

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Elizabeth Morrison)
MEETING DATE: June 8, 2016

ITEM: 5B

SUBJECT: **Projects under the Voluntary Local Program administered by the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, Contra Costa County – Adoption of General Waste Discharge Requirements**

CHRONOLOGY: The Board has not previously considered this item.

DISCUSSION: This Tentative Order (Appendix A) would adopt general waste discharge requirements (General WDRs) to efficiently permit habitat restoration projects conducted as part of the Voluntary Local Program administered by the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (RCD). The RCD administers the Program, in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, which recognizes the important role that private landowners play in wildlife and habitat enhancement. The Program's purpose is to encourage farmers and ranchers engaged in agricultural activities to voluntarily enhance and maintain habitat for endangered and threatened species. The RCD works jointly with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist ranchers and farmers with implementing these voluntary habitat restoration projects. The RCD and NRCS provide technical oversight and assist with planning, funding, installation, and monitoring of the projects.

These General WDRs are limited to agricultural-related wildlife and habitat restoration activities that are exempt from federal regulation under Clean Water Act section 404(f). Farmers and ranchers, as the dischargers to be covered under these General WDRs, must be participants in the RCD's Program to be eligible for coverage. The General WDRs include a Notice of Intent (NOI) form that dischargers will use to enroll. Along with the NOI, the Discharger must submit a Certificate of Inclusion to demonstrate participation in the Program.

The Tentative Order follows the format of the General WDRs for Alameda County habitat restoration projects the Board adopted at its May 2015 meeting. We received and accepted six NOIs in the first year of those General WDRs.

No comments were received on the Tentative Order circulated for public comment in April. Besides making minor editorial and formatting changes, Board staff has not made any revisions to the Tentative Order. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:** Adoption of the Tentative Order.

APPENDIX A: Tentative Order