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AGENDA

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 24, 2010, 4:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Conference Room, Hall of Justice Building,
1125 Third Street, Napa CA

1. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL** (Chair)
2. **APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES**
Meeting of February 25, 2010 (Chair)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

In this time period, anyone may comment to the Board regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction, or request consideration to place an item on a future Agenda. No comments will be allowed involving any subject matter that is scheduled for discussion as part of this Agenda. Individuals will be limited to a three-minute presentation. No action will be taken by the Board as a result of any item presented at this time. (Chair)

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS AND UPDATES:

Informational announcements, reports and updates for discussion, presented by staff and members of the board (WICC Staff; Board) (5 - 10 min.)

5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- a. Presentation and discussion of Region 2 Water Board agricultural water quality control waiver programs – Vineyard and Grazing operations, Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds
 - i. Introduction and overview of the Water Board's conditional waiver programs (Jim Ponton, Senior Engineering Geologist, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFBRWQCB)) (10 min.)

- ii. Vineyards and water quality, development of a conditional waiver program for vineyard facilities in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds (Tina Low, Water Resources Control Engineer, SFBRWQCB) (25 min.)
 - iii. Grazing and the development of a conditional waiver program for grazing operations in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds (Rico Duazo, Water Resources Control Engineer, SFBRWQCB) (25 min.)
- b. Presentation and discussion of Putah Creek Irrigated Lands conditional water quality waiver, Region 5 Water Board – Pilot Watershed Program (Phil Blake, District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service) (15 min.)

6. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

Presentation, discussion and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding membership in the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) (Rick Thomasser, Napa County Flood Dist., Harry Seraydarian, Executive Director, NBWA) (30 min.)

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Board; WICC Staff)

8. NEXT MEETING (Chair)

Regular Board Meeting: July 22, 2010 – 4:00 PM
Hall of Justice Building, 2nd floor Conference Room, 1125 Third Street, Napa

(Note: Possible postponement to August 26, 2010)

9. ADJOURNMENT (Chair)

Note: If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Jeff Sharp at 707-259-5936, 1195 Third St., Suite 210, Napa CA 94559 to request alternative formats.





Vineyards and Water Quality

Introducing: Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Vineyard Facilities in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds

What is the Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Water Board)?

The Water Boards are state agencies responsible for water quality management and protection. The Water Board, San Francisco Bay Region, is responsible for managing and protecting water quality in the San Francisco Bay Area, including the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds.

What is a conditional waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements?

The California Water Code gives the Water Board authority to regulate waste discharges by issuing or waiving waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for specific types of waste discharges. Waivers are less intensive and are allowed provided that certain conditions, established by the Water Board, are met. The conditions are designed and intended to assure discharges will not cause or contribute to violations of water quality standards. A waiver of WDRs does not mean permitting requirements are “waived”—permittees must comply with the conditions set forth in the conditional waiver of WDRs.

What water quality problems are associated with Vineyard Facilities?

The Water Board has determined that waste discharges from a variety of sources are contributing to pollution in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds. This pollution has significantly contributed to declining steelhead and salmon populations. The Napa River and Sonoma Creek are both listed by the Water Board as impaired by sediment (as well as pathogens and nutrients). Sources of pollutants contributing to these impairments come from urban areas, agricultural activities (such as vineyard facilities), transportation facilities, and other land uses in the watersheds.

What’s being done?

The Water Board developed and adopted separate sediment total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds. Pathogens TMDLs for both watersheds have also been adopted. TMDLs are action plans to restore clean water, and include implementation plans that specify actions that are needed to resolve the impairment and restore water quality. Vineyard facilities are identified in the sediment TMDLs as sources of human-caused sediment discharges. More information about the TMDLs described above and on our TMDL program can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/whataretmdls.shtml

What’s being developed?

Water Board staff is developing a conditional waiver program, in which many vineyard owners and/or operators would be required to enroll. Staff will solicit input from stakeholders during this waiver development process. The essential component of the conditional waiver will be the vineyard owner’s/operator’s completion of a farm water quality plan (farm plan). A farm plan includes a comprehensive inventory and assessment of natural resources, agricultural lands, and management practices. As outlined in the TMDLs, vineyard operators/owners are to assess their own lands and

facilities, evaluate potential sources of pollutants, identify where management practices need to be implemented or revised, and then develop and implement a plan (with a schedule) to put into place the identified management practices. The farm plan must address surface erosion, storm water runoff, sediment delivery from roads, pesticide use, nutrient management, and protection of stream areas.

What about other sources of pollutants?

The State Board and Water Board are working on all identified sources of sediment, not just vineyards. For example, the State Board recently updated the Construction Stormwater permit that includes more stringent requirements for sediment control and stormwater runoff. There is also a statewide permit that regulates urban runoff from cities in these watersheds. The Water Board is also developing a conditional waiver program for grazing operations in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds.

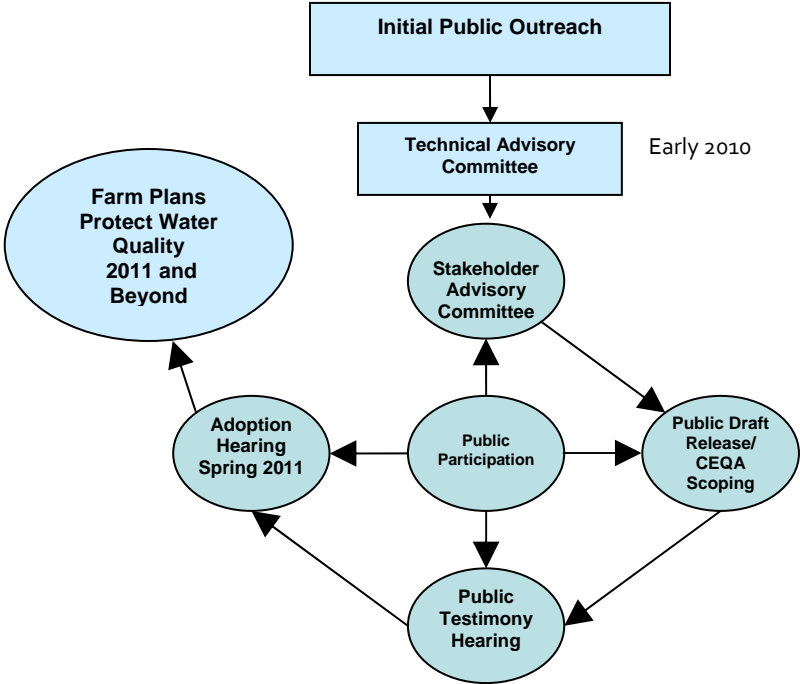
What’s next?

As a regulatory agency, the Water Board is charged with protecting water quality by setting standards that protect the beneficial uses of the Napa River and Sonoma Creek, and by developing and carrying out programs that achieve these standards. We welcome local stakeholder expertise and input on how to best achieve these standards.

The public process for developing this conditional waiver will include multiple components:

- 1) *Technical Advisory Committee*- Water Board staff will vet technical and scientific issues with local experts.
- 2) *Stakeholder Advisory Group*- Water Board staff will convene a local stakeholder advisory group to solicit input from stakeholders.
- 3) *Formally noticed workshops, comment periods, and hearings*- The general public may comment during the formal, traditional process. This includes a CEQA workshop, public Water Board hearings, and formally noticed comment periods.

The diagram below displays the process for waiver development. We are currently in the Initial Public Outreach stage. For more information, contact: Tina Low, TLow@waterboards.ca.gov



Questions & Answers:

Water Board Waiver Programs and Relationship to Napa River TMDLs

Below are Water Board staff responses to questions, submitted by Napa County Planning, regarding sediment TMDLs and pending conditional waivers.

1. Why is the waiver process being started when the State Board has not accepted the TMDL?

There are several reasons why we are moving forward with our waiver programs:

- a) Stakeholders and the public will have a better idea of what the requirements will be, and what compliance actions they'll need to undertake.
- b) Actions to control sediment, runoff, nutrients, and other pollutants can begin while the TMDL works its way through the approval process. The Regional Water Board is not required to wait for approval of the TMDL before developing regulatory programs.
- c) Starting the waiver development process now allows more time to build institutional capacity, develop third party programs, and conduct outreach and education.

2. When will the State Board hear the TMDL?

The State Board will consider the Sonoma Creek Watershed Sediment TMDL and Habitat Enhancement Plan on April 20, 2010. A date has not been set for the State Board to consider the Napa River Watershed Sediment TMDL and Habitat Enhancement Plan.

3. Are any changes expected from the State Board?

While we cannot predict what actions the State Board will take, staff does not expect significant changes to the TMDLs at the State Board approval stage.

4. When will the TMDL become effective (State Board hearing, Office of Admin Law, ...?)

The TMDL becomes formally incorporated into our Basin Plan when Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approves it. After the State Board approves the TMDL, it is sent to EPA. Because EPA has indicated strong support for both TMDLs, staff expects the EPA approval process to happen quickly (approx. 6 months). After EPA approval, OAL reviews it to make sure there are no legal conflicts. This process is usually about one or two months. However, the Regional Water Board can issue conditional waivers or conduct other permitting actions prior to this final approval step.

5. Are the compliance deadlines going to remain as noted in the RWQCB version?

Staff expects the deadlines will remain the same. However, changes as an outgrowth of the waiver development process are possible.

6. What is the vineyard waiver development timeline (in more detail than your flow chart in the notice)?

We expect to convene the Technical Advisory Committee next month (in May).

7. When are other waivers going to be developed (i.e., rural lands, public lands, ...)?

We are currently also working on the grazing waiver for the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds. Contact person is Rico Duazo (rduazo@waterboards.ca.gov) Development of other waivers is not currently assigned or staffed.

8. How will the vineyard waiver process be different/similar to Sonoma Co's?

The vineyard waiver will cover both the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds. We expect the process and elements to be the same for the most part.

9. What are the components of the water quality "farm plan" you mention in your notice?

In general, the farm plan includes a comprehensive assessment of the natural resources, agricultural lands, and management practices. Management Practices and other implementation projects must address all potential sources of pollutants, including: roads, surface erosion, chemical and fertilizer applications, excessive runoff, heat, and sediment delivery sites such as gullies, rills, and landslides.

Stay tuned for a draft of the waiver conditions for more details of the farm plan elements!

10. How expensive and/or comprehensive are these "plans?"

The cost will largely be determined by the actions each landowner chooses. The plans will need to cover the water quality concerns listed in response to 9, above.

11. Who prepares these "plans?"

The landowner is responsible for preparing the plan- the plan should be prepared by someone with the knowledge to prepare them. We encourage development of local technical assistance or third-party programs to assist landowners in preparing and implementing farm plans.

12. What is the approval process of these "plans?"

To be developed. In general, a landowner is enrolled and covered under the waiver when he/she submits the Notice of Intent (and/or other documentation to be specified in the waiver) AND is meeting all conditions of the waiver, especially the preparation and implementation of the farm plan. Properties that are a higher water quality risk will be more likely to receive more detailed review.

13. What size vineyards fall under the need for a “plan”/waiver or other state permit?

The threshold criteria are under development. We expect that parcel or vineyard size will be part of the criteria.

14. Does the slope and/or location of a vineyard play a role in need for compliance?

Yes. Slope and location of a vineyard will influence the actions necessary to prevent discharges of pollutants, as well as protection of riparian and stream areas.

15. Has the Technical Advisory Committee been established? Who is on it?

The TAC list has not been confirmed. Participation on the TAC will mostly be by invitation. The members will be experts in vineyard management, roads, erosion, hydrology, riparian functions, or related fields.

16. Who are the “stakeholders” and how will the Stakeholder Advisory Committee be formed?

Stakeholder can be anyone interested in the waiver- growers, non-profits, environmental groups, governmental agencies, etc. Anyone who represents an interest can participate in the Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

17. How will recommendations from the Technical and Stakeholder committee be utilized if there are conflict between them?

Both the Technical and Stakeholder committees are advisory- the Water Board will make decisions based upon the recommendations and other information.

18. Are the two above committees different between Napa and Sonoma counties?

No. Committees and outreach will be held jointly.

19. When can we expect workshops in Napa County?

We will announce the workshops as soon as we set the schedule. We will notify via our Lyris listserv. Interested parties are encouraged to sign up to receive notices at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg2_subscribe.shtml. In addition, Water Board staff is scheduled to attend and give presentations at the June meetings of the WICC Board, and the North Bay Watershed Council.

20. How does the vineyard waiver process ties to other TMDL and Water Board policy requirements (current and near future – pathogen, nutrient, instream flow, stream & wetland protection, and others)? The concern is that each regulatory requirement will

April 19, 2010

require separate permitting processes, time and money, or worse, be in conflict with one another. It would be helpful to know if the Regional and State Board staff are considering this and how they are planning to address the concern?

We hear this concern, and we are developing the waivers with the approach that each waiver will address all of the potential sources of nonpoint source pollution from the particular land use (i.e., vineyard or grazing). For vineyards, we expect that the relevant water quality concerns are sediment, nutrients, pesticides, heat (from anthropogenic changes to stream and riparian systems), stream and riparian health, and excessive runoff. The farm plan will need to address all of these issues. We are not permitting each of these pollutants separately. Likewise, the grazing waiver will likely address pathogens, sediment, and stream and riparian health. Of course, the waiver will not replace any other required permits- landowners will still need to obtain 401 permits for any work in the stream, permits from the appropriate wildlife agencies for potential impacts to special status species, etc. Staff from the Regional and Water Boards will coordinate to avoid conflicts, and encourage people to inform us of conflicts that we may not be aware of.



CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

FACT SHEET

Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands

SECTION 1. PURPOSE:

- This document has been prepared by staff of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) to provide clarification to the public on questions raised with respect to the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waivers.
- No regulation is either expressed or intended. Persons who discharge waste or propose to discharge waste to waters of the State are required to comply with the Water Code.
- This Fact Sheet may be revised from time to time, as appropriate.

SECTION 2. WHAT THE WATER CODE REQUIRES:

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (found in California Water Code, Division 7) is very broad in scope. The California Water Code regulates any person discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste within any region that could affect the quality of the waters of the State. The term "waste" is very broadly defined and the term "waters of the state" includes all surface water and groundwater within the State. The California Water Code applies to point sources and non-point sources. Persons who discharge waste (dischargers) can be regulated by the Water Board in several ways, including, for example, through prohibitions of discharge, waste discharge requirements (a permit), or a waiver of waste discharge requirements (individual or general). The Central Valley Water Board has adopted the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waivers to provide one way for dischargers to comply with the California Water Code.

What is a "discharge"?

A discharge would occur when any amount of wastewater that leaves your property enters surface waters of the State. The discharge does not have to be directly to surface water. For purposes of this program, it may first flow over a neighbor's property or through a toe drain along the edge of the field.

Who is a "discharger"?

A discharger may include persons, individuals, corporations, cities, special districts, farm owners, or tenant farmers who release waste that could affect the quality of the water of the State.

What is “waste”?

Waste is broadly defined in the California Water Code to include any and all waste substances that may include, but are not limited to soil, silt, sand, clay, rock, metals, salts, boron, selenium, potassium, nitrogen, pesticides, and fertilizers.

What are “waters of the State”?

Waters of the State include any surface or groundwater within the boundaries of the State. Waters of the State include, for example, natural streams, irrigation ditches or canals, ponds, agriculturally-dominated waterways, and constructed agricultural drains

SECTION 3. WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE CONDITIONAL WAIVERS:

The Conditional Waivers apply to discharges of waste from irrigated lands to surface waters of the State as a result of irrigation activities and storm water runoff, and as a result of certain water district operations. A discharge of waste to surface water subject to the Conditional Waiver is one that could directly or indirectly reach surface waters of the State, which include natural streams, constructed agricultural drains, agriculturally-dominated waterways, and other non-stream tributaries, or to other waters which may be hydrologically connected to such waters of the State. Direct discharges may include, for example, discharges directly from piping, tile drains, ditches or sheet flow to surface waters of the State. Indirect discharges may include, for example, discharges from one parcel to another parcel and then to surface waters of the State.

Is runoff from tailwater a discharge?

Yes, if it ultimately may reach a water of the State. However, if you recycle all tailwater, operate a “closed irrigation/drainage system, or use a high efficiency irrigation system, it may be possible to prevent tailwater runoff (discharges of waste) to surface waters.

Is runoff from storm water a discharge?

Yes, if it ultimately may reach a water of the State.

Is it possible to own or operate irrigated lands and not discharge?

Yes, it is possible, but a thorough site evaluation is recommended. In addition, you may consider consulting with technical or legal professionals to assist in better understanding your rights and obligations under the regulatory program.

How can I tell if I have runoff from my fields or property?

Whether you have irrigation or storm water runoff from your fields depends on a number of factors that may be evaluated by visually inspecting the field and/or consulting reference materials or professionals. These factors may include but are not limited to

site location and characteristics, the application rate of the water, existing soil moisture, the soil type, and the slope of the land.

What are some of the things I should keep in mind when evaluating my fields?

- Physical obstructions that keep water from running off your field; e.g., berms, roads, ponds, canal banks or other structures higher than surrounding land can capture and contain runoff.
- Historical drainage patterns.
- Conveyance facilities at or near the low spot(s) in fields.
- Proximity to conveyance facilities.
- Visual signs of erosion such as gullies or washouts that appear during or after irrigation or rainfall events.
- Field slope. Slopes greater than 1 or 2 percent for most soil types will result in runoff.
- If you are a member of an entity such as a drainage district that provides its members with access to pipes, canals or ditches to remove or drain tailwater or storm water in your area.

What if I do not directly discharge to surface water?

It does not matter. The discharge from your property does not need to be directly to a "surface water." If your irrigation or storm water runoff can flow across roads, through someone else's pasture or land, down a ditch, and eventually make it to surface water, then you are considered to have a discharge to surface water.

My land is located in an area of very little rainfall. Normally, rainwater that falls on my land infiltrates into the ground and does not run off the site. Are sites that only discharge under extreme rain events required to seek coverage under the Conditional Waiver?

The intent of the Conditional Waiver is to prioritize efforts with respect to storm water discharges from irrigated lands that occur during normal and slightly above normal rain events and not from rare or extreme storm events. The amount of rainfall that creates runoff under normal storm events varies throughout the region and is influenced by a number of factors. As a general rule, the Central Valley Water Board has prioritized its efforts on those storm events during which the combination of rainfall, soils, topography, and the layout of the operation and structures will not result in runoff to surface water from storm events that will not occur more than once every 25 years or so.

So if I do not have storm water runoff and I have no irrigation runoff, do I need to enroll in a conditional waiver? (For example, if I am on a drip system and have practices in place to prevent erosion?)

No. However, it is important to keep in mind that although drip systems are generally less likely than furrow or flood irrigation to result in runoff to waters of the State, there is still a potential effect on surface water if the system is not properly operated or

Conditional Waivers of
Waste Discharge Requirements for
Discharges from Irrigated Lands

maintained, and management practices are not adequate to prevent the movement of waste to surface waters.

What if a grower farms in more than one region?

Growers must comply with the regulatory requirements of the Water Board where the farm is located. However, all Water Boards rely on implementation of best management practices to protect water quality.

SECTION 4. WHAT THE CONDITIONAL WAIVERS REQUIRE

If you discharge waste from irrigated lands to surface waters of the State, you need to either file a Report of Waste Discharge (i.e., permit application), cease discharging, or obtain coverage under either the Individual Discharger or Coalition Group Conditional Waiver. The specific requirements for compliance can be found by getting information as identified below. However, the following conditions generally apply:

- Implement management practices to protect water.
- Comply with water quality standards.
- Conduct monitoring or join a Coalition Group that is conducting monitoring.
- Prevent pollution of surface water.
- Avoid nuisance conditions, such as odor.
- Pay applicable fees.

How do I get more information?

Additional information is available on the Central Valley Water Board's Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/programs/irrigated_lands/index.html

You may also send your questions and comments to Irrlands@waterboards.ca.gov or call program staff at (916) 464-3291 (an operator will direct your question or comment to the appropriate staff).

You may also sign up for email updates on the Central Valley Water Board's Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program by going to http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lyrisforms/reg5_subscribe.html and clicking on "Electronic Mailing List Subscription".

Approved: 

Date: 7-24-06

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Figure 1 - Zone Boundaries

DRAFT
(zone boundary modifications pending)
Revised on 10 June 2008



Water Quality Coalition Contact Information

Coalition Group Name	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone Number	Email Address	Brief Watershed Coverage	Regional Board Staff Contact
California Rice Commission	Tim Johnson Roberta Firoved	8801 Folsom Blvd. Suite 172 Sacramento, CA 95826	(916) 387-2264	tjohnson@calrice.org	Rice production in the Sacramento River basin (covers Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties). 500,000 rice acres.	Margaret Wong (916) 464-4857
				rfiroved@calrice.org		
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition	Wayne Zipser (Stanislaus County Farm Bureau)	Stanislaus County Farm Bureau PO Box 3070 Modesto, CA 95353-3070	(209) 522-7278	Waynez@stanfarmbureau.org	Farmlands encompassed by the lower Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced River subwatersheds (primary eastside tributaries to the San Joaquin River) and that fall into Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Calveras, Mariposa and Tuolumne counties. 1,187,000 irrigated acres.	Dania Huggins (916) 464-4843
	Parry Klassen (CURES)		(559) 646-2224 (559) 288-8125 (cell)	pklassen@unwiredbb.com		
Goose Lake Water Quality Coalition	Herb Jasper	PO Box 212 New Pine Creek, OR 97635	(530) 946-4196	bry.jasper@oregonstate.edu	Goose Lake watershed: border of northeastern California and south central Oregon at the north, eastern edge of the Great Basin Province. Bounded by Warner Mountain Range in Modoc County.	Ben Letton (530) 224-4129
Pleasant Valley Water Quality Coalition	Rod Stiefvater	2985 Airport Drive Madera, CA 93637	(559) 994-7784	rstiefvater@speccrop.com	Pleasant Valley WQC is bound by Anticline Ridge on the north, the Jacalitos and Kreyenhagen Hills on the west, and the Gujarral and Kettleman Hills to the east. Los Gatos, Wathan, Jacalitos and Zapato Chino Creeks have their headwaters west of the District. 23, 772 irrigated acres.	Brent Vanderburgh (559) 488-4382
Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition	Bruce Houdelsheldt	Northern California Water Association 455 Capitol Mall, Suite. 335 Sacramento, CA 95814	(916) 442-8333	bruceh@norcalwater.org	Irrigated Lands within Sacramento River Basin (includes all or portions of Amador, Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Lake, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties). 2,145,000 irrigated acres. For a list of subwatershed group coordinators, go to: http://www.svwqc.org/pdf/SVWQC_subwatershed_coordinators.pdf	Susan Fregien (916) 464-4813
	Donn Zea (NCWA)					
San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition	John Brodie (San Joaquin County RCD)	3422 W. Hammer Lane Suite A Stockton, CA 95219	(209) 472-7127 ext 118	rvanglr@yahoo.com	Includes San Joaquin County and the eastern portion of Contra Costa County, and a small area in the notheastern portion on Alameda County along with a small portion in Calaveras County. There are three major tributaries: the San Joaquin, Mokelumne, and Calaveras rivers. 548,362 irrigated acres.	Chris Jimmerson (916) 464-4859
	Mike Wackman (San Joaquin County RCD)		(916) 684-9359	info@sjdeltawatershed.org michaelkw@msn.com		
Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition	David Orth (Kings River Conservation District)	4886 East Jensen Avenue Fresno, CA 93725	(559) 476-0539 or (559) 237-5567	dorth@krcd.org	The SSJVWQ encompasses the entire Tulare Lake Basin (4.4 million acres) and is comprised of 4 subwatershed groups (Kings, Kaweah, Tule, and Kern River Subwatershed Groups). (Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern counties).	Alan Cregan (559) 445-6185
	Bill Thomas		916-325-4000	william.thomas@bbklaw.com		
Westlands Water District	Susan Ramos	P.O. Box 6056 Fresno, CA 93703	(559) 241-6215	sramos@westlandswater.org	Area on the westside of Fresno and Kings counties that encompasses 600,000 acres of farmland located at the base of the Diablo Range of the California Coast Mountain Range from Mendota to Kettleman City.	Brent Vanderburgh (559) 488-4382
	Orvil McKinnis		(559) 241-6242	omckinnis@westlandswater.org		
Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition	Joseph McGahan (Summers Engineering)	887 N. Irwin Street (P.O. Box 1122) Hanford, CA 93232	(559) 582-9237	jmcgahan@summerseng.com	Area primarily on the west side of the San Joaquin River from the Stanislaus River on the north to 10 miles south of Mendota on the south. This area covers approx. 550,000 acres and includes irrigated agriculture as well as private, state and federal wetlands areas. (Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, and Fresno counties).	Mark Commandatore (916) 464-4624

The North Bay Watershed Association

Working across boundaries to foster stewardship of water resources in the San Francisco North Bay



The North Bay

A green jewel at the top of San Francisco Bay

The North Bay is the most rural part of the Bay Area, with expansive open spaces and a relaxed pace of life. Beyond the Highway 101 corridor along the west side of the North Bay, there are large public parks, vineyards and ranches, and small towns rich in history. The North Bay's waterways harbor populations of steelhead trout, now rare throughout California, and many other species of birds, plants, and animals, whose survival depends on the safe-keeping of natural places. More of the North Bay's people use water from local sources than elsewhere around the Bay. The North Bay watershed covers eastern Marin County, southern Sonoma County, southern Napa County, and portions of Solano County. The watershed is defined by the valleys around its streams. The 2065

miles of streams that flow through the watersheds of the North Bay include:

- the small urbanized creeks of Marin County
- the winding, tidal Petaluma River
- Sonoma Creek in the Valley of the Moon
- the Napa River, our largest stream

Most water source areas and lands around streams are privately owned. Therefore, efforts to improve watershed health must focus on coordination, education, and obtaining voluntary buy-in. The North Bay offers great opportunities for environmental restoration, and the promise of achieving sustainable water management.

Watershed Facts

- North Bay watersheds cover 850 sq. mi., or 25% of local watersheds draining into the bay.
- Nearly a half-million people live in the North Bay, less than 8% of the population of the entire Bay area.

- Water supply includes both substantial imports and many private wells.
- Water quality in most streams is adequate to support steelhead, but the legacy of land uses is excess erosion and high sediment levels.

North Bay Watershed Association Goals

- Influence public policies, programs & regulations
- Work collectively on issues of common interest
- Increase eligibility for watershed project funding
- Educate communities about the importance of watershed stewardship

Benefits

to NBWA members

- Respond proactively and collectively to regulations
- Share information and resources among members

- Shape new regulations with a unified strong voice
- Reach a broader audience with education campaigns

to the North Bay

- Better water quality
- More reliable water supply
- Better educated citizenry

- Improved habitat in our streams and watersheds

to Watershed Council members

- Access to decision-makers
- Financial support for projects
- Network and partner with like-minded organizations

What We Have Achieved

The North Bay Watershed Association has improved the management of the North Bay's water resources through many projects.

Research

- Creates a consistent approach to measuring water shed health across the diverse North Bay.

Restoration

- Enhances instream, riparian, and upland habitats in all watersheds, and reduce runoff from developed areas, to achieve regulatory water quality targets.

Policy

- Helps water agencies design projects that achieve multiple benefits, such as water supply and habitat, or groundwater recharge and stormwater management.

Coordination

- Coordinates multi-agency water planning in the North Bay and in the Bay Area. Because of NBWA, the North Bay is considered a leader in forging agreements among agencies on priorities for watershed management.

Education

- Biannual conference with cutting-edge speakers.
- Involves children in restoration and monitoring of local creeks.
- Supports a high school pollution prevention program.

The Association sponsors the North Bay Watershed Council, a roundtable of nonprofits, regulatory agencies, community groups, and landowner assistance groups from every watershed in the NBWA region. The Council provides input to the Association, benefits from the Association's support, and translates the Associations' objectives into actions in communities and watersheds across the North Bay. For a list of Watershed Council members and NBWA member agencies see www.nbwatershed.org.

Join Us

Meetings are open to interested parties. See the meetings page of our website for the schedule.

The North Bay Watershed Association was created to promote stewardship of the North Bay watershed by assisting local and regional public agencies to work together on water issues that cross traditional boundaries. Member agencies discuss issues of common interest, explore ways to collaborate on regional water projects, and share information about projects, regulations, and technical issues.

Contact:

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