results reflecting significant declines of this pesticide in Bay waters.

Lagunitas Watershed Celebration (Marla Lafer)

In recognition of 25 years of restoration in the Lagunitas watershed, Marin County and restoration sponsors hosted a celebration on October 28, 2005. The celebration included a tour of several of the creek restoration projects, a ribbon cutting event of the newly complete "Woodacre Improvement Club Creek Daylighting" project, and a symposium on salmon restoration in Lagunitas Creek. Leslie Ferguson of the North Bay Watershed Division made a presentation on "Juvenile Rearing and Habitat Restoration" at the symposium.

Industrial Stormwater Annual Report Compliance (Rico Duazo and Vic Pal)

The Industrial Stormwater Program requires permit holders to submit an Annual Report, which summarizes visual and chemical data collected throughout the year. The report for last fiscal year (2004-2005) was due on July 1, 2005. Approximately 1600 sites in our region are in the program and about 300 sites missed the July 1, 2005, due date. After following up with those non-compliant facilities and removing facilities, which no longer are in business, Board staff was able to narrow the number of non-complaint facilities to several dozen. Board staff next conducted inspections of each of these facilities to personally inform facility operators of impending Board enforcement, should they continue to not submit their Annual Report. Additional sites came into compliance after the site inspections. Board staff are preparing Administrative Civil Liabilities (ACLs) for the remaining handful of sites still out of compliance and plan to bring these ACLs for your consideration in early 2006.

Website Posting of Pending Enforcement (Lila Tang)

All pending enforcement items are now posted on the Water Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/pending_en.htm. These items are posted to solicit public comments. (*Note: the Water Board's web site is currently being updated to enhance its user-friendliness. This may change the address cited above*). When an item is scheduled for Water Board consideration, the staff summary report, enforcement item, comments received and other documents are posted on the website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/agenda.htm>. Pending enforcement items include mandatory minimum penalty complaints, administrative liability complaints, cease and desist orders, and time schedule orders.

We also use the website to post final and draft documents including permits, TMDLs, site cleanup requirements, and water quality certifications. Use of the website has saved us from having to send numerous paper copies, and gives the public more immediate and easy access to a great deal of Water Board information.

Central San Receives 2005 National Award for Pretreatment Program (Bruce Wolfe)

On November 3, I joined with Alexis Strauss, head of U.S. EPA's Water Division, in presenting the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Board of Directors with the 2005 National Clean Water Act Recognition Award in the Pretreatment Category. As reported in the September Executive Officer's Report, this national award recognizes the District's exceptional pretreatment and pollution prevention program. The District's 2005 first place award was their third in this category since 1998. At the award ceremony, I emphasized to the District Board that they should take pride not only in their staff's implementation of the program, but the Board's own willingness to fund the program

and the citizens in their service area willingness to support the program both financially and through active participation. The program includes collection of household and small business hazardous waste, a green business program, an Integrated Pest Management Partnership Program with local stores and nurseries, exchange of mercury thermometers, pollution prevention audits for businesses, outreach and education to schools and the public at large, and an award program to recognize local businesses that excelled in the area of pollution prevention.

Devil's Slide Dewatering (Brendan Thompson)

The Board issued Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification to Caltrans for the Devil's Slide Tunnel Project in June 2004. The project will bypass the geologically unstable area of Route 1 at Devil's Slide in San Mateo County with twin bridges and a 4,000 foot long double bore tunnel through San Pedro Mountain, with connections to the existing Route 1 at both ends. Caltrans plans to commence tunnel boring operations in September 2006.

In September, Caltrans notified Board staff that the volume of groundwater to be encountered during tunnel boring activities would be much higher than anticipated, and could reach volumes as high as 800 gallons per minute, or approximately one million gallons per day, proposed for discharge to the ocean. The Project's Order, which focused on the Project's stormwater and wetland impacts, does not provide a mechanism to ensure water quality protection for a discharge of this nature and magnitude. Potential pollutants from the discharge include turbidity and elevated pH from concrete that is applied to the tunnel walls during drilling operations. Treatment will be necessary prior to discharge. Water Board staff from the Watershed and NPDES divisions have been meeting with Caltrans to assist them in submitting an individual NPDES permit application for discharge of the treated water. The permit would last through the 2-3 years of drilling operations.

ExxonMobil's Cleanup at Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco (Priya Ganguli)

The Former Mobil Bulk Terminal (Site) is located in the Fisherman's Wharf area, approximately 100 feet inland of the shoreline of San Francisco Bay. ExxonMobil operated a gasoline and diesel bulk storage and dispensing facility at the Site from approximately 1935 to 1990. Both gasoline and diesel releases are also known to have occurred while ExxonMobil's predecessors operated the Site. Data demonstrate these releases have impacted soil and groundwater in the Site vicinity.

Investigation of the site has been ongoing for some time. In a October 26 meeting, Board staff met with local stakeholders, the Port of San Francisco (Port), and ExxonMobil to discuss progress made toward Site cleanup. The two primary items discussed at the meeting included (1) Board staff's preparation of a Cleanup Order, which we anticipate bringing to the Board for adoption in early 2006; and (2) the Port's October 2005 publication of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), in which the Port proposes to demolish the Wharf J-10 building in the Site vicinity.

The public is concerned about residual petroleum contamination impacts on their health, impacts to their business operations from remedial activities, and future construction along the wharf, which would follow demolition of the Wharf J-10 building. The public participants at the October 26th meeting do not believe these issues are adequately addressed in the Draft EIR. ExxonMobil, the Port, and Board staff will meet with the public again on November 9 to further discuss future Site activities.

West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill Requests Extension (Cecil Felix)

Staff are currently evaluating a recent West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill request to allow disposal of domestic waste at their Richmond bayside landfill for an additional eight months. Their current Board-adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) require them to cease acceptance of waste by January 31, 2006. A time extension would require an amendment to the existing WDRs and would need approval by the Board.

According to the Landfill, the optimum landfill elevations and grading will not be achieved by the January deadline because filling rates over the recent years have been less than anticipated. Other technical reasons are also cited. A large number of municipalities utilizing the landfill have indicated their support for a deadline extension. I expect to present our recommendations to the Board at the January Board meeting.

Central Station – West Oakland (Mark Johnson)

I have previously reported to you on this large Brownfield residential redevelopment in West Oakland. The 29-acre site is comprised of several parcels. Cleanup/redevelopment will occur sequentially over a period of several years. Last month, we received draft cleanup plans for two of the parcels: 1399 Wood Street and 1111-1199 Pine Street. The two plans identify site contaminants (including petroleum in soil and groundwater) and propose a combination of targeted soil excavation and in-situ groundwater cleanup to address the contamination. In response to previous public comments, dust control measures and well-defined truck routes are key elements of the two draft plans.

In the last few weeks, Board staff has additionally taken several significant steps to encourage and enhance public participation in our oversight of cleanup at the site. These efforts coincide with the submittal of draft cleanup plans for the first two parcels proposed for redevelopment. Specific Board actions include:

- Approval of a site-specific public participation plan to guide the outreach process;
- Circulation of three fact sheets to nearby residents and other interested persons (one site-wide and one each describing the parcel-specific cleanup plans, and how interested persons can learn more or submit comments);
- An October 26 community meeting to summarize the redevelopment project; describe existing site conditions, the Board's oversight process, and public participation opportunities; and receive public comments;
- A November 3 community meeting to describe the parcel-specific cleanup plans and receive public comments; and a
- 30-day public comment period on the parcel-specific cleanup plans ending December 1.

Following the 30-day public comment period, Board staff will consider comments received and will prepare a response to comments prior to acting on the draft cleanup plans. We will circulate a fact sheet announcing our action on the draft cleanup plans and an implementation schedule.

On a related topic, we continue to be involved with an environmental justice pilot project in West Oakland. The pilot project is overseen by the Department of Toxic Substances Control, our sister agency in site cleanup, and involves various West Oakland community groups including the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project. You may recall that Project representatives appeared at

the June public forum to question our ability to oversee this site cleanup. The pilot project is intended to provide a forum to discuss issues of common concern, notably cleanup at Brownfield sites in West Oakland. We will continue to participate in the pilot project. We will update you periodically on our oversight of the Central Station site.

Indoor Air Sampling in Sunnyvale (Max Shahbazian)

This is an update on the solvent spill in Sunnyvale that I reported in the September Executive Officer's Report. As a result of the spill at the former AMD facility on East Arques Avenue, we required indoor air sampling at an adjacent childcare center to see if volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the spill have migrated beneath the center and could pose a potential health hazard to occupants. Indoor air sampling at the childcare center was conducted on October 23. The indoor air test results indicate that all VOCs except perchloroethene (PCE) were non-detect or below the Water Board's environmental screening levels for indoor air quality. PCE concentrations in indoor and outdoor air samples were similar, were at or barely above the Water Board's residential screening levels for indoor air quality, and were very similar to the background levels found in a variety of regional and other background studies. Based on these results, we conclude that the levels of PCE in indoor air at the childcare center do not present unacceptable risks to the center's occupants. A second round of indoor air samples will be collected and analyzed from inside the center in January 2006. These results will be used to re-confirm that the indoor air at the center is safe.

As part of our ongoing oversight of the former AMD site where the spill occurred, we have required additional soil and groundwater investigation and monitoring to determine the extent of the PCE spill and the appropriate cleanup measures. We are also assessing enforcement options with regard to the spill itself.

Golden Guardian 2005 (Steve Morse)

The State's Homeland Security organization will be conducting an unclassified training exercise, Golden Guardian 2005, on November 15-16, 2005. While Board staff are not first responders, Wil Bruhns will be representing the Board and CalEPA during the exercise at the Coastal Region Emergency Operations Center near our office. He will provide advice and consultation in support of the exercise. We also expect some limited exercise activity within our office for support and consultation. I will provide more details and "lessons learned" in the next Executive Officer's report.

Enforcement Meeting with Deputy District Attorneys (Steve Morse)

At a November 8th meeting organized by State Water Board Deputy Chief Counsel Phil Wyels, our managers and I met with Deputy District Attorneys from 8 of the 9 counties within our region to discuss enforcement items of mutual interest. Although we have had numerous previous enforcement cases with District Attorneys over the years, those contacts had diminished over the years for various reasons. This meeting was to renew those contacts and gain understanding of our various strengths and limitations, areas of interest, and where we can mutually support each other to the benefit of the public and water quality. While I believe the meeting accomplished the given objectives, the real test will be in the implementation and execution. I will keep you informed of our future work with the District Attorneys and the use of District Attorneys as part of our enforcement program.

Customer Service Award (Steve Morse)

Each year we nominate a staff person for recognition of their Customer Service. I am pleased to announce that this year that we have selected Connie Ramos, our receptionist, for the award. It is well deserved. Connie provides exemplary customer service as our receptionist for both the arriving public and staff. Her always pleasant manner in what can be sometimes a strained situation provide a welcome public "face" to the Water Board. Besides reception and logging and badging visitors, she also more than ably handles incoming mail and faxes, Board telephone reception and meeting room reservations. For her outstanding service she was recognized with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Cal/EPA Secretary Alan Lloyd, State Water Board Chair Tam Doduc, and State Water Board Executive Director Celeste Cantú. She will also be recognized at the Water Board meeting. A modest monetary award is also part of the award. Thanks, Connie, from all of us.

In-house Training (Gina Kathuria)

Many Board cases in our region are regulated under several Board programs (via permits, site cleanup requirements, waste discharge requirements, etc.). As a result, several Board staff may be involved in the regulation of one site, creating a need for inter-divisional coordination between them.

At our October in-house training, our staff shared examples of successful internal collaboration and coordination between surface water and groundwater divisions, such as in the instance where NPDES and Groundwater Protection staff were both involved in regulating a local refinery. In our training it became evident that staff needs to be encouraged to conduct joint inspections, share monitoring data and other relevant information, and to think more globally.

Our Board's surface water divisions are located on the 14th floor and groundwater programs are located on the 15th floor. Because each program is distinct and staff are physically grouped within divisions tailored along program lines, it commonly requires our staff's own initiative to break the 14th/15th floor barrier to communicate with other Board staff. We continue to seek opportunities to assist our staff to continue to think "big picture" (watershed) when conducting our daily work, and not permit a physical barrier such as building floor separation stand in the way of performing Board work.

There will be no November training due to the holidays. Brownbag seminars included a November 2 session by former Board staffer Peter Otis on the use of bioassay tools to measure endocrine disrupters.

Staff Presentations and Outreach

State Bar's Annual Environmental Law Conference

Dorothy Dickey was one of several attorneys from the Office of Chief Counsel who attended the State Bar's annual Environmental Law Conference at Yosemite on October 21-23, the state's largest annual gathering of environmental lawyers. The program provided an opportunity to learn about practical developments in various areas of environmental law, including topics particularly relevant to the Board such as Brownfields and stormwater.

UC Berkeley City and Regional Planning Class

Jan O'Hara spoke to a UC Berkeley graduate City and Regional Planning class October 27 on the effects of the urban environment on water quality; "Best Management Practices" to minimize those effects; and the regulatory framework for requiring stormwater controls. Mary Rose Cassa added

information on how the effects of controlling stormwater on groundwater quality must be considered. The students were highly knowledgeable about the natural environment and offered a lively discussion.

Industrial Association of Contra Costa County

On November 2, I spoke at the monthly forum of the Industrial Association of Contra Costa County. I emphasized that, while we are far from done, we all need to take more credit for all the great work we have accomplished in protecting and restoring water quality over the past few years. I identified a number of efforts in northern Contra Costa County, such as Rhodia's cleanup and restoration of Peyton Slough, Dow's wetland remediation and restoration, Central Contra Costa and Delta Diablo sanitary districts' successful pollution prevention programs, and the County's efforts at developing a habitat conservation plan and restoring lower Walnut Creek, that deserve broad public support.

Society for Range Management

As part of a panel discussion at the fall meeting of the Society for Range Management, Rebecca Tuden shared her expertise on water quality issues facing ranchers. The panel, titled "The Future of Rangelands, Diversification, and Public Agency Incentives and Constraints." The meeting was held November 3 and 4 in West Marin.