



MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Ukiah
- County of Sonoma
- Mendocino County Water Agency
- Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

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Planned oral comments by RRWA on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment for Storm Water Discharges and Low Threat Discharges - North Coast RWQCB meeting, July 23, 2009.

SCRIPT:

Good morning Chairman Anderson (...vice chair Hales) and members of the Board. I am Virginia Porter representing Russian River Watershed Association. Thank you for this opportunity to comment, and for the multi-year process carried out by the Regional Board, that RRWA participated in, which has brought us to this item being considered by the Board today.

Our Association represents nine public agencies in the Russian River watershed in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water and watershed enhancement. Our members are the County of Sonoma, the Sonoma County Water Agency, as well as the cities of Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Ukiah and the Town of Windsor. As you are aware, these agencies manage potable water, storm water, recycled water, and wastewater collection and treatment, and are directly affected by this proposed Basin Plan Amendment.

I am here to express RRWA's support for this item. Adoption of this amendment will benefit our region in a number of ways. I want to highlight three of these benefits:

1. It carries out a much needed alignment between statewide and regional policy related to low-threat discharges;
2. It provides a regulatory program which allows low-threat discharges that are part of every-day urban activity (such as residential car washing, utility vault dewatering, water from a broken sprinkler on a potable or recycled water irrigation site) to occur under prescribed conditions. This results in reducing the impacts of these discharges on waters of the State relative to the status quo, because these activities occur today without such a rigorous framework;
3. It removes provisions that unintentionally impede the use of recycled water for irrigation, and will help avoid an interruption in the development of water recycling projects by RRWA member agencies, and agencies throughout the region. The importance of recycled water in our regional water supply is made all the more important by the current low-water conditions through most of the North Coast.

In conclusion, RRWA and its member agencies encourage the Regional Board to adopt this Basin Plan Amendment.