

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Nicole Fairley)  
MEETING DATE: July 12, 2017

**ITEM:** 5C

**SUBJECT:** **Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Marin County, Stream Maintenance Program** – Adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification

**CHRONOLOGY:** The Board has not considered this item before.

**DISCUSSION:** The Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would issue waste discharge requirements (WDRs) and water quality certification to the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) to implement its Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) as specified in the District’s SMP Manual (Appendix B). The purpose of the Program and the SMP Manual is to ensure that maintenance activities sustain flood conveyance in District-maintained streams while protecting water quality and beneficial uses. Examples of maintenance activities covered by the Order include sediment and debris removal, vegetation management, erosion control, and maintenance and repair of levees and other flood control structures located within the identified flood control zones of Marin County. Provided such activities are completed consistent with the Program and the SMP Manual, individual WDRs and water quality certifications for the activities would not be required.

In taking this approach to maintenance, the District will reduce maintenance impacts by establishing programmatic guidance to conduct these activities in a manner that avoids and minimizes impacts to beneficial uses. Through the SMP, the District will document its maintenance planning, implementation, stream characteristics, best management practices, and avoidance and minimization measures implemented each year. Further, it will periodically review its practices, with reporting acceptable to the Executive Officer, to identify opportunities for improvement. Overall, the SMP will protect and enhance natural resources and the environment, while ensuring necessary flood protection to local communities.

In addition to authorizing the establishment of the SMP, the Revised Tentative Order sets forth an annual notification process for maintenance work and would authorize maintenance work proposed for 2017 (Appendix D). The District has proposed maintenance activities at twelve sites in 2017. In addition, the Order would allow the District until July 31, 2017, to identify

additional sites or revisions of already-proposed maintenance projects for the 2017 maintenance season.

A tentative order was circulated for a 30-day public comment period ending on June 16, 2017, and the District was the sole commenter. The Response to Comments (Appendix C) addresses the District's comments and describes responsive revisions reflected in the Revised Tentative Order. In coordination with District staff, we also modified the Revised Tentative Order to extend the deadline to Year 5 to develop and implement quantitative thresholds for stream maintenance. We also made minor editorial and formatting revisions. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

**RECOMMEN-  
DATION:**

Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

**APPENDICES:**

- A - Revised Tentative Order
- B – SMP Manual
- C – Response to Comments
- D - 2017 Work Plan Pre-Project Notification