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To: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

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Members, Water Quality Unit

RE: **Report on Water Quality Activities: February 2002 - February 2003**

Introduction

The State of California has a magnificent and varied coastline stretching over 1,100 miles from Oregon to Mexico. The landscapes of the coast vary from forested areas, dramatic cliffs, sandy beaches, rocky outcrops, ocean-side communities, and wilderness areas. Common to all these diverse landscapes is the importance of excellent water quality, as the environment, the citizens, and the economy of California ultimately rely upon this precious resource. The California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission), along with its partner the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), is committed to protecting the water quality of California by implementing California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (California NPS Plan).

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, also known as polluted runoff, is the leading cause of water quality impairments in California and the nation. Unlike pollution from distinct, identifiable point sources (e.g., industrial or wastewater treatment plant discharge pipes), NPS pollution comes from many diffuse sources. Rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation water that moves over and through the land picks up and carries away natural and human-made contaminants. NPS pollution occurs when those contaminants are discharged to lakes, rivers, wetlands, groundwater, other inland waters and ultimately, to coastal waters.

Finding solutions to NPS pollution poses unique challenges. For example, at least 28 California state agencies have authorities, programs, or responsibilities relating to the control of such pollution. Coordinating and focusing such a large number of entities to produce an effective pollution prevention program, in a state as large and geomorphologically diverse as California, is a challenge. The Coastal Commission's Water Quality Unit (WQU), working with the Nonpoint Source Unit of the State Board and a team of state agencies, has made significant progress in implementing the California NPS Plan. This report offers an overview of those efforts and other water quality protection activities of the WQU.

This report will first discuss the California NPS Plan and the WQU work that is shared with State Board and the Regional Boards. It then describes the work of the WQU to provide outreach to local governments and stakeholders and the current focus on providing guidance to municipalities that are upgrading the water quality elements of Local Coastal Programs. Finally the report describes WQU work on Coastal Development Permits, miscellaneous water quality activities and challenges for the coming year.

California NPS Plan

California is required to have an NPS Program to conform to the requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA). The lead state agencies for the NPS Program are the State Board, the designated lead water quality agency, the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs), and the Coastal Commission, the designated lead coastal zone management agency. In July 2000, the California NPS Plan received full federal approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It was the first NPS program in the nation to combine the requirements of the CWA and CZARA. Many California state agencies that have an important role to play in NPS pollution control are members of the Interagency Coordinating Committee (IACC) for the California NPS Plan. Through participation in the IACC, each state agency has an opportunity to evaluate and improve their existing efforts to reduce NPS pollution, and to identify opportunities for effective collaboration.

IACC

Since the creation of the NPS Plan, the WQU and the State Board's NPS Unit have provided leadership for the IACC and its subgroups. Beginning in June 2002, the IACC undertook an extensive planning effort with all of its 28 state agencies participating. This effort was directed towards developing the next set of workplans for each of the IACC agencies for actions to be taken from 2003 to 2008. The workplans are intended to show how each agency will participate in implementation of the California NPS Plan.

In the fall of 2002, WQU and State Board staff organized and facilitated subgroups of the IACC for each of the six land use categories in the NPS Plan (Urban, Forestry, Agriculture, Marinas, Hydromodification, and Wetlands). The focus of these meetings was to identify land use specific and program objectives of the IACC for the next five years and to identify opportunities for coordination and cooperation. The goal was to find ways for the IACC agencies to work together on NPS issues, in order to use resources most efficiently.

One result of this approach was the development of the Marinas and Recreational Boating subgroup into a standing committee of state agencies. Meetings to date have addressed: standards and guidelines for the sewage pumpout pilot projects; a general permit for marinas and oily

discharges; and House Resolution 3673 regarding restriction on the use of certain Marine Sanitation Devices.

Another outgrowth of the IACC's cooperative approach was an agreement between the State Lands Commission and the Department of Parks and Recreation to conduct a joint assessment of potential NPS problems affecting state-owned lands within their jurisdictions. This agreement included the execution of a contract with the State Board to provide funding for the initial Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis and field investigations of these lands and the development of specific action plans to address identified problems.

Critical Coastal Areas

To better address the challenges of protecting coastal waters from nonpoint source pollution, the California NPS Plan provides a program to focus protection efforts on "Critical Coastal Areas" (CCAs). CCAs are land areas of the California coast identified as top priority for improving degraded water quality or protecting exceptional coastal resources threatened by nonpoint source pollution. The CCA program involves government agencies (state, federal, and local), interest groups, and other stakeholders agreeing to protect or restore coastal water quality in these select areas, by coordinating their expertise and resources. To accomplish these goals, a Watershed Action Plan will be developed for each CCA, which assesses coastal resources, recommends activities that will address threats to water quality, and identifies who will coordinate the necessary efforts.

The Coastal Commission has been successful in establishing a statewide CCA Committee (comprised primarily of representatives from numerous state agencies), charged with identifying CCAs and establishing a framework for achieving the program's goals. The committee has identified 101 CCAs along the coast and within San Francisco Bay, and has developed a CCA Draft Strategic Plan, which outlines the steps to be taken from CCA identification through Watershed Action Plan implementation. This Strategic Plan will be presented at the joint State Board and Coastal Commission workshop in February 2003.

To improve coordination of resources, Regional CCA Committees will be established in each of four regions of the coast: 1) North Coast (Oregon Border to mouth of San Francisco Bay); 2) San Francisco Bay area (within San Francisco Bay as far inland as Suisun Bay); 3) Central Coast (mouth of San Francisco Bay to Point Conception); and 4) Southern California Bight (Point Conception to Mexico Border). Local and regional municipalities, government agencies, watershed groups, and other interest groups and stakeholders will be invited to participate as members. Initially, the Coastal Commission and State Board, in conjunction with the appropriate Regional Boards, will coordinate the Regional CCA Committees.

To facilitate the program, each Regional CCA Committee will hold public workshops to:

- introduce the proposed CCA Strategic Plan for addressing water quality problems;
- identify groups and individuals interested in participating in the development of Watershed Action Plans;

- gather information on listed CCAs and any existing water quality protection efforts underway;
- encourage public participation in selecting a CCA pilot project from the CCA list for that region; and to
- give the public the opportunity to suggest areas to be considered for future CCA listing.

To build on existing water quality protection efforts, the statewide CCA Committee will distribute a survey to local interest groups. This "State of the CCA" survey will be designed to assess water quality problems affecting the CCAs, describe past and current efforts to address these problems, identify local interest groups, and any other relevant information for the CCA area. Based on the comments from the public workshops and the CCA surveys, each Regional CCA Committees will then select one CCA pilot project for Watershed Action Plan development and implementation.

A CCA website is being developed so that the public can readily access maps and other information for CCAs statewide.

IACC Education and Outreach Subcommittee

Since all IACC agencies are charged with the task of developing Management Measures related to public education and outreach, this subcommittee serves to maximize resources, experience and expertise, and develop a coordinated public education strategy for implementation of the California NPS Plan. The group will also provide access to existing resources and supplement new materials and activities as appropriate. At this time, the agencies are coordinating education and outreach activities through the IACC NPS workgroups, as part of the five-year plan development process.

In addition to identifying current programs used by IACC member agencies, this subcommittee has begun to identify other public and private education and outreach efforts related to NPS runoff issues. These other existing programs offer opportunities for collaboration with IACC member agencies, and can inform staff efforts in the development of a coordinated statewide message and approach for NPS pollution. Additionally, at a recent meeting with the deputy directors of the California Resources Agency and California Environmental Protection Agency Departments and Boards, the IACC specifically sought their support and participation in the development and implementation of a coordinated education and outreach effort. The IACC intends to continue these efforts with the goal of developing a consistent, coordinated and coherent education and outreach effort for the NPS program.

Coordination with the State Board and the Regional Boards

WQU staff has continued to work with the State Board and RWQCBs to coordinate NPS pollution control efforts. The RWQCBs' Standard Urban Stormwater Management Plans (SUSMPs) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits have

provided guidance in the work of the WQU staff. For example, with the support of the LARWQCB, WQU staff used the Los Angeles Standard Urban Stormwater Management Program to develop the water quality sections of the City of Malibu's Local Coastal Program (LCP).

The Model Urban Runoff Program (MURP) program targets development and implementation of the USEPA Phase II Stormwater permits and programs. WQU staff has participated in the Beach Water Quality Workgroup, where methods for evaluating water bodies on the CWA 303(d) list have been discussed and developed. WQU staff and RWQCB staff have used the review of CWA 319(h) and Proposition 13 grant proposals to our advantage in implementing the California NPS Plan.

NPS Roundtables

The State Board hosts quarterly roundtable meetings of NPS coordinators from each of the nine RWQCBs and representatives of the Coastal Commission and the USEPA. The meetings focus on issues of common concern and have included: landscaping practices and how they can impact water quality; statewide efforts to develop septic system regulations; a survey of Areas of Special Biological Significance (now called State Water Quality Protection Areas); changes to CWA 319(h) grant proposal process; and the relationship of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and NPS programs. Coastal Commission staff members have made presentations on CCA and their relationship to the California NPS Plan; water quality protections provided by LCPs; and the Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) project. In addition, the meetings have included field visits and workshops on viticulture and water quality protection, flood plain restoration and sediment control efforts in the Morro Bay area and the Los Osos' wastewater discharge issues.

Urban Runoff Task Force

In January, WQU staff participated on the Urban Runoff Task Force along with staff of the State Board and the nine Regional Boards. This task force brings together staff from the state's Stormwater Program (dealing with permitted discharges through storm drain systems) and the NPS Program. WQU staff, with the NPS program staff from the State Board, discussed the complementary authorities of the water quality agencies and the Coastal Commission within the Coastal Zone and potential for better water quality protection by ensuring that the land use planning documents and Municipal Stormwater permits are coordinated. State Board NPS staff also recommended that authors of Municipal Stormwater permits consider incorporation of the relevant urban Management Measures from the California NPS Plan. A subcommittee of stormwater and NPS staff is being convened to investigate better coordination of Municipal Stormwater permits and land use planning documents in the Coastal Zone.

Proposition 13 Coordination

The WQU staff was deeply involved in the Proposition 13 grant funding process as well. WQU staff coordinated closely with RWQCB and State Board staffs to review and select proposals for

funding. The selected projects all will receive funding to tackle specific NPS issues on the coast, including onsite wastewater treatment systems, agriculture and dairy concerns, and trash. Remedying these NPS pollution sources will lead to improvements in beach water quality. Six WQU staff attended several all-day meetings, each in the months of July and August, to discuss the proposals and participate in the ranking process.

Beach Water Quality

WQU staff have participated in the California Beach Water Quality Task Force (BWQTF) over the last three years. This group was formed to facilitate communication between state and local agencies responsible for water quality and public health protection at California beaches. The need for close communication between these agencies was made more apparent with the implementation of Assembly Bill 411, which prescribed monitoring frequencies for California's most popular beaches and set standards for posting warning or closure signs at those beaches. The BWQTF has worked to provide needed details for monitoring and posting protocols, as well as recommending guidelines to determine which beaches should be added to the state's list of impaired waters (CWA 303[d] list). WQU staff have continued to discuss the impact of coastal development on beach water quality and to support protection of the public's right to use the beach.

In 2002, WQU staff participated in the California Beach Advisory Group (CBAG) which was set up to review proposals for funding water quality improvements through the Clean Beach Initiative (CBI). The CBAG group was set up to ensure that the Proposition 13 monies used to fund part of the CBI adequately met the requirements of Proposition 13. The group reviewed and where necessary made recommendations to modify, over 25 projects that will improve beach water quality. WQU staff have been invited to participate in the continuation of the CBAG group (since renamed as the Clean Beach Task Force), which will review proposals for Proposition 40 funds to be used in reducing the frequency of beach postings and closures.

Local Government Outreach

The WQU staff has continued to work with local governments throughout 2002 to provide guidance on NPS pollution control and prevention. Outreach efforts include assistance in preparing new LCPs and/or updates to LCPs with regard to water quality goals, policies and implementing measures; workshops focused on Management Measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for reducing the impacts of NPS pollution; meetings with local and/or regional organizations; and continued coordination with the State Board and the RWQCBs to implement the California NPS Plan.

WQU Staff Presentations

WQU staff members attended meetings and workshops that focused on NPS pollution control and prevention in a variety of coastal venues. For example, WQU staff has presented talks or

posters at numerous conferences including California and the World Ocean, California Water Environment Association, Humboldt Bay Symposium, the San Francisco State of the Estuary Conference, and the Western Regional Pollution Prevention Conference.

Additional examples of presentations include:

- Tri County Pollution Prevention Committee - Presentation on the Coastal Commission's involvement in the California NPS Plan and how WQU staff can help local municipalities develop policies to deal with NPS pollution.
- Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council - Presentation on the Malibu LCP and its implications for watershed management and NPS pollution control for coastal development projects.
- Orange County Coastal Coalition – Presentation on the Model Urban Runoff Program (MURP), the MURP website and other means of acquiring information about development of comprehensive NPS programs for small communities.
- On a voluntary basis, WQU staff spoke to various community groups, including Rotary Clubs, career fairs, and student environmental fairs about NPS pollution and watershed development issues in the San Francisco area.

Watershed and Interagency Committee Meetings

WQU staff has also participated in numerous meetings with watershed and interagency working groups and committees. The focus of these groups ranges broadly from the watershed approach in preventing and controlling polluted runoff, the new Phase II Stormwater requirements, impacts on shellfish and beach water quality from dairies, onsite waste treatment systems and recreational boating waste disposal.

Among the numerous groups are:

- Morro Bay National Estuary Program Implementation Committee;
- California Clean Boating Network;
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program;
- Santa Cruz Watershed Technical Advisory Committee;
- Monterey Citizen Water Quality Steering Committee;
- Watershed Institute Coordination;
- City of Arcata Wetlands and Creeks Advisory Committee;
- Humboldt Bay Interagency Coordinating Committee;
- Tomales Bay Shellfish Technical Advisory Committee;
- Clean Beach Initiatives Advisory Group;
- Orange County Coastal Coalition;

- Santa Barbara Project Clean Water;
- Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council; and the
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project – Taskforce on Septic System Management.

As examples of staff involvement, WQU staff participated in Project Clean Water meetings in Santa Barbara to discuss the watershed approach in preventing and controlling polluted runoff and the new Phase II Stormwater requirements. WQU staff participated in a Tomales Bay Shellfish Technical Advisory Committee meeting, where topics included impacts on shellfish and beach water quality from dairies, onsite waste treatment systems and recreational boating waste disposal.

WQU staff also hosted an internet-based American Public Works Association (APWA) workshop presentation in Eureka this year, which focused on setting measurable goals for Phase II Storm Water BMPs. North Coast staff developed an email list of local contacts interested in stormwater management (primarily in Humboldt, Del Norte, and Mendocino counties), and sent out periodic announcements to list members about stormwater resources, workshops, and Phase II news. WQU staff conducted additional stormwater outreach to individual local governments on the North Coast, providing informational materials, program examples, and slide shows upon request.

Model Urban Runoff Program

The Model Urban Runoff Program (MURP) is a "how-to" guide for small municipalities to address the issues of polluted runoff in the urban environment, and prepare for the upcoming NPDES Phase II Storm Water program. MURP consists of a manual and associated workshops that help local governments develop, finance, implement, and enforce a comprehensive program for managing stormwater pollution and improving water quality. MURP was developed in 1998 by a team from the Coastal Commission, the cities of Monterey and Santa Cruz, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Central Coast RWQCB, and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, and was funded by a CWA 319(h) grant. A series of MURP workshops were held in the Monterey Bay area in 2000, and now several cities on the Central Coast have successfully developed urban runoff management programs using MURP.

In 2002, the Coastal Commission and its partners expanded MURP to the north coast, and held three well-attended workshops. Two full-day introductory workshops were held, one in Eureka (75 attendees) and one in Vallejo (150 attendees). A follow-up workshop on Construction Pollution Prevention was also held in Eureka this year (120 attendees). The Coastal Commission partnered with several local agencies and nonprofit groups to present these workshops.

The MURP manual was updated in 2002, and made available on the Coastal Commission's website. Progress was made this year in converting the MURP manual's appendices into digital format for posting on the website; this will enable local governments to easily download applicable documents and modify them for their own use. This year WQU staff also developed the *MURP Internet Resources List*, an extensive collection of links to useful websites for communities developing urban runoff programs. The *MURP Internet Resources List* is available

on the Coastal Commission website, and portions of the list have been incorporated into the State Board's stormwater website as well.

Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials

Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) is an educational program for local land use officials and municipal decision-makers that addresses the relationship of land use to natural resource protection that was developed at the University of Connecticut. It is now a nationwide program with twenty-four states participating. NEMO focuses on four main points:

- Natural resource protection is the goal.
- Land use is the issue: NEMO believes that better land use decisions are the key to protecting the natural resources, community character, and long-term economic health of our communities.
- Local officials are the target audience: Because land use is the issue, the people making land use decisions are the key target audience. In the United States, this means local officials serving on land use boards at the county and municipal levels.
- Education is the method: Given that the local land use decision making process is complex, political, and widely varying, state and federal regulation can only go so far in dictating better land use policies and practices. Education - particularly research-based, non-advocacy professional outreach education - is the best way to foster better land use decisions.

Staff from the national NEMO program in Connecticut came to Ventura on October 17 to conduct a one-day workshop on implementing a statewide NEMO program in California. The WQU staff in cooperation with the Mission Resource Conservation District sponsored this workshop. Topics of discussion included the basics of the NEMO program, NEMO's national network, and participants' goals for a NEMO program in California. NEMO's three-part approach was discussed in detail: 1) Use natural resources-based planning from a resource inventory of the region and watersheds; 2) Use appropriate site design; and 3) Use appropriate BMPs and/or other remediation measures. The use of Geographic Information System (GIS) and recognition of land covers are critical in the process.

The NEMO working group met via conference call in November 2002 and January 2003 to focus on the development of a program for California. The group drafted a purpose statement, and identified specific water quality issues, target audiences, potential partners and sources of funding. Participants in these meetings included the Coastal Commission, Mission Resource Conservation District, Sea Grant, State Board, Ventura County Planning, NOAA, Department of Water Resources, and Local Government Commission. Future meetings are planned to continue the discussion on implementing a NEMO program in California. For more information on NEMO, see http://nemo.uconn.edu/.

LCP guidance

Over the last several years, WQU staff has been developing a guidance document entitled, *Local Coastal Program Guidance for Water Quality.* This guidance is intended to assist local government and Coastal Commission staffs in preparing new LCPs and/or updates to LCPs, with regard to water quality goals, policies, and implementing measures. The guidance has taken longer than expected to formulate due to the range of coastal water quality issues along the California coast, the rapid evolution of NPS pollution control policies and methods, and the variety of LCP formats used by different municipalities. Drawing upon the water quality work accomplished in developing the Malibu Local Coastal Program and other district office work, as well as from the recent Municipal Stormwater Permits from several Regional Water Quality Control Boards, the LCP Guidance reflects the most current science and policy in the field of NPS pollution prevention.

The guidance will contain information with respect to multiple land uses identified in the California NPS Plan, and it takes into account the diverse range of geography, coastal environments, and municipalities in California's coastal zone. The guidance contains model water quality policies, representing the four main components of a comprehensive water quality program: regional watershed planning, site design, pollutant source and treatment control, and construction-related policies. The model policies are both printed in full in their own chapter and also divided amongst chapters of the former themes, and explored in detail therein. In addition to these chapters, in the future there will be several other sections detailing the latest-approved LUP policies and implementation programs for agriculture, forestry, on-site septic systems, boating and marinas, and hydromodification activities. Additionally, there will be a chapter on water quality aspects of Local Implementation Programs (LIPs), illustrating ways to implement new planning and design concepts, environmental review, and permit procedures by local planners and officials. The guidance is intended to show how water quality improvements can be achieved through cooperative watershed planning and specific watershed conservation and restoration projects.

WQU staff has held intensive meetings over the past six months to develop this guidance, discussing preferred format and content as well as the most effective outreach methods. WQU staff plan to distribute this guidance to other Coastal Commission planning staff in the spring of this year and thereafter prepare a version for use by local governments.

Monterey Bay Regional Coordination and Outreach

The Monterey Bay has been a particular focal point for Coastal Commission water quality efforts given the special resources of the Central Coast and Coastal Commission partnerships with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Morro Bay National Estuary Program and other special endeavors. WQU staff conducted meetings or provided presentations for:

- Monterey Bay Citizen Monitoring Network steering committee;
- Monterey County Information Exchange;

- Morro Bay Implementation Committee;
- Statewide Ambient Monitoring Program; and the
- State Coastal Conservancy.

WQU staff has participated in numerous Watershed and Technical Advisory Committees throughout the Central Coast that support the implementation of the California NPS Plan or water quality water quality objectives of the California Coastal Management Program. Such programs include: the Morro Bay National Estuary Program Implementation Committee, the Elkhorn Slough Environmental Enhancement Program, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program. WQU staff participation provides opportunities for the Coastal Commission to coordinate the implementation of one or more Management Measures within a geographic region. Each of these committees enables staff to include watershed and water quality planning principles into local activities and provides an avenue for WQU staff to keep up-to-date on the most recent achievements in water quality protection through planning and successful implementation of BMPs.

WQU staff have worked with watershed groups and regional land use groups to improve and expand local water quality and restoration projects into more comprehensive watershed management projects. Many of these projects were selected for funding from Proposition 13 bond funds, together totaling more than five million dollars of water quality improvement projects in the Central Coast. Examples of these committees include: the Reclamation Ditch Improvement Plan Advisory Committee, the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Research Activities Panel, watershed group coordination committees (Blue Circle and Monterey Information exchange), and the Santa Cruz Watershed Technical Advisory Committee.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program is a multi-agency-stakeholder working group charged with the coordination and implementation of the Sanctuary's Water Quality Action Plans. Presently four of the six scheduled action plans are complete and being implemented. The Coastal Commission is responsible for numerous activities within the Urban, Monitoring and Marina action plans. WQU staff is working on implementing these action plans and providing guidance to those working on the agriculture action plan. Staff is committed to participation in the development of the two remaining action plans focusing on wetlands and beach closures.

Morro Bay National Estuary Program

WQU staff has been an active member of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program Implementation Committee, and has helped select priority restoration and acquisition opportunities for funding. WQU staff has also provided updates to the committee regarding the Central Coast Wetland GIS program and regarding citizen monitoring opportunities and Measurement Measures for harbors and marinas.

Central Coast Wetlands Geographic Information System Database

The Coastal Commission's Water Quality and Technical Assistance units together have been successful in securing federal funding to create a Central Coast Wetlands Geographic Information System (GIS) database in order to develop mapping and other technical analysis tools. The project is creating a comprehensive set of GIS data layers of wetlands and land uses adjacent to the Morro Bay. This project is intended to provide critical information on wetland resources in the Central Coast, support habitat and water quality planning and provide a model for a comprehensive Central Coast wetlands database.

Central Coast Watershed Workgroup

The WQU staff initiated two meetings to continue the process of creating a Central Coast Watershed Workgroup. At the August meeting, representatives from the Coastal Conservancy, the Coastal Commission, the Resources Agency, the USEPA, and the San Francisco Joint Venture met to discuss mechanisms and next steps in creating this Workgroup. The group decided to use dedicated funds to support a regional coordinator to work with stakeholders within each of the Central Coast counties to develop a framework and scope of responsibilities for such a work group.

Local Coastal Program Development and Review

Malibu LCP

WQU staff was recently involved in the development of the sections of the City of Malibu LCP that addressed water quality impacts. These included policies and implementation provisions designed to protect and enhance water quality and the beneficial uses of local coastal waters and ground waters from adverse impacts related to land development.

Several of the LUP water quality policies provide specifically for the requirement of BMPs related to siting and design of the project, the construction phase of the project, and the post-construction phase of the project. The wastewater policies include requirements for the siting, design, installation, maintenance and operation of On-site Treatment Systems (OSTSs) to prevent or minimize impacts to water quality. Additional policies require BMPs to prevent or minimize impacts to water quality from agricultural and confined animal facility development. The Malibu LUP water quality policies also recognize the State Board and Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Boards' (LARWQCB) authority to revise existing water quality standards and regulations, and advise the City to amend any LCP policies or standards that are in conflict with those State Board or LARWQCB standards or regulations.

The water quality implementation measures were separated into two chapters in the LIP – Water Quality Protection Ordinance and On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Standards Ordinance. The intent of the Water Quality Protection Ordinance is to ensure that all development is

evaluated for potential adverse impacts to water quality and that applicants consider Site Design, Source Control and Treatment Control BMPs in order to prevent polluted runoff and water quality impacts resulting from the development. Several components of the Water Quality Protection Ordinance were based on the LARWQCB Countywide Municipal NPDES Permit and model Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP). The intent of the OSTS Standards Ordinance is to protect coastal waters within and adjacent to the City of Malibu from impacts resulting from the design, siting, installation, operation, and maintenance of OSTSs, in accordance with the policies of the City's Local Coastal Program. The standards in Chapter 18 are based on the City of Malibu Plumbing Code, determinations made by the LARWQCB, recommendations of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project septic system management task force, septic regulations being developed for statewide implementation in accordance with Assembly Bill 885 (Jackson), and other sources.

Staff members from the LARWQCB provided comments and assistance throughout the LCP development process. In working with the LARWQCB when developing the water quality provisions of the Malibu LCP, WQU Staff was able to ensure that the LCP provisions were consistent with LARWQCB determinations and regulations. To further emphasize this positive collaboration, the LARWQCB adopted Resolution No. R4-02-014, supporting the Coastal Commission in the development of the Malibu LCP, and a Board member spoke at the final Coastal Commission hearing on the Malibu LCP in support of the LCP.

Local Assistance Grants

The WQU staff worked with staffs of a number of local governments receiving Local Assistance Grants to incorporate essential water quality protection elements into their LCP or LCP update. These local governments included Carmel, Redondo Beach, and Hermosa Beach. In particular, Coastal Commission staff worked extensively with the City of Carmel to develop its Land Use Plan (LUP) for certification. Several meetings and teleconferences were convened specifically to discuss the issue of water quality. Coastal Commission staff are continuing to meet with the City regarding the applicability of the 85th percentile BMP design goal.

As another example, a consultation meeting was held with Marin County's planning staff to discuss matters related to the amendment of their LCP. This meeting acquainted County staff with the Coastal Commission's LCP amendment process, with the water quality conditions of the Local Assistance Grant, and with the Coastal Commission's approach to water quality protection. WQU staff provided County staff with reference materials, such as the draft Malibu LCP, to assist them in developing their LCP.

Review of Local Coastal Programs

WQU staff are continuing to coordinate the review of LCPs as they come before the Coastal Commission or are subject to the Regional Cumulative Assessment Program (RECAP). Lessons learned from the San Luis Obispo County RECAP and the development of the Malibu LCP have enabled WQU staff to generate a list of policies that reflect the Municipal Stormwater permits approved by the Regional Boards and the Management Measures of the California NPS Plan.

This in turn has aided staff contributions to the Monterey County LCP RECAP, the Monterey County General Plan review and Carmel LCP amendments. WQU staff will continue to work to foster statewide consistency in our approach to planning for water quality protection, while attending to the specific circumstances of each local government.

Coastal Development Permits

During 2002, the WQU staff continued to work closely with Coastal Commission analysts on their review of coastal development permits (CDPs), LCPs, federal consistency, and other cases with water quality implications to develop appropriate recommendations for management practices and Measurement Measures. WQU staff reviewed a total of 139 cases, including 103 CDPs, 11 LCPs, one port master plan, three federal consistency cases and 21 other miscellaneous cases, over the past year. The CDPs reviewed ranged from small single-family residences to large subdivisions and commercial and industrial developments. Notable cases included the subdivision and redevelopment of the former Naval Training Center in San Diego, the Marblehead residential and commercial development in San Clemente, the Point Reyes affordable housing project with an extensive OSTS to service the entire project, and the improvement of Devereux Creek in the Santa Barbara County Flood Control project where the channel will be widened and deepened. LCP amendment work included modifying the Santa Barbara LCP to accommodate a particular airport development, incorporating confined animal regulations into the San Mateo County LCP, reviewing the proposed Harbor Segment of the City of Monterey Land Use Plan, and reviewing several other LCPs in the Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego coastal areas.

Other cases of interest included an NPDES permit being issued by the Central Coast RWQCB for the regulation of aquaculture facilities on the Central Coast of California. WQU staff provided extensive comments to ensure that the creation and operation of these facilities would not cause significant point source and NPS pollution to the surface water. Furthermore, WQU staff reviewed and provided comments to USEPA's *Effluent Limitations Guidelines for Aquaculture* and the San Francisco Bay RWQCB's *Preliminary Project Report on the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for Pathogens in Tomales Bay*. For the USEPA guidelines, WQU staff recommended the use of applicability thresholds and incorporation of water quality BMPs. In regards to the Tomales Bay TMDL, staff recommended modifications to the load allocations and margin of safety.

Other Activities

National Water Quality Monitoring Event, October 2002

In October 2002, the Snapshot Day Working Group helped to promote the National Water Quality Monitoring Day from the Oregon border to Mexico within the coastal watersheds of

California. The goal for this national event was to establish dialog between existing watershed groups and promote awareness of watershed issues among the general public. Some of the regions held special events to highlight the anniversary of the CWA on October 18th, while other groups promoted the event through the media, local schools and local events.

Through special funding from the USEPA Region IX, 200 Water Quality kits were purchased and distributed throughout the coast to allow schools, scouting programs, and individuals to get involved in water quality monitoring. In several areas where "free kits" were publicized through the media, hundreds of calls were received requesting a kit. The kits provide a valuable resource, even after the national event, for teachers and parents to continue working with children's programs and monitoring local water quality. In total, 2,400 people used 196 kits to sample 281 water bodies. The most distant site to receive a free monitoring kit was the Fagatella Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the South Pacific; while not a priority location for the California NPS Plan, it does demonstrate the success of public outreach efforts! Overall, this was a very successful event for watershed groups and for educating local communities and it was especially worthwhile to be able to provide the water quality kits, free of charge, to many local organizations and individuals.

California Snapshot Day May 17th, 2003

Over the past several years, the Central Coast Snapshot Day, a coordinated citizen water quality monitoring effort, has been an incredible success. The program has helped to bring together sampling and reporting programs of numerous watershed groups in order to sample 120 different streams flowing to the Central Coast on a single day. With funding assistance from the State Board's CWA 319(h) grant program and the USEPA, Coastal Commission staff is preparing to support a California Coast-Wide Snapshot Day event on May 17th, 2003 which will coordinate monitoring of rivers, streams and ocean along the entire coast of California.

The California Snapshot Day is now coordinated by the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation, but WQU staff will continue to provide logistical and coordination support for the effort. WQU staff also participates on the Snapshot Day Steering Committee comprised of members of the State Board's Clean Water Team, Regional Board staff members, Snapshot Day grant and technical partners and the eight Coastal Coordinators. The steering committee provides guidance on monitoring techniques and data management necessary for linking the many individual monitoring groups.

The 2003 event will be orchestrated using the model developed along the Central Coast, relying on the participation of state and regional agencies, Coastal Coordinators (responsible for organizing the event for each section of the coast), and numerous citizen monitoring groups participating in the sampling event itself and quality assurance activities. Through state and federal funding, the Coast-Wide Snapshot Day Committee will provide coordination, technical materials, and funding for coordinators and assistance in purchasing equipment. Activities include participation in a two-day training session, coordination of monitoring groups and regional laboratories, dissemination of equipment and collecting lab samples, compliance

oversight for quality assurance and data entry protocols, analysis of data and reporting on local results.

The primary objective of this event is to enhance communication among monitoring groups throughout the state. At the same time, the Snapshot participants will be working together to create the largest set of unified citizen monitoring data for California, and to help answer the question: "*What is the quality of the water flowing to the coast?*" (at least on May 17th, 2003).

In order to ensure the continued success of Snapshot Day in future years, WQU staff is also investigating means of promoting the state's Whale Tail License Plate program in order to create a continuing funding source for the program. The efforts may involve modifications to the order form currently available on the Coastal Commission's website and on-site promotion during next year's Snapshot Day.

Contaminated Sediments Task Force

On October 12, 1997, Governor Wilson signed into law Senate Bill 673 authored by Senator Betty Karnette (Long Beach). This legislation requires the Coastal Commission and the LARWQCB to establish and co-lead a multi-agency Contaminated Sediments Task Force in order to prepare a long-term management plan for dredging and disposal of contaminated sediments in the Los Angeles area. The plan will consider aquatic and upland disposal alternatives, treatment, beneficial re-use, and other management techniques. Additionally, the plan will include a component focused on the reduction of contaminants at their source.

The Task Force includes representatives from the Coastal Commission, LARWQCB, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), USEPA, California Department of Fish and Game, Port of Long Beach, Port of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach, Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors, Heal the Bay, and other interested parties. The Task Force consists of an Executive Committee, a Management Committee, five Strategy Development Committees, a Technical Advisory Committee, and an Interim Advisory Committee for evaluating ongoing dredging projects.

Over the past year Coastal Commission staff have continued to work with LARWQCB staff to lead meetings of the Executive, Management and CSTF Implementation Committees. WQU staff participated in other technical subcommittees and in the review of pilot projects for beneficial reuse, aquatic capping and sediment treatment.

In 2001, it became clear that the information needed to complete the work of the CSTF would not be available by the statutory deadline. Based on the support of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and elected officials, the state legislature provided for a no-cost extension of the Task Force until December 31, 2004. This extension will allow for a final CSTF Strategy Report to incorporate the results of studies by the USACE and contractors working for the Task Force. It will also allow for better coordination of the Strategy Report with the Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) for the Los Angeles Region being developed by the USACE. Although the DMMP will be completed at least a year after the Strategy Report, the Task Force will have the benefit of the analysis that will support the draft DMMP. In addition, the Ports of

Los Angeles and Long Beach announced that they would continue to support the CSTF by providing an additional 200,000 to 300,000 dollars over the next two years.

The December 17th, 2002 meeting of the Management Committee focused on getting the Task Force members to make the hard decisions that will be necessary to complete the Strategy Report. The Coastal Commission proposed that the Task Force begin to hold monthly meetings and hire a facilitator to bring the group to consensus on such difficult issues as group recommendations regarding watershed controls on NPS pollution, sediment quality guidelines, capping of contaminated sediments in the aquatic environment and promotion of specific methods for beneficial reuse of sediments. The group agreed with the concept and also suggested that a technical writer be hired to manage the document preparation. Staff of the Coastal Commission and Regional Water Quality Control Board are now pursing the possibility of hiring both a facilitator and a technical writer with funds made available by the ports.

Marina BMPs and Outreach

WQU staff have been working with members of the Coastal Commission's Public Education (PE) Unit over the past two years to find ways to reduce the impacts of recreational boating on water quality through education of boaters and by providing guidance to Coastal Commission planning staff. PE staff have encouraged the use of BMPs to reduce the impacts of NPS pollution in marinas through the Boating Clean and Green Program and have written a draft California Clean Marinas Guidebook. This guidebook will contain recommended BMPs for marina operation and maintenance, and lay the foundation for a Clean Marina Recognition Program in California. However, public release of the guidebook's first draft generated criticism regarding the potential use of the guidebook as a regulatory document and identified a need for additional stakeholder participation during the development of the document.

The WQU and PE staff have been collaborating to encourage public review of this guidebook and support implementation of the recommended BMPs contained therein by the boating community. The WQU staff assisted the PE Unit in holding public workshops in both southern and northern California during December to solicit comments on the guidebook. A workgroup of Coastal Commission and State Board staff, marina operators and other interested parties has been formed to provide additional feedback on the most effective way to provide guidance to marina operators. Based on the feedback to date, the scope of the guidance will be narrowed to focus on operation and maintenance of marinas. The authors will clarify that the document is educational in nature and the schedule will be revised to allow the incorporation of additional stakeholder comments.

Coastal Commission Staff Training – *Water Quality Lesson o' the Month*

The WQU staff continued to participate in monthly permit review meetings in each of the Coastal Commission's six district offices. In each permit review meeting, the WQU staff member assigned to the district discussed with the district's analysts the water quality implications of all ongoing or upcoming permits. WQU staff also prepared a monthly fact sheet, called the *Water Quality Lesson o' the Month*, to review with analysts at these meetings. These

lessons provided additional education and guidance to help planning staff continue to develop their knowledge of BMPs, design principles, and water quality goals. The *Water Quality Lesson o' the Month* fact sheets provided to analysts in 2002 were:

- References for Water Quality Analysis;
- Water Quality Analysis for Single Family Residences;
- Another Look at Erosion and Sediment Controls;
- Horse Management and Water Quality;
- Eliminating Restaurant Pollution;
- Storm Drain Filters;
- On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems;
- Development on Contaminated Properties;
- Answers to Coastal Commission Staff Water Quality Questions; and
- Vegetated Swales.

The *Water Quality Lesson o' the Month* proved to be a popular discussion tool amongst district office and water quality staffs. As water quality is a constantly evolving field, new issues and methods of pollution prevention continually arise, and this monthly discussion and publication helped facilitate a timely dissemination of information amongst the Coastal Commission staff.

WQU Challenges for 2003

The following is a list of the challenges encountered during 2002 that the WQU will work to resolve in the coming year:

- Due to reduced agency resources and an escalating need for meetings to develop the next set of agency five-year implementation plans, participation in the IACC began to fall off during 2002. Workgroups had been established to come up with land use specific objectives, but the increased meeting frequency could not be supported. The State Board and Coastal Commission responded by combining workgroups and extending the deadlines for objective development. The new schedule will result in the development of a draft California NPS Five Year Implementation Plan by July of 2003 and a final plan to be sent to NOAA and USEPA by the end of this year. Nevertheless, the schedule is dependent on the participation of many state agencies and without ongoing support of the directors of those agencies; the IACC may not achieve current goals.
- The USEPA and NOAA require state NPS programs to develop performance measures to evaluate the success of the programs. IACC participants, including the State Board and Coastal Commission staffs, have continued to struggle to establish land use specific objectives and performance measures, that can readily measured for evaluating the five-year implementation plans. While the agencies have been able to establish objectives for their own participation in the California NPS Plan, establishing overall program objectives and land use specific objectives requires more time than IACC members have been able to devote to this task.

Coastal Commission and State Board staff are currently in discussions with NOAA and USEPA to better refine the requirements for evaluating the state's compliance with the federal mandates. Issues of concern include the level of detail required and whether limited resources will allow for performance measures that are meaningful, achievable and measurable. Given the limited time available for IACC members to participate in the performance measure process, Coastal Commission and State Board staff may need to provide them with an abbreviated list of measures for their concurrence, instead of involving them in the performance measure development.

- Many state agencies were not able to meet the December 2002 deadline for submitting their draft Five Year Implementation Plans. As of the date of this report, the causes of these delays are still being evaluated. Preliminary discussions with staff from several agencies indicates uncertainties about future budgets and funding have impacted or delayed decisions for various NPS related programs. Again, the California NPS Plan implementation schedule is dependent on the participation of many state agencies and without ongoing support of the directors of those agencies; the IACC may not achieve current goals.
- A December 20, 2002 USEPA and NOAA memorandum clarifying the relationship of coastal NPS Programs and Municipal Stormwater regulations added confusion to the issue of division of NPS pollution control responsibilities for the State of California. Some Regional Board IACC representatives have already questioned whether or not activities under certain Measurement Measures that are now included in stormwater programs need to be addressed in their five-year implementation plans. Based on discussions with representatives at NOAA and EPA, the memorandum does not require changes to California's approved NPS plan. However, the Coastal Commission and State Board NPS staff believe that close coordination between the NPS and stormwater programs is vital to implement these municipal Measurement Measures. Among other key issues related to this coordination is finding the most effective process to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of implementation efforts by California agencies and programs. Discussions among the agencies to resolve these issues will continue.

Conclusion

The California NPS Plan is being implemented through coordination, cooperation and ingenuity of state agency staff, in spite of the budget crisis. Although the NPS Program has a low profile compared to other state water quality initiatives (e.g., TMDLs, stormwater and watershed management) it provides a vital role in dealing with the nonpoint sources of pollution that fall between the cracks; in providing an overall framework for addressing nonpoint sources; and in educating state and local agencies, businesses, and the public about the part they can play to minimize nonpoint source pollution. The program promotes pollution prevention, good project design, and land use planning to reduce the generation of polluted runoff. While the program could move at a faster pace if given additional funding and staffing, it continues to make progress through the work of dedicated state workers in the agencies of the IACC, the State Board and the Coastal Commission.

The Commission's WQU has grown in experience and diversity over the past several years, building on a core of state regulatory staff, through the addition of water quality scientists with a variety of work experience and education. The WQU now has the staff to take on a wide range of water quality issues from offshore oil to aquaculture, and from plastic marine debris to the impacts of garbage disposals on septic systems.

In addition, the WQU staff has greatly benefited from an open exchange of information with State and Regional Board staff. Representing each Coastal Commission District and working with corresponding Regional Board staff, the WQU continues to develop partnerships with the Regional Boards to share knowledge of specific projects, innovations in nonpoint source pollution control and their respective agencies' view on how best to protect coastal water quality. The commitment of the State and Regional Board staff to working with the Coastal Commission staff has enabled the WQU to get quick answers to critical questions, foster initiatives to improve water quality, and provide collaborative review of grant proposals. The WQU will continue to work with the State Board and Regional Boards to maximize the benefits of interagency coordination.