

# Watershed Information Center & Conservancy OF NAPA COUNTY

## Members

Diane Dillon  
Mark Luce  
Michael Novak\*  
Steven Rosa  
Peter Mott\*  
Gary Kraus  
Leon Garcia  
Jim King  
Jeff Reichel  
Phill Blake  
Don Gasser  
Jeffrey Redding  
Robert Steinhauer  
Charles Slutzkin  
Marc Pandone  
Chris Sauer  
*\*pending confirmation*

## Alternate

Harold Moskowitz

## AGENDA

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 27, 2008  
4:00 p.m.

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

## Staff Representatives

Patrick Lowe,  
**Secretary**  
Deputy Director,  
Conservation Div., CDPD

Jeff Sharp,  
**Watershed Coordinator**  
Planner III,  
Conservation Div., CDPD

Laura Anderson,  
**Counsel**  
Attorney IV,  
County Counsel's Office

1. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL** (Chairman)
2. **APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES**  
Meeting of November 15, 2007 and January 24, 2008 (Chairman)
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. (Chairman)
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
  - a. **Earth Day Celebration**, Napa Valley College, Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> (Staff)
  - b. **WICC Board Public at Large Representative opening**, applications due Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> (Staff)
  - c. **California Statewide Watershed Program Public Forum**, Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> in Oakland (Staff)
  - d. Others (Board/Staff/Public)
5. **UPDATES/REPORTS:**
  - a. Update on the Napa County **General Plan Update** and public hearing schedule (Planning Staff)
  - b. **May 2008 Watershed Awareness Month** and **Watershed Symposium**, Thursday, May 22, 2008 (Resource Conservation District/Staff)
  - c. Update on **Conservation Information Group** meeting and **Coordinated Permitting Program** (Natural Resource Conservation Service/Staff)

- d. Report on **program to support Citizen Creek Clean-ups** within the Upper Valley Disposal Waste Management service area.(Staff)
- e. Others (Board/Staff)

6. **UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

- a. Update and discussion on **State Water Resources Control Board** and **Regional Water Quality Control Board's** policy development and basin planning activities (Staff)
- b. Update and discussion on draft comment letter from WICC Ad-hoc Subcommittee on **State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams**, and consideration and possible direction to staff to submit recommendation letter to the Board of Supervisors (Staff)

7. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

- a. Discussion and possible direction to Staff regarding **WICC support/funding for Watershed/Creek Signage** to foster watershed awareness, education, outreach and stewardship efforts (Staff)
- b. Discussion and possible direction to Staff regarding **WICC support/funding for the development and publication of a Historical Watershed Atlas** for the Napa River, to match pending State and local funding/support, establish a historical basis for future restoration efforts and opportunities, build a historical context of watershed consciousness and stewardship, and support efforts relating to May 2008 Watershed Awareness Month and upcoming Watershed Symposium on May 22<sup>nd</sup> (San Francisco Estuary Institute/Staff)

8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (Board/Staff)

9. **NEXT MEETING:**

**Regular Board Meeting: April 24, 2008 – 4:00 PM**  
Hall of Justice Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room, 1125 Third Street, Napa

10. **ADJOURNMENT** (Chairman)

**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.**





# EarthDay

*Building Awareness, Inspiring Change*

**Saturday, April 19th**

**10 am - 3 pm**

**Napa Valley College  
Soccer Fields**

**Live Music**

**Hands-on Learning**

**Tree Planting, River Clean Up  
Napa Valley College Solar Celebration**

[www.EarthDayNapa.com](http://www.EarthDayNapa.com)

Presented by the Environmental Education Coalition of Napa County





**NANCY WATT**  
County Executive Officer

Contact information:  
Lupe Ramirez Peterkin  
Administrative Support Technician/Committees & Commission  
(707) 253-4421  
Lramire2@co.napa.ca.us

For Immediate Release  
March 5, 2008

## MEDIA RELEASE

The County Executive Office announces the opening of the following position on the Board of Directors of the **Watershed Information Center and Conservancy of Napa County (WICC)**. The term of office will commence upon appointment and expire August 2010.

### **One (1) Representative of the Public at Large**

The WICC was created by the Board of Supervisors in May 2002. The Board consists of seventeen regular members and one alternate member as follows: One (1) member nominated by the Napa County Land Trust from among the Land Trust's Board of Directors; One (1) director or associate director nominated by the Napa County Resource Conservation District; One (1) representative from the Natural Resource Conservation Service; Two (2) members and one (1) alternate of the Napa County Board of Supervisors; One (1) member of the Napa County Conservation, Development and Planning Commission; One (1) representative from each city or town in Napa County nominated by their respective city or town council; and Six (6) Napa County residents from the public at large representing environmental, agricultural, development and community interests.

The WICC Board serves as an advisory committee to Napa County Board of Supervisors. The WICC's role is to assist the Board of Supervisors in their decision-making process and serve as a conduit for citizen input by gathering, analyzing and recommending options related to the management of watershed resources. In that capacity, the WICC has a responsibility to publicly evaluate and discuss matters that they have been requested to review and comment upon by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors has charged the WICC with making recommendations on matters relating to watershed restoration projects and resource protection activities, coordination of land acquisition, and development of a long-term watershed resource management program that provides public outreach and education, monitoring coordination, inventory and assessment, and data management.

The WICC Board encourages collaboration, cooperation and consistency among those working in Napa County's watersheds by coordinating and facilitating partnerships among individuals, agencies and organizations involved in improving watershed health; supporting watershed research activities and providing watershed information and education. The WICC Board meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 4:00 P.M. in the Hall of Justice, 1125 Third Street, Napa, CA 94559.

Individuals interested in consideration for appointment must submit a completed application form to the County Executive Office, 1195 Third Street, Room 310, Napa, 94559, telephone 253-4421 no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2008**. The application form and instructions are also available on the County website at [www.co.napa.ca.us](http://www.co.napa.ca.us). Go to the main County page and click on "Committees" located in the menu under "Quick Links" on the right side of the page. You may submit your application directly online by clicking "online application for appointment" and following the application instructions.

*The Board of Supervisors and staff of Napa County are dedicated to preserving and sustaining Napa County for present and future generations as a community with generous open space, a thriving agricultural industry and a quality human and natural environment.*

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## **CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE WATERSHED PROGRAM PUBLIC FORUMS**

The new California Statewide Watershed Program administered by the California Department of Conservation (DOC) will host public forums to discuss the needs, opportunities and structure for the program.

**Plan on attending one of these important meeting to help shape the State's Program and discuss local needs and priorities.**

**BACKGROUND:** Watersheds have proven to be an effective management unit for natural resources, yet no single agency or other entity can effectively manage watersheds. It is in the state's interest to develop and support a statewide watershed program to promote and conduct effective stewardship of natural resources in a watershed context. Stewardship should include local communities and state and federal agencies in an organized program of collaborative watershed management.

The Resources Agency has asked DOC to take a lead role in developing the new California Watershed Statewide Program. This effort will include strong interaction and cooperation with other state, federal and local agencies. The structure and roles developed to guide public and agency involvement in describing the new strategy include a committee of up to 24 non-agency stakeholders who have been meeting over the past few months to provide liaison between the Watershed Program and the Regions and to help synthesize and organize the ideas and advice received through the regional forums.

**REGIONAL FORUMS:** Meetings are being held in each major hydrologic region of the state to gather public input and recommendations on program development and implementation appropriate for the region of focus. These meetings will to provide an avenue to include local interests in setting and tracking program priorities and implementation actions.

Additional information can be found at: [California Watershed Program \(http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wp/Pages/Index.aspx\)](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wp/Pages/Index.aspx).

### **SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL MEETING LOCATIONS:**

#### **OAKLAND**

**Monday, April 7; 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

**State Office Building**

**Room 11, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**1515 Clay Street**

**Oakland, CA**

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?city=oakland&state=CA&address=1515%2Bclay%2Bstreet&zip=94612&country=us&zoom=7>

#### **SAN JOSE**

**Wednesday, April 16; 1:30 – 3:30 pm**

**Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters**

**Boardroom**

**5700 Almaden Expressway**

**San Jose, CA**

[http://www.valleywater.org/About\\_Us/Directions/Headquarters.shtm](http://www.valleywater.org/About_Us/Directions/Headquarters.shtm)



**SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL  
CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE WATERSHED  
PROGRAM FORUMS**

**1:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Monday, April 7, 2008**

**State Office Building**

**Room 11, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**1515 Clay Street**

**Oakland, CA**

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?city=oakland&state=CA&address=1515%2Bclay%2Bstreet&zip=94612&country=us&zoom=7>

**1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Wednesday, April 16, 2008**

**Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters**

**Boardroom**

**5700 Almaden Expressway**

**San Jose, CA**

[http://www.valleywater.org/About\\_Us/Directions/Headquarters.shtm](http://www.valleywater.org/About_Us/Directions/Headquarters.shtm)

**Please join us and help shape the future of the California Watershed Program!**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Background Information on the Effort to Develop a Statewide Watershed Program [Summary of Program Transition](#)
3. Roundtable Discussion / Public Comment on the Six Focus Questions [Program Development Outline](#)
4. Discussion of Next Steps

*Thank you for your participation and feedback. Additional comments can be sent to [watershed@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:watershed@conservation.ca.gov)*

*Additional information can be found at: [California Watershed Program](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wp/Pages/Index.aspx)  
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wp/Pages/Index.aspx>*





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**Napa County Conservation Information Group, (CIG)**

**Draft Agenda**

**10 AM, March 14, 2008**

**2007/ 2008 CIG Riparian Coordinated Permit Program**

**Location: Huichica Unit meeting room- Napa Sonoma Marsh**

**I 10:00 AM- Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Review/ Results of 2007 Riparian Coordinated Permit Program**

**III. Presentation on use of Stream Rapid Assessment spreadsheet- Carolyn Jones & Riley**

**IV. Do we move ahead and extend the program for 2008 ?**

**V. Development of M.O.U. between agencies and formalizing review process**

**VI. 12:30 PM- Adjourn**





Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

## Division of Water Quality

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 341-5455  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100 • Sacramento, California • 95812-0100  
FAX (916) 341-5463 • <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

## NOTICE OF A PROPOSED BOARD RESOLUTION TO DEVELOP A POLICY TO PROTECT WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN AREAS, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will consider adoption of a proposed resolution supporting the development of a statewide policy to protect wetlands and riparian areas (Policy) at its meeting on March 18, 2008 in Sacramento. The Policy recognizes that streams and wetlands play a critical role in California watersheds by promoting the health and existence of other vital natural resources, and by providing significant economic benefits to society in areas such as flood control and recreation. There is a need to protect the remaining wetlands and riparian areas since over 85 percent of these resources have been lost to development.

The location and time of the Board meeting is:

March 18, 2008 – 10 a.m.  
Cal/EPA Headquarters Building  
Coastal Hearing Room  
1001 I Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### BACKGROUND

The State has relied primarily on requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) (Clean Water Act) to control water quality impacts from activities in wetlands and riparian areas. However, recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings have reduced the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act over wetland and riparian areas by limiting the definition of “waters of the United States” (*Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, 2001 and *Rapanos. v. United States*, 2006).

In 2004, State Water Board staff initiated a plan upon the California Environmental Protection Agency’s request (*Workplan: Filling the Gaps in Wetland Protection*) to address the waters of the State that are no longer subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act. This plan included developing a statewide policy for wetland protection. As an immediate action, the State Water Board adopted general waste discharge requirements for minor discharges to non-federal waters ([Water Quality Order 2004-0004](#), May 4, 2004).

In 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided the North Coast and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Boards grant funds to conduct wetland-related basin planning, including development of a statewide wetland definition in coordination with the State Water Board. This work is currently underway.

In 2007, State Water Board staff completed public scoping meetings on Policy alternatives and considered comments received in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The comment letters can be viewed at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/cwa401/comments\\_wrapp.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/cwa401/comments_wrapp.html) .

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

The proposed resolution directs State Water Board staff to examine the environmental issues, evaluate the relevant alternatives, and make recommendations regarding the Policy. To ensure a comprehensive scope, staff is directed to consider additional alternatives and recommendations than those outlined in the 2004 Workplan.

Further, because successful Policy implementation relies on a supporting level of internal program infrastructure, the resolution directs that a three-phased Policy framework be implemented. This will allow for the major policy areas to be addressed in a step-wise fashion, providing adequate time for commensurate program development. The resolution will also direct that the Policy support efforts to collect wetland data to monitor progress towards wetland protection and to evaluate the level of program resources needed to undertake the next phases.

The proposed resolution directs staff to develop the State Water Board's wetland and riparian area protection Policy in three phases, beginning with the first phase now.

Phase 1 – establish a Policy to protect wetlands from dredge and fill activities. Staff is directed to develop and bring forward for State Water Board consideration: (a) a wetland definition that would rely on the United States Army Corps of Engineers' wetland definition to the extent feasible, but would also reliably define the diverse array of California wetlands, (b) a wetland regulatory mechanism based on the 404 (b)(1) guidelines (40 C.F.R. parts 230-233) that includes a watershed focus, and (c) an assessment method for collecting wetland data to monitor progress toward wetland protection and to evaluate program development.

Phase 2 – expand the scope of the Policy to protect wetlands from all other activities affecting water quality. Staff is directed to develop and bring forward for State Water Board consideration: (a) new beneficial use definitions, (b) water quality objectives, and (c) a program of implementation to achieve the water quality objectives, as necessary, to protect wetland-related functions.

Phase 3 – extend the Policy’s protection to riparian areas. Staff is directed to develop and bring forward for State Water Board consideration: (a) new beneficial use definitions, (b) water quality objectives, and (c) a program of implementation to achieve the water quality objectives, as necessary, to protect riparian area-related functions.

Finally, the resolution directs staff to use a collaborative process involving the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, other State and federal agencies and interested stakeholders. At all phases, the Policy is intended to complement and support Region-specific plans and policies to protect wetlands and riparian areas.

## **DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**

The proposed resolution to develop the Policy may be obtained via the Internet on the State Water Board Web site at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/cwa401/index.html#new> .

You may also receive a paper copy of the proposed resolution by writing to Welcom Ang, State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814 or email: [WAng@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:WAng@waterboards.ca.gov).

Interested parties may subscribe to an email list for future notifications about the proposed Policy at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lyrisforms/swrcb\\_subscribe.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lyrisforms/swrcb_subscribe.html) : choose Dredge or Fill Policy.

## **SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS**

Written comments are welcomed and encouraged. To be considered, written comments on the proposed resolution should be submitted by **12 p.m. on March 5, 2008**. Written comments are to be addressed and submitted to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax (916) 341-5621

Email comments should be sent to: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov) .

Please also indicate in the subject line, “Comment Letter – Policy to Protect Wetlands and Riparian Areas.”

## ORAL COMMENTS

Time limitations on oral presentations may be imposed. Please coordinate oral presentations with others with similar comments. For other presentation recommendations, see "Presentations to the Board" at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board.html>.

## PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

All visitors are required to sign in and receive a badge prior to attending any meeting in the building. The Visitor and Environmental Services Center is located just inside and to the left of the Cal/EPA Building's public entrance. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving clearance before proceeding to the Coastal Hearing Room.


Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5881 at least five working days prior to meeting date.

Persons with hearing or speech impairments can contact us by using the California Relay Service TDD. TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD Device. HEARING IMPAIRED RELAY SERVICE: TDD to voice 1-800-735-2929, Voice to TDD 1-800-735-2922.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice to Bill Orme at (916) 341-5464 or [borme@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:borme@waterboards.ca.gov).

February 15, 2008  
Date

  
Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board



## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2008-

### DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY TO PROTECT WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN AREAS IN ORDER TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE WATER QUALITY AND BENEFICIAL USES OF THE WATERS OF THE STATE

#### WHEREAS:

1. Over 85 percent of historic wetland and riparian acreage in California has been lost according to published research estimates. Remaining resources continue to be vulnerable to future impacts from projected population growth, land development, sea level rise, and climate change in California.
2. Although physically occupying only a small percentage of California watersheds, wetlands and riparian areas provide valuable water quality functions such as flood control, pollutant filtration, water supply and replenishment, recreation, and habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. Wetlands and riparian areas act to promote the health and existence of other vital natural resources, and provide significant economic benefits to California.
3. The value of wetlands and riparian areas has been recognized in California through the enactment of the California Wetlands Conservation Policy that sets a goal to “ensure no overall net loss and achieve a long-term net gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands acreage and values in California in a manner that fosters creativity, stewardship, and respect for private property” (Executive Order W-59-93).
4. The State has relied primarily on requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) (Clean Water Act) to protect wetlands and riparian areas for water quality goals.
5. Recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings (*Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, 2001 and *Rapanos v. United States*, 2006) have reduced the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act over wetland and riparian areas by limiting the definition of “waters of the United States.” These decisions necessitate the use of California’s independent authorities under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.) to protect these vital resources.
6. In 2003, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) issued a report to the Legislature titled, *Regulatory Steps Needed to Protect and Conserve Wetlands Not Subject to the Clean Water Act (Supplemental Report of the 2002 Budget Act Item 3940-001-0001)*. This report reviewed the critical role that wetlands and riparian areas have in protecting the beneficial uses of waters throughout the State. Consistent with the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards’ (Regional Water Boards) (collectively California Water Boards) 2001 Watershed Management Initiative, this report further recognizes that a watershed-level approach is needed to protect wetlands and riparian areas and their associated water quality functions.
7. In 2004, State Water Board staff initiated a Workplan upon the California Environmental Protection Agency’s request (*Workplan: Filling the Gaps in Wetland Protection*) to address the waters of the State that are no longer protected under the Clean Water Act. This *Workplan* specified the need to adopt a State wetland definition to “provide a standard metric to help determine compensatory mitigation requirements and compliance with [the] ‘no net loss’ policy [Executive Order W-59-93].”

# DRAFT

03/18/08 BD MEETING – ITEM #11  
STAFF CHANGE #1 (CIRCULATED 3/14/08)

In addition, the *Workplan* included developing a statewide policy for wetland protection “at least as protective as the federal requirements.” To immediately address part of “the gap,” the State Water Board adopted general waste discharge requirements for minor discharges to non-federal waters ([Water Quality Order 2004-0004 May 4, 2004](#)).

8. ~~In 2007, the State Water Board completed a research study contracted with UCLA titled *An Evaluation of Compensatory Mitigation Projects Permitted Under Clean Water Act Section 401 by the California State Water Resources Control Board, 1991-2002*. This evaluation identified a number of concerns in the California Water Boards’ compliance with the *California Wetlands Conservation Policy* and in the protection of water quality and beneficial uses; also it identified strategies to address these concerns. —California continues to lose “functional wetlands” at an increasing rate despite the efforts of the State’s 401 Water Quality Certification Program. This fact is documented in a State Water Board research study contracted with UCLA titled *An Evaluation of Compensatory Mitigation Projects Permitted Under Clean Water Act Section 401 by The California State Water Resources Control Board, 1991-2002*. The current implementation of the 401 Water Quality Certification Program does not adequately protect functional wetlands. Unfortunately, compliance with regulatory requirements has not resulted in resource protection. Clearly, there is a need for a strong statewide policy. The purpose of the proposed Policy is to ensure no further net loss and ultimate long-term gain in the quantity and quality of “functional” wetlands with the State. Successful implementation of the proposed Policy will be assessed via measurable environmental outcomes.~~
9. In 2007, State Water Board staff completed public scoping meetings on wetland and riparian area policy alternatives and considered comments received in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

## THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The State Water Board recognizes the beneficial services of wetlands and riparian areas for people and wildlife in protecting and improving water quality, providing fish and wildlife habitat including unique plant communities (i.e., wetland and riparian vegetation), storing floodwaters, maintaining surface water flows in dry periods, and other valuable functions. California has a rich ecological diversity, therefore, the State Water Board further recognizes that watershed focused planning is the most effective strategy for maintaining and enhancing these functions.
2. The State Water Board will take action to ensure the protection of the vital beneficial services provided by wetlands and riparian areas through the development of a statewide policy to protect wetlands and riparian areas (Policy) that is watershed-based, and that extends to all perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral watercourses, including wetlands, from headwater regions to lowland river mouths.
3. ~~The State Water Board staff~~ Development Team, as -(defined in #5 below), will examine the environmental issues, evaluate the relevant alternatives, and make recommendations regarding the Policy. To ensure a comprehensive scope, the staff is directed to consider additional alternatives and recommendations other than those outlined in the 2004 *Workplan*.
4. In recognition that successful Policy implementation will require a supporting level of internal program infrastructure, major policy areas should be addressed in a step-wise fashion and implemented in phases to allow for commensurate program development. The Policy shall support efforts to collect wetland data to monitor progress towards statewide wetland protection and to evaluate the level of program resources needed, including staffing, to undertake the next phases.

5. ~~The State Water Board staff is directed to develop the Policy using a collaborative process that involves the Regional Water Boards. A California Water Board development team (Development Team) will be formed for the Policy. The Development Team will consider and utilize relevant plans, policies, and technical documents already adopted or being developed by the Regional Water Boards, including the Stream and Wetland Systems Protection Policy Basin Plan Amendment being prepared by Regions 1 and 2. The Development Team will coordinate with other State and federal agencies and interested stakeholders to ensure a high degree of public involvement and agency coordination throughout the Policy development process.~~

5.6. ~~The State Water Board staff, Development Team,~~ will develop the Policy in three phases:

Phase 1 – establish a Policy to protect wetlands from dredge and fill activities. ~~The Development Team~~Staff is directed to develop and bring forward for State Water Board consideration: (a) a wetland definition that would reliably define the diverse array of California wetlands rely-based on the United States Army Corps of Engineers' wetland ~~definition-delineation methods~~ to the extent feasible, ~~but would also reliably define the diverse array of California wetlands,~~ (b) a wetland regulatory mechanism based on the 404 (b)(1) guidelines (40 C.F.R. parts 230-233) that includes a watershed focus, and (c) an assessment method for collecting wetland data to monitor progress toward wetland protection and to evaluate program development.

Phase 2 – expand the scope of the Policy to protect wetlands from all other activities impacting water quality. ~~The Development Team~~Staff is directed to develop and bring forward for State Water Board consideration: (a) new beneficial use definitions, (b) water quality objectives, and (c) a program of implementation to achieve the water quality objectives, as necessary, to protect wetland-related functions.

Phase 3 – extend the Policy's protection to riparian areas. ~~The Development Team~~Staff is directed to develop and bring forward for State Water Board consideration: (a) new beneficial use definitions, (b) water quality objectives, and (c) a program of implementation to achieve the water quality objectives, as necessary, to protect riparian area-related functions.

6.7. ~~The State Water Board staff Development Team,~~ will begin Phase 1 immediately with a target completion date of mid-2009. Work on Phases 2 and 3 will proceed in parallel or in sequence as appropriate and will follow in subsequent years. Phase 1 work products will include:

- a. An overarching policy statement establishing the intent of the California Water Boards to protect all waters of the State using a watershed approach in coordination with the Regional Water Boards; other local, State, and federal agencies; and local watershed and stakeholder groups and forums; ~~and.~~
- b. A wetland definition that would reliably define the diverse array of California wetlands based on the United States Army Corps of Engineers' wetland delineation methods to the extent feasible; ~~A wetland definition that that would rely on the United States Army Corps of Engineers' wetland definition to the extent feasible, but would also reliably define the diverse array of California wetlands. Staff is directed to consider alternative definitions in addition to those outlined in the 2004 Workplan.~~
- c. A framework for protecting water quality and beneficial uses that relies on sequential avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts; ~~and.~~
- d. Guidance on tracking wetland condition and function to monitor wetland protection and other required data to evaluate necessary program development resources.

# DRAFT

03/18/08 BD MEETING – ITEM #11  
STAFF CHANGE #1 (CIRCULATED 3/14/08)

~~7. The State Water Board staff is directed to develop the Policy using a collaborative process that involves the Regional Water Boards. A California Water Board development team (Development Team) will be formed for the Policy. The Development Team will consider and utilize relevant plans, policies, and technical documents already adopted or being developed by the Regional Water Boards. The Development Team will coordinate with other State and federal agencies and interested stakeholders to ensure a high degree of public involvement and agency coordination throughout the Policy development process.~~

8. At all phases, the Policy is intended to complement and support Region-specific plans and policies to protect wetlands and riparian areas and should recognize the Regional Water Boards' essential role in implementing and informing statewide policy.

## CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on March 18, 2008.

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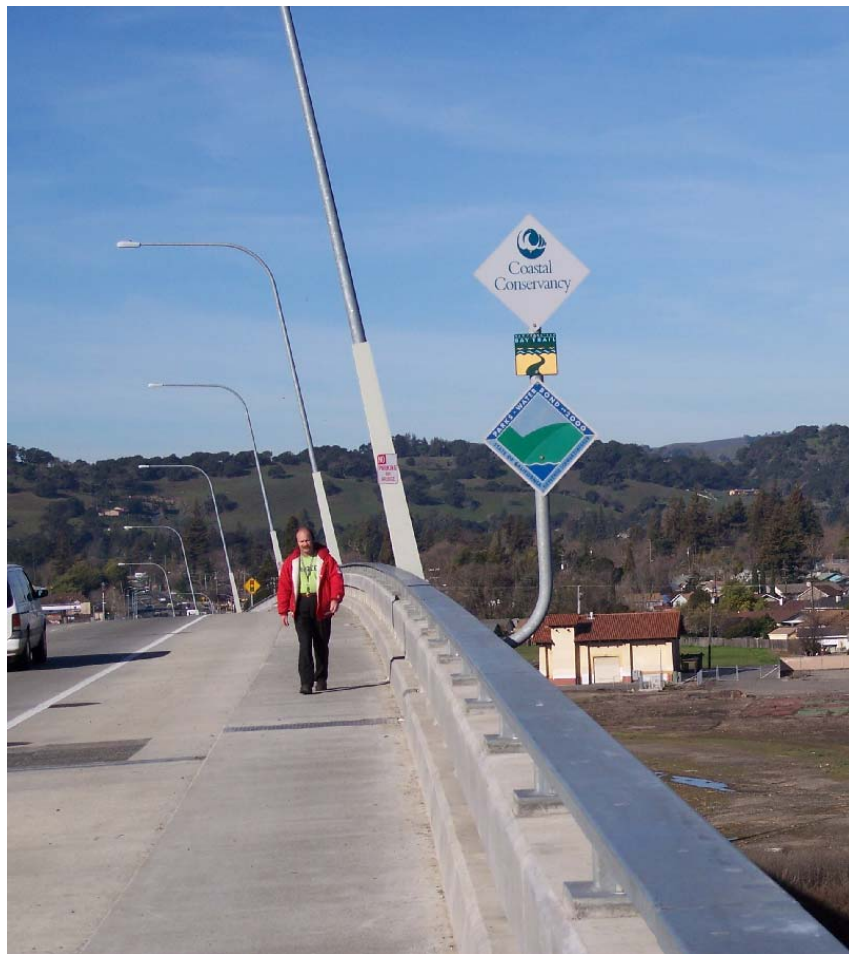
Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board



## Creek Identification Signs

How many, and which, creeks do you pass over during your daily activities or your community?

Lots of people didn't even know some areas have creeks! Many municipal agencies/districts are prompting of several community projects designed to help area residents, and visitors, develop an awareness of the many creeks in there jurisdictions. Ideally, awareness will lead to appreciation and involvement in efforts to protect, restore and celebrate these green ribbons running through our cities and countryside.





## Watershed Sign Programs

Program signs are placed to inform motorists that they are entering a watershed. The goals of the Watershed Sign Program are to increase public awareness of watersheds and encourage environmental stewardship by our community members.

In 2006, the Caltrans Traffic Control Devices Committee unanimously approved this pilot program in the San Diego district. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority awarded funding to assist with the production, installation, and a public awareness campaign for these signs.



Watershed Sign

The design of the sign is simple and adaptable. With enough support, we hope that this sign can be adopted by Caltrans as a standard sign and be used by other agencies and organizations throughout California to designate the watershed of any critical water body, such as water supply reservoirs, groundwater basins, or coastal lagoons.

Watershed Signs are one method that is being used to make the public aware of the sources of their water is the use of signs that mark the watershed boundaries and label the rivers and reservoirs within the watershed. All too often we pass

over rivers and by lakes without realizing the inter-connection between these bodies of water. The watershed boundary signs may help the passerby to realize the extent to which the water whose name they recognize may be separated by miles from the watershed boundaries.

Below are more examples of these types of signs.



"The signs are part of an ongoing educational effort to help the public understand more about the Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. They highlight the concept of a watershed and demonstrate that even those who may not be located in close proximity to the Bay can be part of the restoration effort. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and receives about half of its water volume from its 64,000 square mile watershed (the other half flows in from the Atlantic ocean at the Bay's mouth in Virginia)."

"The Chesapeake Bay Watershed signs were placed by the Chesapeake Bay Commission with the assistance of the states of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania."

In order to increase awareness of Austin's many watersheds, signs are installed at watershed boundaries. These signs help Austinites to get to "know their watershed". The signs, along with the companion postcards sent to residents, let folks know that all land is in a watershed and that our property drains directly to a creek or water body.

Watershed signs have been placed in all of Austin's watersheds.

Installing watershed boundary signs is one way to help us become aware that we all live in a watershed and are responsible for protecting it.









# Napa Historical Ecology Atlas

March 4, 2008

## Background Information for the Watershed Information Center & Conservancy of Napa County

### **Brief Summary of Products and Benefits** (see also attached *Project Description*)

In addition to supporting restoration and stewardship planning efforts throughout the watershed, the information developed through the Napa Historical Ecology Atlas will support a number of WICC initiatives. New understanding about native landscape conditions and historical change will be directly useful to the development of a watershed management strategy for the Napa River watershed and for selecting indicators for assessing watershed health. GIS data layers will contribute to the WICC mapping dataset. Content from the Atlas will be used to develop a new set of pages on the website, with links to the full set of information. In addition, the Atlas fact sheet will be produced for the Watershed Symposium planned for May 2008.

### **Task List and Budget**

Total anticipated cost for the project is \$60,000. The budget includes permissions costs for historical images and estimated local printing costs for a first print run of 250-300 copies (100-150 pages, perfect bound, full-color on 2/3 of pages).

<b>Task</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1	Summary Fact Sheet/Brochure (for handout at symposia/festivals)	\$5,000
2	Develop Text (incl. follow-up research)	\$17,500
3	Develop map graphics and diagrams	\$8,000
4	Design and layout	\$13,500
5	Acquisition of high-quality historical images (incl. permissions)	\$3,000
6	Technical and Partner Review	\$3,000
7	Printing/Publication	\$10,000
	<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>\$60,000</i></b>

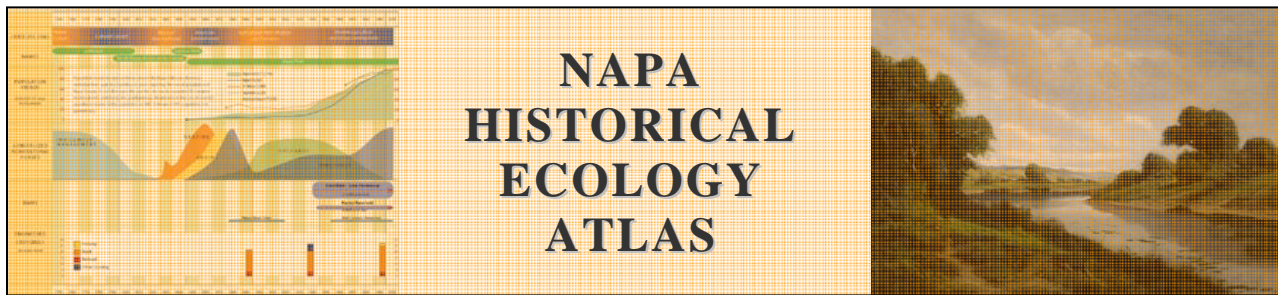
### **Funding Strategy**

As of February 6, 2008, more than half the total budget has been pledged by state agencies. Several local entities have expressed strong interest.

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>
State Water Resources Board (as part of Ag. Water Quality Project grant to SFEI)	\$10,000	Contract in place
State Coastal Conservancy SF Bay Program	\$25,000	Proposal submitted, strong staff support
Napa County Fish and Wildlife Commission	\$ <i>pending</i>	Expressed interest
Friends of the Napa River	\$ <i>pending</i>	Expressed interest

### **Projected Timeline**

Preliminary products (summary fact sheet/brochure) are anticipated by Summer 2008 for distribution at important watershed events (e.g. Watershed Symposium, River Festival). To support current restoration planning efforts, the Atlas should be developed as soon as possible. Anticipated release is currently Fall 2008, dependent upon securing most of the required funding by May 2008.



**What:** A richly illustrated, 100 page publication making the findings of the multiyear Napa River Watershed Historical Ecology Study widely accessible. The fascinating and useful **Napa Historical Ecology Atlas** will celebrate the natural heritage of Napa Valley, inspiring both increased stewardship and more accurate conservation planning.

**When:** Summer/Fall 2008, in time for the proposed Watershed Symposium and to support current restoration planning efforts.

**Who:** A joint product of the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD), Friends of the Napa River (FONR), and San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI).

**Background:** Over the past several years, FONR, the Napa County RCD, and SFEI have carried out an innovative investigation into the historical Napa Valley landscape. In recent months, this research has been largely completed, producing a wealth of baseline information about local landscape conditions and potential future restoration scenarios.

**Watershed Applications:** The Atlas would address a number of information needs for important local projects, including the Rutherford Reach restoration project, the Oakville-Oak Knoll restoration project, the TMDLs of the Napa River basin, the Trancas Crossing Park and Oxbow Preserve, the Napa River Trail, and the Napa County Oak Woodland Management Plan. Information about native landscape conditions and historical change will be directly useful to the development of a watershed management strategy for the Napa River watershed and for selecting indicators for assessing watershed health through the Watershed Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) of Napa County.

**Educational Benefits:** Illustrated with dozens of rarely seen historical images, the Atlas will make watershed habitats and functions accessible to a wide audience. FONR has funding to develop the Atlas content into materials for their school watershed education program. The Napa County RCD will use the Atlas for the production of a future Watershed Calendar (2009 or 2010).

**Distribution:** Several hundred copies will be printed initially and distributed through WICC, FONR and Napa County RCD outreach programs, and at the proposed watershed symposium. Publishers have also expressed interest in developing the Atlas as a trade paperback/hardcover.

**Design:** The publication will utilize an accessible format and benefit from SFEI's design expertise in producing attractive materials that convey substantive technical content (e.g. Contra Costa Cty. Historical Ecology booklet, Pulse of the Estuary, Leidy Fish Report).

**Review:** SFEI, Napa County RCD, FONR, and other groups will work together to design and review the Atlas. The content will receive extensive scientific review through the Scientific Advice and Review Group of the Napa Ag. Water Quality Project.

**Support:** To date the Historical Ecology Project has been supported by numerous local groups, including Napa Valley Vintners, FONR, Napa County RCD, Mennen Environmental Foundation, Mead Foundation, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the CALFED Watershed Program. Support for the Atlas would leverage these funds. If funding can be secured in the short term, we will be able to take advantage of some matching funds from the Ag. Water Quality Project for the report development. Additionally, FONR, and Napa County RCD have expressed interest in supporting a portion of the publication costs. A nominal fee will be charged, allowing some cost recovery. A significant portion of the anticipated total project cost of \$60,000 has already been committed. We are currently seeking sponsors for the remainder.

**Sample Pages:**

