

Notice of Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting

Regulatory Program for Waste Discharges from Dairies In the North Coast Region

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) staff will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting and public workshop on January 12, 2011, seeking input on the environmental information that should be considered in the development and adoption of a proposed Regulatory Program for Waste Discharges from Dairies in the North Coast Region. Although this is the first scoping meeting and public workshop for CEQA purposes, this is the third in a series of outreach meetings that the Regional Board staff has held to educate the public about the proposed regulatory program.

BACKGROUND

This Project is the development of a permitting program for waste discharges from milk cow dairies in the North Coast Region. The Dairy Program is a regulatory mechanism intended to ensure that the operation of milk cow dairies complies with applicable state and Federal water quality regulations. Regional Water Quality Control Boards are required by the State Nonpoint Source Policy to develop permits for all nonpoint source discharges associated with dairy activities in the North Coast Region. Federal regulations require that dairies that meet certain criteria and those that discharge or may discharge waste to waters of the United States may need to obtain federal permits.

Scoping documents will be available for download in PDF format, on or before January 12, 2011, from the Regional Water Board's Internet website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/dairies/ .

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting the Regional Water Board's office, using the contact information listed below.

CEQA SCOPING MEETING AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP CONDUCT AND SCHEDULE

This meeting and workshop will provide participants with: (1) an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the proposed Program and environmental documents to be prepared pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.); and (2) an overview of the conditions in the project area.

Following the workshop, staff will review written and oral comments, and will prepare a summary of scoping comments. **Written comments should be submitted to Mark Neely no later than February 11, 2011** (contact information provided below). Comments provided at the workshop will be reviewed and considered prior to Regional Water Board consideration of the proposed permits in Spring 2011. Written responses to comments will not be provided, however comments at the workshop will be considered in the preparation of the CEQA documents. The comments will be included in the final administrative record.

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| CEQA Scoping Meeting Location: | North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Office 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 (707) 576-2220 |
| Date: | January 12, 2011 |
| Time: | 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM |
| Contact information: | Mark Neely North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A Santa Rosa, CA 95403 (707) 576-2689 |