

Handout

Agenda Item

7A

Date November 10, 2016

NBWA
Nov. 4, 2016

American Canyon may soon be joining. Also connected with Valley of the Moon, but no response.

Bruce Wolfe, RWQCB: Was given Q from NBWA members beforehand. History of water code. Anything that would be a d/c into waters of the state needs level of oversight and permitting. 9 Water Boards around the state. Set up on a watershed basis. Challenge w/multi-jurisdiction boundaries. Central Valley and North Coast dealing with cannabis growers. A grow on private land requires regulation; a grow on public land is trespassing, so election may cause some additional work on private ag lands. No Timber/National Forest lands w/in our region. Rural has ag impacts on ground water. 20% of supply is from ground water in our region. Board; now is 7 member; appointed to 5 year term by Gov. John Muller is retiring after 25 years. So there is a **vacancy**. Board members by discipline/interest. Have to be confirmed by state senate. Proficiency with water issues. PhDs on board; usually with specific water background; and public members to ensure protection of Bay and Watershed. Per diem of \$250/day. Glorified volunteer position. Staff of 120, split into 5 technical divisions. Monthly meetings/public hearings/workshops on items of interest. State board vs Regional Board—RW dealing with more /permits on the ground. State board is more for appeal of Regional board decision. State Board serves as division of Water Rights; run through Sacto (flow standards, etc) Why State Board has been pushing water regs, conservation standards, etc. RW tries to facilitate these regs to improve flows. State board is now Division of Drinking Water; used to be Public Health. Sets DW quality standards. Very busy w/smaller agencies in CV running out of water. Legislation that can force consolidation. With increased interest in DPR/IPR, evaluating the tech panel's report. Report to legislature by end of this year to give ruling on feasibility. OK'd IPR last year. Santa Clara Valley most advanced in this. To get past the purple pipe cost. Salt/nutrient mgmt plan done for Sonoma; Napa next.

Funding through SRF; Prop 1 funding. Funding for groundwater clean up not tied to single polluter (fuel tank fund, dry cleaners, etc), hoping for funding for these non-source point polluted GW. Leadership on harmful algal blooms at State level to get the word out. Statewide issue. Naomi Vagar will come in Jan to talk about harmful algal bloom. DW reservoirs with mercury, **airborne sources**. Trying to address this on a statewide level. Probably coming from China so no way to stop this. Level of Merc in Bay sediment from historic gold mining. Funding from underground tank funds are being used here. Looking at abandoned mines as sources. Merc in stream banks; ok if it doesn't erode or get developed inappropriately, so needs to be stabilized in place.

Priority settings on basin plans. ID's all water bodies in region; ID's uses. Existing or potential uses. To protect or to restore to beneficial use. Federally mandated

Section 303d of Water Code. Water for fish a beneficial use. Are you tracking the lawsuits against impoundments? To increase flows for fish? Selenium gets into sturgeon; Merc in fish; so what's in sediment vs operationals that could be stopped. Lots of Selenium in Central Valley. Trying to balance the fresh water flow vs amount of selenium in water as bad. No regrets. No fracking going on in our region. Are oil wells in our region? East side of Livermore; 2 oil wells in deep area. Put in ATW in bringing that up. Question: what's groundwater; regulatory definition? Any depth of water is ground water. 2500 feet down; not the zone being used for DW; will that zone be separated in perpetuity? What's going from the surface into those deeper zones? What is coming up from below has not been so studied. Water injected into reservoir as your purview; do you also monitor subsidence from overdraft? All of Northern SJ subsided due to overdraft. Where can we use our water code to address this? Now starting to see these impacts as part of their purview. Some issues they are still trying to get a handle on.

Priorities of development and implementation of TMDL for water bodies. If water body is not achieving its beneficial use, what is the level of that constituent that can be assimilated (which will be below the current level) and what must be reduced in order to achieve beneficial use. Will you apply draconian measures on small sources of certain pollutants vs dealing with larger harder to manage sources? Distinguish between legacy load vs current new load? Trying to achieve balance. Also dealing with refineries with their airborne pollutants and groundwater. Refineries were sources of selenium; pushed them to reduce the selenium load, so levels are dropping. Load is now balanced in CV.

TMDLs fine sediment being major prob; b/c it smothers salmonid beds. North Coast Creeks and Streams. Yet less sediment coming out of the Delta; less in Bay, having impacts such as improved clarity of Bay and nutrient problem. Grain size of the sediment is what RW is concerned with. In process of regulating the fine sediments coming of ag, vineyards, rural roads, etc. Workshops on this issue. About to get out sediment regs for vineyards; spelling out what can be done to minimize this. Much more emphasis on permanent cover crops on vineyards now. Increased recognition of how to do your disking; etc. Wind erosion as well as water. Plugging into Fish Friendly Farming, LandSmart groups to minimize runoff; bragging rights there. TMDLs for nutrients and bacteria; solutions can help with all issues.

WWTP in Napa has improved; land use has improved (less grazing, more vineyards so less bacteria), recommending delisting of Napa River as impaired in some areas due to these changes. Have to be approved by many higher up agencies to do this. Lots of streams listed as impaired for trash. Adopted regional municipal water permit but goes to Phase 1. Phase 2 is statewide, and has trash requirements. Not necessarily well aligned.

Phase 2 Stormwater Program: what is experience now that it's been in one year? Goal of zero trash in waterways from stormwater runoff by 2020. Agencies are showing programs, showing reductions. Trying to get monitoring system in place to show this is working as per reported. One of significant sources of trash is homeless encampments. San Jose came up w/a number of programs, due to this issue. Housing at root of this but showing water quality related issue to homeless encampments. Hope to make the connection. Evolving issue and solutions are not simple or clear. What does full trash capture mean? What can be done short of new infrastructure? New developments looking at centrifuge trash collectors where trash drops out of stormwater system, including more street sweeping. Garbage pick up day is biggest source of trash so doing street sweeping after garbage day. Commercial areas where we should be focusing. CalTrans has statewide stormwater permits for trash generated on the freeway. Statewide permit including cattails and water management; not vegetation removal; that has to come through each region.

As Bay gets clearer, as water flows are less, nutrients are becoming an issue. Change in DO levels. Adopted a Regional permit on nutrients. Each agency has permit, and plan for what they can do, to understand what is possible and what is the price tag? And what is the level of nutrients that we are looking at? Current nutrient permit will expire in 2019. BACWA says we need to ramp up the DO nexus vs Nutrients data collection. Need better understanding of this. Does this turn into a more global strategic management plan for all treatment facilities? Controlling emerging contaminants. Pushing CWA to do this; look at the big picture together. What can WWTPs do for recapture of nutrients, CEC's, etc. Phos is not huge more the nitrates. What percentage of water flows into bay are from Sewage Treatment plants? Approx 500M GPD. Now about 350MGPD. Conservation; water recycling and reuse. Water agencies that had leaky pipes are now being fixed. Reduced flows but not nitrogen load. May still have levels of salt or nutrients that are ok or not; not known. Need to continue to expand the monitoring.

If you reduce the d/c from the sewer agencies, that are clean, into the bay, will that increase nutrients loads, etc. San Jose treatment plant was the biggest d/c of fresh water into south bay. Seeing change in tidal prism from restoring the salt ponds—how is this changing conditions? Lots of uncertainties. Recognition that we need multi-benefit approach to these issues. Flood Control 2.0 as one funding source. Where can we better use treated WW to augment wetlands? Or ag lands? Or flood control slopes—where the nutrients could be useful.

How is WWTP expertise managed within RW? Relies on Regional Monitoring program. Refineries, WWTPs etc put money in pot to work from. What's the capability of the plant? What can be achieved? Tech evaluation. Historically have become limited in expertise in this area. Could use that tech background in the agency. Using BACWA etc to help prepare evaluations on case by case basis. Infrastructure getting old; what should we do moving forward? Regionally what is

optimal? Where can we do this? Should be doing more wetland or pond treatment but not all facilities have room. Ora Loma as pilot. Treated wastewater to help develop wetland via horizontal levee system. 37 different plants which 37 different process trains. It's a challenge for all of us. Blending as a acceptable approach while recognize wet weather inflows that need to be managed/controlled as much as possible. To reduce overflows/blending. Work UP in the watershed needed to help reduce overflows. Implemented East Bay sewer lateral requirements. Real Estate has this as a huge concern still.

Measure AA funds may be available for helping with WWTTP's underground infrastructure which is at risk. Money available around 2018. WWTTP needs to be involved w/advisory committee for AA funds as it moves forward.

Moving forward, re: creek and wetland restoration and shoreline resilience and SLR, interacts w/not filling the bay so wrestling with this issue. To streamline permitting of wetland restoration (which looks like bay fill) and improve coordination of agencies and out of silos. To take a watershed based approach vs project by project. Can we combine projects?

Near shore dilution—water is a resource so maybe better to have it used near shore rather than long line out to bay for d/c. Changing times.

→Vacancy on board: to apply, send resume to Gov. appointments office, online site for doing that. LOS useful. Across the board LOS. Trying to build complimentary on board. Look at background of other board members. Board packets come in huge binders.

Greg: final draft of communication plan ready for board's review in Dec; also in Jan. for final approval/full conversation on proposal.

Next agenda: Meg Sedlack from SFEI on drugs in waterways. Regional monitoring program. Esp. in Northbay rivers and streams. Sonoma County will talk about Climate Change planning, how they are getting ahead of the curve.

New Fish ladder and viewing facility—\$12M facility. 20-30 pound Chinook are travelling up the ladder! Increasing the reliability of water supply. Near Forestville on Russian River. Field trips for board. Ora Loma. Fish Ladder. AWT in Santa Clara. Let Judy K. know if this is a good idea. Ideas for these trips. STRAW restoration on Tolay creek? Napa Flood Control field trip in past. Potable water supply in Monterrey, with economics of.

Dec. 2, Petaluma Community Center.