

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0028**

AMENDING THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION TO 1) INCORPORATE THE ACTION PLAN FOR PATHOGENS IN THE RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED, 2) ESTABLISH A FECAL WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION AND A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD FOR BACTERIA IN THE RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED, AND 3) REMOVE THE POLICY ON THE CONTROL OF WATER QUALITY WITH RESPECT TO ON-SITE WASTE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL PRACTICES SPECIFIC TO THE RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED, INCLUDING THE LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA

WHEREAS:

1. On August 15, 2025, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) adopted [Resolution No R1-2025-0030](#), amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) to 1) incorporate the Action Plan for pathogens in the Russian River watershed, establishing a fecal waste discharge prohibition and a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for bacteria in the Russian River watershed, and 2) removing the Policy On The Control Of Water Quality With Respect To On-Site Waste Treatment And Disposal Practices Specific To The Russian River Watershed, Including The Laguna De Santa Rosa.
2. The [Action Plan for Pathogens in the Russian River Watershed](#) (the Action Plan) is an amendment to the Basin Plan that establishes the Pathogen TMDL and Fecal Waste Discharge Prohibition, provides discrete and identifiable implementation measures that will bring the watershed into compliance with water quality standards and identifies the parties responsible for implementing those measures. The Action Plan sets time schedules by which the responsible parties will implement compliance measures and includes a monitoring plan to track progress towards compliance.
3. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Substitute Environmental Document (SED) and environmental checklist for the proposed Basin Plan amendments are provided in the final staff report titled "[Staff Report for the Action Plan for the Russian River Watershed Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load](#)". The North Coast Water Board found that the analysis contained in the SED and environmental checklist complies with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) regulations for the implementation of CEQA, as set forth in the California Code of Regulations, title 23 section 3775-3780. The State Water Board has reviewed the Substitute Environmental Document for the Basin Plan Amendment and concurs with the North Coast Water Board's findings and determinations.

4. The [Basin Plan Amendment](#) meets the "necessity" standard of the Administrative Procedure Act, Government Code, section 11352, subdivision (b). The Basin Plan Amendment's TMDL is required to fulfill the North Coast Water Board's obligation pursuant to Clean Water Act section 303(d) to establish a TMDL for waterbodies on the 303(d) list. The Action Plan is consistent with the North Coast Water Board's authority pursuant to the Water Code to protect the quality of waters in the state, including the duties to formulate and revise a water quality control plan that includes beneficial uses of waters, water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of those uses, and a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives. (33 U.S.C. § 1313, subd. (d)(1)(C).)
5. The scientific basis of the Action Plan has been reviewed by external peer reviewers in accordance with section 57004 of the California Health and Safety Code.
6. The State Water Board concurs with the North Coast Water Board's finding that the Basin Plan Amendment is consistent with the Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California (State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16) and the federal Antidegradation Policy (40 C.F.R. section 131.12), in that it does not allow degradation of water quality, but requires restoration of water quality and maintenance and attainment of a water quality standard.
7. The State Water Board has reviewed the record and concurs that, consistent with the California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3778-80, and California Water Code section 189.7, the North Coast Water Board consulted with stakeholders in the region, federally recognized California Native American tribes and non-federally recognized Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, and other potentially affected parties about the proposed action, and considered and addressed all comments received.
8. On December 8, 2026, the State Water Board released a public notice for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposed approval of the Basin Plan Amendment. The public comment period was 66 days long and closed on February 12, 2026. No comment letters were received.
9. The State Water Board finds that the Basin Plan amendment is in conformance with California Water Code section 13240, which specifies that regional water quality control boards may revise basin plans, and section 13242, which requires a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives. The State Water Board also finds that the TMDL as reflected in the Basin Plan amendment is consistent with the requirements of section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act.

10. A Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The TMDL must also receive approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted under North Coast Water Board Resolution No. R1-2025-0030.
2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted under North Coast Water Board Resolution No. R1-2025-0030, as approved, and the administrative record for this action to the OAL for the approval of the regulatory provisions and to USEPA for approval of the TMDL.
3. If, during the approval process, the State Water Board staff, the Executive Officer of the North Coast Water Board, or the Office of Administrative Law determines that minor, non-substantive modifications to the Basin Plan Amendment are needed for clarity or consistency, the State Water Board Executive Director or designee may make such changes and shall inform the State Water Board of any such changes.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on August 18, 2026.

AYE: Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel
Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo
Board Member Sean Maguire
Board Member Nichole Morgan
Board Member Jared Blumenfeld

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None


Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board