

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 7-9, 2017

Prepared on February 8, 2017

ITEM NUMBER: 17

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

STAFF CONTACT: John Robertson 805/549-3140 or John.Robertson@waterboards.ca.gov

This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Phil Hammer 805/549-3882]

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from December 15, 2016 - January 19, 2017.

401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received December 15, 2016 - January 19, 2017

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact ¹	Status
Santa Barbara Flood Control District--Seth Shank	12/15/2016	Unit 2 Capital Improvements Project	To increase water conveyance.	Santa Maria	Santa Barbara	Unit 2 Channel, Santa Maria River	3.84 acres/ 12,400 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Casa Dorinda Retirement Community--Brian McCague	12/19/2016	Casa Dorinda Master Plan--Montecito Creek Bridge Demolition & Replacement	To replace an old bridge that has been deemed structurally and hydrologically deficient.	Montecito	Santa Barbara	Montecito Creek	0.35 acres/ 1,254 linear feet	Incomplete
Caltrans--Kannu Balan	12/30/2016	Pigeon Point Storm Damage Repair	To stabilize and rehabilitate 500 linear feet of roadway and embankment damaged by several storm events, and to prevent any further slippage.	Pescadero	San Mateo	Unnamed concrete lined ditch, tributary to Whitehouse Creek	0.05 acres/ 463 linear feet	Incomplete
Coastal Community Builders--Gary Grossman	12/30/2016	San Luis Ranch Development	To develop 131 acres of property in the City of San Luis Obispo for mixed-use.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Prefumo Creek and Tributary to Prefumo Creek	0.389 acres/ 2829.2 linear feet	Incomplete
Sempra Utilities--Sebastian C. Garza	1/11/2017	SL36-1032, Section 4 Pipeline Replacement	To replace a pipeline in order to comply with pipeline safety requirements.	Lompoc	Santa Barbara	Santa Ynez River	0.80 acres/ 1,000 linear feet	Incomplete

^[1] Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

401 Water Quality Certifications Issued December 15, 2016—January 19, 2017

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Includes LID Retention Feature ²	Total Impact ¹
Santa Cruz County Flood Control District--Bruce Laclergue	12/22/2016	Pajaro River Lagoon Sandbar Breaching	To allow the lagoon to drain to the ocean, preventing flooding of public roads, flooding of agricultural and residential lands, and intermingling of lagoon waters with raw sewage.	Between Palm and Zmudowski State Beaches	Santa Cruz, Monterey	Pajaro River Lagoon	N/A	0.07 acres/ 300 linear feet
County of Santa Barbara, Community Services Dept.-Jill Van Wie	12/28/2016	Goleta Beach Revetment Maintenance	To further ongoing maintenance of the Goleta Beach rock revetment.	Unincorporated Goleta	Santa Barbara	Pacific Ocean	N/A	0.08 acres/ 120 linear feet
City of Santa Barbara--John Ewasiuk	1/17/2017	Gutierrez Street Bridge Replacement Project	To remove the existing structurally deficient structure and replace it with a new bridge designed for current structural and geometric standards.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Mission Creek	N	0.23 acres/ 152 linear feet

^[1] Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

^[2] Low Impact Development (LID) Retention Features are stormwater management structures designed to retain stormwater on-site, such as bioretention cells, infiltration trenches, etc.

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SALINAS AREA INDUSTRIAL INSPECTIONS RESULT IN ELIMINATION OF ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND APARENT REDUCTION IN POLLUTED FLOWS INTO ALISAL CREEK AND SALINAS RECLAMATION CANAL

[Mike Godwin, 805/549-3886 MichaelD.Godwin@Waterboards.ca.gov and Mary S. Hamilton, 805/542-4768 Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov]

The following is a brief informational update regarding the elimination of an illicit discharge with elevated pH and ammonia concentrations into Alisal Slough, which ultimately becomes the Salinas Reclamation Canal. Although Central Coast Water Board staff is still awaiting additional data and information, it appears that elimination of the illicit discharge has significantly diminished polluted flows into Alisal Creek.

Central Coast Water Board staff sent a request to the City of Salinas in early November 2016 to investigate potential illicit stormwater system discharges to Alisal Creek after reviewing annual reports from the Salinas Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit (R3-2012-0005) and the Agricultural Order (R3-2012-0011). Staff suspected a potential illicit discharge based on almost continuous elevated pH levels and sporadic elevated ammonia concentrations at monitoring locations in Alisal Creek.

On November 18, 2016, the City's stormwater inspectors conducted systematic stream sampling, beginning at the Stormwater Permit monitoring location in Alisal Creek, which is adjacent to the business park immediately south of the Salinas Airport, and continuing upstream where inspectors identified an illicit discharge at Steinbeck Early Monterey Cooling (SEMCO). SEMCO operates a diversion valve in their parking lot that can direct stormwater to either the stormwater sewer system or the city-wide industrial wastewater sewer system. The valve can also inadvertently function as a bypass of the industrial wastewater flow to the stormwater sewer system. City of Salinas staff reported this valve was leaky, with industrial wastewater discharging into the stormwater sewer system. Consequently, water from on-site vegetable processing, equipment washing, and incidental runoff from the parking lot was discharging to the stormwater sewer and into Alisal Creek. On November 18, 2016, the City directed SEMCO

to close the valve to prevent further industrial flows from entering the stormwater sewer system. The City issued a Notice of Violation to SEMCO on November 22, 2016.

Following the elimination of the discharge from the SEMCO facility in early November, Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture staff found the downstream Alisal Creek monitoring site dry during routine monthly monitoring events in late November and December. This flow condition is out of the ordinary; there is typically flow at this monitoring location year round and the December 2016 monitoring event was immediately following a rain event.

The water quality objective for the un-ionized form of ammonia established in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Central Coast Basin Plan)¹ is 0.025 mg/L (as nitrogen) for all receiving waters. The toxicity of ammonia to fish and other aquatic life is dependent on the instream pH and temperature. The un-ionized form (NH₃) is more toxic than the ionized form (NH₄⁺). As pH increases, NH₄⁺ changes to NH₃ and the toxicity increases. Higher temperatures also factor into the conversion of ammonia into the toxic form.

Data from the Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture monitoring site, downstream of SEMCO, show un-ionized ammonia historically² measured as high as 3.35 mg/L (NH₃ as nitrogen) with 45% of the samples exceeding the water quality objective. The Central Coast Basin Plan also states that the pH shall not exceed 8.5 pH units in waters with aquatic life beneficial uses (including Alisal Creek and the Salinas Reclamation Canal). The pH at the Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture monitoring site historically ranges from 7.16 to 9.89, with more than 50% of the samples exceeding the water quality objective.

Although there are multiple potential sources of ammonia and elevated pH in Alisal Creek, the elimination of the discharge from SEMCO appears to have resulted in a significant reduction in the flow at the downstream monitoring locations. Data collected in the current quarter by both the Salinas Municipal Stormwater Monitoring Program and the Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture are due at the end of February 2017. Central Coast Water Board staff will continue to assess the data to confirm these initial findings.

Cambria Community Services District Update

[Michael Thomas (805) 542-4623, michael.thomas@waterboards.ca.gov]

The Cambria Community Services District (Cambria CSD) provides water supply and wastewater collection and treatment to residents in and around the unincorporated area of Cambria. In 2014, the Central Coast Water Board adopted three orders (Orders) to allow the Cambria CSD to build an Emergency Water Supply Project in response to a declared Stage 3 Water Storage Emergency for Cambria. The Cambria CSD relies on groundwater for municipal drinking water supply and drought conditions limited the recharge of local aquifers. To increase recharge to the municipal drinking water supply aquifer, the Discharger constructed an Emergency Water Supply Facility. The Emergency Water Supply Facility consists of an extraction well that extracts brackish water from the subsurface and then an Advanced Water Treatment Plant treats the brackish water so that it can be reinjected into the aquifer for indirect potable reuse. A surface impoundment was also built to contain reverse osmosis brine wastes.

¹ Central Coast Basin Plan link

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications_forms/publications/basin_plan/current_version/2016_basin_plan_r3_wo_appendix.pdf

² The Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture began monthly monitoring at this location in January of 2015.

Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 01-100 allows discharge membrane filter backwash water from the Emergency Water Supply Facility to be discharged to existing percolation ponds. Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. R3-2014-0050 permits the injection of 700,000 gallons per day of reverse osmosis treated water into the ground for indirect potable reuse. Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. R3-2014-0047 permits the Class II Surface Impoundment that contains brine wastes from the reverse osmosis system (reject water) that treats brackish groundwater prior to reinjection of the treated water into the groundwater aquifer to help sustain Cambria's potable water supply during drought.

Over the past couple of years, Cambria CSD has had difficulty complying with their Water Board orders. In a meeting with Cambria CSD staff on February 1, 2017, Cambria CSD staff explained the complications they have had with the operation of the Emergency Water Supply Facility and flooding and expressed their desire to make changes so that they can come into compliance with their Orders. Water Board enforcement staff informed Cambria CSD of the pending issuance of three Notices of Violation and that Cambria CSD must immediately come into compliance with their Orders as they are currently facing a maximum penalty of almost \$600,000 for late reporting alone. Water Board enforcement staff issued the three Notices of Violation on February 9, 2017. The alleged violations are predominantly related to chronic late submittals of reports and the lack of required communication from Cambria staff related to non-compliance with their Orders.

Since the meeting on February 1, 2017, and issuance of the Notices of Violation on February 9, 2017, Cambria CSD staff has provided Water Board staff with daily updates as they evaluate their processes and operations for coming into compliance with their permits. Staff will continue to provide updates on this via the Enforcement Report and/or the Executive Officer's Report.

Attachments

1. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
2. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
3. Table 5 - Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers
4. Table 6 - Drinking Water Dashboard