

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Thursday, January 29, 2015
Regional Water Board Office
Santa Rosa, California

- ITEM: 7
- SUBJECT: Public hearing to consider adoption of Resolution No. R1-2015-0001 Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region and Basin Plan Amendment (Jonathan Warmerdam)
- BOARD ACTION: At the public hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the *proposed* Restoration Policy and the adopting Resolution No. R1-2015-0004.
- DISCUSSION: The Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region - Resolution No. R1-2015-0001 (Restoration Policy) is primarily a narrative expressing support for restoration and similar type projects. It also describes in more detail (1) the importance of restoration projects for the protection, enhancement and recovery of beneficial uses, (2) the obstacles that slow or preclude restoration actions, (3) the legal and procedural requirements for permitting restoration projects, (4) the ongoing Regional Water Board effort to provide support towards the implementation of restoration projects, (5) direction to staff to continue to support restoration in the future, and (6) abbreviated Basin Plan narrative amendment language regarding the Restoration Policy. Resolution No. R1-2005-0001 and the accompanying Basin Plan narrative amendment are referred to in combination as the Restoration Policy.
- The Restoration Policy relies on the Substitute Environmental Document (SED) from the Regional Water Board's Temperature Policy (adopted March 2014) to address the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Regional Water Board staff developed an addendum to the SED to ensure that all factors have been considered to conform to the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15162, subdivision (a). Additionally, the Regional Water Board conducted a public workshop on the proposed Restoration Policy in November 2014 and distributed the draft Restoration Policy to a wide variety of stakeholders, tribes, and governmental agencies during the 45-day public review period.

Resolution No. R1-2005-0004 serves as the adopting resolution for the narrative Basin Plan Amendment language included in the Restoration Policy. The adopting resolution includes required findings relative to: CEQA, consistency with anti-degradation policies, and conformance with the “Necessity Standard” of the Administrative Procedures Act.

Public comments have been largely supportive of the Restoration Policy. Staff has responded to all substantive comments and has included revisions to the Restoration Policy to incorporate recommended additions, as appropriate. Both a strikeout and underline version of the Restoration Policy showing changes made to the public review draft and a clean final copy of the proposed Restoration Policy are attached.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends adoption of proposed Resolution No. R1-2015-0001, the Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region and adoption of the adopting Resolution No. R1-2015-0004.

**SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:**

1. Clean copy version of proposed Resolution No. R1-2015-0001, Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region
2. Strikeout and underline version of proposed Resolution No. R1-2015-0001, Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region
3. California Environmental Quality Act – Addendum to the Temperature Policy Substitute Environmental Document, Prepared for the Policy In Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region Basin Plan Amendment, December 2014
4. Resolution No. R1-2015-0004, Adopting Basin Plan Amendment for the Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region
5. Responses to comments on the Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region
6. Public comments letters
7. Public Notices: Documents for Public Review and Comments and Notice of Public Hearing