

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

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

August 12, 1999

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*** 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>

Y2K Preparedness Conference

The City of Los Angeles is sponsoring a Y2K conference, which is being scheduled for the third week of September at the LA Convention Center. The purpose of the conference is to brief dischargers on the importance of contingency planning for Y2K. At the conference, the City will present a "model" contingency plan, and will discuss critical elements necessary to ensure Y2K preparedness (among which include: identification of critical areas such as lift stations; alarm system backup; communication and emergency coordination guidance; staffing recommendations; supply line disruptions, etc.).

The City is sponsoring this conference as a result of a spill of raw sewage near the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant that occurred as an unanticipated consequence of a Y2K system test.

A specific schedule, agenda, case study, and other details will soon be posted on the Regional Board's and State Board's website. Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) and major industrial dischargers in California and other western states are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Chris Harris at (213) 749-3386.

Region 4 TMDL Conference

A tentative agenda has been developed through conversations among Regional Board management and staff, SCCWRP and the City of Los Angeles. While the conference will provide an overview of the TMDL process, the focus will be on discussing the new TMDL regulations and guidance as well as the difficult issues we are facing as we begin to develop TMDLs. The conference will be co-sponsored by the RWQCB and the City of Los Angeles and is tentatively scheduled for September 29, 1999.

State Board Member Visits Regional Board

On July 6, 1999, recently appointed State Board Member Arthur Baggett joined the Executive Officer, Assistant EO Jim Kuykendall, and Wendy Phillips, Chief of the Enforcement and Remediation Section, for a tour of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The tour was conducted by the Long Beach Office of the California Fish and Game Department and served as an

orientation for Mr. Baggett to the diverse and complex issues that face the State and Regional Boards.

The following day, Mr. Baggett met with Region 4 staff to discuss some of the unique issues and problems in our Region. Shirley Birocik, the Region's watershed coordinator, made a presentation on the San Gabriel River watershed (this year's targeted watershed). The presentation provided a jumping off point for a wide-ranging discussion on inter-agency coordination, funding and workload challenges. The discussion provided staff with a new insight into the background and motivations of our new State Board Member and provided Arthur Baggett with a greater understanding of the accomplishments and challenges faced in the Los Angeles Region.

MUN Dedications

On November 2, 1998, the Regional Board amended the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan), by adopting a resolution (98-018) to "incorporate changes in beneficial use designations for selected waters." This amendment removes the beneficial use designation for "Municipal and Domestic Supply" (MUN) from eight coastal surface waters and two ground water areas along the coast. At a public hearing on February 18, 1999, the State Board voted to approve this amendment. On July 20, 1999, the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) issued a Notification of Disapproval. Specific details from OAL explaining their decision have not yet been received. Once this explanation is received, staff will evaluate the steps necessary to resolve this matter.

A. SURFACE WATER UPDATES

Beach Closure Workgroup

Staff attended a Beach Closures Workgroup held on June 16, 1999. The workgroup was formed to address issues concerning implementation of AB 411, the bacteriological monitoring of beach areas. Three subgroups have been working on specific issues: standardizing beach closures; identifying causes of beach closures (such as sewage spills) and how they can be reduced; and, urban runoff. The workgroup is also analyzing related bills, such as:

AB 538 - This Bill would require Regional Boards to look for sources of contamination in storm drains. It still contains language requiring the Regional Boards to look for sources after three out of four samples exceed standards.

AB 511 - This Bill addresses nonpoint source pollution and the Coastal Commission's involvement with the state's nonpoint source program.

AB 885 - This Bill addresses coastal onsite sewage treatment systems and statewide performance standards.

HR 999 - Requires states to issue specific bacterial water quality standards, conduct water quality monitoring on a routine basis, report results of monitoring data to EPA, and provides funding for research into new indicator organisms.

Regional Storm Water Monitoring Meeting

Staff attended a meeting on June 17, 1999, regarding regional storm water research/monitoring, held at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project offices. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together representatives of the various Southern California storm water coordinators to discuss the possibility/feasibility of coordinating the monitoring efforts under the municipal storm water permits. The key players are the counties of San Bernardino, Orange, and Riverside, because they are all under the same permitting entity; but, the intent is to make the coordination more of a Southern California effort. SCCWRP proposes to begin the process by developing a workplan that includes problem statements for a panel of experts to address (e.g., what is the impact to beneficial

uses from storm water?). They would then hold a two-day workshop where the panel prioritizes the problems and develops a research agenda. The final product would be an action plan that includes cost estimates for a regional monitoring program for storm water.

SCCWRP has developed a statement of work for the project and the agencies have developed a cooperative agreement that would be signed by all interested parties. Los Angeles and Ventura counties as well as Regional Board staff have expressed an interest in joining the effort.

Los Angeles County Municipal Stormwater Permit

On July 15th, the Executive Officer and Dr. Xavier Swamikannu attended a joint meeting of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Watershed Councils (under the municipal stormwater permit) to engage a dialog on the outlook for the next municipal stormwater permit for Los Angeles County. The meeting was well attended with some City Council members participating.

Stormwater Best Management Practice Reviewed

On July 1st, the Executive Officer joined BayKeeper Executive Director Steven Fleischli at the Lucky Foods Distribution Center in Orange County to observe their use of a lubricant product on truck "fifth wheels" (the round plate on which a trailer is attached to a truck tractor). Normally, a large amount of grease is used to lubricate the fifth wheel and during rainstorms this grease is washed onto roadways. By reducing the use of grease with other products that have different properties that allow less product use and which do not wash off during rain events, it appears that a significant reduction in the contribution of grease to stormwater can be achieved. Lucky Foods has adopted the use of a replacement product.

B. TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs)

Scoping Meeting for the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Coliform TMDL

A meeting was held on July 13, 1999 at the RWQCB to initiate work on the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Coliform TMDL. This TMDL will be funded in large part through Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funds provided by the City of Los Angeles. Resolution #99-07, authorizing the Executive Officer to enter into an agreement for Supplemental Environmental Projects with the City of Los Angeles, was adopted by the Board at its meeting on May 27, 1999.

The July 13th meeting was attended by representatives of the City of Los Angeles, including Jim Langley; management and staff of the Regional Board, including Debbie Smith and Jon Bishop; SCCWRP representatives, including Director Steve Weisberg; Heal the Bay's Executive Director, Mark Gold; and representatives of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project.

The objective of the meeting was to begin to develop a detailed work plan for a Beach Closure Study, the results of which will provide input to several components of the TMDL including the problem identification, linkage analysis, load allocation, and implementation plan.

SCCWRP distributed a draft of the work plan for the Beach Closure Study to the workgroup on July 20, 1999. A final version of this work plan will be submitted to the Executive Officer for approval on July 30, 1999.

Santa Monica Bay Technical Advisory Committee

A special meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project was convened on July 22, 1999 to initiate the committee's involvement in the development

of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Coliform TMDL. The TAC is a stakeholder group and includes scientists and technical experts from the regulated community, environmental organizations, universities, and government agencies.

The objective of the meeting was to present the general schedule for the development of the Coliform TMDL and, in particular, solicit input on the conceptual work plan for the Beach Closure Study.

Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek Trash TMDL update

A number of working subgroups met for the first time to discuss the issues of problem statement (6/28/99), source analysis (6/29/99), implementation (7/13/99), monitoring (7/13/99), numeric targets (7/16/99) and load allocations (7/16/99) as they relate to the development of Trash TMDLs for the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek. The trash TMDLs for the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek are being developed concurrently, allowing for a substantial amount of time and resource sharing between the two TMDLs. The informal discussions, facilitated by Jon Bishop, are promoting stakeholder involvement and are bringing together a wealth of information which will be used for the drafts of both TMDLs. The meeting minutes were e-mailed to stakeholders, and draft documents for each part of the TMDLs will be e-mailed prior to the next subgroup meetings which will occur in August and September, to give participants a chance to prepare comments. Minutes are available from Myriam Zech, mzech@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov, and will be posted on the Regional Water Quality Control Board website, <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/>, shortly.

Santa Clara River - Chloride TMDL Workshop

In January 1997, the Regional Board adopted a Chloride Policy (Resolution No. 97-02: Amendment to the California Regional Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region, to incorporate a Policy for Addressing Levels of Chloride in Discharges of Wastewaters). This policy, in part, directs staff to work with concerned parties to consider revision of chloride objectives and/or wasteload allocations to ensure that all beneficial uses are adequately protected chloride.

On June 11, 1999, July 2 and July 22, Regional Board staff conducted workshops on groundwater and surface water monitoring, proposed revised standards and TMDL options for the Santa Clara River. Board staff Jonathon Bishop and Elizabeth Erickson received input on an enhanced monitoring plan, loosening basin plan objectives while following state anti-degradation guidelines, and options for setting TMDL allocations.

On Wednesday, September 8, 1999, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Ventura County Administration Building, 3rd Floor Multi-Purpose Room, 800 South Victoria Blvd., Ventura. Regional Board staff will be conducting a workshop to present the draft of a basin plan amendment for the Santa Clara River chloride policy with final Board presentation planned for October 28, 1999. Board staff Jonathon Bishop and Elizabeth Erickson will be receiving public comment on a Basin plan amendment which is likely to include an MOU from stakeholders agreeing to coordinated monitoring efforts and revised chloride standards for reaches 3, 7 and 8. Please call Jon Bishop at (213) 576-6681 or Elizabeth Erickson at (213) 576-6683 should you have any questions.

Calleguas Creek - Chloride TMDL Workshop

On June 4 and July 21, 1999, at public workshops at Calleguas Municipal Water District, Regional Board staff Jonathon Bishop and Elizabeth Erickson presented evidence of chloride impairment for reaches within the Calleguas watershed, the basic elements of a chloride TMDL, and a possible reach redefinition to include more accurate locations for agricultural beneficial use. Preliminary results of staff work included load quantification, mass balance modeling, and reach refinement based on the beneficial use designation.

On Friday, September 24, 1999, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at Calleguas Municipal Water District, 2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, California, 91360-6800, Regional Board staff Jonathon Bishop and Elizabeth Erickson will be presenting the draft of the Basin Plan amendment for Board presentation on December 9, 1999. Staff will be receiving public comment on an amendment, which is likely to include either an MOU from stakeholders agreeing to a timetable of chloride management in advance of the TMDL implementation plan or TMDL allocations and an implementation plan, which coordinates capital improvement plans with other TMDLs. Please call Jon Bishop at (213) 576-6681 or Elizabeth Erickson at (213) 576-6683 should you have any questions.

Santa Monica Bay Technical Advisory Committee

A special meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project was convened on July 22, 1999 to initiate the committee's involvement in the development of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Coliform TMDL. The TAC is a stakeholder group and includes scientists and technical experts from the regulated community, environmental organizations, universities, and government agencies.

The objective of the meeting was to present the general schedule for the development of the Coliform TMDL and, in particular, solicit input on the conceptual work plan for the Beach Closure Study.

USEPA Water Quality Standards Academy

In Riverside, CA on June 14th-18, 1999, the USEPA conducted its basic "Water Quality Standards Academy" which provided a comprehensive and highly structured training on the objectives of the water quality standards and criteria programs, the interpretation and application of Water Quality Standards Regulation policies and program guidance, and the relationship of water quality standards to other programs.

This 5-day course consisted of 23 individual training modules. The course was comprised of a variety of instructional activities, including lectures, case studies, class exercises, problem-solving activities, role-playing, and discussions.

Two sets of manuals were used in the course: the Participant Manual and the Basic Course Reference Manual. The Participant Manual contained the training modules used during the training, and; the Basic Course Reference Manual contained copies of the Clean Water Act, the Water Quality Standards Regulation, reports, guidance, and other materials that supplemented the information provided in the modules.

C. ENFORCEMENT & REMEDIATION

Malibu Creek and Lagoon Technical Investigation

On May 27, 1999, the Regional Board heard the City of Malibu's appeal of an ACL issued to the City in response to the City's delay in submitting a technical workplan for investigation of water quality impacts associated with the extensive use of septic systems in the City of Malibu's civic center area. As an outcome of the hearing, the Regional Board elected not to proceed with the ACL. Rather, in an extraordinary effort to move this issue forward, two Board members offered to meet with two members of the Malibu City Council. This approach was adopted by the Regional Board to first, provide an opportunity for an amicable resolution of this matter, and second, to reach across potential staff differences of opinion in an attempt to forge a better understanding of the viewpoints held by the City and the Regional Board. Both goals, thereby, could be pursued while reserving the Regional Board's enforcement option should it ultimately become necessary.

This meeting was subsequently held on June 21, 1999 between Regional Board Chairman David Nahai and Vice Chair Michael Keston representing the Regional Board and Mayor Walt Keller and Councilmember Carolyn Van Horn. Additionally, Regional Board Executive Officer Dennis Dickerson and Assistant Executive Office James Kuykendall attended as did City Manager Harry Peacock and a member of the City's Building Department, Vic Peterson, responsible for their septic system permit program.

On June 22, 1999, a letter was sent by the Executive Officer to the City of Malibu with a draft technical investigation workplan covering a period of 12 weeks. Subsequent conversations and a meeting was held with City staff to refine the draft workplan. These conversations resulted in a letter on July 2, 1999 that modified the June 22nd draft. This workplan represented a shorter period of time (nine weeks instead of twelve).

The Regional Board strongly believes that an investigation during the summer months is critical for several reasons. First, beach use and septic loadings are at a peak. This is also when the greatest threat of human exposure to pathogens occurs. Second, the flow from Malibu Creek is at a minimum and discharge from the Tapia treatment plant is not a contributing factor. Third, the beach berm is most likely to be in place separating the outflow of lagoon waters to the ocean and concurrently raising the level of lagoon waters. These conditions pose a worst case scenario for impacts to water quality from septic systems.

The City obtained the services of Woodward Clyde environmental consultants to develop another investigation alternative. This study proposal focused on a six-event sampling that investigated water quality conditions before, during, and after a berm-breaching event. This proposal was placed on the agenda of the July 12th Malibu City Council meeting.

The technical investigation was considered by the City Council on July 12th. The Executive Officer and the Assistant EO attended the City Council meeting and responded to numerous questions from the City Council regarding the need for the investigation, how the study would be interpreted, and the likelihood of additional studies. Following an extended debate, the City Council voted to expend funds in the approximate amount of \$75,000 for conducting the study.

The Regional Board is seeking ways to reduce the overall cost of the investigation for the City of Malibu. One such effort was the approval of a Supplemental Environmental Project by the Las Virgenes Water District, which will be used to support the costs of the technical investigation. Additionally, working with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, additional funds have been identified that will allow the study to be conducted over the longer period of time originally identified by Regional Board staff. Finally, 13267 letters have been issued to permittees in the City of Malibu requiring them to conduct sampling of their wells to augment the investigation. Additionally, Regional Board staff will participate in sample collection.

On July 29th, Regional Board staff met with representatives from the City of Malibu, Woodward Clyde, Heal the Bay, and Las Virgenes to coordinate the initiation of the investigation. At this meeting some basic protocols were established and resource sharing opportunities identified. The investigation start date was set as Monday, August 2nd.

D. GROUNDWATER UPDATES

Main San Gabriel Valley Watermaster Committee Meeting

On July 14, 1999, Regional Board staff (James Kuykendall, Wendy Phillips and Arthur Heath) attended the Main San Gabriel Watermaster Committee (Committee) meeting. In response to the Committee's request, Jim Kuykendall presented an overview of our on-going soil and groundwater

cleanup efforts in San Gabriel Valley. In addition, the Committee requested a list of all sites in the San Gabriel Valley that have been required to perform cleanup activities or which have already completed cleanup.

In a related matter, on July 27th, Regional Board staff participated in a San Gabriel Perchlorate Coordinating Team meeting, the purpose of which is to discuss the progress being made on the treatability of this emergent contaminant.

Hearing of the Select Committee on the San Gabriel Valley Groundwater Contamination:
Assemblyman Thomas M. Calderon

At the request of Assemblymember Thomas M. Calderon, Regional Board staff participated in an informational hearing on July 28, 1999 in South El Monte, to look into the progress being made by various agencies in addressing extensive groundwater contamination in the San Gabriel Valley. The purpose of our participation was to summarize our San Gabriel investigations and cleanup efforts; in particular, our accomplishments to date and our priorities to clean up volatile organic compounds remaining in the San Gabriel Valley. Other participants at the hearing, who discussed their responsibilities, cleanup efforts and/or concerns, included USEPA, other state agencies, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, the Main San Gabriel Valley Watermaster, water purveyors, responsible parties, and other concerned parties.

Charnock Sub-basin MTBE Investigation Area

At present there are 25 active sites in the Charnock Sub-Basin. Of the 25 active sites, site assessment has been completed in 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 the sites. Quarterly groundwater monitoring reports are received, reviewed, and commented upon on within a short time. Three sites have submitted site remedial action plans. The remedial action plans for soil and groundwater cleanups have been approved. 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 remediation has begun at one of the sites. Soil and groundwater remediation may be initiated in the near future at the two other sites.

Staff performs a project status update telephone conference with the interested parties and USEPA. Staff also attends meetings and participates in telephone conferences to discuss the pilot project cleanup alternatives for the remediation of the groundwater.

Staff and EPA had issued unilateral Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAO) to CONOCO Inc. on April 20, 1999. The CAO required CONOCO Inc. to perform supplemental 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 Inc. on May 11, 1999. Tier One workplan was reviewed and approved by Regional Board and USEPA, and subsurface investigation work will commence on July 27, 1999. CONOCO has appealed the CAO to the State Water Resources Control Board.

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 water. Currently, approximately 5 to 6 GPM of groundwater are being pumped from 12-groundwater extraction wells. As of June 30th, the treatment system has pumped 5.1 million gallons of groundwater and removed an estimated

amount of 46.8 pounds of TPH and 163.4 pounds of MTBE. The impacted soil in the vadose zone is being treated with a vapor extraction system (VES) starting May 1999.

A Production Aquifer Remediation System (PARS) using activated carbon filtering to clean up the production aquifer has been approved. A public hearing by City of Los Angeles Planning Department is scheduled on August 21, 1999, to approve Mobil's application for a site variance. Bidding of construction of PARS is due August 12, 1999. Construction is expected to begin in the first week of September 1999.

A Remedial Action Plan to clean up the MTBE contamination in the lower aquifer was approved on May 21, 1999. Mobil has completed the installation of three additional groundwater extraction wells south of the Brentwood fault.

Expanded User of GIS within the LUST Program

In response to the Governor's Executive Order D-5-99 which, in part, requires a focus on protecting recharge areas and aquifers that are susceptible to MTBE contamination, LUST Section staff have increased the use of GIS to map recharge areas and to aid in prioritizing LUST case reviews. More specifically, review of LUST sites within one mile of recharge areas and groundwater production wells have been given highest priority. To assist in the review of these priority cases, staff will be provided maps indicating all groundwater recharge areas, production wells, and other LUST sites within one mile of their site. In addition, staff will be provided the screen intervals, depth to water, and other pertinent data from the nearby production wells.

Initially, LUST staff have focused their GIS efforts within the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin. Spatial data for the wells and recharge areas within this area have been obtained and plotted. Currently, production zones are being identified and incorporated into the GIS Database. In the future, this data may also include production well logs when available, recent analytical data and well construction details. These databases have been reconciled and when used within a GIS context, will provide staff with additional tools to perform comprehensive LUST case reviews.

International Internship Program

Beginning in July, the Los Angeles Regional Board hosted an international "internship program" for three Chinese SINOPEC employees. The SINOPEC, the state owned oil company in China, is aiming to improve its management system and style and to expose its most talented junior employees to the developed countries, such as the United States. The purpose of the internship program is to give the "interns" real-life hands-on opportunities to learn how an American organization operates on a daily basis. The three interns, Ms. Rosa Liu, Mr. Edward Zhang, and Mr. Alex Zhou, have been assigned to three different units: Site Cleanup Unit, Underground Tank Unit, and Landfill/Cleanup Unit. They have been working with Board staff in the three respective units. The three interns also attended the July 8, 1999, Board Meeting as observers. Their internship is expected to last 8 weeks with the Regional Board.

Completion of Corrective Action at Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank Sites

Board staff have reviewed corrective actions taken for soil and/or groundwater contamination problems from leaking UST's for the time of June 16, 1999, through July 23, 1999, and determined that no further corrective actions are required:

City of La Verne Maintenance Facility, La Verne (I-12905)
Tosco Service Station No. 6499, Santa Clarita (I-03338)
ARCO Products Company Service Station No. 1993, Azusa (R-11019)
Former Chevron Service Station No. 9-3408, Whittier (I-09901)

ABC Unified School District, Artesia (R-11981)
Former Long Beach Mazda, Long Beach (908060052)
Vine Auto Protech, Los Angeles (900380252)
Texaco Service Station, Norwalk (I-00305)
Former 76 Products Service Station No. 2731, Altadena (R-24748)
Former Mobil Oil Company Service Station No. 18-MRC, Lomita (I-05152)

E. COASTAL WATERS/ WATERSHEDS UPDATES

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The Water Quality/Water Resources Subcommittee met on June 4. 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 (BMPs) 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 May 10. 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. The group is currently organizing a state of the watershed conference that will held at the new California State University Channel Islands campus.

The Habitat/Recreation Subcommittee met on June 8 and continues work on a wetlands study which includes a habitat mapping component.

The Steering Committee for the Watershed Management Plan last met on May 24 and continues 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 May 24. Information about the management committee and its subcommittees can be found at <http://www.calleguas.com/>.

The Surface Water Element of the Calleguas Creek Characterization Study Monitoring Program continues. Samples are collected on the first Wednesday of each month. A 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 next meeting will be held on August 18. The Council's Internet address is <http://muspin.gsfc.nasa.gov/Prime/water.html>. The Friends of the LA River now has a Los Angeles River e-mail discussion forum. To subscribe, 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>.

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; a draft monitoring program has been distributed to stakeholders for comment. A major task soon 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 will meet next on August 17. The Task Force is concerned with lagoon breaching, the septic tracer study, and all aspects of the UCLA study of the lagoon. The UCLA 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 California Coastal Conservancy grant with assistance by local agencies. UCLA conducted a half-day workshop on April 30 to discuss their draft report. Regional Board staff have commented on a copy of the report which should be finalized sometime this summer. The Task Force last met on June 15.

A watershed committee has been meeting in the Topanga Creek Watershed. The most recent meeting was held on June 19 and consisted of a creek cleanup. 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 August 24. The committee's website address is <http://www.TopangaOnline.com/twc/>.

A newly formed Technical Advisory Committee to the Topanga Creek Water Quality Study (funded through 205(j) monies) will meet for the first time on June 15 to help guide the project.

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. This Region's Chapter was last updated in May 1999. Copies of this Region's 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 MSWord6.0). Additionally, the Executive Summary will be posted on the Regional Board's webpage this summer.

319(h)/205(j) Request for Proposals

Proposals for region-specific 319(h)/205(j) grant funds have been reviewed and ranked by staff at the Regional Board and the ranked list was sent to State Board. Preliminary statewide ranking will be undertaken by the Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) Workgroup on July 27 and 28, 1999. After further management review, a recommended ranking will be brought before the State Board for adoption in September or October. Final funding is subject to USEPA approval.

F. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Regional Board staff, Dr. Yue Rong, has been serving as a member of scientific advisory board for the annual west coast conference sponsored by the Association of Environmental Health for Soils (AEHS). On July 19, 1999, Dr. Rong attended the advisory board meeting held in Los Angeles,

California, serving in the capacity of California State regulator. The advisory board is composed of representatives from academia, regulatory agencies, consulting, and manufacturing sectors. During the meeting, topics and organization for the next West Coast conference were discussed. The next annual conference is scheduled on March 20-23, 2000, in San Diego, California.

On July 14th, the Executive Officer addressed a class at the University of LaVerne on reality-based negotiation at the Regional Board.

On July 20th, the senior managers in the Region attended a year-end review meeting with USEPA in San Francisco. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Regional Board's accomplishments over the past year in achieving workplan commitments pursuant to federal grants issued by USEPA.

On July 29th, Board Chair David Nahai attended a meeting of the Natural Resources Committee of the Greater Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and offered comments on the state of the Board, our priorities, and the challenges that faces the Regional Board as it pursues its mission. The Executive Officer attended as well and responded to some questions posed by the attendees.

At the request of Dorothy Green of the Los Angeles/San Gabriel River Watershed Council, John Geroch gave a brief presentation on Brownfields on July 21, 1999. The presentation included information regarding what criteria is used to determine if a contaminated site qualifies as a Brownfield site, what policies currently exist to assist in the assessment and cleanup at Brownfield sites, and the various federal and state governmental agencies that can be involved in Brownfield sites.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Regional Board Staff Training Event

On July 27th, the Regional Board Training Team held a special 3-hour workshop for all staff entitled Establishing Creative Collaboration in the Workplace. Topics covered were: Understanding Organizational Roles, Identifying/Managing Expectations, Collaboration, and Leadership. This event was well attended by staff and included the EO, AEO's, and several Program Managers.

Personnel Report

As of July 30 our staff total was 107: 88 technical staff (including 2 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 Information Officer and 1 clerical staff position. Since June the following appointment has been made: 1 Water Resource Control Engineer.

Freedom of Information Act and Public Records Act Request for the Month of June 1999

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and Public Record Act (PRA) requests to review or copy public documents are a very important part of the work at the Regional Board. The FOIA and PRA cover most of the documents at the Regional Board. The State legislature adopted statutory language requiring these requests to be tracked by the Regional Boards. The FOIA and PRA require agencies to provide a response on the availability of the requested document within 10 working days (FOIA) or 10 calendar days (PRA) of receiving the request. The Regional Board has a procedure to respond to, and a database to track, these requests. During the month of June 1999, 22 FOIA / PRA requests were received and processed. A response was provided within the mandated time frame for all requests but one.

SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS - JUNE 1 to 30, 1999

Formal Enforcement Actions

Cleanup and Abatement Order	2
Administrative Civil Liability	5

Administrative Enforcement Actions

Permit violations	1
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Administrative Enforcement Actions for Overdue / Incomplete Reports

Groundwater monitoring reports	8
Other technical reports	1
Site assessment plans	2
Site assessment reports	1
Site remedial action plans	4

Administrative Enforcement Actions for Stormwater Permits

Failed to comply with permit requirements	2
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Total Enforcement Actions for June	27
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ALL REPORTED SPILLS DURING JUNE 1999

Chemical	13
Crude oil	9
Diesel	14
Gasoline	1
Miscellaneous petroleum products	16
Oil	5
Other	4
Sewage	9
Waste water	5
Vapors	10

Total	87
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SPILLS WHICH ENTERED WATERWAYS OR WATERS

Chemical	4
Crude oil	1
Diesel	10
Gasoline	0
Miscellaneous petroleum products	8
Oil	4
Other	1
Sewage	7
Waste water	1

Total	36
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