



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

February 20, 2019

Executive Officer's 2018 Water Quality Stewardship Award Goes to the Salmonid Restoration Federation and Brenda Adelman of the Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

Matt St. John

The Executive Officer's Water Quality Stewardship Award is an annual award given to an individual or group whose exceptional work contributes to the preservation and enhancement of surface water and groundwater quality in the North Coast Region. The Regional Water Quality Control Board and its staff spend much of its time and energy focused on the task of controlling waste discharges to the region's waters. This award is designed to acknowledge and honor our partners in water quality protection who augment the Regional Water Board's work with their own efforts in pollution prevention, waste minimization, water quality enhancement, and beneficial use restoration.

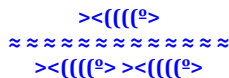
From the first **Salmonid Restoration Federation** (SRF) conference in 1983, SRF has promoted and advanced the science of salmonid habitat restoration throughout California. With the diversity of salmonid species in the North Coast Region, including those that are endangered and threatened, SRF's vision of healthy watersheds has been closely aligned with the Regional Water Board's work to restore and enhance beneficial uses of waters of the state. The uniquely important SRF annual conference brings together the restoration community, scientists, regulators, funders, and land managers from around the state and includes workshops and local field tours that educate and share the latest restoration science and successful field implementation. Through coordinated conference sessions, workshops and field schools, SRF facilitates the advancement of

technical, biological and policy-related issues and education of restoration practitioners. Through these efforts SRF has provided a critical forum for stakeholders to collaboratively address important water quality issues such as road related sediment control, restoring instream flow, fish passage design, large wood habitat installation, bioengineered bank stabilization, and restoration permit streamlining.

The SRF's advocacy for restoration funding, advancing restoration science, and educating and inspiring thousands of restoration practitioners amplifies and implements the Regional Water Board's Policy in Support of Restoration, R1-2015-0001. The efforts of a small dedicated group of SRF staff, board members and volunteers continue to have a great impact and influence on restoring beneficial uses through salmonid habitat restoration. Presentation of the 2018 Water Quality Stewardship Award is a token expression of the North Coast Regional Water Board's appreciation for the outstanding work of the Salmonid Restoration Federation in advancing stream restoration and salmonid protections in the North Coast.

Brenda Adelman is well-known to the Regional Water Board. Ms. Adelman has been tracking Sonoma County wastewater issues since the 1980s, when she was compelled into action in response to a 1985 Santa Rosa sewage spill that resulted in 750 million gallons of raw sewage entering the Russian River from a failure at the City's antiquated sewage treatment plant. Since that time, Brenda's input successfully influenced the City and the Regional Water Board to make improvements in the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant to better protect water quality and public health. As chair of the **Russian River Watershed Protection Committee** (RRWPC), a nonprofit organization of over 1,000 property and

business owners, recreational water users, and other concerned citizens serving the public interest in the Russian River Watershed, Brenda has tirelessly promoted safe and responsible wastewater reclamation and reuse and was a respected voice in the City of Santa Rosa’s historic project to expand its wastewater recycling program and dramatically reduce the City’s wastewater discharge to the Russian River. In recent years, Brenda has effectively increased awareness of the environmental impacts of endocrine disrupting chemicals on human health and aquatic life, influencing the Regional Water Board’s decision to conduct a special study to monitor these constituents in the Russian River. Also, Brenda has been a consistent voice regarding the linkage between Russian River flows and water quality conditions, topics about which she regularly provides testimony to both the Regional Water Board and the State Water Board. In her “free” time, Brenda writes regularly for the West County Gazette and contributes articles to numerous publications including the Press Democrat, Sonoma West Times and News, and other periodicals. Though she was not trained in the sciences, Ms. Adelman has earned great respect for her advocacy for the health of the Russian River Watershed. It is with pleasure that the North Coast Regional Water Board presents the 2018 Water Quality Stewardship Award to Brenda Adelman; thank you for being an effective voice and promoting action for the protection of the Russian River Watershed.



Enforcement Enhances Regional Water Resource Restoration *Stormer Feiler*

In 2016, in conclusion of a successful enforcement action, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer approved a negotiated settlement agreement to penalize the discharge of waste from a vineyard pond to Salmon Creek in Sonoma County on property owned by Stephen Kistler of Kistler Vineyards. The settlement resulted in a \$580,000

penalty to be distributed as a \$322,498 payment to the State Water Resources Control Board Cleanup and Abatement Account and the remaining \$257,202 to be suspended pending the completion of two Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs). The selected SEPs included a rainwater catchment project and a gully stabilization project on private properties in the Salmon Creek watershed, which is a coastal tributary to the Pacific Ocean in Sonoma County. The Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District provided project management and construction oversight of the projects. The projects were completed in 2017-18, resulting in the return of needed instream flows and the effective treatment of active sediment sources in the Salmon Creek watershed. The SEPs are showcased below and demonstrate the benefits that enforcement actions like this can have on water resources and aquatic habitat recovery.

Browder Gully Stabilization Project:

The Browder Property is a 320-acre ranch located near Occidental, CA primarily used for cattle grazing. This project area included a series of grassland gullies discharging sediment to Coleman Valley Creek. The project implemented erosion control measures on two grassland gullies eliminating ongoing sediment delivery and chronic seasonal turbidity from active erosion during winter rains. The following images tell the story of the work done to address head cutting and side slope erosion from the gullies.



Photo 1: View before construction from the head of the south gully entering Coleman Valley Creek.



Photo 2: South gully looking upstream during a rainstorm in the winter of 2016-17.



Photo 6: South gully planting day, with kids and parents participating in the Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) Program.



Photo 3: South Gully looking upstream, before project construction



Photo 7: East gully during a rainstorm in the winter of 2016-17.



Photo 4: South gully looking upstream at final grade with rock placed.



Photo 8: Start of excavation on the East gully looking upstream.

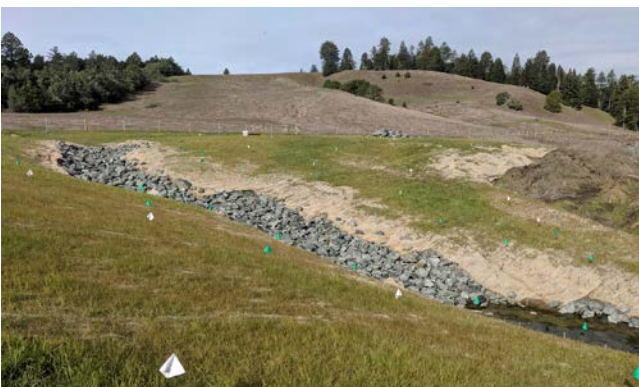


Photo 5: South gully during the winter of 2017-2018.



Photo 9: East gully winter of 2017-18 looking upstream after the completion of the stabilization work.



Photo 10: East gully planting day, looking downstream, livestock exclusion fencing is visible in the background.

Kovina Rainwater Catchment Project

The Kovina Project was constructed as part of an ongoing Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District program to improve summer stream flow in Salmon Creek; the goal of which is to improve rearing conditions for endangered Coho salmon and other aquatic species. The program relies on installing rainwater catchment facilities to offset summer use of waters that could influence instream flows.

The Kovina project entailed the construction of two rainwater catchment systems with a combined storage volume of 75,000 gallons. The larger of the two systems collects water from the roofs of a horse barn and a garage/studio building and conveys it to storage in a 50,000-gallon steel water tank. The smaller system collects water from a portion of the roof of the main residence and a smaller horse stall building and conveys it to storage in a 25,000-gallon steel water tank. The project is designed to satisfy all outdoor, non-potable water demand (including irrigation and stock water) for the period of May through October of each year.

Project construction included the installation of rainwater collection infrastructure, comprised of downspouts, first flush diverters, as well as rainwater conveyance piping, water storage tanks, pumps and water distribution piping.



Photo 11: The completed 25,000-gallon tank installation.



Photo 12: The completed 50,000-gallon tank with pump and pressure tank.

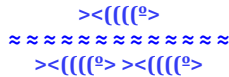


Photo 13: Downspouts from the 50,000-gallon tank collection roof and conveyance piping. The large diameter cylinders are the first flush diverters.

Summary:

The Browder Project resulted in an expenditure of \$111,933 of the SEP funds. The Kovina Project expended \$145,568 of SEP funds, for a total of \$257,501. These projects have addressed critical water quality parameters (sediment, water availability and flow) that affect aquatic and riparian habitats within the Salmon Creek watershed. SEPs extend and enhance the potential benefits of watershed restoration by using penalty dollars derived through enforcement of the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act and federal Clean Water Act. Additionally, these projects foster and encourage

watershed stewardship through public outreach and educational opportunities for children and parents. As shown in Photo 6, This was accomplished, with the restoration work done by the STRAW Program of Point Blue Conservation Science, a collaborative network of students and teachers leading their communities to restore their local ecosystems.



California Mobilizes to Tackle Wildfire Threats
Jonathan Warmerdam

In response to recent catastrophic wildfires across the state, California is mobilizing a full-scale effort to address the threats posed to communities and the environment as a result of these recent wildfires. This effort includes: (1) creation of a Task Force on Forests, (2) infusion of more than \$1 billion over five years to promote forest health improvements, (3) creation of new regulations and emergency rules, and (4) increased staffing and infrastructure. Statewide, California has approximately 33 million acres of forestland and 33 million acres of shrubland. California is under threat due to a number of fire related factors, including but not limited to: an increase in fuel loading across the state from overstocked forests and shrubland, widespread tree mortality (>129 million trees) due to bark beetle infestation and drought in the Sierra Nevada, and the onset of climate change. Wildfires will continue to be a significant threat to the North Coast Region and the state’s mandated responses will undoubtedly affect how our office does business, including changes in staffing, regulations, and an evolution of water quality protections.

In May 2018, former Governor Brown issued an [Executive Order on Forests](#) (EO B-52-18), which identified multiple objectives designed to minimize the potential impacts from catastrophic wildfires and climate change, protect communities and infrastructure, and to improve forest health and environmental resilience. The Order also set

the goal of doubling the current amount of annual forest management across California from 250,000 to 500,000 acres through timber harvest, prescribed burns, and fuels management. The Order also resulted in the creation of a new [California Forest Management Task Force](#); Regional Water Board staff have been participating in multiple monthly Task Force meetings since June 2018.

In September 2018, the legislature passed and Governor Brown signed [[Senate Bill No. 901 \(Dodd\). Wildfires.](#)] SB 901 was an omnibus bill that incorporated multiple different legislative proposals into one large legislative package. The effect of SB 901 was the requirement to produce: (1) two new forest fire prevention and fuel management exemptions that will be implemented through the CAL FIRE, (2) a new Working Forest Management Plan (WFMP) permitting process for non-industrial timberlands of up to 10,000 acres, and (3) a new statewide utility corridor fuel clearing process. Additionally, SB 901 allocated \$200 million per year for 5 years (\$1 billion total) from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to support implementation of these objectives.

In January, Governor Newsom issued a new [Executive Order](#) (EO N-05-19) to further focus the state on wildfire prevention and community protections. Governor Newsom’s new Order builds upon and continues the efforts that were initiated in 2018.

On January 23rd, the Board of Forestry, through an emergency rule-making process, approved new regulations relative to fire-prevention exemptions, post-fire salvage activities for lands impacted by the 2018 wildfire season, and new Working Forest Management Plan regulations.

As part of SB 901, the State Water Board and several regional water quality control boards, including the North Coast Region, submitted a request to the Department of Finance (DOF) to increase staffing to address the newly anticipated activities that will be occurring across our region. After some negotiations, the DOF accepted a portion of the staffing request and subsequently

Russian River Watershed Association Environmental Column: January 2019 - *The Plant Invasion*

Give them an inch and they'll take an acre...as the California Invasive Pest Council says. There are a whopping 195 invasive plant species in Sonoma County. In the northwestern forest region which includes Mendocino County, 265 invasive species have been identified. An invasive plant species is non-native and aggressively out-competes native species! In other words, they spread fast and crowd out other plants, harming ecosystems and impacting water quality. Native plants provide shelter and food for native insects, birds, and animals. Invasive species tend not to have habitat value. In fact, they sometimes destroy the very habitats native species need to survive.

Ludwigia hexapetala (Water Primrose)

One of the most damaging invasive plants is invasive Ludwigia or water primrose. Water primrose is a lovely, floating plant with delicate yellow flowers and is a favorite for artificial ponds and aquariums. Unfortunately, several subspecies of water primrose (*Ludwigia hexapetala* and *Ludwigia peploides*) are aggressively invasive and among the most concerning of the invasive species for water quality and stream health. Invasive Ludwigia grows quickly and thickly on water surfaces, blocking out light, using up the oxygen and choking out other life. When invasive Ludwigia covers a water body surface, aquatic birds cannot penetrate the thick mat of Ludwigia with their beaks to hunt for food. Ludwigia also depletes the oxygen in the water body it covers, so that the oxygen is no longer available for fish and other life.



Pictured: *Ludwigia hexapetala* (Water Primrose).



Figure 1: Accelerated wood recruitment trees in the Ten Mile River. Photo credit: David Wright, The Nature Conservancy (TNC).



Figure 2: Ken Smith weaving large wood into a fish-bearing watercourse. Photo credit: David Wright, TNC.



Figure 3: Trout Unlimited staff reviewing an accelerated recruitment project in South Fork Ten Mile River. Photo Credit: Trout Unlimited

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Pictured: Ludwigia hexapetala covering the surface of a waterbody.

Arundo donax (Giant Reed)

Arundo donax (Giant Reed) grows best along streambanks. It was introduced for erosion control because it quickly covers exposed soil. Unfortunately, that very quality that is useful for erosion control, makes it an invasive species, crowding out native plant species, and reducing habitat value for birds and other animals. Arundo has another huge drawback – it is highly flammable, speeding the spread of wildfire.



Pictured: Arundo donax (Giant Reed).

Protect our river. Protect our streams. Don't plant or spread invasive species. Here is what you can do...

- **Plant California native plants in your yards and gardens.** Native plants can be just as beautiful as exotic ornamentals and provide ecosystem benefits. For example, the California Lilac has lovely purple blooms, It's a nitrogen-fixing plant. The California Fuchsia blooms deep red or purple and attracts hummingbirds. The California Native Plant Society has an on-line tool to help you select native species. www.cnps.org/gardening. The California Invasive Plant Council also lists helpful links for plants to use and stay away from for land

managers, landscapers and for the public www.cal-ipc.org.

- **Don't plant a pest in your pond.** If you have a pond, please get help from a native plant expert to purchase local, native species, not invasive ones. Just because you can buy it legally, doesn't mean it's not invasive. Go to the California Native Plant Society on-line tool www.cnps.org/gardening or ask your local nursery for help.
- **Clean your boat.** One of the ways invasive plants travel from one water body to another is by hitching rides on boats. If your boat has been outside of our region, clean the exterior of your boat thoroughly before re-entering the Russian River or any of our lakes or ponds. Remove any plant materials off your boat, even very small pieces.
- **Volunteer for invasive species removal parties!** Many local organizations and agencies need volunteers to help with invasive plant removal including Sonoma County Parks, the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, the Sonoma Land Trust, the Pepperwood Preserve and the Mendocino Land Trust.
 - Sonoma County Parks <https://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/Support/Volunteer/Opportunities/>
 - The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation www.lagunafoundation.org/volunteer.html
 - Sonoma Land Trust – www.sonomalandtrust.org/join_in/volunteer.html
 - Pepperwood Preserve www.pepperwoodpreserve.org/get-involved/volunteer/
 - Mendocino Land Trust <http://MendocinoLandTrust.org>

This article was authored by Cristina Goulart, for the Town of Windsor, on behalf of RRWA



Enforcement Report for February 2019 Executive Officer's Report

Diana Henriouille

Enforcement Report for February 2019 Executive Officer's Report

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of January 18, 2019
9/13/2018	Francis Carrington	NOV	Failure to obtain Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) coverage for timber harvest activities for Timber Harvest Plan 1-18-041 HUM	Resolved

Comments: On September 13, 2018, the Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division Chief issued a Notice of Violation to Francis Carrington for failure to obtain WDR coverage for timber harvest activities in the Blue Slide Creek watershed, a tributary to the Mad River hydrologic unit. On September 7, 2018, Mr. Carrington submitted an enrollment request, and his THP was enrolled on September 12, 2018. The violation was resolved before the NOV was issued. No further action is required.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of January 18, 2019
9/21/2018	The County of Sonoma, Cities of Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Ukiah, Town of Windsor and Sonoma County Water Agency	Time Schedule Order (TSO)	N/A. Dischargers under Order No. R1-2015-0030 requested time extensions to complete various tasks required by the Order.	Ongoing

Comments: On September 21, 2018, the Executive Officer issued a TSO, Order No. R1-2018-0030, to the County of Sonoma, Cities of Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Ukiah, Town of Windsor and Sonoma County Water Agency providing new/revised deadlines to complete a number of the tasks required by the NPDES permit and WDR for discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). This matter is ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of January 18, 2019
10/31/2018	Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant	TSO	N/A. Discharger requested an extension to deadlines in WDRs.	Ongoing

Comments: On October 31, 2018, the Executive Officer issued a Time Schedule Order to the Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant specifying time schedules to comply with NPDES permit (NPDES No. CA0022888) and Waste Discharge Requirements contained in Order No. R1-2018-0035. This Order

addressed a March 26, 2018, letter from the Discharger indicating it would be unable to immediately comply with the effluent limitations in the WDRs. The TSO provides interim effluent limitations with a requirement that the Discharger achieve full compliance with final effluent limitations in the WDRs by January 1, 2025. This matter is ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of January 18, 2019
11/6/2018	Lyme Redwood Forest Company, LLC	NOV	Failure to obtain WDR coverage for timber harvest activities for Timber Harvest Plan 1-18-048 MEN	Resolved

Comments: On January 6, 2018, the Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division Chief issued a Notice of Violation to Lyme Redwood Forest Company, LLC, for failure to obtain WDR coverage for timber harvest activities in the Little North Fork and Duffy Gulch planning watershed, Noyo River hydrologic area. On November 6th, Lyme Redwood Forest Company, LLC, enrolled for coverage. No further action is required.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of January 18, 2019
11/26/2018	Rodolfo Machado	NOV/13267 Order	Failure to obtain regulatory coverage for waste discharges from cannabis cultivation	Ongoing

Comments: On November 26, 2018, the Assistant Executive Officer issued a Notice of Violation/13267 Order for failure to obtain regulatory coverage for waste discharges from cannabis cultivation and failure to provide a correction plan for water quality-related violations observed by staff during an August 22, 2017, inspection. The property is located in the McGinnis Creek watershed, tributary to the Lower Mattole River watershed, in the Mattole River hydrologic subarea. This Order followed a May 3, 2018, NOV and 13260 directive issued by the Cannabis and Enforcement Division Chief. Mr. Machado did not answer the May 3 NOV and, as of January 18, 2019, Mr. Machado has not yet contacted the Regional Water Board in response to the November 26 Order. This matter is ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of January 18, 2019
12/11/2018	Steven Westbrook, Reservation Ranch	NOV & 13267	Violations of WDR and unlawful discharges of waste to waters of the State	Ongoing

Comments: On December 11, 2018, the Assistant Executive Officer issued a Notice of Violation and 13267 Order for unlawful discharges of waste into waters of the State and violations of the *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. R1-2012-0003, for Existing Cow Dairies in the North Coast Region* to Mr. Steven Westbrook, manager and co-owner of Reservation Ranch. Reservation Ranch is located in Del Norte County in the Smith River watershed. On January 9, 2017, the Regional Water Board issued a 13267 Order requiring information about levee construction and placement of earthen fill, trash, and cow carcasses in surface waters. Following an inspection of the site, Regional Water Board staff obtained new information indicating additional unpermitted discharges of fill material into waters of the State including the construction of six

Projected List of Future Regional Water Board Agenda Items

The following is a list of Regional Water Board agenda items that staff are planning for the April and June Board meetings in 2019. **This list of agenda items is intended for general planning purposes and is subject to change.** Questions regarding the listed agenda items should be addressed to the identified staff person.

April 17-18, 2019

- Resolution of Appreciation for Steven Moore, State Board Liaison (Matt St. John) [A]
- Miranda CSD WWTP WDRs (*Rachel Prat*) [A]
- Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone WWTP WDRs (*Cathy Goodwin*) [A]
- Korbel Sawmill NPDES Permit Reissuance (*Justin McSmith*) [A]
- Extension of Timber Categorical Waiver (*Devon Jorgenson*) [A]
- Russian River Watershed Pathogens TMDL (*Alydda Mangelsdorf & Charles Reed*) [A]
- Dairy Program GWDR (*Cherie Blatt*) [A]
- Calpella WDR (*Ben Zabinsky*) [A]

June 19-20, 2019 (City Hall, Eureka, CA)

- Geyserville SZ WDR (*Ben Zabinsky*) [A]
- Lewiston CSD WDRs (*Roy O'Connor*) [A]
- Northcrest Mobile Home Park WDRs Del Norte (*Ben Zabinsky*) [A]
- South Coast SWDS WDRs Reissuance (*Terri Cia*) [A]
- Arcata CSD WWTP NPDES (*Justin McSmith*) [A]
- Klamath Basin Update (*Clayton Creager*) [I]
- Elk River WDR for Humboldt Redwood Company (*Jim Burke*) [A]
- Status update on the Federal Lands Waiver (*Forest Fortescue*) [I]
- Fort Bragg WWTP NPDES (*Cathy Goodwin*) [A]

[U] = Uncontested Item

[A] = Action Item

[W] = Workshop Item

[I] = Information Item

* *This item is pending county approval first, so timing is uncertain*