



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 28, 2008, 9:00 AM
Windsor Council Chambers
9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, CA 95492

A G E N D A

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Standing Items**
 - A. Minutes: June 5, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting
- 4. Guest Speaker**

Regulatory and Legislative Update (Craig Johns)
- 5. BOD Business**
 - A. IRWMP Update (*Grow*)
 - B. FY 2008-2009 RRWA Work Preview (*Richardson/Grow*)
 - C. Russian River First Flush Funding - Board Decision
- 6. Working Group Activities**
 - A. Working Group Activities (*Grow*)
Next meeting: September 9, 2008 (8:30 AM – 10:00 AM)
- 7. Items of Interest**
- 8. Public Comment**
- 9. Adjourn**

**MINUTES
RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

Minutes for the regular meeting of the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) Board of Directors.

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Windsor Town Council Chambers

Directors Present. Directors present included:

Mike Kirn	City of Healdsburg
Nina Regor	City of Cloverdale
Glen Wright	City of Santa Rosa
Richard Burt	Town of Windsor
Robin Goble	Town of Windsor
Mari Rodin	City of Ukiah

Directors present represented a quorum of 5 out of the 9 RRWA participants.

Board Actions.

1. Call to order. (Robin Goble, acting Chair). Ms. Goble called the meeting/conference call to order at 9:15 a.m. and everyone introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved with no modifications.
3. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of June 5, 2008. The minutes were approved with no modifications.
4. Guest Speakers. (Craig Johns, California Resource Strategies). Craig Johns gave a presentation on current regulatory and legislative issues of relevance to the watershed. The slides from Mr. Johns' presentation are attached.
5. Board Business.
 - A. IRWMP Update. Coastal Management Plan project proposals were submitted in February. Project proposal funding requests totaled approximately \$5.5 million. Although the North Coast's proposal was again the top-ranked submittal, the SWRCB has recommended only partial funding (~\$2.2 million). Prop 84 draft guidelines may be available sometime later this summer but continued delays in the approval of the State budget will affect this schedule.
 - B. FY 2008-2009 RRWA Work Preview. Phoebe Grow (RRWA) delivered a presentation on planned RRWA activities to be undertaken as part of 2008-2009 Work Plan (July 2008 through June 2009). Board of Directors, Working Group, and strategic planning activities were discussed along with RRWA's outreach strategies (environmental column, student video contest, website etc) and RRWA's programs (stormwater, collection systems, mercury pollution prevention etc.).
 - C. Russian River First Flush Funding - Board Decision Phoebe Grow and Dave Richardson (RRWA) delivered a presentation on options for RRWA participation in and funding of Russian River First Flush (RRFF) 2008. It was decided by the BOD that only interested agencies would provide funding for RRFF 2008. This funding would be separate from funds already allocation in the 2008-2009 RRWA Work Plan.
6. Working Group Activities. Ongoing and planned Working Group activities were discussed as part of the "2008-2009 Work Preview" presentation (see above). The next Working Group meeting will occur on September 9, 2008.

Minutes - Continued

7. Items of Interest. No items of interest.
8. Public Comment. No public comment.
9. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Windsor Council Chambers
Windsor Town Hall, Building 400
9291 Old Redwood Highway
Windsor, CA 95492

FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday, December 11, 2008

Russian River Watershed Association
Regulatory & Legislative Briefing
August 28, 2008



Russian River Watershed Association

Regulatory & Legislative Briefing

August 28, 2008

Craig Johns
California Resource Strategies, Inc.



Russian River Watershed Association
Regulatory & Legislative Briefing
August 28, 2008




Key Regulatory Issues

- State Board Policy on Recycled Water
- State Board General Permit for Use of Recycled Water for Landscape Irrigation
- State Board Wetland and Riparian Habitat Policy
- State Board Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows
- North Coast Regional Board's "Incidental Runoff" Basin Plan Amendment




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SWRCB Recycled Water Policy

- **Current Status**
 - State Board hearing March 18; Consensus objection by Enviro NGOs and Water Recyclers to the February 15 draft
 - State Board decided to continue hearing – allowing NGOs and Water Recyclers to develop consensus recommendations
 - Stakeholders have made significant progress over past few months
 - Major sticking points:
 - Water Recyclers maintain that recycled water is a resource that should be beneficially reused
 - Enviro NGOs maintain that recycled water is treated sewage, remains dangerous, and *must* be highly regulated
 - State Board will hold hearing on September 2nd to discuss status




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State Board's General Permit for Use of Recycled Water for Landscape Irrigation

- Intended primarily to address issue of incidental runoff of recycled water used for landscape irrigation
- **Published Schedule:**
 - May 08 - CEQA Scoping
 - November 08 - Draft Permit and State Board Workshops
 - July 09 – State Board approval
- **CEQA Scoping Session – June 18, 2008**
 - State Board needs to assess environmental and energy impacts associated with "doing nothing"



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State Board's Wetland & Riparian Habitat Policy

- Intended to “make consistent” statewide wetland and riparian habitat permit-related decisions
- Follows closely on heels of North Coast and SF Bay Regional Board policy development
- State Board adopted three-phase effort
 - Phase I: establish policy to protect wetlands from dredge & fill
 - develop statewide definition of “wetland”
 - develop regulatory mechanism to include “watershed focus”
 - develop assessment method to quantify mitigation success
 - Phase II: expand scope to protect wetlands from all other activities
 - develop “new beneficial use definitions”
 - consider new water quality objectives
 - develop program to implement new water quality objectives
 - Phase III: extend policy to protect all “riparian areas”
 - develop “new beneficial use definitions”
 - consider new water quality objectives
 - develop program to implement new water quality objectives




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State Board's Wetland & Riparian Habitat Policy

- Status
 - Phase I CEQA Scoping Sessions held last week in Sacramento and Southern California
 - Written comment period open until September 8th
 - Focused stakeholder meetings - October/November '08
 - Expect draft policy and FED – February 2009
 - Phases II and III to sequentially follow
- Key Issues – Phase I
 - Wetlands definition – should state adopt Corps Guidelines?
 - Mitigation requirements – focus on functionality and longevity
 - Assessment protocols and staffing needs statewide for determining *both* protection of wetlands *and* mitigation success



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State Board Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams

- WC §1259.4 (AB2121) requires State Board to adopt principles and guidelines for maintaining instream flows, for purposes of water rights administration
- Primary purpose to protect anadromous salmonid habitat; will likely result in decreased seasonal water diversions
- First draft policy released December 28, 2007; modifications in January and March of 2008
- “Hundreds” of written comments received – vast majority a “template email”
- Public Workshops held August 5 & 6



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North Coast Regional Board's “Low-Threat” Discharge Basin Plan Amendment

- Quick Review
 - Basin Plan currently has an absolute seasonal prohibition of any point source discharges (May 15-September 30)
 - Many producers and users of recycled water concerned about expanding reuse projects due to regulatory uncertainty and risk
 - August 2004 – Santa Rosa submits proposed Basin Plan Amendment language
 - August 2005 - CEQA Scoping meeting on proposed BPA
 - April 2007 - Second CEQA Scoping meeting
 - January 2008 – Santa Rosa notifies Regional Board that Urban Reuse Project on “hold” until BPA adopted by Regional Board
- Status
 - June 4, 2008 – Governor declares statewide drought emergency
 - Regional Board supposed to consider BPA in September '08



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Legislation of Interest

- State Board's "Water Quality Improvement Initiative"
- AB 2986 (Leno) – Collection & Treatment Grading System
- AB 2270 (Laird) – Water Softners
- AB 2425 (Coto) – Pharmaceuticals & Water Quality
- SCR 126 (Simitian) – "No Drugs Down the Drain Week"




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State Water Board's "Water Quality Improvement Initiative"

- Released May 28, 2008 by State Water Board
- Response to Sen. Perata's persistent efforts to drastically reform the Regional Boards (SB 1176; SB 1001)
- Some believe that the Administration and Legislative Democrats will cut a deal on Water Boards reform as part of overall Budget Compromise this Summer; looking less likely at this point
- *So what's included in the State Board's WQII:*




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State Water Board's "Water Quality Improvement Initiative"

- "10% Rule" relaxation
- Delegation of NPDES permit issuance to Executive Officers
- Full-time Regional Board Chairs
- Reduction in size of Regional Boards from 9 to 7
- New CEQA exemption for TMDLs
- Civil Penalties for submitting "any false statement" in reports to Regional Board
- District Attorney enforcement of Water Code violations
- Expediting MMP payments
- Creation of "Water Quality Council"
- "Emergency Regulations"




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AB 2986 (Leno)

- Introduced in response to Southern Marin sewage spills
- Requires State Board to develop "grading system" for sewer collection systems and WWTPs by July 1, 2010
- After January 2011, requires State Board to issue "letter grades" every year to collection systems and WWTPs
 - For collection systems, grading based on number, volume and cause of sanitary sewer overflows for each 100 miles of sewer line
 - For WWTPs, grading based solely on number and type of permit violations
- "Peaking factor" issues
 - "Ratio of peak wet weather flows in sewer lines compared to average dry weather flows"
 - Requires State Board to maintain list of agencies that exceed acceptable peaking factors
 - Satellite sewer systems would have to have flow meters installed



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AB 2270 (Laird)

- Requires State Board to update statewide recycled water targets every five years
- Requires urban water management plans to include projections of potential recycled water use in plan area
- Relaxes MRR reporting requirements slightly
- Allows local agencies that maintain community sewer system to regulate self-regenerating water softeners if Regional Board makes appropriate finding

• **Passed Legislature on August 12th; waiting for Governor's action**




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AB 2425 (Coto)

- Would require Dept. of Health Services to “*convene working group of interested parties to further public knowledge about pharmaceuticals in public drinking water supplies.*”
- Working Group would make recommendations to Legislature and Governor by September 1, 2009

• **Bill held on “suspense” August 7th**




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SCR 126 (Simitian)


- Introduced August 4, 2008
- Declares the week of October 4-11, 2008 as “**No Drugs Down the Drain Week**” for the state
- Approved unanimously by consent
- **Enrolled August 26th**



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Questions ?



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