

**State Water Board  
July 17, 2007 Board Meeting  
Item 13. Executive Director Report**

**Division of Water Quality**

**Low Impact Development Training (LID):**

The State Water Board Storm Water Program sponsored two LID training sessions in June. A third session is scheduled for July 18-20 in Rohnert Park. We have had a total of about 120 participants in the two events and expect another 80 to participate in the third training.

In addition to teaching the fundamentals of LID to the participants, the trainings have served as a forum to explore obstacles and opportunities for advancing LID understanding and implementation in California. The issues raised in the two completed trainings have varied - at the Folsom session, the issues related to local government implementation (ordinances, planning process, etc.), while the Marina Del Rey session centered around groundwater and "infiltration" concerns. One interesting issue that emerged from the Marina Del Rey training is that, in San Diego, irrigation-derived runoff in some residential basins exceeds that from precipitation (precipitation = approximately 10 inches per year, versus irrigation = the equivalent of 40 inches per year).

Along the way we have also offered LID advocacy and leadership training to State and Regional Water Board staff, with an emphasis on how to get LID concepts accepted and utilized and how and where in the process to advocate for them. The outcomes of this complete training series will be documented and posted on the web for all participants; this will include meeting notes, ideas and concepts developed in the sessions and any "lessons learned" that are shared by the participants.

**Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program:**

A GAMA pre-sampling kick-off meeting was held on June 20th and wells are now being sampled in South Lake Tahoe for the Tahoe/Martis study unit that includes the groundwater basins of Tahoe Valley and Martis Valley (Truckee) and adjacent areas outside of groundwater basins.

The next wrap-up meeting is scheduled for July 25th to present preliminary data from sampling in the Southern California Coastal Plain study unit at the Water Replenishment District in Lakewood. This study unit includes the groundwater basins of Hollywood, Santa Monica, Central and West Coast sub-basins and the Coastal Plain of Orange County basin.

In addition, on July 26 in Riverside there will be an overview presentation of GAMA program results in southern California at the request of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority.

**State and Federal Brownfields Funding Workshops:**

The State Water Board, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and U.S. EPA are holding a series of workshops for stakeholders on the process for applying for grants and loans for contaminated site cleanup and redevelopment. The State Water Board presentation focuses on the Underground Storage Tank Orphan Site Cleanup Account program. The first of these workshops was held July 11 in Sacramento, with six more scheduled during July and August to be held throughout the state.

**Sediment Quality Objectives (SQOs):**

The Scientific Steering Committee met last week (July 10-12) to conduct its final review of the development of the Phase I SQOs for bays and estuaries. The Committee, composed of leading scientists in the field of sediment pollution from around the country, met to discuss the findings and recommendations from the State Water Board staff and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), and also considered preliminary implementation language prior to its inclusion in the upcoming draft staff report.

**Ocean Plan:**

On June 26, Board Member Spivy-Weber and State Water Board staff conducted a public scoping meeting to discuss several amendments to the California Ocean Plan. Amendments discussed included new monitoring requirements, a fecal coliform standard for shellfish, control of vessel wastes, a water quality standard for marine debris, a salinity standard to address desalination brine discharges, and new suspended solids limits for sewage treatment plants. The meeting was held in San Francisco and was attended by approximately 35 stakeholders. Written comments may be submitted until the public comment deadline of July 27, 2007.

**Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS):**

The ASBS Natural Water Quality Committee of scientists will meet again on July 27 at the SCCWRP office in Costa Mesa. The committee was established under State Water Board Resolution No. 2004-52 and is focusing on water quality in the San Diego and La Jolla ASBS. Their work will also provide guidance for assessing impacts to water quality in ASBS statewide. The committee is working on three questions: 1) Are water quality objectives and permit limits being met? 2) What are the impacts to marine species and communities? 3) What would

ambient marine water quality be like without waste discharges, and how does effluent affect that water quality?

State Water Board staff and SCCWRP are planning two stakeholder meetings to discuss a monitoring program to focus on ASBS ocean water quality. The meetings will be in Costa Mesa on July 26 and in Carmel on August 20. The meetings are intended to encourage collaboration with responsible parties and other stakeholders to design this monitoring project and to encourage others to monitor discharges with consistent methodologies.

**Redesign Marine Protected Areas:**

California Department of Fish and Game recently announced a panel of science advisors to assist in redesigning marine protected areas along the north central California coast. The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Master Plan Science Advisory Team will provide scientific support for the MLPA Initiative. The State Water Board is represented on this panel by Dominic Gregorio of the Ocean Unit.

**Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program – Public Hearing on Changes to Regulations:**

A public hearing was held on Monday, July 16, to receive comments on amendments to the UST Regulations contained in Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 16 of the California Code of Regulations. Board member Wolff was the hearing officer. These proposed amendments are relatively minor and non-controversial in nature.

**Division of Water Rights**

**Exceedances of Bay/Delta Salinity Objectives:**

The Interior Delta agricultural salinity objectives of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/ Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary are currently being exceeded. The US Bureau of Reclamation recently submitted a letter to the State Water Board indicating that the current exceedances, and those projected for later this month, are outside of the Bureau's control. State Water Board staff has asked for further information and analyses to support the Bureau's claim, including measures that have been taken or could be taken to meet these objectives.

**Office of Research, Planning and Performance**

**Strategic Planning Update:**

We have reached a major milestone in our strategic planning process. The last regional outreach session was held on June 13. All together, the Board has thus

far solicited input through 10 Regional Forums (two were held in the Lahontan Region), a statewide stakeholder summit and a statewide staff summit. In addition, the Water Board's web site offers an additional opportunity for anyone interested in continuing to provide input into this process. The extensive information received through these meetings is now being summarized to identify common themes. We will be looking to the Regional Boards to identify region-specific issues that should be prioritized for inclusion in the plan as well. Our goal is to have the key elements of a draft Strategic Plan Update available for discussion at the next Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting which will be noticed for sometime in early Fall.

### **Climate Workshop:**

Next month, on August 23, the Water Board will be holding an all-day meeting to discuss possible actions that could be taken to reduce green-house gas emissions associated with the Water Board's programs and policies. In order to provide you with informed perspectives and suggestions, the format for this meeting is designed around a series of panels, which are being structured to convey the views of various interests. An agenda will be available closer to the meeting date.

## **Office of Legislative Affairs**

### **AB 1130 (Laird) - Aboveground Storage Tank Inspection Program.**

This bill, sponsored by the State Water Resources Control Board, was approved by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on a vote of 7-0. This bill would shift the responsibility for the inspection of above ground petroleum storage tanks from the State and Regional Water Boards to Unified Program Agencies (UPAs). UPAs are the local agencies that currently inspect underground petroleum storage tanks, hazardous materials storage, and hazardous waste disposal programs.

### **AB 1742 (Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials)-State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund: administrative costs.**

This bill, sponsored by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies on behalf of the State Water Board, was also approved by Senate Environmental Quality Committee on a vote of 7-0. This bill would allow the State Water Board to use a portion of the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund loan interest payments to pay for the costs of administering the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program. This bill would also allow the State Water Board to adjust loan costs to better assist disadvantaged communities.

## **Division of Financial Assistance (DFA)**

### **Site Inspections of State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Projects:**

On June 20, engineering and environmental staff visited the Village of Tomales wastewater treatment facility to assess environmental concerns for an upcoming SRF project. There was no evidence that construction of the proposed project would impact any sensitive species, natural habitat or cultural resources. The project will be able to comply with federal regulations associated with the SRF Program.

On June 26, engineering and environmental staff and students toured the Patterson wastewater facility. The purpose of the trip was to assess environmental issues for an upcoming SRF project and to familiarize DFA students with wastewater treatment processes.

On June 27, environmental staff made an oversight visit to archaeological excavations for the St. Helena Flood Control SRF project.

### **Small Community Wastewater Grant Program:**

On July 2, 2007, the Division of Financial Assistance approved a Small Community Wastewater Grant (SCWG) Program Preliminary Funding Commitment for \$2,000,000 to the Occidental County Sanitation District (District) for design and construction of their Occidental Collection System Replacement Project (Project). Occidental is a small unincorporated community, located in Sonoma County, approximately 15 miles west of the City of Santa Rosa. The proposed project consists of replacing and/or upgrading approximately 50 percent of the District's existing collection system to reduce wet weather flows entering the existing wastewater treatment facility, minimize the potential for future sanitary sewer system overflows, and to comply with North Coast Regional Water Board Cease and Desist Order R1-2005-0085.

### **Kickoff Meeting for the Salinas Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant:**

On June 21 and 22, engineering and environmental staff met in Salinas with representatives of the Central Coast Regional Water Board, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, City of Soledad and Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) to discuss the scope of the projects to be covered under the IRWMP Grant and how the projects would be managed. Site visits were later conducted for MCWD Well 33 and the Salinas Valley Water Project Diversion Structure, and then for City of Soledad and Nacimiento Spillway.

**Site Inspections of the Laguna Beach and Newport Beach IRWM and Clean Beach Initiative (CBI) Program:**

On July 11, DFA staff visited the Cities of Laguna Beach and Newport Beach and met with City representatives to discuss the scope of the projects to be covered under the IRWM Grant and the CBI Grant and how the projects would be coordinated, integrated and managed. In addition to this, Staff got an overview of the physical characteristics of the watersheds and related IRWM/CBI projects scopes of work, clarified and defined the water quality issues within the watersheds, became acquainted with key project proponents, and addressed outstanding project issues.

**CALFED Watershed Program:**

On June 26, environmental staff met at UC Davis with fellow reviewers for the 2006/2007 Department of Water Resources (DWR) CALFED Watershed Grant Proposals. This meeting focused on proposals submitted to address the valuation emphasis of the 2006/2007 Proposal Solicitation Package. Other reviewers included Department of Water Resources staff, a UC Davis professor and an independent environmental consultant.

On June 27, engineering and environmental staff met with the funding subgroup of the Interagency Watershed Advisory Team. Staff from the Central Valley Regional Water Board, DWR, California Department of Forestry and Fire, and Resources Agency-CALFED discussed options for spending the remaining CALFED Watershed funds that the State Water Board has been tasked with disbursing.

**Project Meetings with Applicants:**

Engineering and environmental staff met with Inland Empire Utilities Agency on June 28 to discuss its SRF Loan project with regard to a proposed change in the pipeline alignment and additional lateral pipelines to serve additional recycled water users in the Monte Vista Water District.

On July 2, environmental staff met with consultants and representatives of the City of San Juan Capistrano to discuss cultural resources issues. An SRF Kick-Off Meeting was held in the afternoon with the City engineering and environmental staff to discuss the application process.

**Regional Water Board Meetings on Consolidated Grant Projects:**

On June 18, environmental staff met with San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board staff to discuss the environmental review process, to identify potential avenues for streamlining and to respond to questions and concerns of the grant managers. Staff followed up with Regional Water Board staff on June 28 to

discuss multiple projects covered under a single grant agreement for Tomales Bay.

**Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) Work Group Meeting:**

The WMI Coordinators from the State and Regional Water Boards conducted their monthly internal work group meeting on June 27. Discussion focused on ways the Regional Water Boards are currently involved with the IRWMP process.

**Staff Training:**

DFA staff participated on June 14 and 15 in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) training titled, *Successful CEQA Compliance: An Intensive Two-Day Seminar*, conducted through the University of California, Davis Extension. The training included: the objectives of CEQA, the CEQA process, preparation of Negative Declarations and Environmental Impact Reports, mitigation measures, and legal case studies.