EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
August 11, 2016

General Waste Discharge Requirements Order for Composting Operations

Charles Reed

On May 12, 2016, Regional Water Board staff provided notice to composting operations in the North Coast Region of the need to enroll for coverage under the *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations, Order WQ 2015-0121-DWQ* (General Order) or provide information to justify an exemption from coverage. The State Water Board adopted the General Order on August 4, 2015. The General Order applies to existing and proposed new composting operations that process at least 5,000 cubic yards of material per year. It exempts most small composting operations, such as home composting or community gardens.

Under the General Order, composting facilities are divided into two tiers (Tier I or Tier II), based on the size of the operation and the risk it poses to groundwater or nearby surface water. The General Order sets standards for the construction, operation and maintenance of composting facilities to protect surface water and groundwater. It prescribes a number of requirements, including standards for the permeability of the ground underneath the composting piles, drainage, and specifications for leachate collection and containment. The General Order requires that existing composting operations that are not exempt from coverage under this General Order submit, prior to August 4, 2016, a complete Notice of Intent, filing fee, and a technical report describing manner of compliance with the General Order. New composting operations that propose to begin operating after adoption of the General Order are required to submit the permit application materials to the Regional Water Board not less than 90 days prior to commencement of the composting operation.

Of the nineteen known composting facilities in the region, all but six facilities are eligible for an exemption from coverage. The six facilities that are not exempt include: Humboldt Waste Management Agency's Mad River Composting Operation, the City of Fortuna's Municipal Biosolids Land Application Program, Cold Creek Compost, Mendocino Earth Products, Poncia Fertilizer, and Grab 'N' Grow.

Cold Creek Composting Facility. Photo credit: Paul Keiran, WRCE, NPDES Unit, NCRWQCB

Once enrolled, the composting operation may be allowed up to six years from the date of the Notice of Intent to comply with all requirements of the General Order. For some facilities, public funding to help defray costs for construction, renovation, or expansion of composting facilities may be available through the Organics Grant Program implemented by the California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

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North Coast Receives Prop 1 Storm Water Management Funds

Colleen Hunt

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop 1) was approved by California voters in the general election on November 4, 2014. Among other funds, Prop 1 provided $200 million for matching grants to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, state- and federally-recognized Indian tribes, and mutual water companies for multi-benefit storm water management projects.

Prior to the passage of Prop 1 in November 2014, the California Legislature adopted Senate Bill (SB) 985 called the Stormwater Resources Planning Act (SB 985). SB 985 amended the California Water Code to require the development of a Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) to receive grant funds from a bond act approved after January 1, 2014, for storm water and dry weather runoff capture projects. The SB 985 requirement to prepare a SWRP is directed to public agencies. A SWRP must include a prioritized list of projects to address storm water and dry weather runoff capture on a watershed basis. The SWRP must be watershed-based to meet the requirements of the California Water Code.

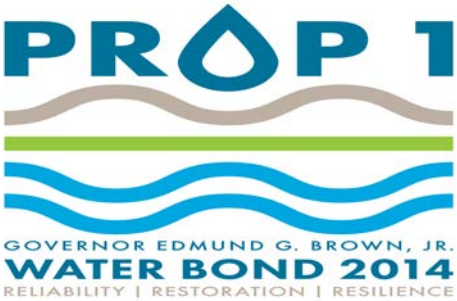
Prop 1 allows for ten percent of the grants to fund the development of a SWRP. Prop 1 Storm Water Planning Grant solicitation opened in January 2016 and closed on March 18, 2016. Prop 1 allows up to $19 million to be awarded for planning grants to fund either an SWRP or a Project Specific Planning proposal that would lead to project implementation. Applications were reviewed by the Division of Financial Assistance and Division of Water Quality. Of the 45 applications received, 28 projects totaling approximately $9.5 million in grant funds and a total of over $8.8 million in matching funds have been recommended for funding.

On June 30, 2016, the Deputy Director of the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance approved the Recommended Funding List.

Projects from the North Coast Region that will be awarded Prop 1 Storm Water Planning Grants include:

- The City of Ukiah (on behalf of the Russian River Watershed Association and member agencies) for the Russian River Regional Storm Water Resource Management and Monitoring Plan ($500,000 grant amount/$688,146 match amount). Members of the RRWA include all the cities, counties and the Sonoma County Water Agency within the Russian River Watershed who are also the Phase I MS4 permittees. One component of the City of Ukiah/RRWA grant is to develop the Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP). In addition, the Regional Board was successful in receiving $200,000 of the discretionary contract funds from the State Water Board to establish the governance for R3MP.
- The City of Eureka for the Eureka Area Watershed Storm Water Resources Plan ($394,830 grant amount/$43,870 match amount).
- The Mendocino County Water Agency for the Coastal Mendocino County Storm Water Resources Plan ($242,990 grant amount/$27,040 match amount).

Grantees will begin development of SWRPs once grant contracts are finalized. Regional Water Board staff will be an active stakeholder in the development of the SWRPs.



The Eel River Recovery Project Complements the Cannabis Waste Discharge Regulatory Program

Adona White

The Regional Water Board Cannabis program includes implementation of the Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Order No. R1-2015-0023) (Order), interagency coordination, enforcement, and education and outreach. Education and outreach is a critical component for a long unregulated industry transitioning into a highly regulated industry, ensuring that guidance on pollution prevention and water conservation strategies is widely accessible to a very diverse community of dischargers. Concurrent with beginning development of the cannabis waste discharge regulatory program in 2014, the Regional Water Board partnered with the Eel River Recovery Project (EERP), with funding from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA), to implement education and outreach via the *Eel River Recovery Project Eel River Monitoring and Water Quality Awareness Pilot Project* (ERRP pilot project) under Grant Agreement 14-679-550.

The ERRP pilot project successfully provided outreach and education to rural landowners and operators within the Eel River watershed, sharing information and guidance related to pollution prevention and water conservation, as well as monitoring water quality conditions related to temperature and streamflow. In 2015, ERRP held 7 workshops, conducted 70 onsite technical consultations, developed 5 educational brochures, promoted water quality awareness via media outreach, and conducted temperature, time-lapse, and photo-point monitoring, as well as focused outreach to the Round Valley Indian Tribal Environmental Protection Agency. The final reports from the ERRP pilot project are available via links on the Regional Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/cannabis/pdf/160722/ERRP_Report_SWRCB.pdf

and

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/cannabis/pdf/160722/EelTemps_Final_Asarian.pdf.

The ERRP pilot project shared information and technical assistance for protection of water resources during the development of the Regional Water Board's Order, the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (MMRSA), and local cultivation ordinances. Concurrent with ERRP pilot project efforts, Regional Water Board staff also hosted a series of enrollment clinics across the north coast, participated in a series of compliance workshops in Humboldt County, and oversaw and participated in the development of the Mendocino Resource Conservation District's Best Management Practices Guide:

(http://mcrcd.org/wp-content/uploads/MCRCDCannabisWatershedBMPGuide_low-res.pdf).

These efforts are all intended to influence behaviors and promote environmental stewardship and regulatory compliance.

There remains significant need for ongoing outreach and education, coupled with Regional Water Board staff efforts to implement the regulatory Order and take enforcement actions where necessary. Partnering with ERRP and others on outreach and education allows Regional Water Board staff resources to focus on program implementation and enforcement. ERRP, in partnership with local subcontractors and Regional Water Board staff, have developed a Phase II ERRP effort to provide technical consultations, promote subbasin-wide water resource protection strategies, and promote water quality in the Eel River basin.

A Phase II ERRP effort would offer implementation and planning assistance to owners and operators throughout the Eel River basin in water conservation, sediment control, and other best practices via model farm tours, on-farm and in-office technical consultations, facilitation of sub-basin strategies addressing sediment discharges from shared use roads and stream flow restoration, providing education to equipment operator trainings on road upgrade and maintenance techniques, and developing and distributing education materials and videos. The Phase II ERRP effort would also expand the monitoring of Eel River habitat and water quality conditions, compile historical data, and provide analysis via dynamic web-based interface tools. At present Regional Water Board and ERRP staff are exploring funding options.

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Russian River Watershed Association Environmental Column – July 2016 - *"Maximize Outdoor Water Use"*

Maximize Outdoor Water Use

For the first time in more than three years, the Russian River watershed received near or slightly above average rainfall. Northern California received the brunt of El Nino's storms and, because of that, the impact of drought conditions in our area have been significantly reduced. Most of the State, however, continues to struggle with severe drought conditions and water supply issues.

In response to the change in statewide drought conditions, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted a new emergency water regulation. Because most jurisdictions within the Russian River watershed have adequate, or near adequate, water supply conditions, jurisdictions will have lower or no mandatory water conservation targets imposed by the SWRCB. Just because our water supply is reliable, does not mean that we should let go of the conservation we achieved over the last two years or that we should stop focusing on the importance of using water wisely. California is prone to cyclical drought conditions, and it is only a matter of time before we experience another one.

As we enter the summertime, our largest opportunity to reduce water use presents itself: outdoor irrigation! More than 50% of urban water is used on landscapes. Reducing water does not mean that your landscape needs to suffer though, as the average landscape receives between 130 to 300 percent more water than it needs. Overwatering is not good for plants, as they become dependent on the excess water. Also, if the excess water runs off into the street or storm drain system, it is likely a violation of the storm water permit, and could be subject to the local agency's progressive enforcement. By following the tips and tricks listed below, you can dial-in your irrigation system, keep your plants happy and healthy, and watch the water savings flood in!

Inspect your System for Leaks

Since most of your irrigation system is underground, leaks can easily go undetected.
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Leaks lead to lost and/or inefficiently used water, as well as a massive water bill! Be sure to check your entire irrigation system at the beginning of your watering season to make sure everything is functioning properly: address leaks; fix broken or clogged heads; clean micro-irrigation filters; remove blockages in or around sprinkler heads to ensure they distribute water evenly.

As the watering season progresses, make sure to regularly check for leaks in your system. Learning your water meter is a great way to help you with this.

Learn to Read your Water Meter

Step 1. Locate your water meter! Most are in the sidewalk in front of your home and should be clearly marked.

Step 2. Carefully remove the lid and locate the meter. You may have to remove leaves and dirt from the face of the meter. Take care as there may be spiders and insects as well.

Step 3. Look at your meter. It should include a large dial with incremental measurements, an odometer, a low flow detector, and units of measurement (meters often read in gallons or cubic feet).

Step 4. Understanding your meter:

- The dial of the meter moves when water passes through the meter.
- When the dial makes one full rotation, the odometer increases by the amount of water equal to one full rotation (could be 100 gallons, 1 cubic foot, 100 cubic feet, or something else). The odometer tells you how much water has passed through the meter since it was installed.
- Find the low flow detector: it might be a triangle, snowflake, or some other shape. This detector is more sensitive than the large dial and will move when small amount of water passes through the meter. This can help you identify potential leaks – turn off all water in your home, if the low flow detector moves, you have a water leak!

Step 5. Read your meter monthly. Subtract the current odometer reading from the previous reading, this will tell you the amount of water used since the last reading. Your water meter is a great tool to identify leaks, understand your water usage, and make sure that you are being billed correctly.

Examples of water meter dials

Set a Water Budget and Watering Schedule

A Landscape Water Budget is an estimate of how much water is needed to maintain a healthy landscape. It is based on climate, landscape area, and plant type. The budget is calculated based on the amount of water the plants in your landscaped area need, the amount of rain expected, and the size of the landscaped area. Your water budget will tell you how much water (in gallons) your plants need to thrive. The EPA's WaterSense website has a free Water Budget Tool available: https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/water_budget/

Once your water budget has been calculated, determine your watering schedule based on the water delivery rate of your irrigation system; that is, how quickly water is delivered from your sprinklers or drip nozzles. Dividing how much

water your plants need by how quickly your system can deliver it will tell you how long you need to run your system.

Things to consider when setting your watering schedule:

1. Avoid Evaporation: Water between 8pm and 6 am to ensure that your plants receive the benefit of all of the water you are giving them. Water applied outside of this time will evaporate in the warmth of our summer days.
2. Use the Cycle/Soak Watering Method: This method involves watering for shorter, more frequent periods of time with breaks in between to allow water to soak into the ground. Instead of watering once for 12 minutes, try watering for three 4-minute cycles with an hour between each cycle. This helps to avoid runoff (which is not allowed, per the SWRCB) and encourages deeper root growth. You want to make sure the water is penetrating 6 to 8 inches beneath the surface of the soil.
3. Use a Smart Controller: Smart controllers use local weather and landscape conditions to adjust watering schedules based in actual site conditions. Check out the EPA's WaterSense website for more information: https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/products/controltech.html.

If you don't have an irrigation system controller, The City of Santa Rosa has a great tool to help you adjust your watering schedule based on weather patterns: http://srcity.org/departments/utilities/conserve/Pages/WaterSmart.aspx/

Convert your Landscape Area

Lawn is lovely and great to play on but, if you're not using it, you should replace it! Lawn takes A LOT of water and time to maintain. Instead of worrying about keeping your lawn green, take advantage of turf or consider low- and no-water landscapes including: native, climate-appropriate, drought-tolerant plants; fruit and vegetable gardens; and/or permeable landscape surfaces such as deconstructed granite, mulch, rock, pavers, etc.
Check out the EPA's WaterSense website for some great lawn conversion project images: https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/landscape_photos.html.

Take Advantage of Rebate Programs

Almost all water suppliers offer rebates for water conservation installations and upgrades. In addition, they often offer water use workshops and free water saving devices. Contact your water provider today to find out about programs and incentives that can help you use water wisely and efficiently.

This article was authored by Meg Patterson of the City of Healdsburg, on behalf of RRWA. Reprinted with permission.

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

Enforcement Report for August 2016 Executive Officer's Report

Diana Henrioulle

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 14, 2016
4/5/2016	Noyo Harbor District	NOV	Effluent limit violations in water draining from recently dredged material	Resolved

Comments: On April 5, 2016, the Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Noyo Harbor District for violation of Clean Water Act section 401 and Regional Water Board Order No. 86-51, because the District reported that water draining from recently dredged material in the District's upland disposal area violated numerous effluent and receiving water limits. The NOV required that by May 15, 2016, the Discharger provide a plan and schedule to thoroughly inspect and evaluate the facility, and take corrective action before again using the upland disposal area for dredge material dewatering. The Discharger met NOV requirements and deadlines, and has repaired the upland disposal facility. This matter is resolved.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 14, 2016
5/27/2016	Mark West Quarry	NOV	Unauthorized sediment discharges	Resolved

Comments: On May 27, 2016, the Point Source and Groundwater Protection Division Chief issued an NOV to Mark West Quarry for failure to adequately stabilize soil to prevent turbid storm water discharge into Mark West Creek, violating the Industrial General Permit. The Discharger has taken corrective actions and has stopped the discharge. This matter is resolved.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 14, 2016
6/9/2016	Fort Bragg Municipal Improvement District No. 1	ACLC	MMPs	Ongoing

Comments: On June 9, 2016, the AEO issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaint No. R1-2016-0030 to Fort Bragg Municipal Improvement District No. 1 in the amount of $39,000 for NPDES permit effluent limit violations subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs). The Discharger returned a signed waiver on July 8, 2016, stating that they would like to enter into settlement discussions. This matter is ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 14, 2016
6/20/2016	Russian River County Sanitation District and Sonoma County Water Agency	Stipulated ACLO	MMPs and two unauthorized releases of wastewater into the Russian River	Resolved

Comments: On June 20, 2016, the EO issued a Stipulated Administrative Civil Liability Order (Stipulated Order) No. R1-2016-0022, to Russian River County Sanitation District and Sonoma County Water Agency for MMPs that occurred over the period from June 1, 2009 to November 30, 2014; the unauthorized release of 300,000 gallons of treated effluent wastewater into the Russian River on May 23, 2010; and a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) of 132,000 gallons of raw sewage that flowed into the Russian River on February 12 and 13, 2014. The total penalty is $275,771. The Stipulated Order indicates that the Discharger will pay $72,885 to the Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA), and that the Discharger will apply $67,885 to an Enhanced Compliance Action (ECA) [installing a manway on the force main at the main lift station to facilitate access into and inspection of the force main] and $135,000 to a Compliance Project (CP)[upgrading and rehabilitating the tertiary filter]. The discharger paid $72,885 to the CAA on July 12, 2016.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 14, 2016
7/11/2016	County of Sonoma	Stipulated ACLO	Failure to comply with MS4 permit monitoring requirements	Resolved

Comments: On July 11, 2016, the EO issued a Stipulated Order No. R1-2016-0024, to the County of Sonoma for failure to comply with monitoring requirements under their MS4 permit. The total penalty amount was $66,500. The Stipulated Order states that the Discharger will pay $36,550 to the CAA and apply the remainder ($29,950 to a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The SEP will enhance public access to water quality monitoring data and watershed assessment by making receiving water quality monitoring data, from the Russian River watershed available online through the Contaminant Data Display and Download tool.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 14, 2016
7/12/2016	Mendocino Railway	NOV	Unauthorized Discharge to Pudding Creek	Ongoing

Comments: On July 12, 2016, the Point Source and Groundwater Protection Division Chief issued an NOV to Mendocino Railway for unauthorized discharges of sediment and turbid/sediment-laden runoff to Pudding Creek associated with a collapsed tunnel and subsequent repair work. The discharger has failed to implement adequate and effective erosion/sediment controls on the site over the course of the continuing tunnel repair project. This matter is ongoing.