

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

MEETING DATE: June 14, 2017

ITEM: **4**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**



# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: *June 2017*

A Monthly Report to the Board and Public

NEXT MEETING: June 14, 2017

WEBSITE: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/>

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## **Workshop for Horse Boarding Facilities and Dairies (Laurie Taul)**

### *Horse-Keeping for Clean Water*

The Marin Horse Council and the Tomales Bay Watershed Council hosted a workshop for horse facility owners and managers on April 26 in Nicasio, Marin County. The workshop was well attended by local horse keepers who are required to comply with the Board's 2016 General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Confined Animal Facilities (Permit). It consisted of a morning classroom session with presentations by Board staff Laurie Taul and other experts in animal facility management practices. In the afternoon, attendees toured a local horse facility to observe practical techniques for stormwater runoff and manure and pasture management, as well as a water quality testing demonstration at a nearby creek. The workshop sessions walked attendees through the key requirements, compliance milestones, and sampling requirements of the Permit and provided them with resources for choosing appropriate best management practices, conducting onsite composting, and obtaining technical assistance.



**Figure 1.** Classroom session held in Druid's Hall, Nicasio.



**Figure 2.** Practical demonstration of best management practices to protect water quality at Creekside Equestrian Center.



**Figure 3.** Good practices in managing runoff: 1) roof gutter capture and redirection of clean storm water, 2) pea gravel to prevent erosion, standing water, and easier clean-out, and 3) vegetated ditch for filtration.



**Figure 4.** Rob Carson, Marin County Storm Water Program, demonstrates how to test a creek sample for ammonia as required by the Permit.

### *Waste Management and Grazing Management Planning Help for Dairies*

On May 9 and 10, the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) hosted educational workshops in Point Reyes Station and Petaluma. The workshop assisted dairy producers in understanding and complying with the Board's Conditional Waiver of WDRs for Dairies (Waiver). Immediately following the Waiver's adoption in 2015, CDQAP stepped forward and began to develop Waiver-specific courses to help dairy producers understand the Waiver, familiarize them with best management practice-based waste management options, and educate them on surface water monitoring and groundwater well testing procedures. CDQAP also developed and provided attendees with record-keeping forms, tools, and templates, specific to our Waiver, to help the producers with Waiver compliance and farm management. This spring's sessions focused on completing portions of the Waiver's

required Waste Management Plan and Grazing Management Plan (due November 2017), with an emphasis on facility design, calculations for retention pond capacity, flood protection, emergency planning, grazing land assessment, and operation and maintenance. Dairy producers also have access to free assistance from the Sonoma and Marin Resource Conservation Districts for completing facility maps or calculating needed retention pond capacity.

On April 12, staff from the Western United Dairymen Association provided additional compliance assistance on a drop-in basis for dairy producers to obtain one-on-one help to complete any of the plans that are required by the Waiver.

### **Cleanup Orders Issued by Executive Officer (Mark Johnson)**

The Board has delegated to the Executive Officer the authority to issue, amend, or rescind site cleanup orders pursuant to Water Code section 13304. The choice between having these orders acted upon by the Board or by the Executive Officer hinges on the degree of controversy and urgency in each case. In general, I issue, amend, or rescind these orders in situations where there is little or no controversy or when there is some urgency (e.g., cleanup action is needed promptly to address a current or imminent threat to human health or the environment). Otherwise, we bring these types of cleanup orders to the Board for its consideration and action in a public hearing.

In early May, I amended the 2007 site cleanup order for the former Baron Blakeslee chemical storage, distribution, and recycling facility located at 8333 Enterprise Drive in Newark, Alameda County. Operations at the site have resulted in releases of volatile organic compounds to soil and groundwater. Honeywell, the successor to Baron Blakeslee, has been cleaning up the site since 1998, pursuant to the Board's site cleanup orders. Soil remediation in 2016 cleared the way for the property to be redeveloped into a public park. The May amendment extends the deadlines for re-installing monitoring wells that were removed or altered to allow access for soil remediation and park development. The amended deadlines are needed because park development has been delayed. The schedule extension will not adversely impact human health or water quality. A draft of the amended order was circulated for public comment and no comments were received. This is the fourth recent amendment of the site cleanup order attributable to site redevelopment; we do not anticipate any further amendments.

### **Vapor Intrusion at Redwood Court Homes in Castro Valley (Barbara Sieminski)**

Board staff is responding vigorously to a recent finding of trichloroethene (TCE) above U.S. EPA action levels for indoor air at several residences near a leaking underground storage tank (UST) site in Castro Valley, Alameda County.

The Xtra Oil site is located at 3495 Castro Valley Road in Castro Valley. Soil and groundwater beneath the site are significantly impacted by petroleum hydrocarbon leaks from the former USTs, which were replaced in 1992. Several environmental investigations were conducted to determine the magnitude of these impacts. Up to four feet of petroleum free product was

initially present on groundwater beneath the former dispenser area. Free product was removed, with only traces of free product remaining onsite. In 2007, groundwater extraction and treatment was initiated to remove the contamination source and control plume migration. However, hydrocarbons had already migrated offsite via groundwater, mostly along preferential pathways, to the southwest of the gasoline station and beneath a residential area at Redwood Court.

In summer 2015, the UST owner found free-product petroleum on shallow groundwater at the western end of Redwood Court and started interim cleanup. This included free-product removal from monitoring wells and vapor intrusion mitigation (placement of vapor barriers beneath four buildings with crawl spaces and installation of air filtration units in the ground floor apartments of two buildings without crawl spaces). Followup sampling of indoor air demonstrated that the vapor mitigation systems were working.

In November 2016, we approved the UST owner's cleanup plan for the offsite contamination beneath Redwood Court. The cleanup plan proposed horizontal wells to remove contaminated groundwater and free product and then, following dewatering, remove contaminated soil vapor. Cleanup plan implementation has been delayed pending State Water Board approval of funding. The UST owner is responding to State Water Board comments, and we expect implementation to begin later this year.

In mid-April, the UST owner reported that indoor air concentrations in two ground-floor residences at Redwood Court exceeded U.S. EPA action levels for TCE. The action level for an accelerated response is 2 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and measured levels were up to 4.5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Complicating matters, the source of the TCE is not yet known. The UST site is probably not the source, based on soil and groundwater sampling data. TCE may have migrated to the Redwood Court area from an unknown upgradient source, through sanitary sewer and storm drain backfill, or through other preferential pathways. The TCE source could also be inside the residences, since some building materials and household products still contain TCE.

In response to this new information, we provided Alameda County officials with a Proposition 65 notification within the required timeframe. Proposition 65 is also known as the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986. It requires designated government employees (in this case, Board supervisors) to notify county officials within 72 hours of incidents that meet certain criteria. We also took steps to improve vapor mitigation in the affected residences. In response to our directives, the UST owner has replaced air-filtration-unit filters in the affected residences and is working with the residents to rule out indoor sources of TCE that might be contributing to the elevated TCE levels.

We are also continuing efforts to identify any upgradient sources of TCE. We identified Manor Cleaners, a dry cleaning business operating in the shopping center located upgradient of Redwood Court, as a potential source of TCE contamination. On May 17, we required the operator of Manor Cleaners and the shopping center landowner to submit detailed operational histories of commercial activities that may have released TCE to the subsurface.

We also reviewed soil gas, sub-slab, and indoor air data recently collected from the former Edward's Paints property located between Redwood Court and Manor Cleaners. The sampling was conducted to evaluate the property's environmental condition prior to reconstruction of the onsite building. The sampling results do not indicate that the Edward's Paints property is the source of the TCE contamination at the Redwood Court. If we are able to confirm an upgradient source, we will require the responsible party or parties to investigate and clean up the TCE contamination. We will update you in future on this case as circumstances warrant.

### **In-house Training**

In May, we held an offsite training themed "Giving Back." Our first stop was the Oro Loma Sanitary District in San Lorenzo, where we learned about water recycling; the Oro Loma Horizontal Levee Project, a pilot project for a living shoreline; and the District's efforts to return wetlands and walking access (via the Bay Trail) around San Francisco Bay. Cal/EPA's Environmental Justice enforcement task force kicked off the afternoon session at an Oakland public library surrounded by schools and residences but downwind from an industrial operation—an eye-opening environmental justice experience. The day wrapped up with staff visiting their choice of three non-profit organizations that help disadvantaged communities: Planting Justice, the Rose Foundation, and the California Urban Streams Partnership. Each visit involved an interactive experience related to the mission of the organization. The passion and energy of our hosts was inspiring. We will take a summer break and resume in-house training in the fall.

### **Staff Presentations**

On May 22, Watershed Management Division Chief Keith Lichten presented an overview of a new American Society of Civil Engineers standard on the design, construction, and maintenance of permeable interlocking concrete pavements at the ASCE-EWRI World Water Resources Congress in Sacramento. Keith is the regulatory member of the ASCE committee that developed the standard, which is expected to be published later this year. He also moderated a session on Large-Scale/Multi-Site Stormwater BMP Implementation in the Congress' Urban Watershed Management Symposium.

Senior Engineering Geologist Brian Thompson was an exhibitor at Palomares Elementary School's 11th Annual Watershed and Science Expo on May 28. The Castro Valley Unified School District and the Alameda County Clean Water Program fund the Expo, and a variety of organizations host exhibits on watershed science. Approximately 900 third graders from 12 schools, including 6 Title I schools (schools with a higher percentage of low-income families), participated in the event to learn about watersheds and creek science.

Brian hosted a Water Boards' exhibit where students evaluated the health of Palomares Creek, a tributary in the San Lorenzo Creek Watershed. Students participated in an exercise modeled after the bioassessments performed each year for the Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program. The students' favorite part was getting to be junior scientists and assessing the creek's physical characteristics, habitat, riparian cover, water quality

(measuring temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity), and population of “bugs” and “critters” (i.e., benthic macroinvertebrates).

**Enforcement Actions (Mary Boyd and Brian Thompson)**

In May, I signed Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R2-2017-1021 for Jean A. Porlier, Joan A. Boblitt, Robert Vidalin, William Vidalin, and Timothy Starkweather (Dischargers) for fill activities at Alameda County Assessor Parcel Numbers 902-0008-005-05 and 902-0008-005-09 on Los Colinas Road, Livermore. The Order requires the Dischargers to clean up and abate the effects of their unauthorized fill placed in wetlands.

**401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received (Abigail Smith)**

The table below lists those applications received for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification from April 25 through May 25, 2017. A check mark in the right-hand column indicates a project with work that may be in BCDC jurisdiction.

Project Name	City/Location	County	May have BCDC Jurisdiction
Cesar Chavez Riprap Repair	Berkeley	Alameda	✓
East Bay Regional Park District - GUMP Pond 1 Restoration Project	Sunol		
East Bay Regional Park District - GUMP Pond 3 Restoration Project	Sunol		
East Bay Regional Park District – GUMP Spring Redevelopment Project	Sunol		
Christie-Willow Pass – 60 Kv Pole Replacement	Martinez	Contra Costa	
Lost and Canopy View Trails – Surface Hydrology Rehabilitation	Mill Valley	Marin	
495 Bel Marin Keys, Novato – Levee Repair	Novato		
Point Reyes Road – Rehabilitation Program	Point Reyes National Seashores		
6 Caleta Creek Bank Repair Project	San Anselmo		
136 Calumet Ave – Upper Bank Stabilization Project	San Anselmo		
7 Beechwood Court – Storm Drain Improvements	San Rafael		
Marin County – Stream Maintenance Manual	Multiple Locations		✓
Jim Oswald Warehouse	American Canyon	Napa	
Kimball Creek - Streambank Stabilization and Revegetation Project	Calistoga		

Islais Creek – Geotechnical Investigation Project	San Francisco	San Francisco	✓
Peninsula Corridor Electrification - Preconstruction Utility Potholing	San Bruno	San Mateo	
Culvert Maintenance and Erosion Control	San Jose	Santa Clara	
Thompson Creek Bypass Project	San Jose		
Mission Peak - Lease Livestock Water Distribution Project	Milpitas		
San Felipe Bridge Modification	Morgan Hill		
Boyes Boulevard Over Sonoma Creek -Bridge Replacement	Boyes Hot Spring	Sonoma	
Hanna-Bismark Reservoir - 4390 Cavedale Road , Glen Ellen	Glen Ellen		
R-708 L-21G Replacements - Geotechnical Studies Project	Petaluma		