

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A
BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT
REGARDING THE
ACTION PLAN FOR THE GUALALA RIVER SEDIMENT
TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)**

I. Background

In 1994, the entire Gualala River watershed was listed on section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act as impaired for excessive sedimentation/siltation. Excessive sediment in the Gualala River watershed impairs Beneficial Uses associated with the Gualala River's salmonid fishery and habitat. In 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment in the Gualala River Watershed, supported by the *Gualala River Watershed Technical Support Document for Sediment* (TSD), which was developed by North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) staff.

Pursuant to section 13242 of the California Water Code, North Coast Water Board staff have developed the Action Plan for the Gualala River Sediment TMDL (Action Plan) and Staff Report Supporting the Gualala River Sediment TMDL Action Plan (Staff Report). The Action Plan and Staff Report reference and summarize key components of the Gualala River Sediment TMDL and the TSD. The Action Plan and Staff Report provide an implementation strategy to achieve the TMDL load allocations through various measures to manage sediment sources and attain water quality standards.

II. Public Review and Comment Period

The North Coast Water Board provided a **45-day** written public comment period from July 11, 2025 to August 25, 2025 regarding the public review draft for the *Action Plan for the Gualala River Sediment TMDL* and *Staff Report Supporting the Gualala River Sediment TMDL Action Plan*. The public review documents are available on the [Gualala River Sediment TMDL webpage](#)

III. Public Board Workshops

The North Coast Water Board held public workshops on August 14, 2025 and December 4, 2025 to allow for discussion and oral public comment on the proposed amendment.

IV. Public Hearing

Notice of Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of a Basin Plan Amendment Regarding the Action Plan for the Gualala River Sediment TMDL

Notice is hereby given that the North Coast Water Board will hold a public hearing to receive oral public input and comments on the Action Plan and Staff Report. Following the public hearing, the North Coast Water Board will consider adoption of the Action Plan by Resolution. The public hearing will be held as follows:

Public Hearing and Consideration of Adoption Meeting

Board Meeting Date: **February 18 or 19, 2026**
Board Meeting Start Time: **9:00 A.M.**
Location: **Elk Valley Rancheria
Sam Lopez Community Room
2332 Howland Hill Road
Crescent City, CA 95531
And via Video and Teleconference
See [Board Meeting webpage](#) for updated information.**

During the scheduled board meetings, video and teleconference participation will also be provided. Please check the North Coast Water Board's website for updates to meeting location, date, and format. Additional information on the hearing and consideration of adoption meeting can be found on the North Coast Water Board's website. Any person desiring to receive future notices about changes to the date, time, location, or format of the public workshop and hearing should sign up for the e-mail list, as described below. Updates will also be posted on the North Coast Water Board's website.

V. Availability of Documents and Information

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's website:
[Homepage | California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board:](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/)
(<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/>)

Gualala River Watershed TMDLs webpage:
[Gualala River | California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board:](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/gualala_river/)
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/gualala_river/)

[Electronic Submittal Required for Correspondence and Reports to the Regional Board:](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications_and_forms/available_documents/pdf/2014/ECM_Letter-Guidelines.pdf)
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications_and_forms/available_documents/pdf/2014/ECM_Letter-Guidelines.pdf)

Email List Subscriptions:
[Email List Subscription Form | North Coast Regional Board \(ca.gov\):](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg1_subscribe.html)
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg1_subscribe.html)

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VI. *Potential Future Changes to Noticed Items*

Any changes items in this notice will be posted on the North Coast Water Board's website and noticed through the email distribution list. Any person desiring to receive future notices must sign up for the email distribution list by assessing the Email List Subscription Form webpage and subscribing to the "Gualala River Watershed – TMDL" email list.

VII. *North Coast Water Board Contact Information*

Please direct questions about the Action Plan and Staff Report to:

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(707) 576-2703

Lisa Bernard
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Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in the North Coast Water Board's meetings and hearings should contact Valerie Quinto at Valerie.Quinto@waterboards.ca.gov at least three days before the scheduled event.