

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF BOARD WORKSHOP FOR THE NORTH COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD'S DRAFT LILY BULB ORDER

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) staff will hold a 45-day public comment period from January 30, 2026 – March 16, 2026 to seek input on the draft *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Lily Bulb Operations in the Smith River Plain* (Draft Lily Bulb Order) and its supporting draft Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Draft EIR). A workshop on the Draft Lily Bulb Order and Draft EIR will be held during the North Coast Water Board's regularly scheduled February 18, meeting in Crescent City, California. The Board will not take any action at the public workshop; the North Coast Water Board will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the Lily Bulb Order and EIR at a later date.

This Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment and Board Workshop includes 1) a brief background on the Draft Lily Bulb Order; 2) how to review and comment on the Draft Lily Bulb Order and Draft EIR; and 3) details and participation information on the February 2026 North Coast Water Board workshop.

I. Quick Information

- You can review the Draft Lily Bulb Order and Environmental Impact Report on the North Coast Water Board's webpage here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/agricultural_lands/lily/
- Send written comments to NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov by **5:00 pm on March 16, 2026**. More information on submitting comments is in Section III below.
- Provide oral comments at the Board workshop on February 18, 2026, at the Elk Valley Rancheria Sam Lopez Community Room, 2332 Howland Hill Road, Crescent City, CA 95531 and via Zoom. More information in Section IV.

II. Background

The Draft Lily Bulb Order proposes to cover discharges of waste to surface waters and groundwater from commercial lily bulb operations in the Smith River Plain Hydrologic Subarea and the coastal terrace between Pyramid Point and the Oregon border. The Draft Lily Bulb Order would be consistent with the Statewide Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and would include: (1) enrollment and payment of fees; (2) implementation and adaptation of management practices; and (3) monitoring and reporting.

The Draft Lily Bulb Order would require commercial lily bulb farming operations to implement management practices in their planted lily bulb fields, appurtenant agricultural roads, and Streamside Areas to control agricultural discharges. Through a Monitoring and Reporting Program, Enrollees would monitor surface water for pesticides and groundwater for pesticides and nitrates. When sampling results document exceedances of Water Quality Benchmarks for pesticides as established in the Draft Order, growers are required to implement improved management practices on a time schedule until subsequent monitoring shows the benchmarks are being met.

As is consistent with the Statewide Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, Enrollees may enroll individually or through an approved Coalition, which manages fees and may conduct monitoring and reporting on behalf of Enrollees.

The Draft EIR evaluates environmental impacts from implementation of the Draft Lily Bulb Order. The Draft EIR found potentially significant and unavoidable impacts to Agriculture and Forestry Resources due to Streamside Area setbacks through the potential conversion of Prime Farmland to non-agricultural use. The Draft EIR identifies potentially significant impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources and identifies mitigation measures that would reduce those impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Please refer to the Staff Summary Report and other Draft Lily Bulb Order and Draft EIR supporting documents for further information on the proposed project. These documents may be viewed at the following webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/02_2026/index.html

III. Public Review and Comment Period

Notice is hereby given that the North Coast Water Board will receive public comments on the Draft Lily Bulb Order and Draft EIR for a 45-day period from **January 30, 2026 – March 16, 2026**.

The public comment period will close at 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2026.

Please send comments by selecting from the following methods:

1. **Email** up to 15 megabytes to NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov with the heading "Comments on Draft EIR for Lily Bulb Order" in the subject line. Staff request that comments on the Draft Lily Bulb Order be submitted separately with "Comments on Draft Lily Bulb Order" in the subject line. Follow [electronic submittal guidelines](#) for comments greater than 15 megabytes
2. **Mail or Hand Deliver** to:
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attention: Draft Lily Bulb Order
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403-1072

V. Availability of Documents and Information

The Draft Lily Bulb Order and Draft EIR may be reviewed at the North Coast Water Board offices during normal business hours² or at the following webpages:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Lily Bulb Project Page:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/agricultural_lands/lily/

IV. Board Workshop

Notice is additionally hereby given that the North Coast Water Board will hold a workshop during the 45-day public comment period. The purpose of the Board workshop is to inform and invite comments from North Coast Water Board members, communities of interest, and the public on the Draft Lily Bulb Order and Draft EIR. The Board will not take any action at the workshop; the North Coast Water Board will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the Lily Bulb Order and EIR at a later date.

The workshop will be held during the following North Coast Water Board meeting:

² The Draft Lily Bulb Order and EIR may be reviewed at the Santa Rosa office during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, and at the Eureka office by appointment only. Please email NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov to schedule an appointment to the view the documents at the Eureka office.

<u>Board Meeting Date:</u>	November 18, 2026
<u>Workshop Start Time:</u>	4:00 p.m.
<u>Physical Location:</u>	Elk Valley Rancheria Sam Lopez Community Room, 2332 Howland Hill Road, Crescent City, CA 95531
<u>Link to Meeting Agenda:</u>	<u>Public Workshop Agenda</u>

Video and teleconference options: The meeting may be viewed live at: <https://cal-span.org/>. If you wish to comment on the item from a remote location, please complete the virtual speaker card available here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2B-p6ZgnSYGDH_sjaEUKSQ#/registration

Additional information about the North Coast Water Board workshop, including meeting procedures and information on making presentations, can be found at the North Coast Water Board's webpage.

Oral comments will be accepted at the workshop. The time limit for public oral comments will be 5 minutes; however, additional time may be provided, upon request, at the discretion of the North Coast Water Board Chair. A timer may be used, and speakers are expected to honor the time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive.

VI. Accessibility and Language Services

Parking for the meetings is available onsite. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Brenna Sullivan, brenna.sullivan@waterboards.ca.gov at least five days prior to the meeting.

TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Language services, including interpretive services may be requested by contacting Brenna Sullivan, brenna.sullivan@waterboards.ca.gov at least five days prior to the meeting.

VII. Potential Future Changes to the Noticed Items

Any changes regarding the noticed items will be posted on the North Coast Water Board's webpage 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 "Agricultural Lands" email list.

VIII. North Coast Water Board Contact Information

Please direct questions about this public notice or the Draft Lily Bulb Order and/or Draft EIR to brenna.sullivan@waterboards.ca.gov.