



## RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SESSION

July 14, 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**
    - Phase II permit update/ Phase II Forum LID topic/scheduling
  - **Environmental Column**
  - **Trash Program**
  - **First Flush Brochure**
- 4. Forum and Advocacy**
  - **Comment Letters (completed & future)**
    - Draft Phase I Permit comment letter and RWQCB July 22 meeting
  - **Report from June 11 meeting with RWQCB Executive Officer and RWQCB staff**
  - **Agenda for next meeting with RWQCB Executive Officer and RWQCB staff (Sept 16, 2009)**
- 5. Review of '08-'09 Work Plan / Overview of '09-'10 Work Plan**
- 6. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**
  - **July 30, 2009 BOD Meeting**
  - **August 11, 2009 TWG Meeting**
- 7. Items of Interest**
- 8. Public Comment**
- 9. Adjourn**

**RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**  
**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SESSION**  
July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM  
Windsor Town Council Chambers  
9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor CA

*Meeting Summary (prepared by RRWA staff Phoebe Grow & Virginia Porter)*

**1. Greetings and Introductions (8:45)**

Attendees:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| - Phoebe Grow, RRWA                  | - Forest Frasier, City of Santa Rosa                    |
| - Virginia Porter, RRWA              | - Janice Gilligan, County of Sonoma PRMD                |
| - Ken Krout, So. Co. Regional Parks  | - Cristina Goulart, Winzler & Kelly for Town of Windsor |
| - Craig Scott, Town of Windsor       | - Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah                            |
| - Patrick Givone, Town of Windsor    | - Lauren McPhaul, City of Ukiah                         |
| - 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:

- **Regional Acceptance Process** – The North Coast IRWMP was the first of 46 Regional Acceptance Process interviews. DWR wrapped up their interviews in early July and plans to release their draft RAP recommendation list for public comment in August.
- **Prop 50, Round 1 Implementation Projects** – The funding freeze is finally over! Humboldt County received a check from the State Water Resources Control Board on June 29<sup>th</sup> for more than \$3 million in payments for our outstanding Prop 50 invoices. Checks were sent via overnight mail to North Coast project proponents and all have been received. The State Water Resources Control Board has approved our request to extend our work through 2012.
- **Prop 50, Round 2 Contract Update** – The projects included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding did not make the Pooled Money Investment Board’s exemption list and are still in a holding pattern. Lisa will continue to keep you all posted as we receive news.
- **The North Coast IRWMP Policy Review Panel and Technical Peer Review Committee** met in Eureka, CA on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting summary will be posted on the North Coast IRWMP website shortly. The PRP discussed the integration of energy independence initiatives into the North Coast IRWMP and authorized staff to develop comment letters and pursue state and federal energy/climate funding opportunities utilizing the North Coast IRWMP process. The PRP is currently reviewing a white paper on the integration of these elements into the North Coast plan which, once approved, will be posted to the North Coast IRWMP website.
- **The North Coast Regional News** section of the website has been updated for July to include upcoming meetings, workshops, conferences as well as updates on funding opportunities, local, regional, state and national news and publications. The website address is [www.northcoastirwmp.net](http://www.northcoastirwmp.net) and can also be accessed through the RRWA website: [www.rrwatershed.org](http://www.rrwatershed.org).
- **Russian River Stakeholders Meeting** – RRWA is working with West Coast Watershed (Karen Gaffney) to coordinate a stakeholder meeting in the early fall of 2009 modeled on a meeting conducted earlier this year in Trinity County. The meeting will focus on the differences between Prop 50 IRWMP and Prop 84 IRWMP focusing on the climate change and energy independence elements. The meeting has been scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Villa Chanticleer in Healdsburg. A “Save the Date” e-mail will be sent out soon.

### 3. RRWA Programs Updates

#### Stormwater Items

- **Phase II permit:** A draft of the Phase II Permit is currently being developed by the State Water Resources Control Board. Phoebe Grow of RRWA will be calling into the next CASQA Phase II Sub-Committee call on July 17 in order to stay up to date on developments with the Phase II permit.
- **RRWA Phase II Forum:** There may be an opportunity to talk about the draft LID Manual being prepared by the Sonoma County Water Agency sometime in the near future. RRWA is in communication with SCWA and its consultants about this matter.
- **CASQA membership:** The group briefly discussed how membership in CASQA (California Stormwater Quality Association) is a useful way to stay up to date on a variety of stormwater topics and issues. CASQA membership brochures were made available for Working Group attendees. More information about CASQA membership is available at <http://www.casqa.org/Membership/tabid/57/Default.aspx>.

#### Environmental Column: RRWA columns were discussed:

- **July column:** Janice Gilligan (Sonoma County PRMD) authored a column on non-stormwater runoff. Thanks Janice!
- **August column:** Jennifer Burke (City of Santa Rosa) will write a column on rainwater harvesting/grey water use.
- **September column:** Susan Keach (SCWA) will write a column about safe medicines disposal.
- **Future columns:** Future columns may address topics such as pet waste and mercury (student environmental column contest winning column). It was also discussed that a column on preparing your property for the rainy season could be a good topic for the October column. Such a column could provide information on topics such as changing the settings on irrigation timers and taking actions to minimize stormwater runoff and stormwater pollution.

#### Trash Program

- RRWA, SCWMA and MCWMA have finalized the flyer about properly securing loads. SCWMA has provided the graphic design services and MCWMA will provide Spanish translation. The flyer was shown at the meeting.
- Lisa Steinman is coordinating the installation of signs at the Central Disposal Site (500 Meham Rd.) and four transfer stations (Healdsburg, Annapolis, Sonoma, and Guerneville). The signs say “Cover Your Load – It’s the Law!” in English and Spanish.

#### First Flush Brochure

- RRWA staff shared the latest draft of the First Flush brochure. RRWA had previously circulated this draft brochure to the individuals that volunteered to assist in the review - Eydie Tacata (Rohnert Park), Jennifer Burke and Forest Frasier (Santa Rosa), Sierra Cantor (Sotoyome RCD) and Don McEnhill (Russian Riverkeeper). The comments from this small group were incorporated. The assembled Working Group had no significant comments on the content of the brochure but did note one small editorial correction. RRWA will make this change and finalize the brochure. The brochure will be posted on RRWA’s website. It was also noted that the 2007 and 2008 Russian River First Flush reports prepared by Sotoyome RCD and Russian Riverkeeper are now available online on the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board webpage relating to the draft Phase I permit [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/hot\\_topics/santa\\_rosa\\_ms4\\_npdes\\_stormwater\\_permit/](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/hot_topics/santa_rosa_ms4_npdes_stormwater_permit/).

#### **4. Forum and Advocacy**

##### Completed Comment Letter - North Bay Water Reuse Authority Recycled Water Program

- RRWA submitted a letter of support for the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA) project (<http://www.nbwra.org>) on June 26th. After being discussed the May 14th Board of Directors meeting and the June 9th Working Group meeting, the draft letter was circulated to RRWA's general e-mail distribution list for comment. No substantial comments on the letter were received although it was noted that if RRWA supports water reuse projects in other regions, we should also voice our support for local reuse projects.

##### Pending Oral Comments – Draft Phase I Stormwater Permit

- A revised draft of the Phase I Permit was released on May 22. RRWA submitted written comments on the revised draft on July 6 and RRWA plans to present oral comments on the revised draft permit at the NCRWQCB meeting scheduled for July 22. RRWA comments are intended to compile/summarize the basic concerns of the three Phase I agencies (SCWA, Santa Rosa & Sonoma Co.) that are also of general interest to our Phase IIs (Cotati, Rohnert Park, Windsor, Healdsburg, Windsor and Ukiah). The Working Group reviewed summaries of the written comments submitted by the three Phase I agencies. The Working Group discussed that RRWA's oral comments at the July 22 meeting should focus on three main areas: 1. Provisions of the draft permit that place heavy financial burdens on the co-permittees without resulting in commensurate water quality benefits; 2. Extent to which the draft permit does not acknowledge past efforts of the co-permittees and conditions specific to our region 3. Inappropriate inclusion of the 1995 Laguna de Santa Rosa Waste Reduction Strategy as a TMDL.

##### Ongoing Advocacy Item – Low Threat Discharge Basin Plan Amendment (BPA)

- The RWQCB will consider the Low Threat Discharge BPA for adoption on July 23. RRWA has been following this issue for several years. The Working Group suggested that it would be appropriate for RRWA to speak in support of the BPA at the meeting on July 23. Virginia Porter may speak on behalf of RRWA at this meeting.

##### Summary of June 11 Meeting with RWQCB Executive Officer and RWQCB Staff:

- RRWA (Jake Mackenzie, Dave Richardson, Phoebe Grow and Virginia Porter) met with Catherine Kuhlman (RWQCB Executive Officer) and some of her staff (John Short and David Leland) on June 11. Topics of discussion included the upcoming renewals of the Phase I and Phase II stormwater permits, pending and potential Basin Plan Amendments, and the SWRCB Order relating to in-stream flow requirements and water conservation. RRWA also gave the RWQCB staff an update on recent RRWA activities. RWQCB staff noted that RRWA could potentially help in disseminating information about Low Impact Development (LID) and that there may be a role for RRWA in regional coordination related to salt and nutrient management plans.

##### Agenda for Next Meeting with RWQCB Executive Officer and RWQCB Staff:

- RRWA plans to again meet with Catherine Kuhlman and some of her staff in September 2009. Working Group members were invited to suggest topics for the agenda. No specific suggestions were made. This item will also be discussed at the August and September Working Group meetings.

#### **5. Review of '08-'09 Work Plan /Preview of '09-'10 Work Plan**

The Working Group reviewed the '09-'10 Work Plan. The Outreach Strategies and Forum and Advocacy programs are similar to previous years but slightly scaled back in response to budget concerns. One of the new projects for '09-'10 is coordination of the review of the Russian River Friendly Landscape Guidelines that will be prepared by the City of Santa Rosa. Jennifer Burke (City of Santa Rosa) reported that Santa Rosa

plans to have a final document in the late winter/early spring. In the interest of time, the review of the '08-'09 Work Plan was held over until the next Work Group meeting.

6. **Future Meetings and Agenda Items**
  - August 11, 2009 TWG Meeting
  - July 30, 2009 BOD Meeting
7. **Items of Interest:** None noted.
8. **Public Comment:** None.
9. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am