



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 17, 2017

Update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation in the North Coast Region *Jeremiah Puget*

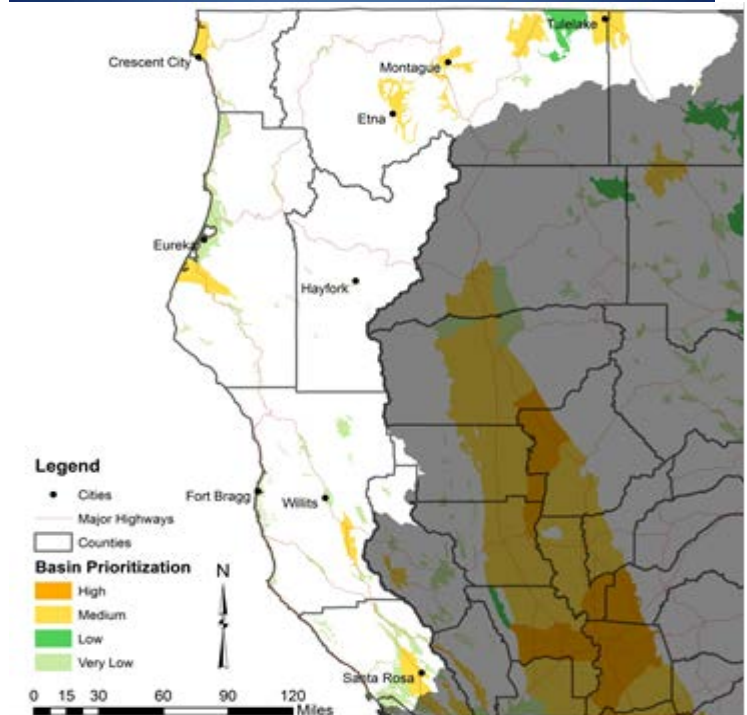


In September of 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. signed a three-bill package known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act:

- Authorizes management tools for local groundwater sustainability agencies
- Requires that Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) be adopted by 2020/2022¹
- Provides for a limited role for the State Water Board as a “backstop” if local agencies opt out management responsibilities
- Establishes a definition of “sustainable groundwater management”

“A central feature of these bills is the recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally”. –Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr

SGMA required, **by June 30, 2017**, the formation of locally-controlled Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) for all alluvial basins identified by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118 as high or medium priorities. A GSA is responsible for developing and implementing a GSP to meet the sustainability goal of the basin to ensure that it is operated within its sustainable yield and without causing the following undesirable results.



Priority Groundwater Basins in the North Coast Region

In addition, SGMA established a process for local agencies to develop an Alternative in lieu of a GSP. An Alternative is required to be submitted to DWR for review no later than **January 1, 2017, and every 5 years thereafter.**

Medium Priority Groundwater Basins ¹	SGMA Compliance Proposal to DWR ²
Butte Valley	Formed GSA
Eel River Valley	Alternative Submittal
Santa Rosa Plain	Formed GSA

¹ Groundwater basins identified as areas of critical overdraft are required to have GSPs adopted by 2020.

Scott River Valley	Formed GSA
Shasta River Valley	Formed GSA
Smith River Plain	Formed GSA
Tule Lake	Formed Multiple GSAs Siskiyou County City of Tulelake Tulelake Irrigation District Modoc County
Ukiah Valley	Formed GSA

SGMA implementation will be through formation of local GSAs that develop plans for their basin. If a basin:

- 1- Fails to form a GSA;
- 2- Does not adopt a sustainability plan; or
- 3- Has a plan that DWR has found inadequate;

Then the State Water Board will begin a [state intervention process](#). During state intervention, the State Water Board has authority to collect [fees](#) and [groundwater pumping data](#) and use that information to develop an interim management plan.



For additional information on SGMA or other groundwater related issued please contact Jeremiah Puget at 707-576-2835 or Jeremiah.Puget@waterboards.ca.gov



North Coast Regional Board staff lead cooperative flow monitoring effort in the Trinity River watershed. *Bryan McFadin*

Since January 2016, Regional Water Board staff and our Americorp Watershed Steward Program interns (staff) have collaborated with the Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC) in Hayfork, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and US Forest Service in an effort to characterize flow

conditions in select tributaries of the South Fork Trinity River and Middle Trinity River watersheds. We have completed one field season of data collection and are midway through the second season. Staff are now in the process of analyzing the first season’s data.

A primary goal of this effort is to identify patterns of water use, and quantify the magnitude of impacts on stream flows associated with water use. Later efforts will combine the information obtained through this project with information describing the distribution of sensitive resources to identify priorities for future efforts to address water conservation and supply. This information and analysis has already been helpful in the WRTC’s pursuit of grant funds for water conservation efforts, and will continue to be used to prioritize proactive efforts to address flow needed to sustain fish and other aquatic species.

A secondary goal of the effort is to compare water use trends with measured flows. Staff have compiled water rights data describing water use and have mapped cannabis grow sites to estimate the magnitude of water use associated with cannabis cultivation. This data may be used to inform Cannabis Regulatory program priorities.



Figure 1: Regional Water Board staff measuring the flow of Hayfork Creek, April 2016.

Flow data have been collected in a manner that allows for identification of trends in time and space. To identify temporal trends, flows have been measured prior to the start of the irrigation season and periodically through the season until the first significant precipitation event. In addition, five temporary stream gauges were established to provide a continuous record of flows at those sites. To identify spatial trends, flows have been measured on tributaries of interest at sites upstream and downstream of identified water uses, and at some sites within reaches where water uses have been identified.

Individual discharge measurements were collected during summer 2016 at 33 locations throughout the Trinity River Basin (Figure 2). A total of 18 streams were monitored. Streams in the vicinity of populated areas (i.e., Hayfork, Weaverville, Wildwood, Hyampom, Trinity Pines, and Douglas City) were measured. The streams include: Hayfork, Browns, Indian, Reading, and Rattlesnake Creeks. The same sites are being monitored this year, however five additional sites are being gauged.

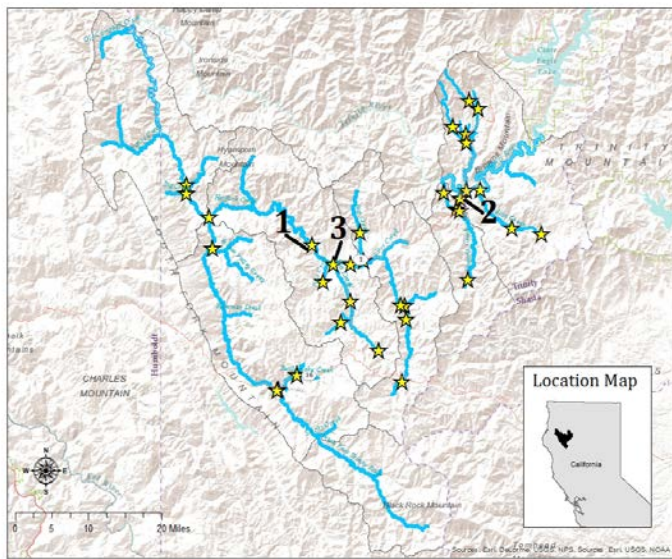
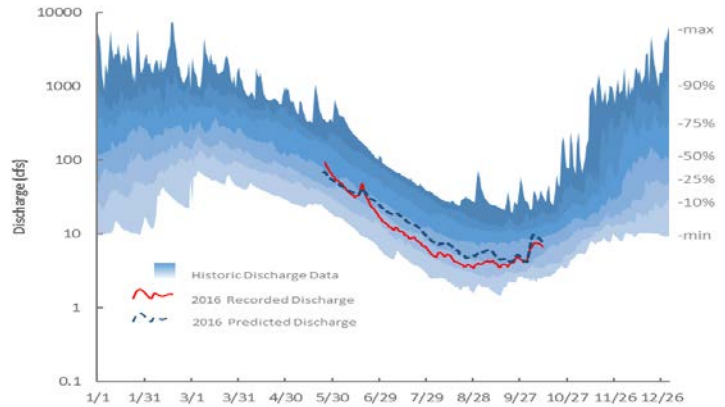


Figure 2: Distribution of Flow Monitoring Sites. Numbers correspond to locations where data in Figure 3 were collected.

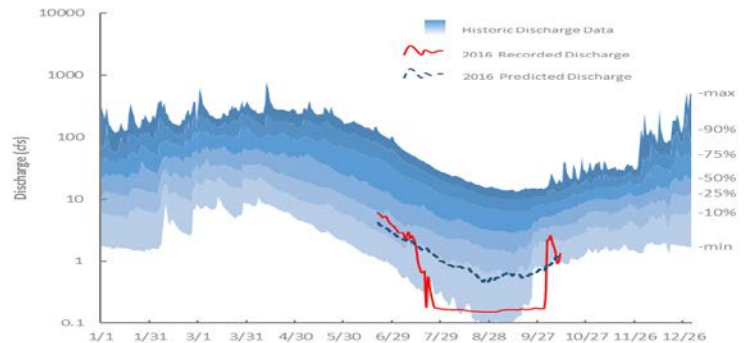
To analyze the collected continuous flow data relative to past flow conditions, staff developed predictive flow relationships based on precipitation, snowpack, and ambient temperatures. These predictions were compared to flows measured in

2016 to identify departures from expected flow levels (Figure 3). The results of that analysis shows substantial differences in flow trends among the gauged creeks. The reasons for these trends include water use from various land uses, as well as lingering effects of the past drought, potentially. This summer’s monitoring results at the same sites will help understand the trends observed in 2016.

1: Hayfork Creek



2: Reading Creek



3: Salt Creek

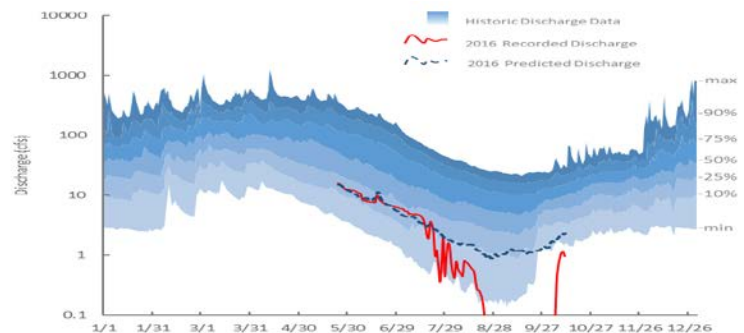


Figure 3: Historical and summer 2016 data transposed from the USGS gauge (South Fork Trinity River or Indian Creek, 1981-2015) by application of the SWRCB Ratio Method. The

colored bands represent percentiles of historical discharge data. In terms of monitoring locations, the numbers in the titles correspond to numbers in Figure 2.

A special note: This project would not have been successful without the diligent hard work of our Americorps Watershed Steward Program team members: Nick Cusick, Callie Grant, and Emily McClintock. Thank you A-team!

Russian River Watershed Association Environmental Column – July 2017

5 Russian River Friendly Car Washing Tips

This article was authored by Sabrina Barron, RRWA staff.

Can you wash a car without wasting water and harming the environment? The answer is Yes, if you plan ahead and understand that everything that’s been stuck to your car—gasoline, oil, heavy metal particles, tar, and particulate matter from exhaust fumes—has the potential to flow from your wash area to the nearest storm drain and eventually reach the Russian River. Here are five simple tips to “go green” while washing cars, without wasting water or harming the environment:



1. **Wash on a permeable surface (lawn, gravel, dirt).** If you make only one small change in your car washing routine, let it be this! By moving your car wash to a flat non-paved surface, and away from storm drains, you allow the washwater time to be collected and absorbed into the soil where pollutants can be broken down naturally.
2. **Take your car to a commercial car washing facility.** Most commercial car wash facilities

will filter rinse water and direct it to a sanitary sewer where it will get treated and possibly reused (recycled water). Moreover, according to the International Car Wash Association, the average person washing a car at home uses a whopping 80 to 140 gallons of water, as opposed to the 45 gallons typically used at a car wash.

3. **Rethink your fundraising car wash.** If you are holding a community car wash on a paved area, plan to block the storm drains receiving the rinse water and pump the accumulated rinse water into a sanitary sewer inlet, or direct the water to a landscaped area where it can soak in. Before planning a fundraising car wash, please call your local municipality for the latest requirements and guidelines. You can get more detailed information by going to the following web links:

<http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/sw/pp-home-carwash.htm>

or

http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/pdf/River_Friendly_car_wash.pdf

4. **Swap out cleaners for eco-friendly or homemade cleaners.** There are several ready-made, ecofriendly car wash products available; some are even waterless. Homemade cleaners can save the environment and your money. Use natural ingredients like baking soda and vinegar. Try soaking a cloth with vinegar or denatured alcohol to soak and rub off dried bugs. Denatured alcohol will also remove tar and sap. Remember to rinse the treated area with water and re-wax, as vinegar can strip a car’s finish.
5. **Increase the time between washing or try a self-serve car wash station.** Bring your own eco-friendly car wash products to a self-serve car wash station where pressurized water dispensers help to control and reduce the amount of water used in your wash. Wastewater from your wash will drain into sewer grates for proper treatment.



Enforcement Report for August, 2017 Executive Officer's Report

Diana Henrioulle

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 26, 2017
6/8/17	City of Ukiah WWTP	ACLC	MMPs	Hearing waived; posted for public comment.

Comments: On June 8, 2017, the Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No R1-2017-0030 to the City of Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant for Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs) in the amount of \$33,000. The Discharger has opted to waive hearing and engage in settlement discussions. Staff have posted the waiver for 30 days public comment period prior to engaging in settlement discussions.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 26, 2017
6/13/17	Kenneth & Darlene McCoy	NOV & 13267 Order	Unauthorized discharge or potential to discharge waste and failure to enroll for coverage under the Cannabis order	Ongoing

Comments: On June 13, 2017, the AEO issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) and 13267 Order No. R1-2017-0025 to Kenneth McCoy and Darlene McCoy (Dischargers) for failure to enroll in the *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for Discharges of Waste Resulting from Cannabis Cultivation and Associated Activities or Operation with Similar Environmental Effects* and for having a large water supply well without a sanitary seal on the top of the casing which is exposing the underlying groundwater to contamination and constitutes a threat to water quality. The Order directs the Dischargers to conduct and submit quarterly monitoring and reporting on the well until it is sealed, provide proof of enrollment under the Regional Water Board's Waiver or proof of discontinuation of cannabis cultivation and other activities with similar environmental impacts, and documentation that the well has been sealed in accordance with Trinity County Ordinance and California well standards. This matter is ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 26, 2017
6/19/17	County of Sonoma	NOV	Reporting and monitoring deficiencies in the 2015/2016 Annual	Ongoing

			Report for MS4	
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Comments: On June 13, 2017, the Senior Water Resource Control Engineer of the NPDES unit issued an NOV to the County of Sonoma (Discharger) for violation of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2015-0030 regulating discharges to the County’s municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). Specifically, the Discharger submitted a deficient annual monitoring report for 2015/2016. The NOV directs the Discharger, by September 15, 2017, to submit a revised 2015/2016 Annual Report correcting all deficiencies listed in the NOV. This matter is ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 26, 2017
6/27/17	Douglas & Heidi Cole, Marble Mountain Ranch	NOV	NOV #3 on Cleanup and Abatement and 13267(b) Order	Ongoing

Comments: On June 27, 2017, the AEO issued an NOV to Douglas and Heidi Cole for continued violations of several directives of Cleanup and Abatement and 13267(b) Order No. R1-2016-0031. The NOV identifies directives that have been met and not met, denies requests made by the dischargers for extension or modification of directives, enumerates the number of days late the dischargers are in meeting each of the past due directives (as of June 16, 2017), and discusses and comments on a technical report prepared by Fiore Geosciences on behalf of the dischargers. This matter is ongoing. At present, a State Water Board public hearing to determine whether to issue an order finding waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diversion of water and ordering corrective actions against the dischargers is pending, but not firmly scheduled. More information about that action can be found at this link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/hearings/marblemountain/index.shtml

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 26, 2017
6/28/17	City of Healdsburg WWTF	Expedited Payment Program	MMPs	Ongoing

Comments: On June 28, 2017, the AEO issued a Tentative Administrative Civil Liability Order and Notice of Violation, Order No. R1-2017-0036, Offer to Participate in Expedited Payment Program to the City of Healdsburg Wastewater Treatment Facility for MMPs in the amount of \$3,000. This matter is ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of July 26, 2017
7/21/17	Humboldt Redwood Company	NOV & section 13267	WDRs	Ongoing

Comments: On July 21, 2017, the AEO issued an NOV and section 13267(b) Order to Humboldt Redwood Company (Discharger) for its failure to have proper financial assurance in place, for

failure to properly maintain and/or to provide required reporting as to alterations, changed conditions, and discharges or threatened discharges of waste to surface waters associated with a leachate impoundment at the Tank Gulch Waste Pile site. The NOV and section 13267 directs the Discharger to submit various technical reports and documents, prepared by/under the direction of appropriately qualified professionals. The first report is due August 15, 2017.

