

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 3, 2012
Prepared April 3, 2012

ITEM NUMBER: 19

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

STAFF CONTACT: Roger W. Briggs 805/549-3140 or rbriggs@waterboards.ca.gov

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

[Kim Sanders 805/542-4721]

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Kim Sanders 805/542-4771]

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received February 2, 2012 – March 16, 2012.

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Impact ¹	Status
California Department of Transportation - Jennifer Moonjian	2/2/12	Gifford Creek Curve Correction	Build new bridge over Gifford Creek to realign U.S. Route 166 to the south of the existing road to improve horizontal alignment and to reduce vehicle collision rate.	east of Santa Maria	San Luis Obispo	Gifford Creek, a tributary to the Cuyama River	0.23 acres	Issuance pending
California Department of Transportation - Fariba Zohoury	2/9/12	State Route 152 at Lover's Lane Safety Improvement Project	Construct a left-turn pocket into Lover's Lane, widen the roadway, and add pavement friction to reduce the number of cross-centerline accidents.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	Ortega and Holstein Creek	0.047 acres	Under staff review
City of San Luis Obispo - Jennifer Metz	2/28/12	Motel Inn Sewer Line Temporary Armoring	Place 4 boulders in SLO Creek for additional protection of the exposed section of 8-inch sewer line until permanent fix can be completed later in 2012.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo Creek	0.00057 acres	Under staff review
Plains Exploration & Production - David Rose	3/2/12	PXP Price Canyon - Ring Road Culvert Repair Project	Unclog and fortify inlet to a 42-inch diameter culvert and stabilize inlet with riprap and crushed gravel, involving a temporary diversion dam.	Pismo Beach	San Luis Obispo	unnamed tributary to Pismo Creek	0.001 acres	Under staff review
Southern California Gas Company - Rick Chiapa	3/5/12	Gas Pipeline 44-1088 Maintenance, Span 140	Clean and repaint the span, install insulators at span supports, and place cobble at end of span to prevent erosion.	Cholame	San Luis Obispo	unnamed tributary to Cholame Creek	0.001 acres	Under staff review
County of San Luis Obispo Dept. of Public Works - Dave Flynn, Deputy Director	3/7/12	El Camino Real at Santa Margarita Creek Bridge Scour Project	Reinforce the existing bridge to protect the integrity of the structure.	Atascadero	San Luis Obispo	Santa Margarita Creek	0.062 acres	Under staff review

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Impact ¹	Status
County of Santa Cruz - Russell Chen	3/8/12	Calabasas Road Improvements - Bradford Road to Buena Vista Drive	Install pedestrian sidewalks, bike lanes, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, asphalt concrete overlay, a storm drain system, and street parking, involving excavation of contaminated soil and groundwater.	Watsonville	Santa Cruz	Zayante Creek	0.05 acres	Under staff review
County of San Mateo Department of Public Works - Edelzar Garcia	3/8/12	Cloverdale Road/Canyon Road Culvert Replacement Project	Replace three corrugated metal culverts.	Un-incorporated San Mateo County	San Mateo County	Gazos Creek, Arroyo de Los Frijoles	0.01 acres	Under staff review
Santa Cruz County Sanitation District - Rachel Lather	3/9/12	Spreckels Drive at Aptos Creek Sewer Crossing Replacement	Replace a cement-encased gravity sewer line with an underground sewer lift station and force main pipe, which will require dewatering, to improve fish passage and protect public infrastructure.	Aptos	Santa Cruz	Aptos Creek	0.05 acres	Incomplete application

^[1] Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to riparian, streambed, and/or wetland environments within federal jurisdiction.

401 Water Quality Certifications Issued February 2, 2012 – March 16, 2012.

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Total Impact ¹
Central Coast Water Authority - Ron Cline	2/10/12	Reach II Winter Stabilization Project	Place rock armor along an exposed section of water supply pipeline to temporarily protect it from damage or rupture during high river flows until the pipeline can be buried below channel scour.	Cachuma Village	Santa Barbara	Santa Ynez River	0.04 acres
Atascadero Department of Public Works - Geoff English	2/17/12	Atascadero Lake Fill Line Protection Project	Install boulders and geotextile fabric to protect a segment of the Atascadero Lake water fill line along the bank of Atascadero Creek to prevent a potentially catastrophic failure of the water line.	Atascadero	San Luis Obispo	Atascadero Creek	25 linear feet

^[1] Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to riparian, streambed, and/or wetland environments within federal jurisdiction.

Joseph Gallo Farms Feedlot, 31701 Johnson Canyon Road, Gonzales, Monterey County, Site Characterization Update

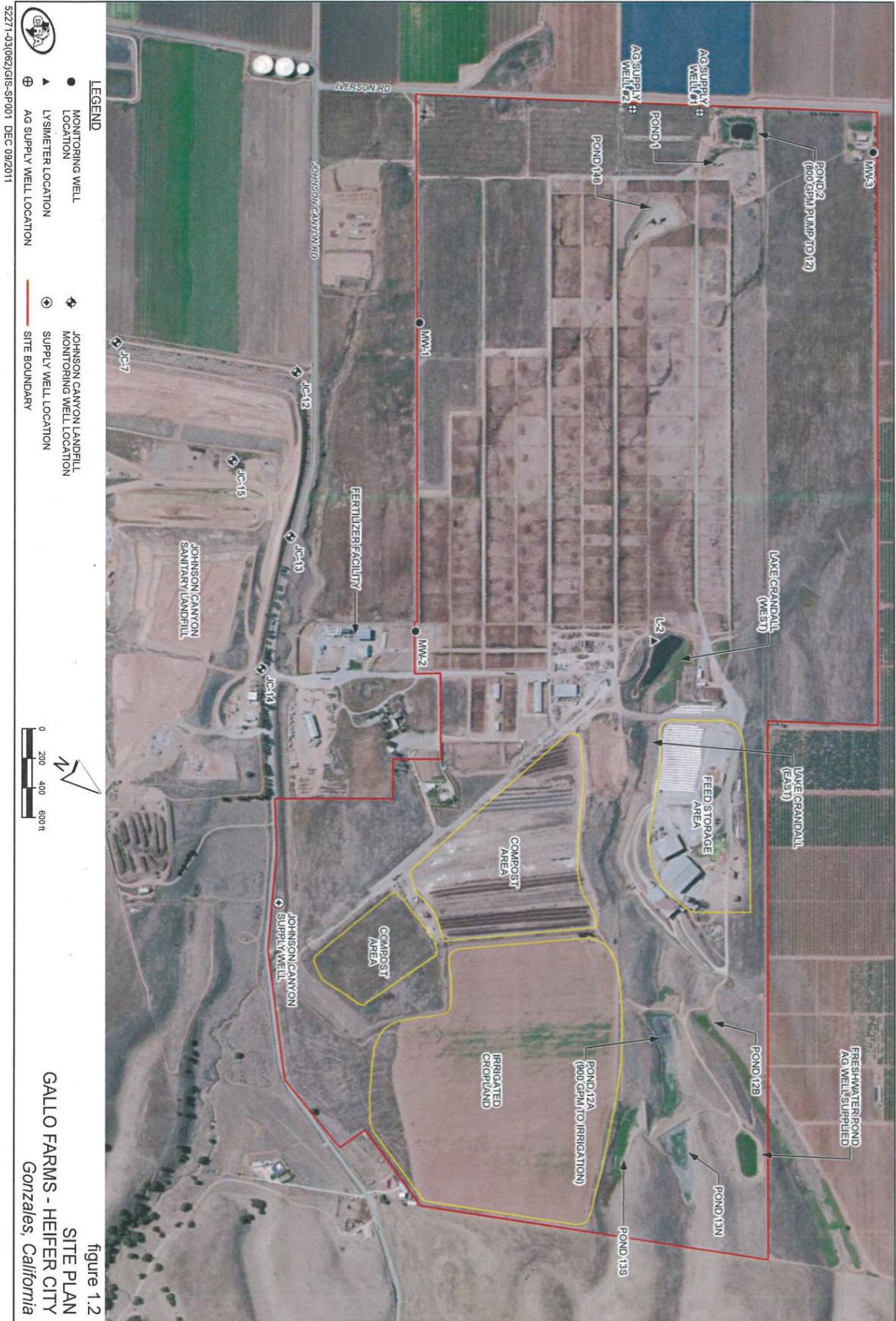
In February 2010, the Water Board adopted a new NPDES permit to regulate waste discharges to surface water and groundwater at the Joseph Gallo Farms feedlot in Gonzales. The new permit required Gallo to prepare a groundwater monitoring program with monitoring wells located upgradient and downgradient of wastewater holding ponds and areas used for wastewater disposal. The site comprises approximately 373 acres, which include 101 acres of animal housing on earthen lots/corrals, five acres of feed storage, 26 acres for composting manure activities, 64 acres of irrigated cropland, and 2.5 acres of a roofed area. The remaining acreage is undeveloped land outside of these production areas. There are nine ponds on the site that hold wastewater, stormwater runoff, or a combination of both. These ponds also serve as evaporation/holding ponds for wastewater and stormwater prior to land application. In March 2010, Monterey Coastkeeper petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for review of the Order. Coastkeeper's main concerns were with the Order's Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) and groundwater monitoring. Water Board staff worked with Gallo and Coastkeeper to resolve the concerns, and Coastkeeper eventually withdrew its petition. From August through September 2011, Gallo installed three groundwater monitoring wells at the locations shown on Attachment 1. Gallo also identified domestic and agricultural wells in the vicinity of the site, as shown on Attachment 2. In August 2011, Water Board staff inspected the

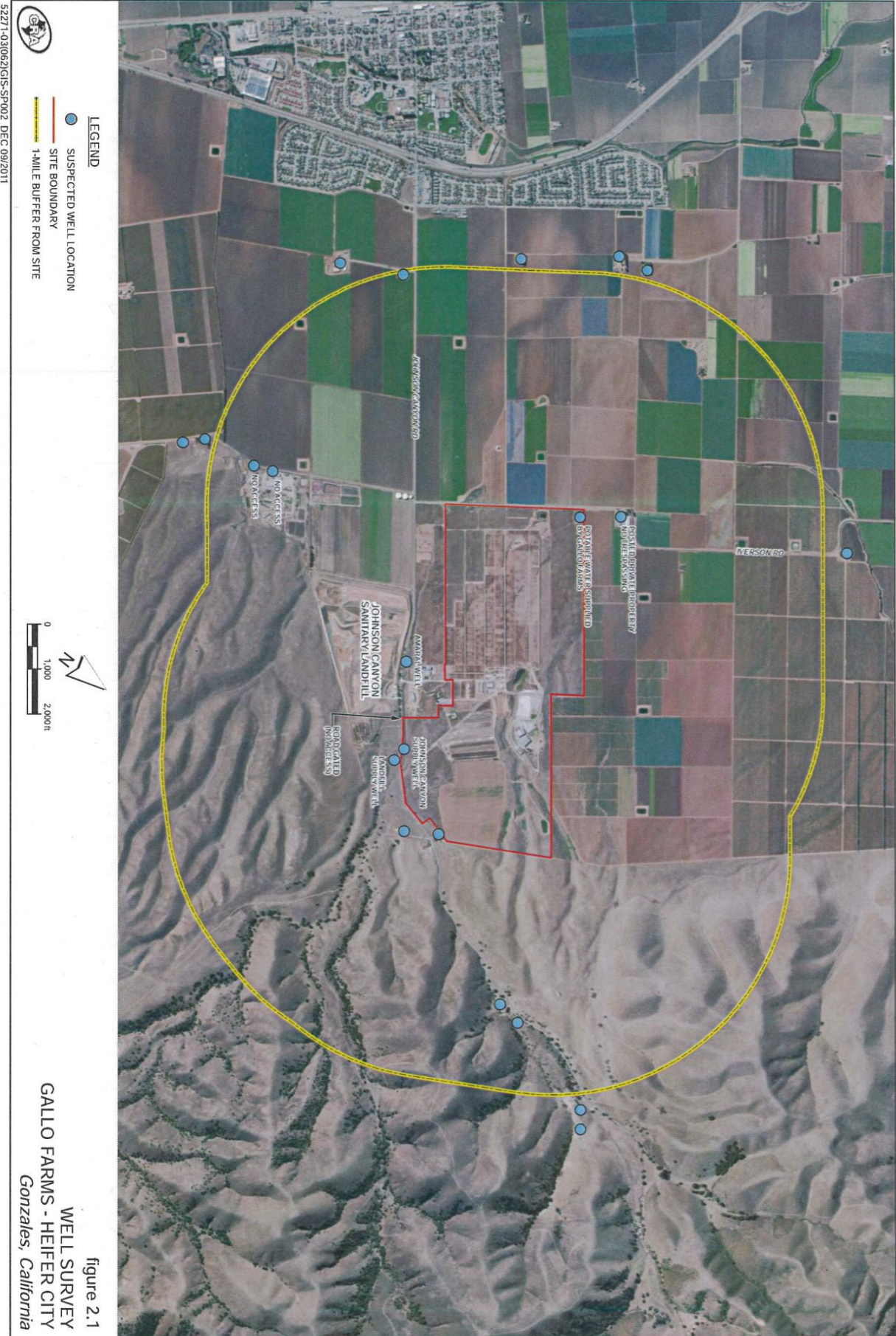
facility and reviewed the drilling core materials and boring log for groundwater monitoring well MW-2. On December 16, 2011, the Discharger submitted a site characterization report. Gallo analyzed groundwater samples from the three new monitoring wells for nitrate, chloride, ammonia, nitrite, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, total dissolved solids, residual chlorine, and coliform (total and fecal). All three wells contained TDS above state or federal drinking water standards during the November 2011 sampling event. Concentrations of chloride and nitrate in MW-2 and MW-3 exceeded state or federal drinking water standards during both the October and November sampling events. The data indicated that it is unlikely that Gallo is the sole source of the elevated salts and nitrate concentrations in underlying groundwater in this area. The current operation is essentially dry compared to historical operations. Gallo generates no process wastewater as a feedlot, unlike a dairy. The lysimeters did not contain soil pore water, which indicates little to no leakage, if any, from the overlying pond. Water Board staff will continue to evaluate groundwater data from the facility. Water Board staff may also require nearby property owners and operations to sample their domestic wells or groundwater monitoring wells.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Site Plan (figure 1.2)

Attachment 2 – Well Survey (figure 2.1)





ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Budget Update

Our region is budgeted for 63.5 positions and we have 64 permanent staff (plus students). Several of our permanent staff are part time, so we have 60.5 filled positions. However, with a Salary Savings reduction of 5%, we have 60.3 authorized positions, so we remain overstaffed by 0.2 positions. Salary Savings used to be a target for state organizations. This year, the positions are permanently eliminated. We now have an additional Salary Savings target of 2%-3%. However, we have been attempting to hire an administrative assistance staff person (thanks to State Board assistance with position authority), and we are recruiting for Executive Officer to fill the vacancy that will be created due to retirement.

The Governor is scheduled to issue a revision to his proposed FY12-13 budget in May. At the May Regional Water Board meeting, we will provide any updates from the "May Revise" that affect our organization. The existing proposed budget includes this "Significant Adjustment" from the current year budget:

Water Quality Grants for Small Disadvantaged Communities — An increase of \$11 million State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Small Community Grant Fund for grants to small and severely disadvantaged communities to address critical wastewater system needs.

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

In late January 2012, Central Coast Water Board staff, David Innis and Kim Sanders, attended the 2012 Stream and Riparian Corridor Restoration Workshop in Ventura. The workshop was a joint U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and CalTrans District 7 (Los Angeles District) sponsored training instructed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Research Hydraulic Engineers. The training focused on methodologies and procedures for planning and designing long-term sustainable river and stream stabilization and restoration projects. The instructors presented several innovative, environmentally sensitive, and cost-effective approaches to channel restoration, including comprehensive case studies. Besides two days of lecture, the workshop focused on site visits to several transportation related projects to examine the impacts of transportation project river crossings in the northern parts of Region 4 (Los Angeles Region) and the southern areas of the Central Coast Region. Central Coast Water Board staff finds the workshop will enhance their ability to evaluate Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification applications, as well as assess projects' compliance with existing 401 Water Quality Certifications.

Monica Barricarte, Water Resource Control Engineer, attended the 2012 Irrigation and Nutrient Management Meeting and Cover Crop and Water Quality Field Day in Salinas on February 21st. She also attended a workshop entitled "2012 CA Plant and Soil: Regulatory Issues Impacting California Agriculture in Visalia on February 7-8, 2012 and the CalPoly Water Issue Forum on February 29th.

Jill North, Environmental Scientist, gave a presentation at the Ag Expo in Salinas on March 13th, on recent fines and enforcement actions regarding wetland filling on farms.

On March 22nd, Roger Briggs and Gene Crumley co-taught a class for North Coast Region staff on Organizational Culture and Mental Models, as part of a leadership series of classes the North Coast Region is offering for staff through the State Board's Training Academy. Gene has

been the director of the UC Davis Executive Program for the past ten years. He is also the Vice Chair of the Business Management and Enterprise Department at UC Davis Extension.

On March 29th, Gene Crumley provided an educational opportunity for staff on the subject of organizational culture and leadership.

Several staff participated in a WebEx presentation given by the Groundwater Resources Association of California. The presentation was entitled "The Nebraska Grout Task Force Research: Unexpected Results – New Solutions". The WebEx will present findings that arose from a demonstration of how a well is properly constructed. Transparent Schedule 40 PVC casing allowed for well construction above and below the water table to be videoed from inside the casing of 168 water wells. For the first time, researchers could view actual grout conditions over time, documenting the ability of grout to stabilize the well within the borehole and maintain a contaminant seal.

On February 15th, several site cleanup and department of defense staff attended a Groundwater Resources Association webcast on "Abandoned Wells and Improperly Constructed Wells are a Continuing Threat to California's Groundwater Resources.

There are thousands of abandoned wells in California. These wells are not in use, but have not been properly destroyed including sealing (perforating the casing and filling the well with a grout material). There are two key reasons that so many abandoned wells exist in California; 1) lack of funding, and 2) lack of accurate well location information for older wells (many in existence since the early 1900's).

Abandoned wells pose a safety hazard to human beings and animals if they are left open to the surface and not properly capped and sealed. There are instances of people and animals reported falling into old hand dug and large diameter wells every year. Abandoned wells also present a water quality threat to our groundwater resources, as an abandoned well may cross connect water bearings zones and contamination may enter from the ground surface or from the first water bearing zone and flow into deeper aquifers.

Speakers from two California Counties discussed their well abandonment programs. Because of lack of funds, these counties have taken an approach of gathering information on the wells and prioritizing them for threat to groundwater and human health.

On April 4th, several site cleanup staff attended a webinar that described the results of a scientific investigation of well construction practices. Transparent Schedule 40 PVC casing allowed for well construction above and below the water table to be videoed from inside the casing of 168 water wells. For the first time, researchers could view actual grout conditions over time, documenting the ability of grout to stabilize the well within the borehole and maintain a contaminant seal.

More than 800 hours of videotape documented the progression of the sealing properties of all types of well grouts over 16 months in three distinctly different geologic regions of Nebraska. The materials the study looked at included bentonite slurry grouts less than, equal to, and greater than 20 percent solids; non-slurry chip bentonite; and various cement grout slurries that incorporated sand, water, and other additives.

The researchers found that all grouts performed differently than what was expected and what has been assumed by the groundwater industry for decades. The visual documentation of grouts provides the industry with a clearer insight of what is needed for adequate groundwater protection. The primary conclusions drawn from the study were that well grout materials with high solids content and/or use of bentonite chips, provided the least incidences of seal failures within the unsaturated soil column (ground surface to the top of first encountered water below ground surface).

Water Board staff will utilize this information in their reviews of well construction details in reports with proposals for installing monitoring and/or investigation well. The main focus is to help protect groundwater by applying the findings of the study to increase the reliability of well seals to prevent potential cross-contamination between ground surface and underlying groundwater.

Staff is planning a series of workshops/outreach opportunities for growers throughout the region for compliance assistance on the new Ag Order. Staff has drafted a simplified guide for each Tier of grower in plain English and Spanish, and will be sending these guides to all growers.