

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 a.m., September 29, 2011
Regional Water Quality Control Board
David C. Joseph Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, California

Item: 6

Subject: Consideration of Resolution R1-2011-0094 endorsing the Russian River Watershed Association's *Seven Principles and Practices of Russian River-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening*.

DISCUSSION

The *Russian River-Friendly Landscape Guidelines*, developed by the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) with the permission and assistance of *StopWaste.Org* in Alameda County, are designed to aid landscape professionals in the protection and conservation of the Russian River waterways, in the reuse and reduction of plant debris, and to support an integrated approach to environmentally-friendly landscaping.

The *Guidelines* are organized around seven principles and practices for protecting the environment.

- Landscaping in harmony with the natural conditions of the Russian River Watershed
- Reducing waste and recycling materials
- Nurturing healthy soils while reducing fertilizer use
- Conserving water, energy, and topsoil
- Using integrated pest management to minimize chemical use
- Reducing stormwater runoff and air pollution
- Protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat and diversity

Viewing the landscape through the lens of these seven principles, landscapers can see how plant selection can create or decrease waste and how soil preparation can prevent or increase runoff. The full document is available at:

<http://www.rrwatershed.org/RRFLG/index.html>

The *Guidelines* help the landscaping community reduce stormwater runoff and further our goals of water quality protection.

RRWA Board Chair and their Executive Director will provide the board with a brief overview of the Guidelines. They will also, as part of this item, present a few of the winning video clips from the successful student video contest program, and provide a brief overview of RRWA's current Work Plan.

PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution R1-2011-0094 as proposed.