

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND HEARING
TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT
TO THE *WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION*
TO UPDATE WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES
(DRAFT RESOLUTION NO. R1-2013-0015)
AND
NOTICE OF FILING FOR
REVISED DRAFT SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (SED)**

**Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region
Public Hearing on June 13, 2013**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) is proposing to update the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan). Regional Water Board staff have released for public review, a proposed amendment to the Basin Plan entitled “Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to Update Water Quality Objectives” (hereinafter referred to as “proposed WQO Update Amendment”).

A draft substitute environmental document (SED) analyzing the potential environmental impacts of the proposed WQO Update Amendment was prepared pursuant to statutes and regulations governing the Regional Water Board’s regulatory programs. The Regional Water Board’s regulatory programs are certified by the Secretary of the California Resources Agency, in accordance with subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 21080.5, as meeting certain environmental standards, and therefore being exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act to prepare an environmental impact report, negative declaration, or initial study.

A public review period for the proposed WQO Update Amendment and the initial draft SED was previously open from February 3, 2012 through March 29, 2012 and a public workshop held on March 15, 2012. The revised SED and proposed WQO Update Amendment have been revised in response to the comments received and are available for a second period of public review from **February 21, 2013 through April 15, 2013**. Written comments on the revised SED and proposed WQO Update Amendment must be submitted by **noon on April 15, 2013**.

The Regional Water Board plans to consider adoption of the proposed WQO Update Amendment and certification of the SED under 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code, at its regularly scheduled public meeting on June 13, 2013.

BACKGROUND

The proposed WQO Update Amendment has been developed by staff at the direction of the Regional Water Board. The primary goals of the proposed WQO Update Amendment are to add a groundwater toxicity objective, revise the objective for chemical constituents applicable to both surface and groundwater, and to clarify the process the Regional Water Board uses when translating narrative objectives into numeric limits in permits, orders, or other regulatory actions. Other revisions to the Basin Plan, as described in the SED, are necessary to meet these goals.

The project documents for public review and comment include the revised SED and the proposed Basin Plan Amendment. These are available to download from the Regional Water Board's website. The website can be accessed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/water_quality_objectives_update_amendment.shtml

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Regional Water Board's office at 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or calling 707-576-2220. A document (Response to Comments) providing staff's written responses to public comments on the draft SED and proposed amendment from 2012 and those submitted on the final SED and proposed amendment submitted prior to the close of the comment period on April 15, 2013 at noon will be available on the Regional Water Board website or through the Regional Water Board's office by May 20, 2013.

Interested parties who would like to receive email notifications for various basin planning projects of the North Coast Regional Water Board, including the proposed WQO Update Amendment, are encouraged to sign up on the Basin Planning email list subscription form located at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg1_subscribe.shtml

Questions regarding the proposed WQO Update Amendment should be submitted to: lauren.clyde@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at 707 576-2674

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

In order to be considered, written comments must be received by 12:00 p.m. on April 15, 2013. Please send comments to the attention of Lauren Clyde at the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to the mailing address or email address listed above, or by fax to 707-523-0135.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Regional Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the proposed WQO Update Amendment at its regular public meeting scheduled:

Time and Date: 8:30 A.M., Thursday June 13, 2013

Location: 5550 Skylane Blvd. Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with 23 Cal. Code of Regulations §649.3. Time limits may be imposed on oral testimony at the public hearings; groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson. All exhibits presented at the hearing, including charts, graphs, and other testimony must be left with the Regional Water Board. They will become part of the administrative record.

All comments previously submitted in writing during the public comment period in 2012, as well as oral comments made at the public workshop on March 15, 2012, are part of the public record and have been considered in the development of the revised proposed WQO Update Amendment. Any new written comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period will be considered by the Regional Water Board as part of their decision making process. Changes to the proposed WQO Update Amendment consistent with the general purpose of the amendment may be considered by the Regional Water Board during the hearing. Testimony at the above-scheduled hearing may summarize or explain timely submitted written evidence, but shall not add new evidence.

ACCESSIBILITY

A map and directions to the hearing are available online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/about_us/contact_us.shtml

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact Patti Corsie, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2307, at least five days prior to the scheduled Board Meeting. The hearing location is accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

February 14, 2013