WHERE IS THE NORTH COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD?

Remote wilderness and towering redwoods characterize the North Coast Region, which stretches from the Oregon border to Marin County. A land of wet coastal mountains and drier inland valleys, it accounts for 12 percent of the state’s land area, but 35 percent of its freshwater runoff. Its 320-mile-long coastline includes estuaries and environmentally sensitive areas protected by state law. Timber harvesting, agriculture, recreation and tourism are mainstays of the local economy. The area’s population centers are Humboldt Bay and Santa Rosa. Headquarters for the Regional Board is in Santa Rosa. All or parts of the following counties are in the Region: Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Siskiyou, Sonoma, and Trinity.

KEY ISSUES IN REGION 1

Water Reclamation in the Russian River Watershed. The Regional Water Board actively encourages the use of treated wastewater. Several community wastewater facilities use treated wastewater for irrigation. The Russian River supplies most of the drinking water, and with a growing population, water supply and restoring the endangered species habitat is critical.

Timber Harvest Plans. The Timber Harvest Division of the Regional Board reviews and conducts field inspections of timber harvest plans on private lands and timber sales on United States Forest Service lands. Approximately 40 percent of the timber harvested within California occurs in the North Coast Region. The Timber Harvest Division’s mission is to prevent soil or other pollutants from entering water and to recover beneficial uses of impaired waters.

Vineyards and Water Quality. Vineyards are a large component of North Coast agricultural activities with new vineyards being established rapidly. The Regional Board Nonpoint Source Program responds to water quality concerns about soil erosion from vineyards into surface waters, mostly from new vineyards. The staff is working with the Agricultural Commissioners’ offices of Mendocino and Sonoma Counties, compiling information on the use of vineyard pesticides.

Contaminated Drinking Water Wells. The Regional Board is identifying sources of contamination affecting numerous drinking water wells throughout the region, particularly in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. Staff identifies parties responsible for the contamination and takes appropriate actions to stop, and then clean the contamination.

Water Quality Monitoring. The Regional Board is implementing the new Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program. The Regional Board has established permanent monitoring stations in several rivers and streams throughout the Region. Rotating intensive basin surveys are also used in this effort.

WATER DATA

- 20,000 square miles of land
- 320 miles of coastline
- Thousands of miles of streams
- 27,000 acres of lakes
MUNICIPALITIES

Del Norte County: Crescent City
Humboldt County: Arcata, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Garberville, Rio Dell, and Trinidad
Mendocino County: Fort Bragg, Ukiah, & Willits
Siskiyou County: Weed and Yreka
Sonoma County: Cloverdale, Cotati, Geyserville, Guerneville, Healdsburg, Occidental, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Windsor.
Trinity County: Trinity Center, & Weaverville