

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region**

**Executive Officer's Report
Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer**

January 31, 2000

INSIDE THIS REPORT :

Groundwater Division
Enforcement
Stormwater
Remediation
Underground Storage Tanks
Surface Water Division
Watershed Regulatory
Regional Programs
Watershed/Coastal Waters
Outreach
Administrative Services

*** The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption

*** For a list of simple ways to reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see the tips at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/news/echallenge.html>

Former Section Chief Appointed as Principal Engineer

Dennis Dasker has been designated as the Regional Board's Principal Engineer and assumed leadership of the Board's Groundwater Management Division on December 13th replacing Jim Kuykendall who left the Regional Board in November to join the State Board in Sacramento.

Dennis Dasker has been a member of the Los Angeles Regional Board for the past 28 years. His knowledge and scope of experience is clearly without parallel. He has been leading the NPDES permitting program as Chief of the Watershed Regulatory Section for the past five years and has previously led the Chapter 15 program, DOD, DOE, Above Ground Tanks, and the SLIC programs as Chief of what was then called the Land Disposal Section. Dennis received his BS in Engineering from UCLA and is a California Registered Professional Civil Engineer.

With Dennis' appointment, Al Novak has been designated as interim chief of the Watershed Regulatory Section.

GROUNDWATER DIVISION

A. ENFORCEMENT & REMEDIATION

Administrative Civil Liability Complaints (ACL)

Los Angeles Turf Club

On August 31, 1999, the Los Angeles Turf Club (LATC) discharged effluent in violation of waste discharge requirements specified in Board Order No. 97-03 for the Santa Anita Race Track. On October 28, 1999, the Executive Officer issued Complaint No. 99-097 for administrative civil liability, in the amount of \$150,000, based on evidence submitted by LATC that the volume discharged totaled 15,000 gallons. In early January, LATC submitted affidavits which indicate that LATC may have originally overestimated the volume of discharge on August 31, 1999. This information is

currently under review by staff. As of January 12, 2000, staff assumes that LATC will contest the amended Complaint at the Board's public meeting on January 26, 2000.

Ojai Valley Sanitary District

During a dry weather period from September 24 to October 2, 1998, the Ojai Valley Sanitary District (OVSD) discharged approximately 1.2 million gallons of raw sewage to Canada Larga Creek and downstream waters, including the Ventura River and the Pacific Ocean, in violation of waste discharge requirements prescribed by the Board Members (Board). On December 9, 1999, the Executive Officer issued Complaint No. 99-009 for administrative civil liability in the amount of \$223,000. This Complaint alleges that OVSD failed to adequately maintain its sewer system, which contributed to intermittent failure of sewage pump failure.

Page Museum

On October 14, 1999, the George C. Page Museum (Museum) discharged an unknown quantity of wastewater containing petroleum and asphalt to storm drains leading to Ballona Creek in violation of waste discharge requirements contained in Board Order No. 97-045. The investigation by Regional Board indicated that the discharge originated from an unpermitted clarifier at the Museum. Additionally, the Museum failed to submit monitoring reports as required by NPDES Permits CAG994001 and CA0059722 for the permitted clarifier. On January 12, 2000, the Executive Officer issued Complaint No. 99-113 for administrative civil liability, in the amount of \$22,150. As of January 13, 2000, staff assumes that the Museum will contest the complaint at the Board's public meeting on March 2, 2000.

GATX GX-145 Pipeline Release

On November 24, 1999, the Executive Officer issued Complaint No. 99-100 for administrative civil liability to GATX for an unauthorized discharge of oil to Compton Creek that occurred September 9-12, 1997.

This discharge, which leaked from a GX-145 pipeline, migrated through soil, saturated the soil near the south side of the creek bed, and migrated into surface water. The original assessment, which totaled \$52,440, was reduced to \$40,000 in an amended Complaint issued on January 11, 2000 due to a revised interpretation of penalty provisions in the California Water Code. The penalty in Complaint No. 99-100 does not include a component for discharges to groundwater, however, GATX remains subject to potential enforcement action for those discharges.

Other Enforcement Issues

Baldwin Park Cleanup and Abatement Orders

Significant soil contamination, posing a threat to groundwater, remains in the Baldwin Park Operable Unit of the San Gabriel Basin. In order to ensure that assessments and cleanups progress at a reasonable rate, the Executive Officer issued eight Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAO) in December to White and White Properties (three facilities), Oil and Solvent Process Company, Rubber Urethanes, Screwmatic, Former Quality Garage Door, and Phaostron Instruments. These CAOs, plus a CAO issued to both Aerojet in November 1999 and to Huffey in December 1999, direct dischargers to assess and cleanup soil contamination and to coordinate groundwater monitoring.

Furthermore, the Orders contain a provision for offsetting impairments to drinking water wells. In the event that water purveyors and their customers end up bearing a significant portion of the groundwater cleanup costs, the Regional Board will consider requiring dischargers to prepare and implement a plan to assist purveyors to offset impairments and ensure an adequate, safe, and dependable supply of drinking water to San Gabriel residents. To date, the La Puente Valley County Water District and the Main San Gabriel Watermaster have each filed a petition, asking the Regional

Board to direct dischargers to provide an offset—in the form of replacement water—to affected purveyors. A similar request for Regional Board action was made by the San Gabriel Valley Water Company. A hearing before the Board has not yet been scheduled.

Baldwin Park Groundwater Monitoring Workshop

On January 20, 2000, Regional Board staff held a groundwater monitoring workshop for the Baldwin Park dischargers that just received CAOs for soil cleanup. The objective is to coordinate monitoring to ensure optimal and cost-effective collection of data. The groundwater sampling data will be used to evaluate the movement of the groundwater contaminant plume and impact to drinking water wells.

Wood-Claeyssens Foundation

On December 29, 1999, the Executive Officer issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order requiring the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation to clean up and abate discharges from an oilfield waste sump on the Taylor Ranch in Ventura. Information was provided to the Regional Board indicating a waste discharge and continued threatened waste discharge in violation of the Basin Plan requirements. The CAO also requires the discharger to submit a Report of Waste Discharge.

Western Pacific Housing

On December 10, 1999, the Executive Officer issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order requiring Western Pacific Housing to clean up and abate the discharges of wastewater, including sediment, from Tract 4494V in Thousand Oaks. The CAO requires the discharger to properly implement the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to control sediment and litter, and to clean up and appropriately dispose of the accumulated sediment from the storm drains and box culvert. The discharger is also required to submit a report detailing all activities that have been implemented to correct the discharge of non-stormwater wastes into the storm drain.

Malibu Water Pollution Control Plant Rehabilitation Project-Amendment to Time Schedule Order No. 98-089

On November 2, 1998, the Regional Board adopted a Time Schedule Order (Order No. 98-089) for the Malibu Water Pollution Control Plant Rehabilitation Project. The Time Schedule Order (TSO) requires that rehabilitation and upgrade of the existing treatment plant be completed by June 1, 2000. In a letter dated October 14, 1999, the Department of Public Works of Los Angeles County filed a request with the Regional Board to amend the TSO. The County stated that they were experiencing project delays with meeting expanded CEQA requirements, and obtaining both Coastal Commission Approval and a State Revolving Fund loan. Board staff has reviewed the County's proposed revision to the TSO. The Executive Officer approved an amendment to the TSO that extends the rehabilitation and upgrade of the existing treatment plant construction completion date to May 30, 2001.

Trancas Water Pollution Control Plant in Malibu

Regional Board staff revised the existing Waste Discharge Requirements for the Trancas Water Pollution Control Plant, located in Malibu, to include additional findings, sampling requirements, and a monitoring and reporting program. Tentative requirements consisting of a Board Order, a monitoring and reporting program, and a Tentative Time Schedule Order for the rehabilitation and upgrade of the existing treatment plant was prepared.

The Board is expected to take action on the tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and Tentative Time Schedule Order at a public hearing to be held on January 26, 2000.

SB 709 Training

On January 19, 2000, legal counsel from State Board provided training to Regional Board staff on the Clean Water Enforcement and Pollution Prevention Act of 1999 (SB 709). SB 709 is important legislation that became effective on January 1, 2000. SB 709 adds several provisions to the California Water Code Division 7, among which include pollution prevention plans, requirements to prescribe effluent limits, recovery of economic benefits in assessing civil liability, mandatory minimum penalties, and reporting to the legislature.

B. SURFACE WATER UPDATES

Temporary Stay Granted to the City of Los Angeles

The City of Los Angeles has contested the issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued in 1998 for the Donald C. Tillman and the Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plants. In 1998, after the permits were adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), the City of Los Angeles petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to appeal the issuance of the permits. Subsequently, the City filed a stay of the application of the permits in Los Angeles Superior Court on December 24, 1999. On December 29th, the Court granted a temporary stay regarding the permit and the respective effluent limits. The Deputy Attorney General and the Office of Chief Counsel are currently working on the court action.

Basin Plan Amendment

On November 2, 1998, the Regional Board adopted Resolution No. 98-18 amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Basin (Basin Plan). The amendment revised the Basin Plan by:

1) removing the municipal and domestic (MUN) beneficial use designation from eight surface water bodies and two specifically defined areas of one ground water basin, 2) assigning additional beneficial use designations to three surface water bodies, and 3) removing the cold water freshwater habitat (COLD) beneficial use from portions of three surface water bodies. On February 18, 1999, the SWRCB adopted Resolution No. 99-20 approving the amendment.

The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) disapproved the amendment on July 22, 1999. In the written discussion of the disapproval, OAL stated that the surface water portions of the amendment did not meet OAL standards for approval but indicated that the ground water portion met the requirements. In the discussion, the OAL stated that "the administrative record demonstrated compliance with these requirements for dedesignation of the two areas of one ground water basin [the portion of West Basin underlying the Chevron facility in El Segundo and the aquifers underlying Terminal Island and portions of the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors]."

The State Board has resubmitted the regulatory provisions of this amendment to OAL for consideration with a request to review and consider for approval only those portions of the amendment pertaining to removing the MUN beneficial use designation from the two areas of one ground water basin. As agreed, the administrative record for the amendment was submitted in its entirety and the index to the administrative records is marked to indicate which documents the State Board is requesting the OAL to review.

Administrative Civil Liability Complaint against Sun Coast Calamari (99-122) for Water Quality Impairments in Port Hueneme Harbor

In response to complaints from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

permittees in the Port Hueneme harbor, Regional Board staff inspected the area on October 28, 1999. Staff determined that the harbor was being impacted by oxygen demanding pollutants and ammonia toxicity. The probable source was determined to be off-loading operations of several squid facilities. Dissolved oxygen near the facilities was <1 mg/L and ammonia nitrogen was in the range of 2-5 mg/L near the squid boats being off-loaded. Lab samples taken during this inspection had water analyses far in excess of limits. The aquaculture business operations of two of the NPDES permit holders, Channel Islands Marine Research Institute and Channel Islands Ocean Farms, were affected by the low dissolved oxygen and ammonia because their intake pipes are within the harbor.

On November 24, 1999, the Executive Officer transmitted a Notice of Violation (NOV) letter to squid processing facilities at the port. The letter required the facilities to cease all dumping into the harbor and to come into compliance with the requirements of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. During subsequent inspections on December 3, 1999 and December 9, 1999, Regional Board staff observed actions by the Sun Coast Calamari in violation of the terms of the NOV letter. Due to these actions, the Executive Officer signed an ACL on December 28, 1999 for \$19,900 for Sun Coast Calamari.

Industrial Storm Water Program Compliance Update

Annual Industrial Storm Water Reports for all Industrial Storm Water General facilities were due on July 1, 1999. Approximately 2,525 annual reports for the 2,800 Industrial Storm Water facilities within the Region have been received and entered into the SWRCB database. A more detailed review of the annual reports to determine adequacy of the information submitted is currently underway. On October 26, 1999, 446 Notices of Non-Compliance for Failure to Submit the Annual Reports were mailed out. A 2nd level enforcement letter was sent to the remaining 198 facilities that did not respond to the Level 1 letter. A response to the 2nd level enforcement letter is due by February 1, 2000. Those that do not submit the requested information will require further enforcement action. Two facilities that failed to submit annual reports for previous years were fined at the December Board Meeting. One is currently petitioning the SWRCB to overturn that penalty.

C. TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDL)

Release to the Public of the First Draft for the Los Angeles River Litter TMDL

The first draft of the Litter TMDL for the Los Angeles River is being released to the public on January 18. Because litter is considered a stormwater contaminant, allocations will be incorporated as effluent limits in the stormwater permits, which will be modified in order to address monitoring and implementation of this TMDL. The pollutant load allocated to a given city will depend on the city's land use distribution and total area within the watershed. The implementation of the TMDL will be phased in over a ten-year period. It is to be noted that the load allocation used for this draft does not take the variety of land uses into account because of the lack of data. The proposed numeric target for litter in the river is zero litter in the river.

Santa Clara River – Chloride Policy Public Meeting

The proposed Basin Plan amendment to raise the chloride objectives near Santa Clarita and Santa Paula was released on January 14, 2000. The next meeting on the Santa Clara River chloride policy will be the final Board presentation now scheduled for March 2, 2000. A Memorandum of Agreement to cooperate on monitoring the quality of surface water and groundwater has been circulated to stakeholders and signed by representatives of all publicly owned treatment works that discharge to surface water. All stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the finalization of the monitoring plan and to sign the agreement. For further information please call:

Melinda Becker at (213) 576-6681 or Elizabeth Erickson at (213) 576-6683.

D. GROUNDWATER UPDATES

Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) MTBE Investigation

In order to investigate the sources, fates, and effects of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) pollution in the marine environment, the SWRCB contracted with the SCCWRP to: 1) determine the relative importance of MTBE inputs from effluent and stream dischargers, 2) measure the occurrence and concentration of MTBE in coastal receiving waters, and 3) determine whether MTBE contamination levels are toxic to marine life. A draft report was issued by the SWRCB on December 22, 1999, under Agreement No. 8-168-250-0, entitled "Assessment of MTBE Discharge Impacts on California Marine Waters Quality." The draft report does not contain any information on the impacts from MTBE discharges to groundwater resources across the State.

The primary objective of the study was to assess the contribution of MTBE to the coastal environment resulting from both point sources (POTWs, petroleum refiners, and other NPDES dischargers representing 84 total sites) and non-point sources (urban stream locations representing 42 total sites). The surface and ocean water sampling programs were conducted between June 9 and August 4, 1999. Since the sampling programs were conducted during the summer months, no measurements to evaluate stormwater MTBE input could be made. The MTBE mass emission rates presented in the draft report were based upon a limited data set covering a relatively short period of time, and as a result may not be representative of other rainfall events and time periods. Key findings from the draft report include: 1) discharges containing refinery wastewater represents the largest input of MTBE to the marine environment, 2) receiving water contamination is the most prevalent in areas of high watercraft use and less in areas receiving POTW or refinery discharges, and 3) marine receiving water concentrations pose little risk of toxicity to fish and invertebrates.

A copy of the draft report "Assessment of MTBE Discharge Impacts on California Marine Water Quality," can be obtained by contacting Bill Ray of the SWRCB at (916) 657-1123 or Theresa Rodgers of the Regional Board at (213) 576-6621.

Guidelines for Investigation and Cleanup of MTBE and Other Ether-Based Oxygenates

Governor Davis signed Executive Order D-5-99 on March 25, 1999. Item 8 of the Executive Order, in part, required that "...the SWRCB, in consultation with DHS, shall develop a clear set of guidelines for the investigation and cleanup in groundwater...." The SWRCB and the Regional Boards across the State met on several occasions to initiate the process for development of the "Guidelines for Investigation and Cleanup of MTBE and Other Ether-Based Oxygenates." The current draft of the document is available on the Internet at www.swrcb.ca.gov under "News." A paper copy can be obtained by contacting either Virginia Lopez of the SWRCB at (916) 227-4313 or Theresa Rodgers of the Regional Board at (213) 576-6621. The current draft document is out for a preliminary informal review, with a formal review and comment period to begin by January 31, 2000. It is anticipated that the SWRCB will consider the document at a public meeting in March 2000. Comments on the draft guidelines should be sent to:

Kevin Graves
State Water Resources Control Board,
Division of Clean Water Programs
2014 T Street, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 227-4430
(916) 227-4530 (fax)

www.gravesk@cwpswrcb.ca.gov (e-mail)

Charnock Sub-basin MTBE Investigation Area

At present there are 26 active sites in the Charnock Sub-Basin. One previously unknown site has been identified as a former underground storage tank site at a delivery service company. An initial information package will be sent soon. Of the 25 active sites, site assessment has been completed at 16 sites, whereas there are 9 sites where additional site assessment is either underway or planned to be performed in the near future. Groundwater monitoring is being performed at all of the sites.

Quarterly groundwater monitoring reports are received, reviewed, and commented upon within a short time. A total of six sites have approved remediation workplans for the cleanup of the soil and groundwater. Two of the sites needed to pump-and-treat the groundwater and discharge it to the storm drain under an NPDES permit. The NPDES permits were approved by the Regional Board during the July 8, 1999 Board meeting. Soil and groundwater remediation has begun at two of the sites. On-site soil remediation is underway at two additional sites. Limited offsite remediation has been initiated at one site. A pilot plan for dual phase extraction has been approved at an additional site.

Staff performs a project status update telephone conference with the interested parties and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). Staff also attends meetings and participates in telephone conferences to discuss the pilot project cleanup alternatives for the remediation of the groundwater.

On September 22, 1999, the Executive Officer and the California EPA issued separate enforcement orders to Shell Oil Company/Shell Oil Products Company/Equilon Enterprises LLC (collectively called Shell) for water replacement costs. The Orders were issued to ensure the residents of the City of Santa Monica and Culver City continue to receive historic water supplies in the wake of MTBE groundwater pollution at the Charnock Wellfields. The enforcement Orders require Shell to either provide replacement water of a suitable quality or to pay the City of Santa Monica and Southern California Water Company to purchase replacement water. The cost to purchase replacement water is estimated at \$3.5 million per year. Shell commenced making payments for replacement water starting on January 3, 1999.

A CAO was also issued to CONOCO in April 1999. The CAO required CONOCO to perform site investigation in a tiered approach with on-site soil and groundwater investigation to be followed by off-site assessment and data interpretation of the subsurface lithology. Following the issuance of CAO, staff had a meeting with representatives of CONOCO on May 11, 1999. Tier One work has been initiated at the site under direction from the Regional Board and US EPA.

Arcadia Wellfield MTBE Investigation

The shallow aquifer in the vicinity of the former Mobil Station 18-LDM has been treated with a pump and treat system since October 1997. The treatment system is capable of pumping 35 gallon per minutes (GPM) of extracted groundwater. Currently, approximately 5 to 6 GPM of groundwater are being pumped from eleven groundwater extraction wells. Through December 15, 1999, the treatment system has pumped 6.7 million gallons of groundwater and removed an estimated amount of 52.5 pounds of TPH and 170.9 pounds of MTBE.

The impacted soil in the vadose zone has been treated with a vapor extraction system (VES) since May 1999. A Production Aquifer Remediation System (PARS) using activated carbon filtering to clean up the production aquifer has been designed and approved by the Regional Board. In a public hearing by City of Los Angeles Planning Department on August 12, 1999, the variance application for the installation of PARS was approved. Mobil has selected a subcontractor, Olson Construction, to construct the PARS. Construction of PARS is underway and expected to be completed by April

2000. PARS operation is scheduled to commence in April 2000.

A Remedial Action Plan to clean up the MTBE contamination in the lower aquifer was approved on May 21, 1999. Mobil has selected a subcontractor, Komex, to build the lower aquifer remediation system (LARS). The use of the cleanup system is expected to begin in mid-February of 2000.

MTBE Investigation Areas within the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin

The Los Angeles River Watershed Unit of the Underground Storage Tank Section opened four areas within the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin for MTBE pollution investigations. The State Department of Health Services identified where MTBE has been detected in several Drinking Water Systems. Of these, four drinking water wellfields are located in the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin. Three of the wellfields are operated by the City of Los Angeles (North Hollywood, Tujunga, and Verdugo wellfields). The fourth wellfield is operated by the City of Burbank (Burbank Operable Unit).

The Tujunga wells (No. 4 and 5) are still in operation as the MTBE concentrations were very low. North Hollywood Well No. 17 has been a standby well that was used sporadically. Verdugo wells (No. 1 and 2) have been standby wells that were shut down due to chlorinated solvent contamination. The Burbank Operable Unit is installed to cleanup the solvent contaminated groundwater.

On December 10, 1999, staff in the Underground Storage Tank Section sent out initial questionnaires to 58 potential responsible parties to collect information on their sites, which are located within an approximate one-mile radius of each wellfield area. The questionnaires are due back to the Regional Board by January 21, 2000. Based on the information received, staff will pursue further investigation to identify the source(s), and where appropriate require hydrogeologic assessments and cleanup activities.

Completion of Corrective Action at Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank (UST) Sites

Board staff has reviewed corrective actions taken for soil and groundwater contamination problems from leaking USTs for the time period between November 16, and December 31, 1999, and determined that no further corrective actions are required for:

- ? Thrifty Oil Company Service Station No. 291, Downey (I-10959)
- ? ARCO Service Station No. 9659 (Former Thrifty No. 270), Downey (R-11259)
- ? Unocal Service Station No. 2752, Arcadia (R-10996)
- ? Former Arco Service Station No. 51, Glendale (912040034)
- ? Maness Industries, Santa Fe Springs (I-22083)
- ? Mon Van Moving Services, Monrovia (I-20284)
- ? Recycled Commodities, Inc., Montebello (I-13031)
- ? ARCO Service Station No. 1360, Inglewood (I-12055)
- ? Flint Ink Corp., Santa Fe Springs (I-06638)
- ? L. A. County Manhattan Beach Service Yard, Manhattan Beach (902660034)

- ? Gardena Nursery, Camarillo (C-99013)
- ? Exxon Service Station No. 7-4551, City of Industry (I-12221)
- ? J & S Auto Body, Long Beach (908050361)
- ? Unocal Facility-Sansinena Field, La Habra Heights (R-10605)

Governor's Y2K Hazardous Materials Project

As a result of Governor Gray Davis' Executive Order D-3-99, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) initiated a Y2K Hazardous Materials Project. The purpose of the Project was to protect the health and safety of the people of California and its environment by assisting in the Y2K readiness of approximately 130,000 hazardous materials facilities/handlers in California.

Gay Norris from the UST Section participated in the Y2K Project as one of ten Regional Assessment Coordinators statewide. Since September 1999, she assisted OES with 1) communicating with hazardous materials facilities regarding Y2K failures which could impact health, safety, and the environment and 2) conducting onsite visits to the most vulnerable facilities and assisting the appropriate agencies in performing site assessments.

The Y2K Hazardous Materials Project successfully met the Governor's directive to identify Y2K vulnerable hazardous material handlers in the state and assess them for their readiness to transition into the new millennium. The participation of the Regional Assessment Coordinators in the California Y2K Project Implementation Team enabled the state to meet its goal of coordinating the assessment of 12,500 businesses statewide.

E. COASTAL WATERS/ WATERSHEDS UPDATES

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The Water Quality/Water Resources Subcommittee met on August 6, 1999. Updates on TMDLs and strategies for reduction of nitrogen by publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) were major topics of discussion. The Subcommittee is currently in the process of drafting a Water Resources/Water Quality Chapter in the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan, which has gone out for in-house agency review. Subcommittee members have developed a list of their goals and objectives for water quality and water resources and are working to clarify participants' goals and objectives, identify possible solutions to problems, pinpoint concrete actions which will be taken to address the problems, filter out long-term from short-term goals, and reach agreement on what issues to deal with first. Agricultural best management practices (BMP) and concerns over use of household water softeners and their contributions of chlorides to treatment plants are two early action items that have been identified.

The Flood Protection/Sedimentation Subcommittee last met on November 8, 1999. They are currently involved with discussions on conducting a hydrologic study of the watershed and the need for historic photographs to evaluate changes in sedimentation over time.

The Public Education/Outreach Subcommittee has completed the first edition of a newsletter to cover watershed issues and events. It will eventually have its own website with links to other web pages. Additionally, the group has produced a brochure on the management plan process in the watershed.

The Habitat/Recreation Subcommittee met on December 7. They continue to work on a wetlands study which includes a habitat mapping component. The subcommittee will next meet on February 1.

The Steering Committee for the Watershed Management Plan met on September 30. They continue to work on its expectations/products for 1999. A draft Table of Contents for the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan being developed has been prepared.

The full Management Committee met on November 18. Information about the management committee and its subcommittees can be found at <http://www.calleguas.com/>.

Data generated by the Surface Water Element of the Calleguas Creek Characterization Study Monitoring Program is being evaluated. Monitoring associated with the Groundwater Element of the program is now being implemented. Another component of the program, funded by Clean Water Act 205(j) monies, is evaluating nonpoint source contributions and is in the data analysis stage.

Los Angeles River Watershed

The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The last meeting was held on December 15 and included meetings of the water resources, water quality, and multi-use projects committees. Shirley Birosik, Regional Board staff member, presented an overview of the San Gabriel River Watershed in the water quality committee meeting. The Council's Internet address is <http://www.lasgriverswatershed.org/>.

The Friends of the LA River now has a Los Angeles River e-mail discussion forum. To subscribe, send an e-mail to la-river-discuss-subscribe@makelist.com. To view archives of past Los Angeles River discussions on the Internet, go to <http://www.egroups.com/list/la-river-discuss>.

On August 10, members of the Watershed Council assisted the California Coastal Conservancy in conducting a tour of potential restoration sites in the lower watershed as part of a meeting of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. These sites may be viewed at <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/index.html>.

Santa Monica Bay Watershed

The Modeling and Monitoring Subcommittee of the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council has drafted a watershed-wide monitoring program for the Malibu Creek Watershed. The group last met on May 6, 1999. A draft monitoring program has been distributed to stakeholders for comment. A major task will be finding partners to participate in this voluntary program to assess and help correct the water quality concerns in this area.

The Malibu Lagoon Task Force last met on September 14, 1999. The Task Force is concerned with lagoon breaching, the septic tracer study, and all aspects of the UCLA study of the lagoon. The study covers a hydrologic evaluation, appropriateness of various biological and water quality objectives, water level management, eutrophication issues, pathogens, and the historical condition of the lagoon. The study was funded by a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy with assistance by local agencies. A recently hired facilitator is now leading the group toward refining the future goals of the Task Force. The next meeting is not scheduled yet.

The Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council met on October 19, 1999 and included a report on subcommittee activities. The Council last met on January 18, 2000.

A watershed committee has been meeting in the Topanga Creek Watershed. The most recent meeting was held on December 4, 2000. The meeting included a panel discussion on the state of the watershed. A major near-term goal of this watershed committee is to prioritize potential actions previously identified in a draft Topanga Creek Watershed Management Study and start a coordinated resource management planning (CRMP) process. A longer-term goal is preparation of a watershed management plan that will help address a number of issues including flood control in the canyon. The next meeting of the watershed committee is scheduled for February 2, 2000 and will

focus on planning for the Streambank Stabilization Workshop scheduled for March 4, 2000. The committee's website address is. <http://www.TopangaOnline.com/twc/>.

The recently formed Technical Advisory Committee to the Topanga Creek Water Quality Study met for the first time on June 15, 1999 to help guide the project and met again on November 30, 1999 to review preliminary data. The Committee is funded through 205(j) monies.

Watershed Management Initiative Chapter

Each Regional Board has completed the process of producing a "chapter" on how that Board is implementing watershed management in the Region. The consolidated statewide chapter will become the basis for funding decisions including allocating money for monitoring, TMDL development, and grant monies disbursement.

Each Region's Chapter is updated on an annual basis. The last update occurred in January 2000 and includes information on Regional Board implementation of the state's upgraded nonpoint source management program.

Copies of this Region's current Chapter and/or its Executive Summary may be obtained by contacting the Regional Board office, Regional Programs Section secretary. The document may also be sent out electronically in MSWord97. It will be available shortly on the Regional Board's webpage.

F. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Presentation at a Litter Summit

On December 15, 1999, a litter summit brought together business leaders and city representatives to discuss the issue of litter in rivers and beaches in the greater Los Angeles area. The Executive Officer (EO) gave a presentation entitled "What the Business Community needs to know about Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)." The presentation outlined how a schedule was established as a result of the March 1999 consent decree between the US EPA, the Santa Monica BayKeeper, and Heal the Bay. Information was also provided on how more than 700 TMDLs grouped into 94 analytical units are scheduled to be completed in the next 13 years. The presentation also included information on the issues that surround litter in our waterways. The EO explained that although the litter TMDL for the Los Angeles River watershed would focus on municipal compliance, opportunities for private sector involvement were significant.

Gateway COG Meeting

On January 5, 2000, the Executive Officer attended the regular meeting of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments in Cerritos to offer comments and respond to questions on the pending proposal regarding Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plans (SUSMP). Following a presentation by Ed Schoeder, Director of Public Works for the City of El Segundo, the Gateway Council approved a resolution at the meeting urging the Regional Board not to approve that portion of the SUSMP proposal that deals with establishing a 0.75 inch rainfall runoff design standard for BMPs.

Regional Board Hosts Resource Management Visitors from China

On December 28, 1999, Regional Board staff hosted a group of six visitors from the water resource management department of the Inner Mongolia Province, China. Regional Board staff members Rod Nelson, Mark Pumford, and Yue Rong presented Regional Board programs in surface water and groundwater. Board staff also presented the visitors with a copy of the Porter-Cologne Act. The

visitors were very interested and asked many questions during the presentation.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Personnel Report

As of the month of December our staff was 121, consisting of 102 technical staff (including 1 part-time technical staff), 5 permanent administrative support staff, and 14 permanent clerical staff.

Staff is currently taking steps to fill 1 Unit Chief Position, 12 technical positions, 1 Associate Governmental Program Analyst, and 1 Assistant Information Systems Analyst.

Since October, the following appointments have been made:

Arman Toumari, Water Resource Control Engineer in the LA Coastal Unit, appointed 10/15/99.

Rod Collins, Environmental Specialist III in the Standards and TMDL Unit, appointed 11/01/99.

Michael Yang, Water Resource Control Engineer in the L. A. River Unit, appointed 11/01/99.

Khalid Abdullah, Associate Information Systems Analyst in the Information Technology Unit, appointed 11/02/99.

Cody Walker, Engineering Geologist in the San Gabriel/San Fernando Valley Unit, appointed 11/05/99.

Larry Harlan, Environmental Specialist III in the San Gabriel Valley Unit, appointed 11/18/99.

Thomas Sayles, Environmental Specialist III in the L. A. River Unit, appointed 11/18/99.

Melinda Merryfield-Becker, Environmental Specialist IV (Supervisor), Standards and TMDL Unit Chief, appointed 11/29/99.

Cassandra Owens, Environmental Specialist III in the Ventura Coastal Unit, appointed 12/13/99.

Thizar Tintut-Williams, Environmental Specialist III in the Ventura Coastal Unit, appointed 12/13/99.

Jeremy Sokulsky, Water Resource Control Engineer in the Standards and TMDL Unit, appointed 12/13/99.

Megan Fisher, Environmental Specialist in both the Industrial Stormwater and Nonpoint Source Programs, appointed 1/3/00.

The following promotion was made:

Anthony Klecha, from Water Resource Control Engineer to Sanitary Engineering Associate, effective 11/01/99.

The following separated from Region 4:

Cody Walker, Engineering Geologist, transferred to Region 1.

Bryan Schweikert, Environmental Specialist III.