



North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board



CEQA Scoping Meeting - for the - Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL

January 30, 2015
Santa Rosa, CA



Meeting Outline

I. Staff Presentation

- Purpose & Goal - CEQA Scoping
- Overview of CEQA for TMDLs
- Overview Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL
 - TMDL conclusions
 - Implementation Plan & Sources

II. Public CEQA Comments



Meeting Purpose & Goal

Purpose: Fulfill the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Goal: Gather input on reasonably foreseeable methods of TMDL compliance & environmental impacts of those methods



CEQA for TMDLs

Russian River TMDL Action Plan = Basin Plan Amendment

Basin Plan Amendments:

- Exempt from formal CEQA document development (e.g. Environmental Impact Report)
- Subject to all other CEQA requirements:
 - Scoping environmental impacts
 - TMDL Staff Report & Action Plan
 - CEQA Checklist
 - Public comments & responses
 - Board Resolution Adopting the Action Plan
 - Public hearing & Regional Water Board consideration
 - State Board, Office of Administrative Law, and U.S. EPA approval



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Substitute
Environmental
Documentation



CEQA for TMDLs

CEQA Analysis Environmental Factors

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Services
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions



What is a TMDL?

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is:

- Maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can handle and remain healthy

Also, a framework for:

- Evaluating and quantifying the factors that contribute to water quality problems in a waterbody or watershed
- Developing a strategy (called an Action Plan or Implementation Plan) to meet the loading capacity or attain water quality standard

Goal: Attain Water Quality Standards

- Beneficial Uses of Water
- Water Quality Objectives
- Anti-degradation



TMDL Conclusions

- Impairment is watershed-wide
- Significant reductions in bacteria waste loads are needed to achieve healthy bacteria levels
- Concentration-based targets
 - *Bacteroides* bacteria
 - *E. coli* bacteria
 - Fecal Coliform Bacteria





Implementation Plan

Probable Sources

Regulated by State Permit

- Municipal Wastewater Plants
- Municipal Sanitary Sewers
- Municipal Biosolids
- Recycled Wastewater
- Urban Runoff
- Dairies

Not Regulated by State Permit

- Homeless Encampments
- Leaking Septic Systems
- Livestock and Farm Animals
- Domestic Pets
- Recreational Water Uses



Public CEQA Comments

Goal: Gather input on reasonably foreseeable methods of TMDL compliance & environmental impacts of those methods

What are your ideas for methods of TMDL compliance?

Do you foresee any potentially significant or potentially adverse environmental impacts from the TMDL Project?



Example 1

Bacteria Source: Pet Waste

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
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Example 2

Bacteria Source: Sanitary Sewer Systems

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
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Public CEQA Comments

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Public CEQA Comments

**Public comment period closes at 5PM
February 18, 2015**

Written comments to:

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Information on the Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/
russian_river](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/russian_river)