



# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### May 2016



## Russian River Watershed Association Environmental Column – April 2016

### Storm Drain Awareness for Earth Day!

It is hard to imagine but before 1970, it was legal to dump chemicals, fertilizer or other toxic wastes into our creeks, streams and waterways! In spring 1970, Earth Day was created as a way to highlight environmental issues and causes. Over 20 million citizens demonstrated during that first Earth Day in an act to show their support for a healthy environment. Today, Earth Day is celebrated in over 192 countries around the world. Ideally, every day should be treated as Earth Day but in the spirit of April 22, 2016 let us do our part to protect our streams and creeks.

### Only rain down the storm drain!

Rainwater is NOT treated once it enters the storm drain collection system. All water that enters a storm drain eventually discharges directly into a creek or waterway. Chemicals from pesticides, motor oil/gas from vehicles, paints, trash, yard clippings, cigarette butts, and pet waste all end up in our creeks and streams if allowed to enter the storm drain system.



### Take out the trash

Trash, including yard waste and grass clippings, can clog storm drains and cause street flooding. Litter hurts wildlife and makes a mess of our environment. You can help by placing trash and yard waste in appropriate bins with closed containers and keeping trash at a minimum by reusing and recycling when possible. Cigarette butts are one of the most commonly littered items and can take several years to decompose. Put cigarette butts in the ash tray and not in the street!

### Give your home an Earth Day makeover

Several upgrades in the home will have a long-lasting impact when it comes to protecting our creeks and waterways from storm water pollution.

- Instead of allowing rain to flow off your property, redirect rain from your gutters to vegetated areas on your property or install rain barrels to harvest the rain water for later use.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and fertilizers in your garden. Pesticides and fertilizers can enter our waterways by overspray or runoff into our storm drains. Chemicals entering the waterways can affect aquatic life but can also affect the quality of drinking water and the environment. There are many safe alternatives to using chemicals such as following the steps associated with [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\)](#).
- Use a broom to clean outdoor surfaces. Never use a hose and water to wash anything into the street or storm drain.

- Store hazardous materials such as paint or solvents in closed containers protected from the rain. When ready, recycle at appropriate [hazardous waste facilities](#).

Keep your vehicles in good working order and never let any automobile fluids such as gas, oil or radiator fluid flow into the street or storm drain. If repairs need to be made, capture leaks with a drip pan or cardboard and clean up leaks and spills with absorbent material such as kitty litter.

### Pick up after your pet

Pet waste is a threat to both human and environmental health. Bring a bag whenever you take your dog for a walk and dispose of waste properly in a bin. Pet waste can contain millions of microorganisms of bacteria or parasites. Decaying pet waste that enters watersheds can affect water quality as well as contain nutrients that promote weed and algae growth resulting in cloudy green water.

### Wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash

Washing your car at home in the street, or in your driveway allows soapy water to enter the storm drain and eventually enter our creeks and waterways. A better choice is to take your car to a commercial car wash. Commercial car washes save water by using recycled water, often using only half the amount of water that home car washing uses. Commercial car washes are also required by law to properly treat and dispose of their used water.

### Safe Medicine Program

Don't flush that unused or expired medication down the drain or dispose of it in the trash! Recent studies show that pharmaceuticals in rivers and streams, if present at high enough concentrations, can harm aquatic wildlife. When flushed down the drain, some medications may not be completely removed by wastewater treatment plants and can be discharged to

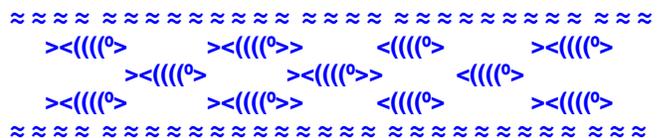
surface waters. Proper disposal of unused pharmaceuticals will help protect the environment.



The safest way to dispose of unwanted medication is to bring it to [locations](#) that can accept unused and expired medicines for disposal. Additionally, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is holding special "take-back" events at the Healdsburg Police Department (238 Center Street) and the Petaluma Police Department (969 Petaluma Blvd. North) on April 30th. Disposing of unused medication correctly prevents it from entering our waterways and the environment.

By keeping this checklist in mind, not just for Earth Day but for every day, we can do our part to allow only rain down the storm drains thereby increasing the health and quality of our watershed.

*This article was authored by Marc Bautista of the City of Rohnert Park on behalf of RRWA. RRWA ([www.rrwatershed.org](http://www.rrwatershed.org)) is an association of local public agencies in the Russian River Watershed that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, fisheries restoration, and watershed enhancement. Reprinted with permission*



# Enforcement Report for May 2016 Executive Officer's Report

*Diana Henriouille*

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of April 12, 2016
3/18/2016	Caltrans, District 1	13267 Order	Unauthorized discharge of cement grout to waters of the state	Ongoing

**Comments:** On March 18, 2016, the Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) issued 13267 Investigation Order R1-2016-0018 to Caltrans, District 1, for the discharge of cement grout into Waukell Creek, a perennial stream tributary to the Klamath River. The Order states that no later than April 29, 2016, the Discharger shall submit the following technical reports: Waukell Creek and Tributary Flow Volume Estimate; Discharge Volume Estimate; Discharge Incident and Spill Response Information; Discharge Effect Information; District 1 Spill Response Procedures; and Additional Project and Incident Information. This case is ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of April 12, 2016
3/25/2016	Kawana Meadows Development Corporation and the City of Santa Rosa	NOV	401 Certification and Construction General Permit	Ongoing

**Comments:** On March 25, 2016, the AEO issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Kawana Meadows Development Corporation and the City of Santa Rosa for multiple violations of the Construction General Permit (CGP) and the 401 Water Quality Certification for the project. Staff inspected the site on January 6, 15, and 27, 2016, and observed/documentated a number of violations. Violations cited in the NOV include discharge of storm water from the Site to receiving waters with turbidity levels exceeding CGP limits; failure to stabilize construction entrances; failure to maintain effective perimeter controls; failure to adequately cover stockpiles; failure to manage run-on; failure to adequately stabilize soil in inactive and open areas throughout the Site; and filling or destroying wetlands and linear watercourses that are waters of the state.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of April 12, 2016
4/4/2016	Ian and Melissa McConnell, Jeremy and Jacob Bullock	CAO	Unauthorized discharges to waters of the state	Ongoing

**Comments:** On April 4, 2016, the Executive Officer issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R1-2016-0020 to Ian McConnell, Melissa McConnell, Jeremy Bullock, and Jacob Bullock for discharges of sediment-laden storm water from graded/disturbed areas and uncontrolled drainage from private roads into Jones Creek in the South Fork Eel River watershed. The Dischargers constructed private

roads lacking adequate stream crossings and erosion control or sediment containment features. The Dischargers also created 12 clearings for cannabis cultivation and associated activities. These roads and clearings were created without authorization from federal, state and local agencies. The CAO directs the Dischargers, by April 15, 2016, to provide a proposed Restoration Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (RMMP). The CAO further directs that by October 15, 2016, all approved restoration and mitigation measures described in the proposed RMMP will be completed and that the Dischargers submit a Completion Report by December 1, 2016.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of April 12, 2016
4/5/2016	Noyo Harbor District	NOV	Violations of WDR and 401 Certification	Ongoing

**Comments:** On April 5, 2016, the AEO issued a NOV to Noyo Harbor District for unauthorized discharge of suspended solids from dredge material dewatering to receiving waters. The 401 Certification and WDRs identifies effluent limits for waste discharges from the Harbor District’s dredge material upland disposal site. The Discharger reportedly violated these effluent limits during the dredging operation period of October 1, 2015 through October 31, 2015, and failed to report the violations to the Water Board. The NOV requires the Discharger to provide a plan and schedule to conduct an inspection and evaluation of the upland disposal facility, identify corrective actions with time schedules before any further use of the facility for dredge material dewatering.

