

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

**Notice of Public Workshop and  
Notice of Intent**

to

Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and

Draft Order R1-2015-0023

Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and  
General Water Quality Certification  
for

Discharges of Waste Resulting from Marijuana Cultivation and Associated Activities  
or Operations with Similar Environmental Effects  
in the  
North Coast Region

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) will hold a public workshop to receive comments on the Draft Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, General Water Quality Certification for Discharges of Waste Resulting from Marijuana Cultivation and Associated Activities, or Operations with Similar Environmental Effects in the North Coast Region (draft Order), and associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study/proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (Mitigated Negative Declaration). The location and time of the public workshop is provided below.

**When:** May 7, 2015, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

**Where:** Wharfinger Building  
#1 Marina Way  
Eureka, CA 95501

**Who Should Attend:** Owners and operators of marijuana cultivation and associated facilities; local county planning and permitting staff; industry representatives; environmental groups; and other interested and concerned groups or individuals.

**Project Description:**

The purpose of the draft Order is to provide a water quality regulatory structure to prevent and/or address poor water quality conditions and adverse impacts to water resources associated with marijuana cultivation on private land in the North Coast region. Under the Order, any landowner or operator cultivating marijuana that results in a discharge of waste to an area that could affect waters of the State (including groundwater) will fall within one of three tiers depending on the nature of their operation and risk to water quality. The draft Order requires control of erosion and drainage features; proper soil disposal; proper stream crossing parameters; water conservation; proper storage and handling of fertilizers and soil amendments, refuse and human waste, and petroleum products and other chemicals; and riparian management and protection. Subject to approval from the Regional Water Board Executive Officer, dischargers with similar operations to marijuana cultivation may also elect to enroll and comply with this Order to ensure their discharges are authorized. The draft Order is currently scheduled to be considered for adoption by the Regional Water Board at the August 13, 2015, Regional Water Board meeting at 5550 Skylane Blvd., Ste. A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

## **Draft Order Available for Review and Comment**

The draft Order and Mitigated Negative Declaration will be available at the beginning of the public comment period on or before April 25, 2015. Comments will be accepted during the workshop, until June 8, 2015, at [northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov), or at the following address:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

## **Document Availability**

Information on the Regional Water Board's draft Order and Mitigated Negative Declaration can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/).

Persons wishing to receive notices related to the draft Order and Mitigated Negative Declaration should subscribe to the respective email list, under Resources, Email Subscription on the left side of the Regional Water Board's main web page at

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast>.

Ex parte communications are allowed in this matter subject to the disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287. A form to assist in this process can be found on the Regional Water Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/public\\_notices/pdf/2013/130118\\_NorthCoast\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/public_notices/pdf/2013/130118_NorthCoast_disclosure.pdf).

The Regional Water Board is required to post the disclosure on its website and to distribute it via any electronic distribution list for the proposed order. Ex parte disclosures shall not constitute written comments or evidence on a proposed general order. You must provide the comments or evidence by following the procedure and timelines provided above. Ex parte communications are prohibited for a period beginning 14 days before the board meeting at which the proposed order is scheduled for board action. For communications concerning any issue in this proceeding, ex parte communications are prohibited starting on July 30, 2015. If the Board does not take action on August 13, 2015, the ex parte prohibition will remain in place until the Board, the Chair or the Executive Officer directs otherwise. Once lifted, the prohibition on ex parte communications may be reinstated for 14 days before the day of the Board meeting to which the decision is continued. The Board will provide notice via the Lyris and the interested parties email lists for this item if the prohibition is lifted or reinstated.

## **Accessibility**

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting should contact Patti Corsie at 707-576-2220 at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 800-735-2929 or voice line at 800-735-2922.

## **Staff Contact**

Questions regarding the workshop or the draft Order and Mitigated Negative Declaration should be directed to Diana Henriouille, by phone at 707-576-2350 or email at [Diana.Henriouille@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diana.Henriouille@waterboards.ca.gov), or Connor McIntee by phone at 707-576-2499 or email at [Connor.McIntee@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Connor.McIntee@waterboards.ca.gov).