

**Notice to Hold CEQA Scoping Meetings
for a Proposed Amendment
to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region*
to Update Regional Groundwater and Surface Water Protection Action Plans**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Regional Water Quality Control Board; North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) staff will hold two California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meetings as required under the (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) on a proposed amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan). The scoping meetings will be held on October 30, 2012 and November 5, 2012, in Santa Rosa and Fortuna, respectively.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to more fully and efficiently protect groundwater and surface water quality in the North Coast Region by adding, updating and revising implementation plans contained in Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan. A complete description of the proposed amendment is detailed in the CEQA Scoping Fact Sheet.

BACKGROUND

Staff has identified, and the Regional Water Board has endorsed, during the last several Triennial Reviews of the Basin Plan, the need to accomplish several updates to Chapter 4, including:

- Reorganize Chapter 4
 - Create an index and new headings within this chapter to be consistent with other recent edits to the Basin Plan.
- Revise and/or delete existing plans and policies to bring the Basin Plan up to date with current regulations and practices.
 - Revise the existing On-Site Waste Treatment and Disposal Practices Policy to incorporate the State Water Board's newly adopted *Onsite Waste Treatment System (OWTS) Policy*.
- Adopt a regionwide prohibition against the discharge of waste in violation of water quality standards, similar to that now in effect the Klamath Basin.
- Adopt a Land Discharge Action Plan
 - To address the potential for the disposal of waste to land to impact groundwater resources, and
 - To address the requirements of the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy.

CEQA SCOPING

The purpose of the CEQA Scoping meetings is to seek early input from public agencies and members of the public on the proposed amendment and the appropriate scope of the CEQA-equivalent document to be prepared. As directed by CEQA, comments on the CEQA scoping document should be limited to an assessment of the scope of the project. This includes the range of project actions, alternatives, reasonably foreseeable means of compliance, significant impacts to be analyzed, cumulative impacts if any, and mitigation measures that could reduce impacts to a less than significant level as part of the development of the proposed amendment. Early public involvement assists the Regional Water Board staff in refining the scope of the project and determining the range

of environmental information and potential impacts the proposed amendment might have on the various categories of environmental resources such as water quality or geologic stability.

These meetings will provide participants with: (1) a description of the proposed amendment, including the conditions in the region that the proposed amendment is intended to address; (2) a discussion of probable environmental effects; and (3) an opportunity to provide input and comment on the proposed amendment and potential environmental impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The CEQA Scoping Meeting fact sheet will be available for review and download on the Regional Water Board website by October 20, 2012 and can be found at the following location:

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

Copies of this document can also be obtained in person at the Regional Water Board's office at 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 or by calling 707-576-2674.

SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS:

Written comments on the CEQA aspects of the proposed Amendment should be submitted to Regional Water Board staff no later than November 12, 2012 (contact information provided in the table below).

Comments should discuss concerns and identify those issues on which the commenter believes that the Regional Water Board needs to focus its in-depth environmental analysis. For example, significant environmental issues, alternatives to the proposed action(s), the potential means of compliance and significant environmental effects of compliance with the proposed action(s), and any mitigation measures that should be explored to reduce any potentially significant impacts.

Following the meetings, staff will review written and oral comments and prepare a summary of the CEQA Scoping comments. Those comments will then be used to help staff prepare its draft staff report and CEQA-equivalent document, which will be released for public review in early 2013. All CEQA Scoping comments received will be included in the final administrative record for this proposed amendment.

CEQA Scoping Meetings Schedule

CEQA Scoping Meeting Location:	Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE)* Redwood Room A 5340 Skylane Blvd. Santa Rosa, CA 95403 www.scoe.org Phone: (707) 524-2600	River Lodge ('Riverwalk') Steelhead Room 1800 Riverwalk Drive, Fortuna, CA 95540 www.friendlyfortuna.com Phone: (707) 725-7572	
Date:	October 30, 2012	November 5, 2012	
Time:	10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	
Contact information:	Lauren Clyde clyde.lauren@waterboards.ca.gov North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A Santa Rosa, CA 95403 (707) 576-2674		

***PLEASE NOTE: The CEQA Scoping meeting in Santa Rosa is not going to be held at the Regional Water Board office due to current office remodeling work.**

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions and location information, please refer to the websites for the facilities:

<http://www.scoe.org/pub/htdocs/contactus.html> and/or

<http://friendlyfortuna.com/index.aspx?nid=149>

These facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Patti Corsi, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2307 or Patti.Corsie@waterboards.ca.gov at least five days prior to the meeting of interest.

TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.