

Meeting Minutes

CCLEAN Steering Committee

May 22, 2007

10:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Municipal Service Center, 320Harvest Dr.
Watsonville

Participants:

Barbara Pierson: City of Watsonville, (831) 768-3179

Bob Geyer: City of Watsonville, (831) 768-3149

Dane Hardin: Applied Marine Sciences, (831) 426-6326

Greg Antosz: Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA), (831) 883-1118

Akin Babatola: City of Santa Cruz, (831) 420-6045

Ray von Dohren: Carmel Area Wastewater District (831) 624-1248

Karen Worcester: Regional Water Quality Control Board, (805) 549-3333

Matt Keeling: Regional Water Quality Control Board, (805) 549-3685

Mike Higgins: Regional Water Quality Control Board, (805) 542-4649

Chris Coburn: Santa Cruz County (831) 454-2763 (Observer)

John Ricker: Santa County Environmental Health (831) 454-2750 (Observer)

Agenda Items:

- 1) **Report from Regional Board Staff:** There were 3 representatives from the Regional Board staff and they had several things to report.
 - a) Carmel's permit renewal has been moved to the December meeting along with Monterey Regional's renewal. All information has to be into the permit writer by August so he can complete the staff report and the permit can go out for public review for 3 months before the meeting.
 - b) They would like to do a separate order for the CCLEAN program. The details of the CCLEAN program would be removed from individual MRP's of the dischargers' permits and be replaced by the requirement to participate in CCLEAN. This would make the CCLEAN program more flexible. We may develop an interim program until more storm water agencies become involved with CCLEAN or develop and new CCLEAN program that focuses solely on issue of concern of the point dischargers.
 - c) Mike Higgins mentioned that the RWQCB staff is working on developing a list of EDC (Endocrine Disrupting Compounds), along with prescribed methods, that they would like to add to the dischargers' monitoring programs.
 - d) Karen explained that the Regional Board can not force storm water agencies to join CCLEAN because the phase 2 storm water regulation does not require monitoring. It may be easier to have separate regional monitoring programs for the point source dischargers and the storm water agencies and just share the data.
 - e) We discussed the possibility of coordinating the CCLEAN effluent sampling of the

plants with the semi-annual effluent Priority Pollutants sampling so these efforts are not duplicated. It would result in a net saving for the dischargers' analytical costs. Barbara mentioned that the Watsonville permit has a rotating effluent monitoring schedule so that it changes to different months each year.

- f) Matt said that if the amount of monitoring is reduced in the CCLEAN program there would have to a public review.

2) **Reconsideration of Original Objectives:**

- a) Are any or all of them still relevant?
- b) Should any or all of them be revised?

We went over each objective of the existing CCLEAN program and evaluated whether the objective had been met and if it was still relevant. It was discussed that it is difficult to determine the objectives of the "New CCLEAN" with out knowing whom all the participants will be. It was suggested that we should focus on the needs of the people at the table (the dischargers) at this point.

i. Obtain high-quality data describing the status and long-term trends in the quality of near shore waters, sediments and associated beneficial uses.

We agreed that this objective had been met for the 6 years of the program and that it was still relevant. The question was raised of whether this was the responsibility of the dischargers by themselves. It is hard to determine "long-term trends" in 6 years; but ambient status is clear

ii. Determine whether near shore waters and sediments are in compliance with the Ocean Plan.

This question was answered for a subset of the table B contaminants. In February of 2006, the sample collected from the North Monterey Bay site from the ambient monitoring buoy, over a 30-day period, exceeded the water quality objectives of the Ocean Plan for PAHs and PCBs. Again; the compliance should not be the sole responsibility of the dischargers. Over all more information is needed.

With the integrated sampling of the effluent by either the SPMD (Semi-permeable Membrane Device) that Santa Cruz and Monterey Regional are using or the Solid Phase Extraction method that CCLEAN is using, Reasonable Potential Analysis can be done by the dischargers. The side-by-side results of these 2 methods need to be analyzed

iii. Determine sources of contaminants to near shore waters. The combined loads from all rivers greatly exceeded the combined loads from wastewater dischargers for silica, TSS, nitrate-N, Urea-N, and POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants). The load of Ammonia-N from the rivers was less than the dischargers' ammonia loads. The orthophosphates loads from the river have been increasing since 2001-2002 and surpassed the dischargers' load in 2005-2006. The CCLEAN Program has shown that more conventionally measured pollutants are coming from the rivers as oppose to the POTWs. What is hasn't evaluated is where the pollutants from the rivers originate. Is it from urban run off, agricultural run off, or rural run off? John Ricker informed us that approximately 2/3 of the storm

water drains in Santa Cruz County empty into rivers.

iv. Provide legally defensible data on the effects of wastewater discharges in near shore waters. CCLEAN has met this objective. The QAAP dictates that quality control samples are run with each analysis, which makes them both SWAMP and EPA compliant.

v. Develop a long-term database on trends in the quality of near shore waters, sediments and associated beneficial uses. This objective is in progress. The SWAMP compatible database is almost complete.

vi. Ensure that the near shore component database is compatible with other regional monitoring efforts and regulatory requirements. Same as above.

vii. Ensure that near shore component data are presented in ways that are understandable and relevant to the needs of stakeholders. This objective is hard to evaluate because it depend on who is our target audience. For regulators and the scientific community the reports are understandable. If we want to target the ratepayers, governing boards, and city council members, a glossy brochure with more pictures would be more helpful. Monterey Regional doesn't think that CCLEAN should be responsible for producing a PR pamphlet. Chris Coburn suggested that a synopsis of the CCLEAN program could be presented in one of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary publications, to reach a broader audience.

- 3) **What's Next:** At this point we deviated from the agenda because we were running out of time. Greg mentioned that the effluent from MRWPCA plant will dramatically change by the fall of 2008. They will be reclaiming their wastewater year round and the outfall will be used primarily for brine discharge. With a brine discharge, the issues of concern are different. The density of the water and stratification in the receiving water are more important and BOD and suspended solids are less important.

We discussed what components of CCLEAN would be eliminated in an "Interim Program". The river sampling seemed to be the first candidate. It is clear that this should not be the POTW's responsibility. The cost of the river sampling is approximately \$25,000 per river/year. Bob said that the City of Watsonville would take over the river sampling for the Pajaro River. Ray expressed concern that we would create holes in the data if we discontinued components of CCLEAN. He suggested that we could do some efficiency changes (i.e. do mussel sampling just once per year) and we continue the program for one more year. At that point the program would end unless other agencies were involved to make it a true Regional Monitoring Program.

We asked Dane to work with Karen on an Interim program that we could evaluate. The dischargers are going to have a meeting some time before our next CCLEAN meeting. We will discuss what we are willing to spend on a receiving water monitoring program. With all of us working on recycling our wastewater, it is hard to justify an expensive bay-monitoring program, if we are the only participants in the program.

- 4) **Set Date for the next Meeting:** The next meeting was set for Wednesday, June 27, 2007 at the WWTP in Watsonville. The meeting will be from 10:00 am to Noon.

