



**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**  
**North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**  
**June 2015**

**Successful Grant-Funded Sediment Reduction Project in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed**

*Stormer Feiler*

The State Water Resources Control Board, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) working in partnership, have successfully completed the South Fork Trinity River Watershed Sediment Reduction Project. The project was funded by a \$400,000 Clean Water Act section 319(h) non-point source grant (grant #11-090-551) and a \$133,500 match.

The TCRCD successfully decommissioned 18.71 miles of road, which included 97 stream crossings and the removal of 31,620 cubic yards of sediment from streams. The work was done in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed, primarily south of Highway 36. Road improvements and sediment reduction projects are priorities in implementing the South Fork Trinity River Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load, which identified roads as one of the primary sources of sediment. The goal of this work is to increase in-stream salmon and steelhead habitat and to reduce the sediment impacts on the fishery.

This project is an example of a well-designed and efficient grant - the average decommissioning cost per stream crossing is approximately \$5,500 and the average cost per mile of road decommissioned is \$28,514. Please note that these costs should not be used to estimate the budget of other projects as

individual sites can vary in complexity and cost depending upon the stream size, steepness of surrounding slopes, and fill volumes.

The following images provide examples of the completed work. These sites were formerly roads with stream crossings that presented a risk of significant sediment discharges if the crossing failed during a storm. The roads were decommissioned to reduce sediment sources and maintenance needs.



A small stream crossing (Feiler 9/8/2011)



A larger crossing: Note the use of wood to control flow velocities. (Feiler 9/5/2012)





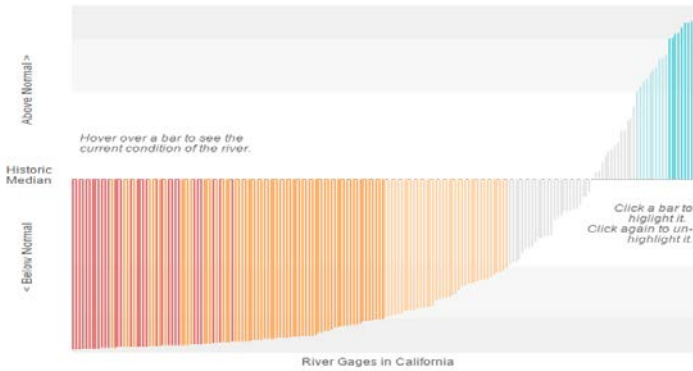
## Russian River Watershed Association Environmental Column - June 2014

### Water Thrifty Plants and Garden Practices

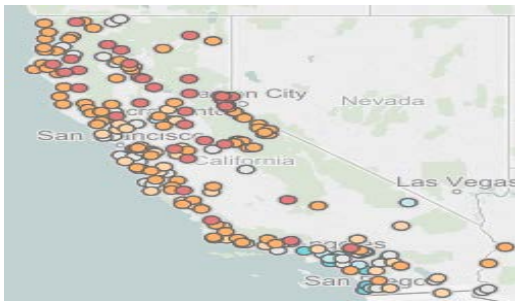
Gardeners in the Russian River watershed are so fortunate. We can grow a tremendous variety of plants, and we can do it with very little water. Choosing the right water-thrifty plants, and incorporating good garden practices are key to having beautiful diverse gardens while still being good stewards of our water resources.

Garden practices that make the most of our water resource are especially important during this drought year. The first step is to make sure your garden soil is as "drought tolerant" as possible. Adding a generous layer of organic mulch on all exposed soil areas is the best thing you can do. Mulch keeps water-thirsty weeds down, adds a steady supply of nutrient-rich organic matter (which holds soil moisture), increases infiltration of rainfall and irrigation, reduces water loss through evaporation and keeps soil temperature stable. Good organic mulches include fallen leaves, wood chips, and compost. A "generous" layer is 4"-6" deep.

The next important garden practice is to apply water when needed to the root-zone of the plants at a rate the plants can use the water. We typically have little if any rain from May to October (the growing season for most plants) so we need to irrigate all but the most drought resistant plantings during the summer. In the Russian River watershed, thirsty plants like turfgrass require about 36" of applied irrigation each year. Luckily, most plants from our native flora, as well as many plants from other Mediterranean climates worldwide, require no more than 12" of applied water each year. Knowing the "water appetite" of your plants means you can water only what is needed. Thanks to the University of California Cooperative Extension, we have a resource that lists this "water appetite" of virtually all garden



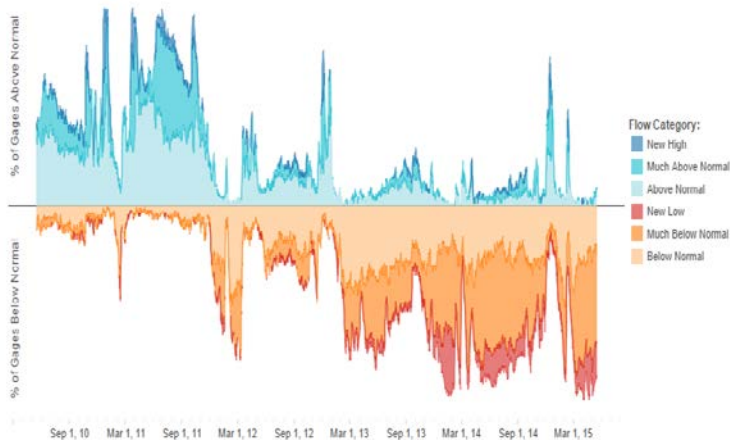
Flow condition chart



and in a map

Each of these elements is linked and dynamic, so clicking on a bar in the chart will highlight the river gage on the map. Hovering over a point on the map will show more detail about the river, and clicking will bring up a link to the USGS website with all the data for that gage.

The "Historical Context" page compares the current stream flow conditions with historic conditions since 2001. This page shows how rainfall events provide temporary relief, but the relief does not last long.



Historical stream flow conditions

plants in California - the *Water Use Classification of Landscape Species* (WUCOLS) report at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/>.

Because our water supply is so limited this year, do not put in new plants until after the first autumn rains if possible. While maintaining your current garden or planning for future additions - here are some great candidates to consider for your garden:

- Deciduous shade trees for yards or streetscapes – Chinese Pistache (*Pistachia chinensis*) with intense red and orange fall color; Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*) with vibrant late-summer flowers and striking bark; or Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) with incomparable yellow fall leaves.
- Flowering shrubs – Red-flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), one of our most striking California natives with pink to red flower in early spring; summer flowering Rockrose (*Cistus*) from southern Europe; or one of the many Lavenders (*Lavandula*) which flower from spring through summer.



Red-flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)

- Cut flowers – *Penstemon* in red, pink or blue; Yarrow (*Achillea*) with white, yellow or crimson colors; any of the many varieties of Daffodil (*Narcissus*); deep yellow *Coreopsis*; and the sunburst of orange and yellow of Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia grandiflora*).
- Formal hedges – Myrtle (*Myrtus communis*), a wonderful dark green substitute for the more thirsty boxwood; Lavender Cotton (*Santolina*) creates a low grey or dark green fine-textured hedge; and Italian Buckthorn (*Rhamnus*

*alaternus*) works for taller hedges, either sheared or unshaped.

- Edible landscapes – any variety of Plum (*Prunus*) or Persimmon (*Diosporus*); table or wine varieties of Grape (*Vitis*); Pomegranate (*Punica*); Olive (*Olea*); and the South American shrub Pineapple Guava (*Feijoa sellowiana*), with edible flowers and fruit.



Olive tree (*Olea*)

- Herb gardens – either prostrate or upright Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*); culinary Sage (*Salvia officinalis*); any variety of Thyme (*Thymus*); and the evergreen European shrub or tree, Sweet Bay (*Laurus nobilis*).
- Wildlife gardens – Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja*) with striking summer flower; Coyote Bush (*Baccharis pilularis*), a native which hosts numerous beneficial insects; and Pacific Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*) which birds flock to for the tiny waxy berries.

As you introduce water-thrifty plants into the garden, remember to group them together so they can be watered according to their water appetite - a practice called "hydrozoning." Consider installing efficient drip irrigation, which most of these plants prefer to overhead spray irrigation. The result will be both beautiful and water efficient – a real win! And don't forget to Mulch! Mulch! Mulch!

*This article was authored by Virginia Porter on behalf of RRWA. ([www.rrwatershed.org](http://www.rrwatershed.org)) Reprinted with permission.*

**Enforcement Report for June 2015 Executive Officer's Report**  
*Diana Henriouille*

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 18, 2015
4/8/15	John Douglas Hale	NOV	CAO and 13267 Order	Ongoing

**Comments:** On April 8, 2015, the Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to John Douglas Hale for violation of Cleanup and Abatement and 13267 Order NO. R1-2014-0049, due to his failure to submit a complete and adequate Final Plan by September 30, 2014. The NOV provided comments intended to guide the Discharger in revising his Final Plan to fully address water quality concerns. On April 20, 2015, the Discharger provided a revised plan, but failed to address comments included in the April 8 NOV. This case is ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of May 18, 2015
4/25/15	Caltrans	NOV	Violation of the Statewide Construction General Permit	Ongoing

**Comments:** On April 25, 2015, the AEO issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Caltrans for violation of the Statewide Construction General Permit. Permit violations include unauthorized non-storm water discharge to Haehl Creek, Willits, failure to test residual chemical (i.e., chitosan) at required intervals, failure to accurately report residual chitosan in effluent on February 6, 2015, and failure to upload field data for ATS operations to SMARTS within the 30 day minimum requirement. This case is ongoing.

