

-----Original Message-----

From: Pete Riegelhuth [mailto:pete\_riegelhuth@dot.ca.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 11:06 AM

To: Matt Thompson

Cc: Harvey Packard; john\_papathakis@dot.ca.gov; Marissa Nishikawa; Roger Briggs; Sorrel Marks; Tamara Presser; Steve Price

Subject: Re: Caltrans Maintenance Activity on Highway 1, Oceano

Matt,

Caltrans District 5 office would like to take this opportunity to express its unwavering dedication to maintaining the highest levels of compliance with environmental and water quality protective laws and policies of the U.S., the State of California, and to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued to the Department in 1999 (Order NO. 99-06-DWQ) (CAS000003).

The Maintenance Engineer and Area Superintendent for this area were interviewed regarding the complaint against the Caltrans Maintenance activity on Highway 1 in Oceano. Even though this site has a history of poor drainage that is beyond the control of Caltrans, it was determined that Department roadway maintenance operations at this location are in compliance with requirements set forth in Department Stormwater Quality Guidance Manuals. The trucks seen with their plow blades lowered are moving the flooded water and fallen branches off of the road way. Department personnel maintain the entrance to the drainage channel by shoveling sediment out of the channel and onto the banks. When the rain event is over, Department staff return to remove the shoveled material. The Maintenance Area Superintendent has agreed to immediately bag the shoveled material and remove it from the area when maintaining the drainage flow.

Due to past litigation, the Department is no longer responsible or allowed to maintain the channel located off of the Caltrans right of way. If you would like further information about the drainage situation and the maintenance effort at this location, which has a history beyond what can be detailed in an e-mail, please let me know so that I can arrange a meeting with Department staff familiar with the drainage challenges and restrictions at this site.

Respectfully,

Pete Riegelhuth  
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<http://sv06web/pjd/stormwater/>

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To

01/07/2009 05:06  
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Subject  
Caltrans Maintenance Activity on  
Highway 1, Oceano

John, Pete,

As we spoke about earlier today John, here is the blog that Oceano  
businessman Bill Bookout has shared with Water Board staff and other  
agencies:

<http://www.oceanonurseryflooding.blogspot.com>

This blog includes photos and videos of Caltrans maintenance workers  
plowing and shoveling flood-related debris from Highway 1 into a roadside  
ditch. Mr. Bookout says the Caltrans maintenance supervisor is David Fry  
(sp?). Mr. Bookout asserts that this activity is causing a nearby culvert  
beneath the railroad tracks to become clogged with debris, which  
exacerbates flooding of his property.

Caltrans' NPDES stormwater permit prohibits the discharge of wastes or  
wastewater from road sweeping vehicles or from other maintenance or  
construction activities to any surface waters or to any storm drain leading  
to surface water bodies. This maintenance activity appears to violate this  
prohibition. Please direct your maintenance staff to immediately  
discontinue this activity. Any flood-related debris should be scooped up  
and properly disposed of in an appropriate location. If we receive any  
further complaints regarding this activity, we may find Caltrans in  
violation of its NPDES requirements and pursue formal enforcement action.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

--Matt Thompson

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