

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region**

Resolution No. R1-2015-0012

**Adoption of the 2014 Triennial Review of the
Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region,
Proposed Basin Planning Project Priorities**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, (hereinafter the Regional Water Board) finds that:

Introduction

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board), adopted the Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) for the Klamath River Basin (1A) and the North Coastal Basin (1B) and their abstracts on March 20, 1975. The abstracts of the Klamath River Basin Plan (1A) and the North Coastal Basin Plan (1B) were combined to form *the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) on April 28, 1988. The Regional Water Board has updated and amended the Basin Plan numerous times since then in response to changes in regulation and other conditions. The Basin Plan was last updated in May 2011.
2. The Regional Water Board has approved six additional amendments to the Basin Plan since May 2011, including a Policy for the Implementation of Water Quality Objectives for Temperature, Temperature TMDL Action Plan for the Eel River, Temperature TMDL Action Plan for the Mattole River, and Temperature TMDL Action Plan for the Navarro River in March 2014; an Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OTWS) Policy in June 2014; and a Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region in January 2015. The Temperature Implementation Policy and Temperature TMDL action plans are on the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) 12-month calendar for approval in April 2015. The OTWS Policy is on the State Water Board's 12-month calendar for June 2015. The Restoration Policy has not yet been scheduled for inclusion on the State Water Board's 12-month calendar.
3. The Basin Plan includes definitions of beneficial uses of water, water quality objectives necessary to protect those beneficial uses, implementation plans to control point and nonpoint sources of waste discharges, acknowledgement of and coordination with statewide plans and policies and surveillance and monitoring component.
4. The Regional Water Board is responsible for adopting water quality standards (beneficial uses and objectives) and implementation plans and for modifying such standards and plans, as appropriate, under the provisions of Clean Water Act sections 303(c), (d), and (e) and CCR section 13240; and

Summary of 2014 Triennial Review

5. The Regional Water Board solicited written recommendations from the public on needed basin plan revisions beginning in January 2014 up through close of business June 20, 2014, including three public workshops, in Santa Rosa (April 8, 2014), Redding (April 9, 2014) and Fortuna (May 8, 2014), to receive oral input; and
6. On November 21, 2014, the Regional Water Board released the *2014 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region*, including staff's *Draft Proposed Basin Plan Amendment Project Priorities* and draft proposed editorial revisions to Chapters 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the Basin Plan.
7. On November 21, 2014, the Regional Water Board published the Public Notice announcing the availability of documents and the hearing date of March 12, 2015.
8. The Regional Water Board conducted a public workshop on November 19, 2014 and received comments from the Board and members of the public on the proposed 2014 Triennial Review.
9. The Regional Water Board staff has reviewed and carefully considered all comments and testimony received, and has prepared a *Response to Comments on the 2014 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region*. The *2014 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, Proposed Basin Planning Project Priorities* (Attachment 1) has been revised to:
 - a. Add consideration of the WET, FLD, WQE, CUL, and FISH beneficial uses and dissolved oxygen, biostimulatory substances, and other wetland-related water quality objectives as potential outcomes of priority #1c;
 - b. Upgrade the designation of Outstanding National Resource Waters (beginning with the Smith River) as priority #4, including the reordering draft proposed priority projects as follows: #4 as #5, #5 as #6, and #6 as #7; and,
 - c. Increase the number of projects to be included in the high priority category from 6 to 7 to account for the assistance of scientific aides.
10. The issues on this list were ranked to reflect both water quality concerns and the availability of resources to work on the projects.
11. The Regional Water Board conducted a public hearing on March 12, 2015, for the purpose of soliciting final comments regarding the proposed Basin Planning Project Priorities.
12. The Regional Water Board has reviewed its water quality standards, implementation plans and policies and finds them appropriate with the exception of those issues identified on the *2014 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, Proposed Basin Planning Project Priorities*.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Water Board, in fulfillment of the requirements described in Clean Water Act sections 303(c), (d), and (e) and in section 13240, Division 7 of the California Code of Regulations, hereby approves the *2014 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, Proposed Basin Planning Project Priorities* which is incorporated herein and described in Attachment 1 of this Resolution.

ALSO, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Basin Plan as it currently exists remains effective until such time as it is changed by formal Regional Water Board action.

Certification

I, Matthias St. John, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on March 12, 2015.

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer