CALIFORNIA Water Boards
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
July 2010

North Coast Region to begin Rapid Trash Assessment

John Short

While this season's storms have brought the welcomed addition of rain, they have also provided a means for trash to travel from land to creeks, rivers, and the ocean. Other means of delivery are by wind or as a direct result of human activity (improperly disposing of it in or near a waterway).

During the last 10 years, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and the Algalita Marine Research Foundation (AMRF) have conducted studies to identify and quantify trash in the Pacific Ocean. These studies suggest that 1) 80% of the trash comes from land-based sources, particularly trash and plastic litter in urban runoff, and 2) the amount of plastic debris in the oceans is increasing at an alarming rate (in the area north of Hawaii the Northwest Pacific Gyre plastic debris has increased five-fold in the last 10 years).

Currently, water quality objectives for inland surface waters within the North Coast Region require waters shall not contain floating material, suspended material, or settleable material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

The Mouth of Foss Creek where plastic bottles and other trash await the return of high flows that will carry them down the Russian River and out to sea.

Region 4 (Los Angeles) has adopted TMDLs for trash in five lakes, two creeks, two major rivers and one estuary. Other waterbodies impaired by trash are found in Regions 2 (San Francisco Bay), 7 (Colorado River), and 9 (San Diego).

Trash taken from Santa Rosa Creek east of Stony Point Road along a five foot section. Plastic bags, bottles, Styrofoam and food wrappers are the most prevalent types of trash found in local creeks.

Prior to the development of trash TMDLs Regions 2 (San Francisco Bay) and 9 (San Diego) conducted "Rapid Trash Assessments" (RTAs) as a means of providing information on the type, amount, depositional rates, probable sources and evaluation of management practices associated with trash in our waters. In conducting RTAs representative sites in the upper, middle and lower reaches of the watershed must be selected and assessed for access and safety. A 100 foot section of creek or riverbank is designated for study at each site. Trash is evaluated in terms of 1) the amount and type of trash, 2) whether or not trash at the site poses a threat to water quality, human and/or aquatic health, and 3) the potential sources and delivery routes. As trash levels can change over time, sites are visited several times a year under various seasonal conditions.

The North Coast Region's RTA will at first focus on the Russian River Watershed. Assessment work will be conducted by Regional Water Board interns along with volunteers from the community. Using methods developed by Region 2 (San Francisco Bay), Region 9 (San Diego), and SWAMP, the North Coast Region will compile and evaluate trash data in order to:

- characterize the variability and persistence of trash occurrence;
- document the effects that public access, homeless encampments, and illegal dumping have upon trash;
- document the effects isolated events such as storms and community cleanups have upon trash levels;
- make recommendations regarding current and future management measures within the watershed.

A large group of Volunteers gets ready to remove trash from Santa Rosa Creek. The City of Santa Rosa organizes several creek clean ups a month.

Illegal dumping of household furnishings in Upper Mark West Creek.

State Water Board staff is considering proposing a water quality objective for trash in surface waters to streamline implementation of trash control measures. North Coast Region staff will participate in the State Water Board's work as needed.

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Enforcement Report

Diana Henrioulle

Enforcement Orders may be viewed by following the Enforcement link from the Regional Water Board's web home page.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of June 21, 2010
5/19/10	City of Arcata Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant	ACLC	WDRs and SSO violations for the period April 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009	Ongoing

Comment: On May 19, 2010, the Regional Water Board Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2010-0056 to the City of Arcata Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant for violations subject to discretionary and mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) including sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of June 21, 2010
5/26/10	City of Santa Rosa Subregional Water Reclamation System	ACLC	WDRs and SSO violations for the period January 1, 2007 through February 28, 2010	Waived hearing; project proposal and check pending

Comment: On May 26, 2010, the Regional Water Board AEO issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2010-0057 to the City of Santa Rosa Subregional Water Reclamation System for violations subject to discretionary and mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) including sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of June 21, 2010
6/16/10	URJ Camp Newman	CAO	Unpermitted sediment discharges to watercourses within the Russian River watershed	Ongoing

Comment: On June 16, 2010, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer (EO) issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R1-2010-0058 to URJ Camp Newman for unpermitted sediment discharge into an unnamed tributary to Porter Creek, which is a tributary to Mark West Springs Creek, tributary to the Russian River. The Order requires the Discharger to submit and implement workplans and monitoring plans to address the violations and to document and report on correction efforts.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of June 21, 2010
6/16/10	Gerald Bendix, Hi-Ridge Lumber Company	CAO	Unpermitted discharge of contaminated waters to waters of the state	Ongoing

Comment: On May 26, 2010, the Regional Water Board AEO issued a CAO R1-2010-0061 to Gerald Bendix, Hi-Ridge Lumber Company for the discharge of stormwater containing wood treatment chemicals including PCP and TCP. Soil samples contained high levels of dioxins and PCBs, which pose a threat to waters of the State, human health, and the environment. The Order requires that the Dischargers submit and implement workplans and monitoring plans to address the violations and document and report on correction efforts.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of June 21, 2010
6/23/10	Malm Fireplaces, Inc	ACLC	Failure to provide technical reports and failure to complete site investigation	Ongoing

Comment: On June 23, 2010, the Regional Water Board AEO issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2010-0059 to Malm Fireplaces, Inc., Leslie W. Welsh and Phyllis M. Welsh, and Allan A. Henderson and Kimberly L. Henderson Trust for violations associated with failure to provide technical reports and complete site investigation for the Malm Fireplaces facility located on Yolanda Avenue in Santa Rosa.

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Russian River Bacteria Sampling

John Short

On June 3rd, Regional Water Board staff began the annual Russian River beach sampling program. Sampling traditionally starts around Memorial Day and continues until Labor Day and is typically done on Tuesdays.

Students Sampling

Sampling and analysis is conducted for *E. coli*, *Enterococcus, Total Coliform, Turbidity, pH, Conductivity* and *Dissolved Oxygen*. Visual assessments are also recorded at each site including details on the condition of the beach, presence of invasive plants like Ludwigia, and the amount of algae found on each beach. Sample results are promptly posted on our website and are used by staff of the Sonoma County Department of Environmental Health to determine if beach warning signs should be posted.

There are six sampling stations with most sites in the lower southern parts of the river where there is more public use. The six beach access points are Camp Rose, Healdsburg Veterans Beach, Steelhead, Forestville access, Johnson's Beach, and Monte Rio Beach.

Johnson's Beach

As of June 8th, two samples contained bacteria at levels exceeding the recreational guidelines established by the California Department of Public Health. Swimming advisories were posted for *Total Coliform* concentrations at the Healdsburg Memorial Beach and Camp Rose. Subsequent sampling founds that levels were below the criteria.

Monte Rio

The North Coast Water Board's main objective for Russian River Sampling is to protect public health and water quality protection by promoting public awareness s through education and by developing a cooperative working relationship with the community and partner agencies. All data collected from sampling is updated weekly and available online at the North Coast Regional Water Board's site (http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/water_quality_sampling/russian_river.shtml)