CCA #37 Watsonville Slough

DESCRIPTION
The Watsonville Slough System consists of six major branch sloughs: Watsonville, Harkins, Hanson, Struve, West Branch of Struve and Gallighan. The slough system is a network of approximately 800 acres of coastal salt marsh, seasonal wetlands, brackish and freshwater emergent marsh and riparian communities. The sloughs receive runoff from a 13,000-acre watershed area, which includes a mix of urban, industrial, rural residential, agricultural, and open space areas.

The Watsonville Slough watershed is contaminated by metals, residual pesticides, grease and oil, nutrients, and sediment. It is also evident from data and field observations (e.g., fish kills) that severe impairment of basic water quality factors such as dissolved oxygen is occurring, likely due to excessive nutrients from various land uses.

REASON FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION
The Watsonville Slough was one of the original CCAs identified in 1995 as an impaired waterbody that flows into an estuary.

POLLUTED RUNOFF CONDITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Coastal Zone Waterbodies</th>
<th>Pathogens</th>
<th>Pesticides</th>
<th>Sediment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watsonville Slough</td>
<td>▲ Medium</td>
<td>▲ Low</td>
<td>▲ Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallighan Slough</td>
<td>▪</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harkins Slough</td>
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<td>Hanson Slough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Struve Slough</td>
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Potential Sources of Pollutants in Coastal Waterbodies

- Agriculture
  - Crop Production ▲ ▲
  - Agricultural Storm Runoff ▲ ▲ a
  - Irrigation Tailwater ▲

Forestry (Silviculture)

Urban Areas
- Urban Runoff/ Storm Sewers ▲    a, b
- Construction/ Land Development ▲    a, b
- Septic Systems ▲    a, b

Marinas & Boating
### Potential Sources of Pollutants, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pathogens</th>
<th>Pesticides</th>
<th>Sediment</th>
<th>?</th>
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<th>Efforts to Address Pollutants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hydromodification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetlands &amp; Riparian Areas</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT NPS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

#### a) Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network
- **NOAA, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**
- **Bridget Hoover**
- (831) 883-9303

- The MBS Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network is a consortium of approximately twenty citizen monitoring groups that monitor the health of the watersheds flowing into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

#### b) Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP) for Santa Cruz County
- **Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District, California Coastal Conservancy, and multiple local, federal, and state partners**
- **Karen Christensen, Kate Goodnight**
- (831) 464-2950
  - ed@sccrcd.org
  - kgoodnight@scc.ca.gov

- Funding for designs and permits for 50-70 watershed restoration and water quality projects in seven county watersheds; focus on fish passage improvement, rural roads sediment reduction, and wetland enhancement.

#### c) Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program for Santa Cruz County
- **Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District, and Sustainable Conservation**
- **Karen Christensen**
- (831) 464-2950

- Development of first countywide permit coordination program modeled after successful effort in Elkhorn Slough. Regulator agencies agreed to issue “master permits” to RCD/NRCS to cover a suite of restoration practices.

### REGULATORY/PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

- **City of Watsonville, Public Works Dept.**
  - [http://www.ci.watsonville.ca.us/](http://www.ci.watsonville.ca.us/)
  - David Koch
  - (831) 768-3173

- **Santa Cruz County**
  - [http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/](http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/)
  - Donna Bradford
  - (831) 454-7580

- **Calif. Coastal Commission, Water Quality Unit**
  - [http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html)
  - Ross Clark
  - (831) 427-4873

- **Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**
  - [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/)
  - Bill Arkfeld
  - (805) 542-4627

- **State Water Resources Control Board**
  - [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/)
  - Steve Fagundes
  - (916) 341-5487

- **California Coastal Conservancy**
  - [http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/](http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/)
  - Terri Nevins
  - (510) 286-4161

- **Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Marine Region**
  - [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/)
  - Kevin Urquhart
  - (831) 649-2882

- **NOAA, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**
  - [http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/](http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/)
  - Chris Coburn
  - (831) 420-1670

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California’s Critical Coastal Areas  
State of the CCAs Report  
June 2, 2006