



## RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SESSION

March 10, 2009, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM  
Windsor Town Council Chambers  
9291 Redwood Road, Windsor, CA 95492

### **A G E N D A**

- 1. Greetings and Introductions**
- 2. North Coast IRWMP Update**
- 3. RRWA Programs Updates**
  - Stormwater Items
  - Environmental Column
  - Student Environmental Column
  - Mercury Program
- 4. Forum and Advocacy**
  - Comment Letters
- 5. Work Planning for 2009-2010**
  - Work Plan Approved by BOD at 2/26/09 meeting
- 6. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**
  - Agenda for March 16, 2009 meeting with RWQCB EO
  - April 14, 2009 TWG Meeting
- 7. Items of Interest**
- 8. Public Comment**
- 9. Adjourn**

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*Meeting Summary (prepared by RRWA staff Phoebe Grow and Adrienne Aiona)*

**1. Greetings and Introductions (8:37 a.m.)**

Attendees:

Cristina Goulart, Cotati / W&K  
Adrienne Aiona, RRWA  
Phoebe Grow, RRWA  
Forest Frasier, City of Santa Rosa  
Terry Macute, County Env Health  
Jim Tyler, County Env Health  
Shiko Njuno, City of Cotati  
Eydie Tacata, City of Rohnert Park

Michelle Julene, SC Regional Parks  
Susan Keach, SCWA  
Martin St. George, Santa Rosa  
Diane Lesko, SCWA  
Corbin Johnson, SC Regional Parks  
Ken Krout, SC Regional Parks  
Rick Seanor, Ukiah  
Dave Smith, Consultant to Santa Rosa  
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa

**2. North Coast IRWMP Update**

Lisa Renton (SCWA) e-mailed an update on North Coast IRWMP activities and the IRWM funding outlook to RRWA staff. Highlights of this update included:

- The North Coast IRWMP Prop 50, Round 1 implementation grant was included on the bond suspension exemption list, which means that now that the state budget has been passed our North Coast projects are allowed to resume work and that outstanding invoices will be paid.
- The North Coast IRWMP planning and Round 2 implementation grants did not make the Pooled Money Investment Board's exemption list and are still in a holding pattern. We anticipate work on these grants to resume again once the state has successfully sold bonds.
- The North Coast IRWMP Policy Review Panel submitted a letter of support to the Department of Water Resources on their Regional Acceptance Process guidelines (a new requirement for Prop 84 and 1E funds). The North Coast is tracking this process closely and feels confident that our IRWMP will satisfy the State's requirements.
- Members of the North Coast IRWMP Policy Review Panel and Technical Peer Review Committee met on Feb 26th in Weaverville, CA to discuss regional efforts underway to identify energy independence and other climate projects that may be eligible for federal funding opportunities and to outline an approach for inclusion of these efforts within the North Coast IRWM Plan. A summary of the meeting is posted at [www.northcoastirmwp.net](http://www.northcoastirmwp.net).

**3. RRWA Programs Updates**

Stormwater Items

- LID Resources: RRWA staff forwarded a list of online LID resources compiled by Mona Dougherty at the RWQCB.
- Phase II Forum: Adrienne Aiona (RRWA) gave an update on the Statewide Stormwater Phase II permit. Currently, the Phase II Permit is on hold while the SWQCB forms a Technical Advisory Committee to provide recommendations on new development standards. The hope is to have a draft of the permit out by the end of the quarter. Based on this the group decided to postpone the Phase II Forum, originally scheduled for April, to May.

### Environmental Column

- Corbin Johnson wrote the March environmental column on PRMD's project to install water conservation saving landscaping at County facilities.
- Lisa Steinman at the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency will write the April environmental column on properly securing loads.

### Trash Program

Susan Keach mentioned that there was lots of talk about trash at a recent conference she attended and thinks the Regional Board is moving toward regulations on trash. It is noted that the draft Municipal Regional Permit for the Bay Area (Region 2) contains significant provisions related to trash.

### Safe Medicine Disposal

- Discussion about the possibility of setting up a SMD take back site at the County Center. Susan reported that she is getting resistance from the sheriff and will try a different approach. Jim Thayer mentioned that the HIV clinic at County Health Department has a pharmacist that may be willing to host a take back location but wanted to know more about the time commitment required.
- Now that we are taking liquids and gels we need to update the protocols for all of our take back locations. Susan will work on this in the near future.

### Student Environmental Column

RRWA staff are coordinating the Student Environmental Column Contest. Letters will be sent to schools this week. Up to six winners will be selected and awarded \$100 cash prizes. Participating schools will be the same as those for the Video Contest. Janice Gilligan, Martin St. George and Shiko Njuno are assisting with the development of this project. TWG members provided feedback on the draft column topics.

### Mercury Program

- On March 27<sup>th</sup> Martin and Susan will staff a table at the Redwood Dental Society Meeting on Laws and Regulations to answer questions on the new amalgam separator regulations.
- Letters are going out to dentists on March 11<sup>th</sup> about the amalgam code. The code has only been passed in Santa Rosa and Sebastopol. Rohnert Park and Cotati still have to adopt the code.
- Stephanie Hughes (subcontractor to RRWA) is scheduled to present amalgam handling to Santa Rosa Junior College dental assistants this fall. Although this presentation will occur after June 30, 2009, it will, however, be funded through the RRWA '08-'09 Work Plan. Stephanie will also coordinate with Martin St. George so that Santa Rosa has the necessary materials and contacts to carry out these presentations in future years.

## **4. Forum and Advocacy**

### Stream Maintenance Program:

Christy Kennedy (RRWA) drafted a comment letter on the SCWA Stream Maintenance Program that RRWA will submit. The draft letter was sent to the TWG for review. The TWG discussed a meeting about the program with a presentation from SCWA. Michelle Julene and Diane Lesko commented that the meeting gave a good overview of the history of the program and that they got good public comments. Michelle mentioned that development of the SMP was a long process and that SCWA is hoping to get blanket program permits for SMP activities.

### SCWA Water EIR:

RRWA was planning on drafting a comment letter on the SCWA Water Project EIR but Jennifer Burke pointed out that the deadline is today. Due to this confusion no comment letter will be submitted.

### Safe Medicine Disposal Comment Letter to the Drug Enforcement Letter

Christy Kennedy (RRWA) is drafting a comment letter to the DEA discussing our Safe Medicine Disposal program. The DEA has an open request for information about SMD programs and how they operate. The

DEA will use the information gathered to reconsider the handling of controlled substances in these programs. This letter will be sent for review soon.

North Bay Water Reuse Authority Recycled Water Program Comment Letter

The North Bay Water Reuse Authority is developing a plan to use recycled water in the North Bay. The TWG decided that RRWA would like to provide a letter of support to help promote regional use of recycled water. Diane mentioned that the NBWA provided a letter of support. RRWA will contact NBWA and work off of their letter to develop ours. Further information about the North Bay Water Reuse Authority is available at <http://www.nbwra.org/>.

Suggested Issues for Other Comment Letters:

- Dave Smith suggested commenting on the low threat discharge general permit that will be considered at the June or July RWQCB meeting.
- Jim Tyler discussed the proposal to increase use of grey water at the State level. This would revise the plumbing code to allow this. PRMD has a committee following this, the chair is James Johnson. Diane Lesko mentioned that the State Housing and Community Development Committee is the one considering this issue. This would also be a good topic for an environmental column.

**5. Work Planning for 2009-2010**

The 2009-10 RRWA Work Plan was approved at the BOD meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Future Meetings and Agenda Items:**

Meeting with Cat Kulhman, RWQCB Executive Officer March 16th

Phoebe Grow (RRWA) provided the draft agenda for the March 16th meeting between Dave Richardson (RRWA Executive Director) and Cat Kuhlman (RWQCB Executive Officer). Dave Smith recommended adding discussion of a potential Basin Plan Amendment to allow for the consideration of mixing zones when setting effluent limitations for non-toxic constituents such as nitrate.

Next TWG meeting: April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Items of Interest:**

- Jim Thayer mentioned that the PRMD is meeting on their well ordinance today. The current ordinance requires decommissioning wells that do not meet water quality standards. The new ordinance will allow for treatment.
- Martin St. George gave an update on AB885 (proposed septic system regulations, more info at [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/septic\\_tanks/](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/septic_tanks/)). The state received a large volume of negative comments on the proposed regulations. Randy Leach at PRMD is following this issue. RRWA will check in with Sotoyome RCD to see if any progress has been made on their safe septic program.

**8. Public Comment:** No public comment

**9. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.