

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Thursday, March 13, 2014
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California

- ITEM: 4
- SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Resolution No. R1-2014-0006, amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to include the Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature, and Action Plans to Address Temperature Impairments in the Mattole, Navarro, and Eel River Watersheds (Bryan McFadin)
- BOARD ACTION: Staff is presenting the proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) to the Regional Water Board for consideration of adoption into the Basin Plan.
- BACKGROUND: By adoption of resolution R1-2012-0013, the Regional Water Board directed staff to prepare an amendment incorporating a temperature implementation policy into the Basin Plan.
- ISSUES: Staff is proposing a Basin Plan amendment that will add a *Policy to Implement the Water Quality Objective for Temperature* (Policy), and add additional Action Plans to implement the Navarro, Mattole, Upper Main Eel, Middle Main Eel, Lower Eel, Middle Fork Eel, North Fork Eel, and South Fork Eel River temperature total maximum daily loads (Action Plans). The proposed revisions to the Basin Plan include changes to Chapter 4 - Implementation Plans. The proposed Basin Plan amendment describes the approach to implementing the water quality objectives for temperature in one cohesive policy. It identifies the regulatory mechanisms staff will employ to ensure achievement of the water quality objective for temperature, it describes the significance of stream shade as a factor determining stream temperatures and identifies shade as a controllable water quality factor, and it directs staff to address temperature concerns through existing authorities and processes. The proposed Policy also directs the development of a temperature monitoring plan and temperature workplan.

The Policy and Action Plans were presented to the Regional Water Board during the public comment period at a Board Workshop on September 26, 2013 in Fortuna, California. Staff received 17 comment letters on the proposed Basin Plan amendment. These comments letters and staff responses were previously included in the November 20, 2013 Board agenda package.

The Regional Water Board considered the Policy and Action Plans at a public hearing during the Regional Water Board's November 20, 2013 meeting in Santa Rosa, California. The Regional Water Board deferred action at that time and directed staff to define the term "site potential effective shade" and clarify the concept, with particular discussion of how the concept is applied and assessed.

**SIGNIFICANT
CHANGES:**

Regional Water Board staff propose modifying the term "site potential effective shade" to "site-specific potential effective shade", following discussion with foresters. Adding the word "specific" clarifies the intent of the term in a manner that is consistent with the definition and avoids confusion regarding the use of the term "site potential".

Staff have added the definition of site-specific potential effective shade to the proposed Policy, and have added text to the Staff Report clarifying the site-specific potential effective shade concept and definition, including discussion of the application and assessment of the concept. In addition, staff have revised Action 1 of the Policy to include actions to control sediment loads and address hydrologic conditions resulting in exceedence of temperature objectives.

The proposed changes to the Staff Report and Policy are summarized in a stand-alone document for ease of consideration.

**SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:**

1. Summary of Changes Proposed Since the November 20 Meeting
2. Resolution No. R1-2014-0006 amending the Basin Plan
3. Policy to Implement the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature (Attachment 1 to Resolution No. R1-2014-0006), strikethrough/underline versions and clean copies
4. Resolution R1-2012-0013, Policy Statement for Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for the North Coast Region (Attachment 2 to Resolution No. R1-2014-0006)
5. Action Plans to Address Elevated Water Temperatures in the Mattole, Navarro, and Eel River Watersheds (Attachment 3 to Resolution No. R1-2014-0006)
6. California Environmental Quality Act Findings for Potentially Significant Impacts Prepared for the Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature (Attachment 4 to Resolution No. R1-2014-0006)
7. Final Draft Staff Report Supporting the Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature

and Action Plan to Address Temperature Impairment in the
Mattole River Watershed, Action Plan to Address Temperature
Impairment in the Navarro River Watershed, and Action Plan to
Address Temperature Impairment in the Eel River Watershed
8. Notice of Public Hearing

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