

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 12-13, 2010**

Prepared on April 13, 2010

**ITEM NUMBER: 28**

**SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board**

This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS**

[Dominic Roques 805/542-4780]

In general, staff recommends "Standard Certification" when the applicant proposes adequate mitigation. Measures included in the application must ensure that beneficial uses will be protected, and water quality standards will be met.

Conditional Certification is appropriate when a project may adversely impact surface water quality. Conditions allow the project to proceed under an Army Corps permit, while upholding water quality standards.

Staff will recommend "No Action" when no discharge or adverse impacts are expected. Generally, a project must provide beneficial use and habitat enhancement for no action to be taken by the Regional Board. A chart on the following pages lists applications received from February 17, 2010 to March 31, 2010.

Kim Sanders, Environmental Scientist, is taking over staff work on WQ Certifications. Dominic Roques, Engineering Geologist, is working in Low Impact Development implementation and Hydromodification Control criteria development, as well as working on a Basin Plan amendment for watershed management.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM FEBRUARY 17, 2010 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2010**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Receiving Water</b>	<b>Total Acreage<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Status of Application</b>
Beth Ford -- Co SB Flood Control	SB Flood Control Annual Plan	To maintain key capacity of watercourses through out the County, to maintain conveyance capacity, and to prevent the accumulation of obstructing vegetation and sediments.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Various	Unknown	Under Staff Review
Martin Wilder -- Laguna Co. Sanitation District	Recycled Water Distribution Main	Provide recycled water for golf course, installation of about 10,500 feet of buried 12-inch diameter PVC pipe.	Santa Maria	Santa Barbara	Orcutt-Solomon Creek	0.08	Completeness Pending
California Department of Parks and Recreation	Morro Bay Marina Parking Lot Renovation	The project involves the regrading/repaving of the main parking lot at the Morro Bay Marina to replace a section of failing asphalt, correct drainage flows, and improve public safety. Severe undercutting has occurred, contributing to the erosion of an estimated 19 cubic yards of fill and 200 square feet of paving.	Morro Bay	San Luis Obispo	Morro Bay, Pacific Ocean	0.0073	Under Staff Review
Ryan Jolley	Newell Creek Dam Intake Gate Repairs	The intake for Gate 5 will be extended approximately sixty feet to the northwest of the existing structure. After Gate 5 has been dredged, the trash rack and screen will be removed and the gate will be permanently covered.	Unincorporated area	Santa Cruz	Loch Lomond Reservoir, Newell Creek	Unknown	Under Staff Review

<sup>1</sup> Total Acreage includes both temporary and permanent impacts to riparian, streambed, and/or wetland environments within federal jurisdiction.

Applicant	Project	Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Acreage <sup>1</sup>	Status of Application
E. Floyd	Lichen Oaks Ranch Pond Restoration	To restore deepwater bathymetry within the pond, thus restoring water-holding capacity; and to repair the failing culvert infrastructure draining the pond and the headwall supporting the pond dam, thus preventing dam overtopping and potential dam failure.	Felton	Santa Cruz	Quail Hollow Brook, Zayante Creek	0.43	Under Staff Review

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### Regional Monitoring [Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

For the past several months, Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) staff focus has been on developing an upgraded website for data analysis and display. A public version of this website has now been released and is available at [www.ccamp.org](http://www.ccamp.org) as the 2010 prototype CCAMP web browser. Features are still being added to this prototype as they become available. The website premiered at a state-wide WebEx presentation on CCAMP, made by Karen Worcester on April 1. Since that time we have received several requests from other projects in the State, to share our code and help expand use of our approach to a broader audience. Though this may represent a time expenditure in the short term, we view it as a way to receive funds for additional staffing support and as a way to "institutionalize" our products into the larger monitoring community so that they will be supported and improved in future years. We have also received word from State Board staff that frozen grant funds promised several years ago to advance our projects may now be available again. So, we now have several opportunities on the horizon to receive funds and supporting staff to advance our tools, both for Region 3 and for a broader state-wide audience.

The new website is novel, in that it extracts data directly from our staging database and rapidly displays summary information at a regional, watershed, water body, and site scale. It incorporates a series of "rules", which determine a color score for each site. In addition, it incorporates change detection code, which basically divides the data into two time periods and determines if they are significantly different from one another. Where change is detected, sites are represented as arrows, pointing up for increasing concentrations and down for decreasing concentrations. This allows the viewer very quickly to receive impressions of the status of an area and parameter of interest. We also are incorporating a "water quality index", which combines multiple parameters into a single report card score. This allows a viewer with little experience in water quality to quickly get an impression of where our high quality and low quality waters are.

We are providing map overlays for the data displays, which provide the viewer with additional information on areas where ground water is impaired by nitrate, on locations of population centers, agricultural activities, and pesticide applications. We are currently working on more detailed displays from the DPR Pesticide Use Database, which will provide information on pounds applied upstream of any given monitoring location. We will have similar information available on types of land uses.

Finally, in addition to concentration data, we are incorporating instantaneous load displays into our web site features. This means that on any day when both flow and concentration data are collected, we are also expressing that information as kilograms per day. This feature has been added in direct response to comments from the agricultural community, that declining flows in a number of locations needed to be considered in our evaluation of site status.

The current website incorporates basic water quality and toxicity data from both CCAMP and the Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture. In the future, we plan to add other data sources utilized in the 303(d) listing process, as well as other data types including bioassessment.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### Presentations, Education, and Training [Roger Briggs 805/549-3140]

Several staff members, including Harvey Packard, Burton Chadwick, Matthew Keeling, Cecile DeMartini, Sorrel Marks, David LaCaro, and Peter von Langen, participated in meetings to assist stakeholders to develop salt and nutrient management plans as required by the new statewide Recycled Water Policy. Workshops were held on March 3 in Santa Maria and March 10 in Marina. Staff invited water and wastewater agencies and other potentially interested stakeholders. About 50 people attended each meeting. The workshops included presentations by Water Board staff member Matthew Keeling, and consultants familiar with the policy and management plan development.

On April 1st, Karen Worcester presented a Webinar on the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program to staff and interested parties from throughout the State. The presentation summarized our monitoring activities and demonstrated our data uptake and presentation tools, particularly our new website for data display. Following the presentation, we have had Regional Board and University program staff contact us with interest in using our website code for their own projects. It appears likely that we will receive funds through SWAMP and possibly also through a U.S. EPA project in Region 5 to expand use of this code to elsewhere in the State. These funds will hopefully allow us to hire another person to aid us in advancing Region 3 efforts as well.

Jon Rohrbough passed the California Professional Engineers exam and is now a registered engineer. Congratulations Jon.

### Board Outreach

Board Member David Hodgin and Executive Officer Roger Briggs met with Santa Clara Valley Water District Board members (3 – Larry Wilson, Tony Estremera, and Richard Santos, Chair) at the District office in San Jose on March 29th, to discuss mutual goals and opportunities to work more cooperatively and effectively. District staff Ann Draper, Behzad Ahmadi, and Marc Klemencic joined in as did Regional Board staff Monica Barricarte, Dean Thomas, and Thea Tryon. After the Board level meeting, District and Board staff met to discuss groundwater quality issues in southern Santa Clara Valley.

Executive Officer Roger Briggs gave a presentation to the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) in Lompoc on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Roger was the keynote speaker and addressed Water Quality and Water Supply. After summarizing water quality issues in the Central Coast region that affect water supplies, he asked the water agencies to work together with the Regional Board on salt and nutrient management plans for all groundwater basins. Board Member Hodgin is the President of the Central Coast District of ACWA and invited Mr. Briggs to be the speaker.

Chair Young and Mr. Briggs plan to meet with the Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council in May.

Mr. Briggs and counsel Frances McChesney met with U.S. EPA and State Board staff on April 13<sup>th</sup> to follow up on the Board discussion on proper disposal of pharmaceutical products

(unused drugs). We received some insight on areas where the Regional Board can provide some action in the battle to keep these drugs from making their way into the environment and into our waters. We will be reporting back to the Board as we track down these leads. As we continue with Board outreach efforts, this topic will be another issue for us to pursue with representatives from various watershed agencies, to be sure they are doing everything within their authority to minimize this problem.

H/ALLMYDOCS/EO Report/2010/EOrptMAY10/ch