

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
Thursday, September 26, 2013  
River Lodge Conference Center  
Fortuna, California

- ITEM: 4
- SUBJECT: **Public Workshop** to solicit comments on the draft Order No. R1-2013-0059, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for Mendocino County Resource Conservation District's **Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program** (Jonathan Warmerdam)
- BOARD ACTION: This item is a Board workshop. No action will be taken by the Regional Board.
- BACKGROUND: The purpose of this Board workshop is for staff to introduce to the Regional Water Board the *Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program* (PCP), to discuss the permitting strategy being developed by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for the program, and to receive comments from the public and the Board.
- The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (District) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) developed the PCP to promote the implementation of high-quality conservation and restoration projects on farms, ranches, and forestland throughout the watersheds of Mendocino County.
- The PCP is based upon, and an expansion of, the ongoing *Navarro Permit Coordination Program*, a successful model of coordinated, multi-agency regulatory review designed to ensure the integrity of agency mandates, while making permitting more accessible for working landscapes than the traditional process. To assist landowners with regulatory compliance, the District seeks to offer "one-stop permit shopping" to assist landowners who agree to work under the guidance of the District to achieve water quality and habitat conservation and restoration goals.
- Projects implemented through the PCP are designed to control erosion and sediment discharges, improve instream habitat for aquatic species, stabilize eroding streambanks, promote native vegetation growth, and enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitat that may be affecting water quality and beneficial uses.
- The PCP is designed to address sediment and temperature impairments and promote TMDL goals, including on lands within the following watersheds: Albion River, Big River, Eel River-Upper Main, Eel River-Middle Main, Eel River-Middle Fork, Eel River-South Fork, Eel River-North Fork, Garcia River, Gualala River-North Fork, Mattole River, Navarro River, Noyo River, Upper Russian River, and Ten Mile River.
- The PCP also provides an effectiveness monitoring and reporting program to ensure successful project outcomes, address

unforeseeable problems, and to verify that agency mandates are met.

On June 12, 2012, the District adopted a mitigated negative declaration (SCH No. 2012052019) for the PCP to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Preparation of the mitigated negative declaration was supported in part by funding from The Regional Water Board.

DISCUSSION:

The PCP meets the water quality protection needs of the Regional Water Board while consolidating efforts of various local, state, and federal agencies to conserve resources and avoid duplicative implementation of regulatory requirements.

Regional Water Board staff developed *draft* Order No. R1-2013-0059, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General 401 Water Quality Certification, and corresponding Monitoring and Reporting Program, for the PCP. The Order authorizes discharges of waste associated with PCP projects, subject to certain forms and conditions.

The *draft* Order has been distributed to the public and is currently undergoing review and comment. The public comment period closes on November 1, 2013. After receiving public comments and making appropriate modifications, a *proposed* Order will be presented to the Regional Water Board for consideration of adoption during the November 20-21, 2013, Regional Water Board meeting in Santa Rosa, California.

RECOMMENDATION: This Board workshop is being conducted to provide information regarding the PCP and *draft* Order, answer questions, and to gather Regional Water Board and public input. No recommendations are proposed at this time.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for the Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program; Order No. R1-2013-0059
2. Monitoring and Reporting Program for Order No. R1-2013-0059
3. Notice of Documents for Public Review and Comment