

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
A Monthly Report to the Board and Public
December 2004

Berkeley's Stormwater Program (Jennifer Krebs)

Berkeley resident LA Wood shared an article with you during the November public forum that he authored and had published in the Berkeley Daily Planet on October 29, 2004. The article mentioned a number of alleged deficiencies of the City of Berkeley's stormwater program.

Water Board staff is currently reviewing the annual report submitted in September by Berkeley and other Alameda County municipalities, as required by the Alameda Countywide stormwater permit. That annual report indicates that a restaurant inspection program still continues to be lacking in Berkeley. Staff review concludes that the "City [of Berkeley] needs to implement/coordinate a formal restaurant stormwater inspection program for other than only those businesses that participate in the Green Business Program." Staff review indicates that the City also did not meet its inspection targets for industrial sites.

On a more positive note, City staff has referred numerous polluting facilities to the Alameda County District Attorney. Also, the City met its goal for illicit discharge screening (popping manhole covers to look for non-storm water discharges as well as training city staff as to how to respond to storm water pollution encountered on city streets, creeks, or in parks). The City is also meeting its goals for municipal maintenance (i.e., street sweeping and other tasks to keep the storm drain system functioning) and Sewer System Management Plans operation.

Board staff's goal is to complete all annual report reviews by the end of December 2004 and to present those reviews and recommended followup actions to the Board by February 2005. Given the continued deficiency in Berkeley's restaurant inspection program, staff plans to issue a notice to Berkeley to require corrective action including setting a compliance schedule. Staff passed this information on to Mr. Wood via e-mail and a phone call on December 2.