

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4 (IMPLEMENTATION PLANS) OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) is proposing to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) by making editorial changes to the “Policy on the Control of Water Quality with Respect to On-Site Waste Treatment and Disposal Practices” in Section 4 of the Basin Plan. This proposed amendment is being considered to align the Basin Plan with a concurrent Region Water Board action to establish a Program of Implementation for the Russian River Watershed (TMDL Action Plan) that is currently available for public review in advance of a public hearing scheduled for December 12-13, 2017.

I. Section 4 of the Basin Plan, the OWTS Policy and Russian River Watershed Pathogen TMDL

Section 4.2.1 of the Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS Policy) exempts OWTS located within the Russian River Watershed from requirements of the OWTS Policy until the Regional Water Board adopts a TMDL for the Russian River Watershed. Until adoption of the Russian River Pathogen TMDL, OWTS within the Russian River Watershed are required to continue to comply with the “Policy on the Control of Water Quality with Respect to On-Site Waste Treatment and Disposal Practices” contained in Section 4 of the Basin Plan. When and if the TMDL Action Plan is finalized and adopted, the “Policy on the Control of Water Quality with Respect to On-Site Waste Treatment and Disposal Practices” in Section 4 of the Basin Plan would no longer apply to OWTS systems within the Russian River Watershed. The proposed amendment includes editorial changes to Section 4 of the Basin Plan to remove language that would no longer be operable if the Russian River Pathogen TMDL is adopted by the Regional Board.

II. Availability of Documents

Documents related to the proposed Basin Plan amendment are available for public review and can be downloaded from the Regional Water Board’s website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/russian_river/.

These documents can also be viewed by contacting or visiting the Regional Water Board’s office at 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or calling 707-576-2220.

III. Public Comments

Persons wishing to comment on the proposed Basin Plan amendment described herein, are invited to submit comments in writing. To be evaluated and responded to by the Regional

Water Board, and fully considered in advance of the hearing, all written comments and evidence must be received by the Regional Water Board no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 9, 2017**. Untimely submittal of written comments will not be accepted or responded to.

Please transmit comments electronically to the attention of Alydda Mangelsdorf at the Regional Water Board at NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov. Comments can also be faxed to 707-523-0135 or mailed to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board - North Coast Region, ATTN: Alydda Mangelsdorf, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403. Persons wishing to present oral comments are invited to attend the hearing and present oral comments on December 12-13, 2017.

Please Note: The **Monday, October 9, 2017** deadline to receive written comments corresponds only to written comments related to the Section 4 Basin Plan revisions. The written comments on the draft TMDL Action Plan, draft staff report, and SED, should be submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 2017**. Please see the Regional Water Board's website for the public notice and details regarding that submission: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/russian_river/.

IV. Hearing Date and Location

The Regional Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider approval of the SED and adoption of the TMDL Action Plan, including the proposed amendment to Section 4 of the Basin Plan at its regular public meeting scheduled:

Date and Time: December 12-13, 2017, 8:30 A.M.

Location: Regional Water Board Office, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 649.3. Time limits may be imposed on oral testimony at the public hearing; groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson. The December 2017 meeting is scheduled as a two-day meeting. The full agenda will be available 10 days before the meeting.

Written comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period will be considered by the Regional Water Board as part of their decision making process.

V. PUBLIC HEARING ACCESSIBILITY

A map and directions to the hearing are available online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/about_us/contact_us.shtml

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact Patti Corsie, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2307, at least five days prior to the scheduled Board Meeting. The hearing location is accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

VI. Regional Water Board Staff Contact

Questions regarding the proposed amendment to Section 4 of the Basin Plan, should be directed to: Alydda Mangelsdorf, Senior Environmental Scientist, at alydda.mangelsdorf@waterboards.ca.gov or (707) 576-6735.

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer
August 24, 2017