



Board of Directors

Diane Dillon
Mark Luce
Peter White
Gary Kraus
James Krider
Belia Bennett
Richard Hall
Mike Basayne
Jeff Reichel
Rita Steiner
Jeffrey Redding
Susan Boswell
Jim Lincoln
Marc Pandone
Chris Sauer
Mitchell Klug
Jason Lauritsen

Alternate

Keith Caldwell

Staff
Representatives

Patrick Lowe,
Secretary
Deputy Director,
CDPD

Jeff Sharp,
Watershed
Coordinator
Principal Planner,
CDPD

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

Sara Minahen,
Admin. Assistant
Office Assistant II,
CDPD

1195 Third Street,
Suite 210
Napa, CA
94559

Tel: 707-253-4417
Fax: 707-299-4029
info@napawatersheds.org

AGENDA

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 17, 2011, 4:00 p.m.

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL** (Chair)

2. **APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES**

Meeting of September 29, 2011 (Chair) (2 min)

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. (Chair)

4. **UPDATES, REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:**

Informational reports and updates for discussion - presented by staff, members of the board and invited public

- a. Report on Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the unincorporated areas of Napa County (Hillary Gitelman, CDPD Director) (15 min)
- b. Update on the Napa County Groundwater Resource Advisory Committee (GRAC) (WICC staff) (10 min)
- c. Report on the 2012 Watershed Education Calendar - "Historical Ecology of the Napa County" (Stephanie Turnipseed, RCD Education Coordinator) (5 min)

(Cont.)

- d. Update on Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan implementation – ‘Re-Oaking the Valley’ educational outreach: *Valley Oaks: An Ecological Journey Through Time* planetarium program at Cal Academy (WICC Staff) (5 min)
- e. Update on Regional and State Water Board policy/regulatory programs, including: Renewal of Napa County’s Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit requirements, Statewide General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for industrial activities (Industrial General Permit), and pending statewide regulations on septic systems (Onsite Wastewater Treatment System, OWTS) (WICC Staff) (15 min)
- f. Update on Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) efforts in the Putah Creek/Berryessa (Westside Sacramento River) area and Napa River/Suisun Creek (S.F. Bay) area funding regions (WICC Staff, Flood Control Dist.) (5 min)
- g. Other reports and updates (WICC Staff, Board, Public)

5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- a. Presentation and discussion on Measure A Project Accomplishments and Expenses Forecast through 2018, including update on Rutherford Reach and Oakville to Oak Knoll river restoration projects, Napa Creek/City flood management project, and other Measure A funded efforts (Rick Thomasser, Watershed Operations Manager, Public Works) (20 min)
- b. Presentation and discussion on Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District Projects and Future Projections (John Woodbury, District General Manager) (20 min)

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Informational announcements from staff, members of the board and public (WICC Staff, Board, Others) (5-10 min.)

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Discussion of possible items for future agendas (Board, WICC Staff) (5 min.)

(Cont.)

8. **NEXT MEETING** (Chair)

Regular Scheduled Board Meetings:

December 22, 2011 – 4:00 PM (*No meeting*)

January 26, 2012 – 4:00 PM (*Save the date*)

Tentative Location: Hall of Justice Building, 1st Floor Main St. Conference Room, 1125 Third St., Napa

Entrance is via Main St. across from the Riverfront development archway. This is a tentative location change to be confirmed a week before the meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT** (Chair)

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.





Board of Directors

Diane Dillon
Mark Luce
Peter White
Gary Kraus
James Krider
Belia Bennett
Richard Hall
Mike Basayne
Jeff Reichel
Rita Steiner
Jeffrey Redding
Susan Boswell
Jim Lincoln
Marc Pandone
Chris Sauer
Mitchell Klug
Jason Lauritsen

Alternate

Keith Caldwell

Staff

Representatives

Patrick Lowe,
Secretary
Deputy Director,
CDPD

Jeff Sharp,
**Watershed
Coordinator**
Principal Planner,
CDPD

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

Sarah Minahen,
Admin. Assistant
Office Assistant II,
CDPD

1195 Third Street,
Suite 210
Napa, CA
94559

Tel: 707-253-4417
Fax: 707-253-4336

www.napawatersheds.org

- MINUTES / ACTION SUMMARY -

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 29, 2011, 4:00 p.m.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL (Chair)

Members present: Mark Luce, Peter White, Belia Bennett, Jim Lincoln, Marc Pandone, Mitchell Klug, Jason Lauritsen, James Krider, Diane Dillon, Chris Sauer, Susan Boswell, Richard Hall, Jeff Reichel, Rita Steiner

Members excused: Gary Kraus, Mike Basayne, Jeffrey Redding

Staff present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp, Sarah Minahen

2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES

Meeting of May 26, 2011 (Chair)

Approved as presented. Susan Boswell abstained.

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. (Chair)

Warren Flint of Five E's Unlimited, Sustainability Consultant Firm, wanted to direct the Board to helpful indices available online: Watershed Sustainability Index and How to Rate Watershed Sustainability recently published in the Water Environment Technology Journal; publication - Water Environment Federation.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION:

Informational reports and updates for discussion - presented by staff, members of the board and invited public (WICC Staff; Board, Others)

- a. Update on the Napa County Groundwater Resource Advisory Committee (GRAC) (WICC staff, Public Works) (10 min)

Patrick Lowe reported. Board of Supervisors has appointed members of committee. They reviewed 25 applications for 15 positions and are in the process now of notifying them. First meeting will be on October 27, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. to be held at the Ag Commissioner's Offices on Soscol Ave. Members are appointed for a 3 year term. GRAC will have an annual joint meeting with WICC, likely in July.

We are wrapping up an RFP process for consultants. A recommendation to the Board will probably be made within the next month.

- b. Update on the S. F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's waste discharge requirement (WDR) waiver programs for vineyard facilities and grazing operations in the Napa River watershed, Irrigated Lands Agricultural Waiver program in the Putah Creek basin, and other State and Regional Water Board policy/regulatory programs (Morgan Doran, University of California Cooperative Extension; Leigh Sharp, Napa Co. Resource Conservation Dist.; WICC Staff)

Jeff Sharp introduced item. Update on Sediment TMDL Waiver Program: Stakeholder advisory group has not met recently. They have undergone some staff changes at the regional board. They have assigned a new staff person to the program, Sandi Potter.

Leigh Sharp, Resource Conservation District reported. Putah Creek Ag Waiver program is "conditional". For about 4 years intensive monitoring was conducted in the Putah Creek Watershed. The monitoring revealed no "smoking gun", not a lot of exceedences, and not bad water quality, etc. The program focuses on a survey of growers' management practices, and use of BMPs to protect water quality, etc. Water Board has set increasing compliance thresholds for growers. They have met the thresholds so far and have received two glowing letters from the Water Board. Program has been a success.

Diane Dillon has been on the steering committee for the Ag Waiver program for quite some time. A big part of the program/implementation involved educating the State Board in Sacramento about Napa County agriculture/industry. The program is a huge success and remains a "low-threat waiver." program for the State Board.

Morgan Doran from UC Cooperative Extension, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor reported. The basic framework of the TMDL waiver program is that ranchers in the Napa River watershed are required to submit a letter of intent by November 15 of this year, then a Ranch Plan by the November 15, 2012 deadline. UCCE and partners hope to offer education for ranchers in early 2012 and work individually with the ranchers. It is an ambitious goal to have plans in by November 2012. They are also hoping to implement some sort of continuing education program for local ranchers.

- c. Update on renewal of Napa County's Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4s Permit) requirements for stormwater management to control polluted discharges/runoff, and update on Statewide General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the discharge of storm water associated with industrial activities (Industrial General Permit) (WICC staff, Public Works)

Diane Dillon met with the Executive Director of the Water Resources Control Board on September 28. Permits are 5-year permits. Water Board staff worked on these permits without any input from stakeholders. Industrial permit came out last January with a comment period that ended in April, and heard from many entities about cost and implementation. The municipal permit affects anyone with a population of more than 50,000. That came out in June with comment period ending August. The result of yesterday's meeting (which included Senators) was that they will be substantially re-writing both permits. This is an opportunity to write letters with suggestions.

- d. Update on Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) efforts in the Putah Creek/Berryessa (Westside Sacramento River) area and Napa River/Suisun Creek (S.F. Bay) area funding regions (WICC Staff, Flood Control Dist.)

Napa County is split between two IRWM Regions and participates in both the Bay Area and the West Side Sac River regions. State has issued a timeline for upcoming grant opportunities.

Both Regions have been awarded planning grant funding. SF Bay Area effort has obtained implementation money. The North Bay Watershed Association and Watershed Council are going to help coordinate submittal of projects in to the Bay Area program. Bay Area has received just over \$30 million in the first round of funding. Of those funds, Napa County has received \$500,000 for the Napa Sanitation District for the Napa State Hospital Recycled Water Project, \$330,000 for Water Conservation programs and rebates, \$250,000 for a rainwater harvesting pilot program, and the RCD received \$90,000 to support fisheries monitoring. Under Prop 84 there is \$94 million left for the Bay Area.

- e. Update on WICC presentation provided to the Board of Supervisors on June 28, 2011 (WICC Staff)

Jeff Sharp reported the presentation went well and the Board praised the work of the WICC.

- b. Other reports and updates (WICC Staff, Board, Public)

Patrick Lowe reported. The State of San Francisco Bay Estuary Conference was held and a State of the Bay Report released. Patrick was on the panel for the opening session to talk about some of the things underway in Napa County that benefits the health of the Bay. Attendees were impressed by the nature and scale of our local activities.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION:

- a. Presentation and discussion on "Marin County's Watershed Program: A watershed approach to flood protection and habitat restoration - An overview of the Watershed Program's purpose and goals" (Liz Lewis, Principal Planner and Chris Choo, Senior Planner, Marin County Dept. of Public Works)

Liz Lewis and Chris Choo gave the presentation. Floods of 2006 were a catalyst for a watershed approach. The community was very responsive. Everyone knew they really needed to work together. In order to obtain funding, you need to be integrated throughout the community.

Liz Lewis gave description and breakdown of area coverage and stakeholder process. The stakeholders report to their Board of Supervisors/Flood Control and Water Conservation District. A policy group sets the direction and makes decisions regarding financing and timing, outreach, etc. Interim group consists of City Managers, Public Works Directors; and a separate technical group handles a large part of the work.

Chris Choo discussed community outreach. First goal was to compose a watershed plan and get it out to the general community. This was done through a grant from DWR.

Chris gave a tour of the website and resources available. Website contains a lot of information and history dedicated to the eight flood zones and landowner resources about how to take interim measures, learn about sandbagging, prevention, etc.

Staff and WICC Board members shared and discussed tools they have used for data collection and budget structure and funding for the WICC

- b. Presentation and discussion of 2011 Napa River salmon and steelhead monitoring results (Jonathan Koehler, Napa County Resource Conservation Dist.)

Jonathan Koehler gave the presentation. Water levels were high in March of this year when the screw traps are normally installed and they had to wait until April. As a result, a fair amount of the sampling season was missed.

Over a three year period they have learned that steelhead smolt size is fairly consistent. They tend to be large (bigger than 150 mm) and survival in the ocean is relatively high—more than 50% survival, and our watershed can produce large fish. They currently do not know if these fish are coming back to the Napa River as long-term monitoring is needed (10yrs). That's a challenge they are working on meeting. The data collection has been very helpful about timing of migration.

Funding is available for at least the next two years to continue the work they are doing. Long term goal is to look at population trends over time.

- c. Presentation on "Lobesia: Our Newest Catalyst for Conservation," an overview of how a local European Grapevine Moth control program led to other conservation actions (Rita Steiner, Natural Resource Conservation Service)

Rita Steiner gave the presentation. History of introduction of the European Grapevine Moth in the Napa Valley and the economic impacts. The moth made its first appearance here in Napa in 2009, but they had been looking for it since 1986. Primary hosts are grapes and olives, secondary are stone fruits.

Economic impacts have been great in Napa County. Insecticides - \$7.7 million; trapping and mating disruption \$800,000, trapping, detection and monitoring, There are also many additional costs for agriculture to comply with the State's regulatory agencies. To address the moth impacts multiple agencies worked together and it gave us the opportunity to create new 'customers' which meant new opportunities for discussion about conservation.

After all of the discussion and action, sightings have been extremely reduced; from 2010 to 2011 sightings decreased from over 100,000 to 110. The program has been a success and has broadened the discussion and awareness of conservation.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Informational announcements presented by staff, members of the board and public (WICC Staff; Board, Others)

Deborah Elliott, Napa County Department of Public Works, discussed upcoming water conservation workshop on December 1st. They will provide more information before next meeting. The workshop will include groundwater updates, TMDL updates and climate change.

Jeff Sharp reported on creek cleanup workday. 581 volunteers cleaned 16 miles of river and creek banks. Well over 4,000 lbs of trash and 2500 lbs of recyclables were lifted from the waterways of Napa County. Leigh Sharp added that the cleanup day was funded by the Flood Control District and coordinated by the RCD. Ms. Sharp also thanked the Flood Control District for sponsoring two annual events like this.

Warren Flint reported that sustainable water resources roundtable federal entity has been in existence since 2003. They hold two meetings a year in Sacramento.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Board; WICC Staff)

Patrick Lowe reported. Rick Thomasser will provide us with an update on Rutherford and Oak Knoll project, Napa Creek project, and Zinfandel Lane bridge projects.

8. NEXT MEETINGS (Chair)

Regular Scheduled Board Meetings:

No meeting October 27th.

November 17, 2011 (Note: this is the 3rd Thursday because of Thanksgiving Holiday)

Location:

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

9. ADJOURNMENT (Chair)

Motion to adjourn approved.





A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Conservation, Development and Planning
1195 Third Street, Suite 210
Napa, CA 94559
www.co.napa.ca.us
Main: (707) 253-4417
Fax: (707) 253-4336

Hillary Gitelman
Director

October 31, 2011

Notice of Public Review & Public Hearing

REVISED Climate Action Plan for Unincorporated Napa County

The Napa County Departments of Conservation, Development & Planning and Environmental Management have released a REVISED Climate Action Plan for unincorporated Napa County. Copies of the revised plan and a proposed checklist that would be used to implement the plan are available upon request at Suite 210, 1195 Third Street in Napa or on the County's website at <http://www.countyofnapa.org/CAP/>.

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing about the revised plan and the checklist at 1:30 PM on January 18, 2012 in Suite 305 at 1195 Third Street in downtown Napa. At that time, the Commission will decide whether to forward the revised plan to the Board of Supervisors for adoption and whether to begin use of the proposed checklist on a trial basis.

Project Description & Objectives

The REVISED Climate Action Plan provides a baseline inventory of green house gas (GHG) emissions from all sources in unincorporated Napa County as well as strategies for reducing those emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 consistent with California Assembly Bill 32 from 2006. Emission reduction strategies included in the revised plan would be implemented by the State and the County itself, as well as by individual project applicants. Specifically, the revised plan would require discretionary projects approved by the County to reduce their "business as usual" emissions by 39%. The proposed checklist would be used by project applicants to select the emission reduction strategies they would implement, and would allow staff and consultants to calculate project emissions and emission reductions.

In addition to reducing Napa County's GHG emissions consistent with State policy, the revised plan is intended to (a) reduce uncertainties and risks for individual projects being reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); (b) give project applicants the information and the flexibility they need to meet plan requirements by selecting emission reduction strategies that are consistent with their objectives and lower in cost than other possible strategies; and (c) lay the foundation for a local offset program so that any resulting habitat restoration, land conservation, and energy efficiencies would accrue to Napa County rather than elsewhere.

Background

Preparation of a GHG inventory and emission reduction plan for unincorporated Napa County implements Action Items CON CPSP-1 and 2 from the Napa County General Plan (2008), and builds off of the non-binding Climate Action Framework that was developed and adopted by the Napa County Transportation & Planning Agency (NCTPA) in 2009.

On January 28, 2011, the Napa County Department of Conservation, Development & Planning, released a draft Climate Action Plan for the unincorporated Napa County. The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the draft plan on February 16, 2011 and written comments were accepted until the close of business on April 4, 2011.

Since April, County staff and consultants have met with interested stakeholders and worked to ensure that all comments have been addressed and/or responded to. Revisions to the plan include more refined projections of future vineyard development based on historic data, more refined calculations of agricultural emissions from a variety of sources, and an analysis of emission reduction “credits” available to business which participate in a third party certification program such as Napa Green.

In accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15168), the County is proposing to use the program level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan Update (SCH# 2005102088, certified June 2008) as the EIR for the Climate Action Plan. As discussed in a separate memorandum and checklist (initial study) dated January 28, 2011, this approach is consistent with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines because (1) the proposed plan is within the scope of the General Plan approved in 2008, and (2) the program EIR prepared for the General Plan Update adequately describes the activity for purposes of CEQA. In addition, (3) the County has not identified any changes in the General Plan, changes in circumstances under which the General Plan Update was adopted, or new information of substantial importance that would necessitate subsequent environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. A copy of the General Plan Update EIR may be reviewed during business hours at the Department of Conservation, Development and Planning, 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, in Napa, CA or on the County’s website at <http://www.countyofnapa.org/Pages/DepartmentDocuments.aspx?id=4294967660>. Reviewers are particularly directed to Section 3.4.4 of the Final EIR (on the website, see the document called “FEIR Responses Intro” and scroll to p. 3.0-49).

Next Steps

Interested members of the public are encouraged to review the revised plan and to submit written or oral comments at the meeting on January 18, 2012. Comments and questions may also be submitted in advance by emailing hillary.gitelman@countyofnapa.org or steve.lederer@countyofnapa.org. At the close of the hearing on January 18, 2012, the Planning Commission will decide whether to forward the revised plan to the Board of Supervisors for adoption and whether to begin use of the proposed checklist on a trial basis. The plan will not become effective until it is adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Once adopted, the plan will not be static, but will be reviewed and revised to reflect changes in circumstances and new information. This will be particularly important as the year 2020 approaches.



November 10, 2011

ITEM 4b:

Update on the Napa County Groundwater Resource Advisory Committee (GRAC) (WICC staff) (10 min)

GRAC October 27, 2011 Meeting Synopsis

The Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) held its inaugural meeting on October 27, 2011. The meeting oriented members as to the role, organization, and resources of the committee, to existing County policies, and to research and data currently available. Members introduced themselves and learned what affiliations and experience each brings to the Committee. Members selected Peter McCrea and Tucker Catlin as chair and vice chair, respectively. The Committee adopted its bylaws, calendar, work plan and collaborative guidelines. Subsequent presentations included a review of the Brown Act by the County Counsel's Office; existing County policies on groundwater by the Planning Department; and the stakeholder assessment conducted by the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS. The final presentation was the first of two parts on a recent Napa County Groundwater Conditions and Monitoring Recommendations Study conducted by Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers; this presentation and discussion will continue at the Committee's next meeting set for December 12, 2011 at 2:00PM. Please see the GRAC's webpage (www.countyofnapa.org/bos/grac) for copies of the October 27, 2011 presentations and handouts.



A

Upcoming Event:

Valley Oaks:

***An Ecological Journey Through Time
California Academy of Sciences
San Francisco, CA***

***Thursday, December 8, 2011
6:30pm (during NightLife)***

Come take an immersive tour from the canopy to the cosmos inside the Morrison Planetarium. We'll explore the history and ecology of one of California's most iconic and threatened tree species, the Valley oak. Academy scientists, indigenous partners, and historical ecologists from the San Francisco Estuary Institute will reveal how Valley oaks and humans are intertwined in a relationship of disturbance and adaptation, with implications for the health and well-being of Bay Area communities. The first NOAA-funded Worldviews Network event on the West Coast, this program will be simulcast to partner institutions across the United States. A post-presentation dialogue will be held with regional partners and public audiences after the show.

Included with NightLife admission; seats are limited and show passes are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. NightLife is for ages 21+; a valid ID is required for entry. Admission to NightLife is \$12 per person (\$10 Academy members)

California Academy of Sciences

*55 Music Concourse Drive, San Francisco, CA
(415) 379-8000.*

<http://www.calacademy.org/nightlife>





A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Environmental Management

1195 Third Street, Suite 101
Napa, CA 94559
www.co.napa.ca.us

Main: (707) 253-4471
Fax: (707) 253-4545

Steven Lederer
Director

November 4 2011

OWTS Policy
State Water Resources Control Board
Sent via e-mail (owts_commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

The following is a summary of comments I provided at the November 2 Public Hearing in Santa Rosa.

In the process of approving local programs (Tier 2), it is important to recognize that the vast majority of local programs work well from a water quality standpoint and have been finely tuned to meet the needs and special circumstances of their communities. It is critically important to our citizens, and frankly just common sense, to ensure the approval process for local programs be efficient and rational.

While Regional (and State) Boards have great skills in certain areas, understanding local programs is not necessarily one of them. Specific examples in Napa include adoption of a Pathogens TMDL that included septic systems as a likely contributor to creek contamination, when the data and local experience indicated otherwise. Three years and \$150,000 of consultant expenses (not to mention staff time) were expended to come back to that same conclusion. Similarly, while our office is capable of processing most permits in days, the Regional Boards (RBs) that we deal with often take weeks and months to accomplish the same tasks on permits that are under their jurisdiction.

We do not in any way wish to diminish the value of the RBs. In fact, by allowing us to do what we do well, we free up the RBs to do what they do well.

We remain very **concerned that the process for approving local programs will be expensive and time consuming**. We are also **concerned that the RBs will layer new and unnecessary requirements** on local programs, both in the areas of monitoring programs and septic system design. This is a particular problem for us, as we are within the jurisdiction of two RBs that don't always agree with each other.

We ask that:

- The State Board show the leadership to insist that the approval processes for local programs be streamlined, efficient, and rational;
- That the Regional Boards be clearly directed to minimize cost and disruption to local programs;
- **That the OWTS Policy be modified to specifically require that RBs give deference to local program operations, except in the situations where the RBs possess substantial evidence that a program is deficient.**

In short, the vast majority of local programs work. Absent evidence to the contrary, the approval process should leave them largely intact and not burdened by either a difficult approval process or burdensome new requirements.

Respectfully,

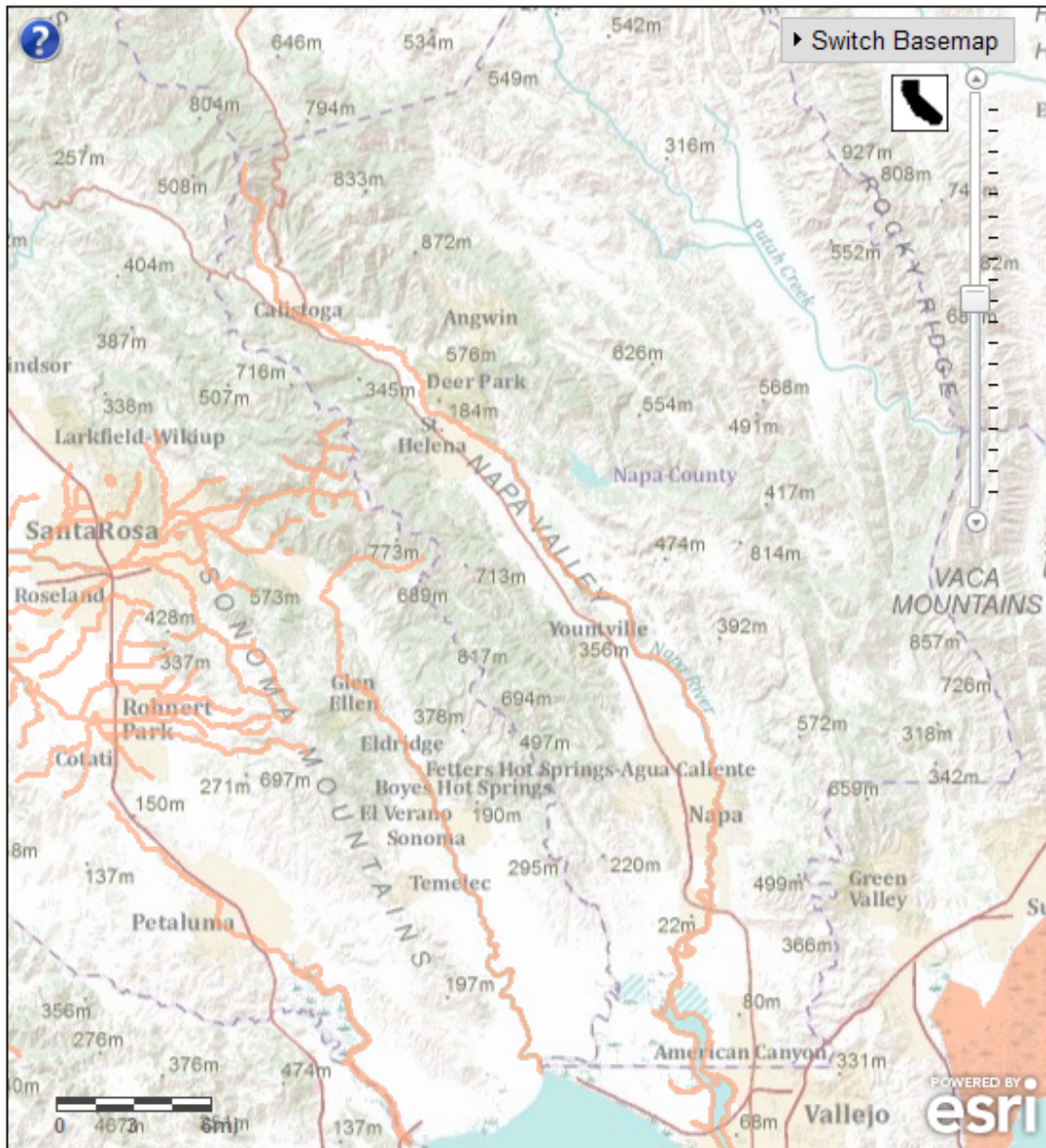
Steven E. Lederer
Director, Department of Environmental Management

The State Water Board has developed a web-based map to assist property owners in determining whether they may be affected by the new policy. <http://gispublic.waterboards.ca.gov/webmap/owts/owtsmap.html>

Is My Property Near a Nutrient- or Pathogen-Impaired Water Body?

Zoom to Regional Board: Show RB Zoom to county: Show county

Enter Your Address :



Properties within 600' of the Napa River (identified as an "impaired water body" for pathogens and nutrients) will be considered "Tier 3" and septic system upgrades may be required within certain timeframes.

Tier 3 – New and Existing OWTS

- TMDL is the key, its implementation program will:
 - Establish what is required for existing and new OWTS
 - Establish which locations are included, and
 - Establish the schedule for each required action.
- Management is collaborative effort between local agency and Regional Water Board

16

Tier 3 – New and Existing OWTS

- OWTS by specifically identified pathogen and nutrient impaired water bodies:
 - Wait 5 years for TMDL or assessment
 - Or if no TMDL, upgrade to advanced treatment if in 100/600 foot rule
 - Extra time allowed if agreement to hook up to sewer system
- For new systems near all pathogen and nutrient impaired water bodies:
 - Setbacks in Tier 1 apply, and
 - Within 600 feet needs advanced treatment until a TMDL is completed.

17

[Home](#) → [Water Issues](#) → [Programs](#) → [Owts](#)

Statewide Septic Systems Policy - OWTS

OWTS - Septics Policy Questions and Answers

1. [What does "OWTS" stand for?](#)
2. [What does "TMDL" stand for?](#)
3. [Will I need to replace my septic tank?](#)
4. [Why is this policy being written?](#)
5. [Who will be affected by the proposed policy?](#)
6. [How do I know if the creek/lake/river near me is polluted or "impaired" with nitrogen or pathogens?](#)
7. [Do you have a website where I can type in an address to determine if my property is affected by the policy?](#)
8. [Why does the map tool identify properties within 2000 feet of an impaired water body? According to the policy, the system falls under Tier 3 if it is within 600 feet of a nitrate impaired water body and/or within 100 feet of a pathogen impaired water body.](#)
9. [What is "Tier 3" and how long do I have to comply with Tier 3?](#)
10. [How do I know if my existing OWTS is included in Tier 3?](#)
11. [I believe my OWTS system falls within Tier 3. How soon will I know if I need to replace my system?](#)
12. [How will it be determined that my OWTS needs to be repaired or replaced?](#)
13. [If I have to repair or replace my system, how much is this going to cost me?](#)
14. [What can I do to make sure I am in compliance with law right now?](#)
15. [Aren't county regulations good enough already?](#)
16. [How can I make my position on the proposed policy known?](#)
17. [How can I stay informed about the development of the OWTS policy?](#)

What does "OWTS" stand for?

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems. The most common type of OWTS is a septic system, consisting of a septic tank and leachfield.

What does "TMDL" stand for?

Total Maximum Daily Load is basically a plan adopted by a Regional Water Board to limit pollutants reaching an impaired water body and return it to its full beneficial uses.

Will I need to replace my septic tank?

It is estimated that the policy will affect less than 5% of septic tank owners. That is, more than 95% of septic owners will not need to replace or alter their septic system as a result of the policy. For those that do, the types of changes required will vary widely based on their particular circumstances, from only minor modifications in some cases to possibly whole new treatment systems in others.

Why is this policy being written?

In specific areas of the state, OWTS are known to be contributing to water quality problems. Statewide standards for OWTS are required by law and will enable local communities to move forward in addressing public health and environmental problems due to pollution from some OWTS.

Who will be affected by the proposed policy?

Owners of septic systems near nitrogen or pathogen impaired state waters.
People installing new or replacement OWTS.

Owners of a failing OWTS.

Local agencies that permit OWTS installations and repairs.

How do I know if the creek/lake/river near me is polluted or “impaired” with nitrogen or pathogens?

Impaired water bodies are identified on California’s 303(d) list. The 303(d) list is required by the federal [Clean Water Act](#).

[Attachment 2](#) of the policy lists specific identified impaired water bodies for which the policy establishes timelines for addressing existing OWTS.

Do you have a website where I can type in an address to determine if my property is affected by the policy?

Yes, but with some limitations. This [map tool](#) allows a user to enter an address and determine if a property is within 2000 feet of a nitrogen or pathogen impaired water body.

What does this mean?

If no nitrogen or pathogen impaired waters are identified within 2000 feet of an address, it is likely that a property owner will only need consult their local permitting agency for what requirements they have to meet (or Tier 1 of the Policy if their local agency chooses not to submit a local agency management plan) if their system fails, or they plan to upgrade or replace their system.

If nitrogen or pathogen impaired waters are identified within 2000 feet of an address, there is a possibility that the existing system falls in the Tier 3 category, which may require installation of supplemental treatment components or moving the system. However, due to data limitations, property owners are strongly advised to conduct further investigation with the help of their local agencies and/or Regional Water Quality Control Board and/or State Water Resources Control Board to determine whether they fall into the Tier 3 category before making any changes to their OWTS.

Why does the map tool identify properties within 2000 feet of an impaired water body? According to the policy, the system falls under Tier 3 if it is within 600 feet of a nitrate impaired water body and/or within 100 feet of a pathogen impaired water body.

The 2000 foot buffer was designed to account for the limitations of the map data and the address-matching software. These limitations include the scale and accuracy of the impaired water bodies, which are mapped at a non-survey scale of 1:100,000 scale and are subject to a horizontal accuracy error of +/-167 feet. True horizontal distance between the septic system site and an impaired water body can only be measured by a surveyor.

The Water Board does not have access to parcel-level data, so the map utilizes a third-party address-locating service (also known as a "geocoding service") which translates street addresses to points on a map. This process, which does not match the address to the parcel, is only as accurate as the underlying street data. Even if the system could match the address with parcel-level accuracy, an on-site survey would be required to determine exactly where within the parcel boundary sits the septic system.

Because of these limitations, the map tool is provided for general reference only and is not intended to provide a final determination whether a specific property may be subject to the On-Site Wastewater Treatment System policy. Property owners whose properties fall within 2000 feet of a nutrient- or pathogen-impaired water body are strongly advised to contact their Regional Water Quality Control Board office for additional investigation.

What is “Tier 3” and how long do I have to comply with Tier 3?

Tier 3 is a category in the OWTS policy that specifies minimum operation requirements for OWTS that are close to water bodies impaired by nutrients and pathogens.

The time lines for complying with Tier 3 requirements will be different for every water body, and in most instances detailed by a TMDL implementation program. If a TMDL already has been prepared, then you will need to refer to the TMDL for the appropriate timelines. If a TMDL has not been prepared for those specifically identified water bodies as requiring one (see Attachment 2), then there is a five year period for one to be prepared and establish the timelines. If a TMDL is not completed in the five year period, then there are advanced treatment requirements in the Policy that have to be met within a two year period by some OWTS.

How do I know if my existing OWTS is included in Tier 3?

OWTS are required to comply with Tier 3 supplemental treatment requirements if one of the three following conditions is true.

Condition	Condition Description	Timeline for Compliance
A	<p>A TMDL has been adopted for the listed water body that includes OWTS as a source of pollution. The TMDL's implementation program will establish which OWTS are included and what is required for each OWTS.</p> <p>NOTE: If a TMDL exists for a water body listed as impaired for nutrients and/or pathogens and does not include OWTS as a source of pollution, then OWTS owners do not need to comply with the supplemental treatment requirements.</p>	Will be specified in the TMDL implementation program.
B	The OWTS was installed prior to the effective date of the Policy, the OWTS is within 100 feet of a water body listed for pathogens or 600 feet of a water body listed for nitrates in Attachment 2 of the Policy, and a TMDL is not adopted for the water body within 5 years of the effective date of the Policy.	7 years from the effective date of the Policy.
C	A TMDL has not been adopted for a water body listed as impaired by pathogens or nutrients pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, and the water body is not included in Attachment 2 of the Policy.	No requirements unless established by a future TMDL.

I believe my OWTS system falls within Tier 3. How soon will I know if I need to replace my system?

The Policy will be adopted by the State Water Board after the public has had an opportunity to comment on the draft Policy. It is estimated that the Policy will be adopted in the spring or summer of 2012. The Regional Water Boards and local agencies will need some time to determine which OWTS are affected by Tier 3 of the Policy, and the Regional Water Boards have up to five years complete TMDLs, so it may be some time before there is certainty as to which systems must be upgraded or replaced.

How will it be determined that my OWTS needs to be repaired or replaced?

A system needs to be repaired or replaced when it has come to the attention of a regulatory agency that the OWTS is failing and the regulatory agency has issued a notice to correct the failing OWTS. This is usually due to surfacing wastewater that is causing a condition of pollution or nuisance (odors) and has resulted in a complaint investigation. However, failing OWTS can also be found as a result of other circumstances. The Policy does not require any agency to actively seek, through surveys or inspections, failing OWTS.

If I have to repair or replace my system, how much is this going to cost me?

The estimated cost of compliance varies and is both site and situation specific. This subject is addressed in the [Substitute Environmental Document](#)

What can I do to make sure I am in compliance with law right now?

Septic systems are currently regulated by local (city and county) governments and, in some cases, the regional water quality control boards. Contact your county government for more information on specific existing regulations and standards for your area.

Aren't county regulations good enough already?

The State Water Board is required by law, California Water Code sections 13290 - 13291.7, to adopt regulations or standards for the permitting and operation of onsite wastewater treatment systems.

Most counties have very effective local programs for preventing pollution from OWTS. The state policy works as a back up to protect public health and the environment in the event that OWTS pollution becomes a problem in a community.

California is one of only two states in the country that has not yet adopted a consistent statewide policy to address the issue of OWTS pollution.

How can I make my position on the proposed policy known?

State Water Board staff will hold a series of public meetings to gather information and comments from the public on the proposed draft policy. Members of the public can:

Submit written comments regarding the draft policy. Comment deadlines are specified in the [public notice](#).
Participate in the [public workshops and hearings](#) to present oral comments.

How can I stay informed about the development of the OWTS policy?

Sign up for the OWTS [electronic mailing list](#). First enter your email and full name. Then jump to the Water Quality Topics and select Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) - Septic Systems.

(Updated 10/20/11)

[Conditions of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) 
Copyright © 2011 State of California

The State Water Board is one of five boards, departments, and offices under the umbrella of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

[Cal/EPA](#) | [ARB](#) | [DPR](#) | [DTSC](#) | [OEHHA](#) | [SWRCB](#)

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE OF FUTURE IRWM GRANT SOLICITATIONS

SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

Activities	Target Date
Planning Grant Solicitation	
Release Draft PSP for Public Review & Comment	October 2011
Release Final PSP	December 2011
Applications Due	February 2012
Announce Draft Recommendations for Public Review & Comment	Spring 2012
Announce Final Awards	Mid-2012
Local Groundwater Assistance Grants	
Release Revised Draft Guidelines & PSP for Public Review & Comment	January 2012
Release Final Guidelines & PSP	Spring 2012
Applications Due	Spring 2012
Announce Draft Recommendations for Public Review & Comment	Summer 2012
Announce Final Awards	Fall 2012
Revise Program Guidelines & PSP (Implementation & SWFM)	
Stakeholder Workshops & Public Feedback	Late 2011
Release Revised Draft Guidelines and PSP for Public Review & Comment	Spring 2012
Release Final Round 2 Program Guidelines & PSP (Implementation & SWFM)	Summer 2012
Stormwater Flood Management Grant	
Applications Due	Summer 2012
Announce Draft Recommendations for Public Review & Comment	Early 2013
Announce Final Awards	Spring 2013
Implementation Grant (2-Step Process Anticipated)	
Step 1 - IRWM Plan Evaluation Phase	
Applications Due	Fall 2012
Release Draft Call Back List for Public Review & Comment	Early 2013
Release Final Call Back List	Spring 2013
Step 2 - Project Evaluation Phase	
Applications Due	Summer 2013
Announce Draft Recommendations for Public Review & Comment	Late Summer 2013
Announce Final Awards	Fall 2013

Sharp, Jeff

From: irwm_info-bounces@water.ca.gov on behalf of DWR IRWM Grants [dwr_irwm@water.ca.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2011 3:37 PM
To: irwm_info@water.ca.gov
Subject: [DWR_IRWM_Info] IRWM Process Improvement Workshops

Dear interested party,

DWR, as part of its on-going efforts to improve the process for the remaining Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation and Proposition 1E Stormwater Flood Management (SWFM) grant solicitations, is conducting five public workshops in December to receive public input on the scope of the changes that DWR is considering. DWR desires to better serve the IRWM community by improving the grant solicitation and grant selection process without compromising the existing legislative mandates. To view the itinerary for the workshops, please click on "IRWM Process Improvements" on the IRWM home page at <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/>.



Department of Water Resources

Division of Integrated Regional Water Management

901 P Street

P.O. Box 942836

Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

DWR_IRWM@water.ca.gov

916.651.9613 (office)

916.651.9292 (fax)



*Calling all Salmon....
...the Barrier at Zinfandel Lane Bridge
has been removed!*

An additional 65 miles of river and tributary spawning habitat now awaits in beautiful Napa County!

Please join us to celebrate and to thank the



for their generous grant that made construction possible.

Friday November 18, 2011

Open House at the Bridge

10:00 to 11:30 am

(Formal comments and ribbon cutting at approximately 10:45 am)

Stop by to learn about the project from local fisheries experts.
Please carpool as parking is extremely limited.

For questions contact:
Rick Thomasser
Napa County Public Works
Richard.Thomasser@CountyofNapa.org
(707)259-8657

Please Join Us for a Workshop:

From Rootstock to Bottle, Conserving Water throughout the Wine Making Process



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Date: Thursday, December 1, 2011

Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Location: Yountville Community Hall, Heritage Room
6516 Washington Street, Yountville

Agenda:

- 8:15 am **Coffee & Pastries**
- 8:30 am **Groundwater in California Alluvial Valleys**
Dr. Thomas Harter, UC Cooperative Extension, Groundwater Hydrologist
- 9:15 am **Napa County Groundwater Update**
Phil Miller, Napa County
- 9:30 am **Precision Vineyard Water Management using Advanced Plant and Soil Moisture Monitoring Tools**
Dr. Mark Greenspan, Advanced Viticulture, Inc.
- 10:15 am **Break**
- 10:30 am **Rootstocks for a Dry Climate**
Dr. Andy Walker, UC Davis
- 11:15 am **Conditional Waiver & TMDL Update**
David Lewis, UC Cooperative Extension - **Moderator**
Leigh Sharp, Napa County Resource Conservation District
Sandia Potter, San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jim Lincoln, Beckstoffer Vineyards & Napa Farm Bureau
Laurel Marcus, California Land Stewardship Institute
- 12:30 pm **Lunch (provided)**
- 1:15 pm **Napa Valley Climate Change Study**
Chris Howell, Cain Vineyard & Winery and Rex Stults, Napa Valley Vintners
- 2:00 pm **Water Conservation and Reuse of Winery Water at UC Davis**
Dr. Anita Oberholster, UC Cooperative Extension, Specialist in Enology
- 2:45 pm **Saving Water, Saving Energy**
Bill Bennett, Sustainable Napa County

The workshop is **free** and includes **lunch**.

Please RSVP to Deborah Elliott.

Call (707) 259-5969 or <http://ucanr.org/waterconservation>

