

Comments Received at the public workshop for the Tentative Conditional Waiver
of Waste Discharge Requirements for Tomales Bay Watershed

Date of workshop: Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Location: Pt. Reyes Station

1. Regarding the Checklist (Attachment B): answering “yes” to questions in the checklist; what does this mean a landowner/operator needs to do? The concern is that if something isn’t done on a “yes” question, the landowner/operator will be out of compliance and subject to enforcement.
2. Will the Water Board develop a form for an exemption to the waiver?
3. Can the Water Board postpone issuance of the waiver for two years to allow time for the landowners/operators to come up to speed with the program?
4. Monthly inspections may not be practical. Can the Water Board set a different schedule depending upon usage of the pastures (sometimes pastures are not used for a season), or upon seasonal weather conditions (i.e., more inspections during the rainy season and few or none during the dry season)?
5. Recommend that the Checklist include an Assessors’ Parcel Number (APN) to identify the parcel being evaluated.
6. Regarding the condition in the waiver to prepare the first Ranch Water Quality Plan by November 15, 2009: There may not be enough time to complete a Ranch Plan, considering the landowner/operator will be submitting a Notice of Intent on January 31, 2009. This is less than one year to get the first Ranch Plan in place. This is a concern, particularly to the technical consultants/advisors who will be helping the ranchers in preparing their plans.
7. Is there any funding available to prepare a Ranch Water Quality Plan?
8. Horse ranches and others located along or adjacent to creeks that are less than 50 acres in size need to be addressed.
9. Regarding the timeframe that the Water Board will take to address the major polluters: Does the Water Board have as swift a method for dealing with major polluters as they do with non-filers? [This followed a general question about the process of dealing with those eligible landowners/operators who do not file a Notice of Intent.]