Public Hearing on Resolution No. R1-2016-0017

To consider adoption of an amendment to the Basin Plan to include the Action Plan for the Upper Elk River Sediment TMDL

May 12, 2016
Wiyott Community Center, Loleta
Item No. 2

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Presentation Overview

- Recap of April 7, 2016 hearing
- Review of TMDL Action Plan
- Review of revisions resulting from public comment during the April hearing

Recap of April 2016 Hearing

- Staff presentation
 - Summary of TMDL development process
 - Review of Proposed TMDL Action Plan
 - Overview of Public Comments
- CalTrout presentation
 - Elk River Recovery Assessment
- Humboldt County Public Works presentation
 - Elk River Watershed Stewardship Program
- Public Comments

Review of TMDL Action Plan

- Introductory language
- Problem Statement
- Source Analysis
- Water Quality Indicators
- Sediment TMDL and Load Allocation
- Watershed Efforts
- Program of Implementation
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Review of Revisions Resulting from Public Comment during the April Hearing

- Editorial corrections
- Water Quality Indicators Section
 - Clarify that targets are not independently enforceable
 - Clarify that targets are to inform Board actions
 - "As appropriate and to the maximum extent feasible"

Review of Revisions Resulting from Public Comment during the April Hearing

- TMDL and Load Allocation and Program of Implementation Sections
 - Clarify that a load allocation does not constitute an effluent limitation or waste load allocation
 - Clarify that the Board has discretion in how a load allocation is implemented

Review of Revisions Resulting from Public Comment during the April Hearing

- Monitoring and Adaptive Management
 Specify that the 5-year program review should also include consideration of any new information relative to:
 - Upper Elk River sediment source analysis
 - Conditions effecting sediment deposition in the lower watershed
 - The need to develop a Lower Elk Sediment TMDL to further restoration goals

Summary

- Upper Elk River TMDL:
 - Relies on over 10 years of data collection, data analysis, and scientific collaboration
 - Has had multiple layers of scientific and public review
 - Addresses uncertainty appropriately, while encouraging ongoing scientific inquiry
- Program of Implementation represents the best approach to:
 - Control ongoing sediment discharges from the upper watershed
 - Address public health and safety needs
 - Establish meaningful remediation and restoration goals
 - Leverage both private and public resources to accomplish those goals

Staff Recommendation

Adopt Resolution No. R1-2016-0017 and the

Action Plan for the Upper Elk River Sediment TMDL as an amendment to the Basin Plan