

WQ4: Promote coordination to implement best management practices (BMPs) related to water quality issues.



Stormwater BMP Implementation Program

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Current NPDES Stormwater Permits require the implementation of

numerous Best Management Practices (BMPs) to improve water quality. Many of these BMPs could be met through regional programs that would allow cost sharing and savings between agencies and that would actually provide stronger and more comprehensive results. An NBWA Stormwater BMP Implementation Program could coordinate with a similar program currently implemented by the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) to develop specific regional BMPs to meet many of the stormwater permitting requirements for individual member agencies.

RMC





A regional congruous stream monitoring program can provide a strong basis for determining where pollution issues originate that cause a water body to be listed as "impaired." The health of the entire North Bay Watershed is achieved by ensuring that these smaller subwatershed components are consistently monitored. An NBWA public awareness campaign would work with local stakeholder and education groups to develop regional messages and simple activities that would improve the conditions of impaired water bodies within the North Bay Watershed region.





On a regional level, a public awareness campaign as well

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as directed outreach to private landowners would foster the relationship between the public and the North Bay Watershed and help in reducing the levels of refuse and sediment reaching stream systems. Locally, many NBWA member agencies have already determined several strong projects and programs that would help to reduce erosion and sedimentation issues. NBWA could also provide immediate support to these existing and proposed projects and programs for the Novato and Petaluma subwatersheds.

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Determining where altered stream areas can be feasibly restored to their natural condition and geomorphic equilibrium is an objective that benefits from a regional approach. An NBWA Creek Restoration Initiative would serve to support and coordinate existing efforts that can increase the effectiveness and cost efficiencies of such programs. Once again, supporting strong local projects such as the Petaluma River Cleaning and Re-vegetation Project are important steps the NBWA can take to create an immediate improvement in the overall health the entire North Bay Watershed.





concentrations that are increased due to a lack of dilution through natural water supply during dry weather conditions. These issues can often be addressed through targeted outreach to private land owners educating them on ways to avoid dry weather flows. An NBWA CMOM Compliance Program would serve to develop compliance program for regulations regarding Capacity Management Operations and Maintenance for wastewater collection systems. CMOM compliance is also a great step toward eliminating situations that could create dry weather nuisance flows.

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5.5 **FLOOD PROTECTION OBJECTIVES**

EXISTING PROJECTS



the NBWA region have completed or are

currently engaged in overall flood assessment activities. The Sonoma Creek Hydrologic/ Hydraulic Analysis would build upon analysis efforts conducted in the Napa and Petaluma watershed areas and would coordinate with these previous projects to find out lessons learned and project results. NBWA would also be well suited to work cooperatively with Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to develop an assessment of flooding potential in eastern Marin County that build upon the work already completed in the San Rafael area.



FP2: Protect and preserve natural flood plains.



While many of the natural floodplains around the North Bay have been altered through time, there are still some areas where natural flood processes and features remain. In order to protect and preserve these areas, they first need to be surveyed and understood. An NBWA sponsored North Bay Natural Flood Plain Survey would create a repository for floodplain data and offer a regional perspective toward prioritizing the implementation of protective measures.



EXISTING PROJECTS



Stormwater runoff issues relate to both water quality and flood protection objectives.

Implementation

Demonstration Project

Geomorphology Study

Program

Control

With regard to flood control, implementation of BMPs is critical especially with regard to erosion and sedimentation. An erosion/sediment control demonstration project would create a few demonstration sites using various stream bank erosion abatement techniques. Assessing the efficacy and feasibility of implementing techniques can aid in future stream management and flood control planning. Geomorphology studies would also contribute vital information needed toward developing worthwhile sediment and erosion abatement programs.





control facilities such as channels and modified streams. The creation of habitat through restoration of these altered stream and waterway areas is encouraged, but can only be implemented if done in a feasible manner. NBWA can take a regional assessment of these facilities and use the collaboration of its member agencies to determine which existing flood control facilities could benefit from stream restoration through the North Bay Existing Flood Control Facility Survey and then focus implementation efforts through the NBWA Creek Restoration Initiative.

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EXISTING PROJECTS



FP5: Incorporate recreation and community participation features into stormwater and flood protection projects.



Stormwater and flood control issues can often be traced back to the everyday public and recreation activities. Creating a regional watershed education program can allow a consistent and effective message to be given to the public with regard to stewardship of the watershed that supports them. While individual member agencies have developed smaller scale public outreach programs, a regional effort would allow for cost efficiencies and provide consistent outreach messages.

