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FORWARD

The need for comprehensive water quality planning is set forth in both California and federal law. California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, which is contained in California Water Code, Division 7, Chapters 1 through 17, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended by the Clean Water Act of 1977 require water quality control plans for the waters of the State as well as public review of the plans. The basic purpose of the state's planning effort is to determine the future direction of water quality control for protection of California's waters.

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) is comprehensive in scope. It contains a brief description of the North Coast Region, and describes its water quality and quantity problems and the present and potential beneficial uses of the surface and ground waters within the Region. The water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan are prescribed for the purposes of protecting the beneficial uses. The implementation plans section describes the measures, which include specific prohibitions, action plans, and policies which form the basis for the control of water quality.

Statewide plans and policies are included as well as a description of Regional Water Board surveillance and monitoring activities. The plan contains provision for public participation, complies with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, and establishes a setting and the framework for the development of discharger regulation.

Integral to the basin planning process is the provision for change. In that respect, the water quality control plans are reviewed triennially to determine the needed changes and to keep pace with technologies, policies, changes in the law, and physical changes within the Region. A prioritized list of issues which the Regional Water Board has determined necessary for further evaluation and potential development into a basin plan revision, is adopted at the conclusion of each Triennial Review.