Public Workshop for the 2018 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan

Item 6
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North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
May 17, 2018

Workshop Contents

- Introduction
- Status of 2014 Triennial Review projects
- Draft 2018 Triennial Review Planning Program Workplan
- Review and Decision Making Process and Schedule
- Draft Adopting Resolution

Purpose of Workshop

- To introduce draft staff report, 2018 Triennial Review Planning Program Workplan, and adopting resolution
- Answer clarifying questions
- Hear preliminary comments

State Water Quality Protection

- Dickey Water Pollution Control Act of 1949
 - Established the 9 Regional Water Boards
- State Water Resources Control Board established in 1967
 - Resolution No. 68-16 Antidegradation Policy

State Water Quality Protection

- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act 1969
 - Develop Water Quality Control Plans
 - Establish water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses
 - Develop a Program of Implementation to achieve objectives

Federal Water Quality Protection

- Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948
- Clean Water Act of 1972
 - Develop Water Quality Standards, including designated uses, water quality criteria, and an antidegradation policy

Water Quality Control Plans

- Statewide Plans
 - Ocean Plan
 - Inland Surface Waters Plan
 - Bays and Estuaries Plan

Water Quality Control Plans

- North Coast Basin Plan Chapters
 - 1. Introduction
 - 2. Beneficial Uses
 - 3. Water Quality Objectives, including Antidegradation Policy
 - 4. Implementation Plans
 - 5. Monitoring
- Reviewed on a triennial basis

2014 Triennial Review-Status of High Priority Projects

- TMDL Action Plans
 - Russian River Pathogen TMDL
 - Nearing completion
 - Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDLS for phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, sediment and temperature
 - On-going early implementation, delay in technical development

- TMDL Action Plans
 - Ocean Beaches and Freshwater Streams
 Pathogen TMDL
 - Data collection complete, analysis underway
 - Addresses 5 pathogen impaired freshwater streams in Trinidad, Mad River and Eureka Plain Hydrologic Units
 - Addresses 12 pathogen impaired ocean beaches in Trinidad, Mad River, Mendocino Coast and Bodega Hydrologic Units

- Other Planning Projects
 - Update Water Quality Objectives (Phase I)
 - Completed
 - Exemption Criteria for Seasonal Point Source Discharge to the Eel River
 - Partner delays
 - Designate ONRWs with a focus on the Smith River
 - Delays due significant stakeholder input

- Other Planning Projects
 - Groundwater Protection Policy (Phase II)
 - On-going progress
 - Flow Objectives for the Navarro River
 - 1st of 3 phases underway
 - Policy to address Climate Change
 - Delays due to staff re-assignment to complete Elk TMDL

2018 Triennial Review Planning Program Workplan

- Healthy Watersheds
- Effective Regulation
- Strong Partnerships

- Staff
 - -2 TMDL staff
 - 2.7 Planning staff
 - 4 Specialists
 - Other Program staff, as needed

Draft Planning Program Workplan for Fiscal Years 2018 through 2021

Ranking	Project Description	Projected	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 202-21	Total
		End Date	Staff Resources ¹	Staff Resources ²	Staff Resources ³	FY 2018-2021 Staff Resources
1 a	Develop Russian River Pathogen TMDL and Action Plan. Update beneficial uses designations and water quality objectives, as appropriate. See Staff Report Section 2.1.1.	FY 2018-19	0.104	0.00	0.00	0.10
1b	Develop Laguna de Santa Rosa Nutrient, Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature and Sediment TMDL Action Plan or TMDL Alternative. Update beneficial use designations and water quality objectives, as appropriate. See Staff Report Section 2.1.2.	FY 2021-22	1.15 0.10	1.15 <u>0.10</u>	1.15 0.10	3.45 0.30
1c	Develop Ocean Beaches and Freshwater Streams Pathogen TMDL Action Plan or TMDL Alternative. Update beneficial use designations and water quality objectives, as appropriate. See Staff Report Section 2.1.3.	FY 2020-21	0.75	0.85	0.50	2.10
1d	Conduct a TMDL Program Retrospective Review to update existing TMDLs, TMDL action plans, and TMDL implementation policies. Move TMDL	FY 2019-20	1.25	1.25	0.35 <u>6</u>	0.35 2.50

from watershed stewards, specialists, and point and non-point source permitting program staff.

¹For the purpose of this planning exercise, it can be assumed for FY 2018-19 that there will be a total of 4.0 PYs of planning and TMDL development staff available to lead and assist on basin plan amendment projects. Approximately 0.70 PYs of planning staff resources are spent providing technical assistance to other projects and programs in the office. Similarly, other program staff assist on basin plan amendment projects, as represented by underlined PY estimates. These non-planning staff resources include assistance from watershed stewards, specialists, and point and non-point source permitting program staff.

² In FY 2019-20 there will be a total of 4.7 PYs of planning and TMDL development staff available to lead and assist on basin plan amendment projects. Approximately 0.70 PYs of planning staff resources are spent providing technical assistance to other projects and programs in the office. Similarly, other program staff assist on basin plan amendment projects, as represented by underlined PY estimates. These non-planning staff resources include assistance

³ In FY 2020-21 there will be a total of 4.7 PYs of planning and TMDL development staff available to lead and assist on basin plan amendment projects. Approximately 0.70 PYs of planning staff resources are spent providing technical assistance to other projects and programs in the office. Similarly, other program staff assist on basin plan amendment projects, as represented by underlined PY estimates. These non-planning staff resources include assistance from watershed stewards, specialists, and point and non-point source permitting program staff.

⁴To compile a report documenting the findings of the TMDL Program Retrospective Review.

⁶ To complete the approval process.

Ranking	Project Description	Projected End Date	FY 2018-19 Staff Resources ¹	FY 2019-20 Staff Resources ²	FY 202-21 Staff Resources ³	Total FY 2018-2021 Staff Resources
	Program language to Chapter 5.5 See Staff Report Section 4.1.1.					
2	Develop Groundwater Protection Strategy to include: designation of beneficial uses for groundwater, an action plan to outline the designated level methodology for discharges of waste to land, and an action plan to assess and address incidences of salt and nutrient contamination of groundwater. Z See Staff Report Section 2.2.4.	FY 2019-20	1.00	0.75	0.00	<u>1.75</u>
3	Develop Instream Flow Criteria/Objectives for the Navarro River and evaluate other rivers as candidates for future flow criteria development, as warranted. Consider development of a regional flow objective (e.g., narrative objective) and corresponding implementation methodology. See Staff Report Section 2.2.5.	FY 2024-25	0.40 0.10	0.20 0.10	0.80 0.10	1.40 0.30
4	Assess climate change impacts to water quality predicted in the North Coast Region using a landscape scale assessment tool. Assess the need for a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to include regulatory (e.g., plans and policies) and non-regulatory approaches to mitigate climate change impacts and improve climate change resilience. See Staff Report Section 2.2.6.	FY 2019-20 to complete a landscape assessmen t tool	0.40	0.40	0.409	1.2

⁵Watershed Stewards are project leads, with assistance from point and non-point source permitting and monitoring and assessment staff.

⁷ Groundwater Protection Specialist is project lead.

⁸ Flow and Riparian Specialist is project lead.

⁹ Planning staff resources for FY 2020-21 are anticipated to be spent using the completed landscape assessment tool to support regulatory and nonregulatory decisions related to climate change mitigation and resilience (e.g., NPDES and WDR permit conditions, 401 certification requirements). Climate change scenario assessment will support staff recommendations relative to the need for a basin plan amendment to incorporate a Climate Change Adaptation Policy. Staff will recommend basin plan amendment project elements as part of the 2021 Triennial Review, as necessary.

Ranking	Project Description	Projected End Date	FY 2018-19 Staff Resources ¹	FY 2019-20 Staff Resources ²	FY 202-21 Staff Resources ³	Total FY 2018-2021 Staff Resources
5	Establish an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) term and definition in the Basin Plan. Identify ONRW eligible waters, particularly to support climate change resilience and including consideration of the Smith River. See Staff Report Section 2.2.3.	FY 2020-21	0.10	0.10	0.80 ^{<u>10</u>}	1.0
6	Revise Biostimulatory Substances objective to address biostimulatory conditions to better support needed actions associated with cyanotoxin assessment and control. See Staff Report Section 3.1.3.	FY 2019-20	0.70	0.70	0.00	1.40
7	Update Native American Culture (CUL) and Subsistence Fishing (FISH) beneficial use definitions to comport with statewide Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (TSUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB) beneficial use definitions adopted by the State Water Board adopted in 2017. Designate uses based on the new beneficial use definitions. See Staff Report Section 3.2.1.	FY 2020-21	0.00	0.70 <u>0.25</u>	0.20 <u>0.25</u>	0.90 <u>0.50</u>
8	Develop criteria for exemption from seasonal discharge prohibition on point source waste discharge to Eel River, considering flow augmentation benefits. Evaluate Mad and Russian rivers. See Staff Report Section 2.2.2.	On hold	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2021 Triennial Review	FY 2020-21	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50
	TOTAL PLANNING PROGRAM STAFF RESOURCES		3.30	4.00	4.00	11.30
	TOTAL STAFF RESOURCES (ALL STAFF)		6.05	6.50	5.15	17.70

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¹⁰To initiate a robust stakeholder outreach process.

2018 - 2021 Planning Program Workplan

- Ongoing 2014 projects
- Modified 2014 projects
- New projects
- Dropped projects

- TMDLs Priorities:
 - Complete Russian River Pathogen TMDL Action Plan (2014 project)
 - Conduct TMDL Program Retrospective Review (New project)
 - Assess effectiveness of existing TMDL Action Plans, Sediment TMDL Implementation Policy, and Temperature Implementation Policy
 - Identify revisions to prioritize in 2021 Triennial Review

- Alternative TMDLs
 - Continue progress on Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDLs with development of Alternative Restoration Plan (2014 project)
 - Complete Ocean Beaches and Freshwater Streams Pathogen TMDLs with development of Alternative Restoration Plan (2014 project)

- Groundwater Protection Policy
 - Re-envision as a Groundwater Protection
 Strategy (Modified 2014 project)
 - GW Protection Program
 - GAMA Program
 - Statewide Policies and Regional Planning
 - Data driven adaptive management
 - Partnering
 - Developed and managed by GW Specialist

- Flow Objectives for the Navarro (2014 project)
 - Continue progress in development of flow objectives for the Navarro
 - Investigate development of a regional objective
 - Investigate flows necessary to achieve other objectives, such as dissolved oxygen
 - Developed and managed by Flow and Riparian Specialist

- Climate Change Policy (Modify 2014 project)
 - Re-envision as a Climate Change Strategy
 - Identify/develop landscape assessment tools to assess potential water quality outcomes predicted as a result of climate change.
 - Identify locations in the North Coast Region that are predicted to be particularly 1) resilient and 2) vulnerable to climate change
 - Use assessment to support proposed permit requirements, technical assistance, potential basin plan amendments (e.g., ONRW, Policy)

- Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) (Modified 2014 project)
 - Update Chapter 3 to include the term ONRW and definition
 - Rely on landscape assessment tools identified/developed in the Climate Change Strategy project to objectively identify ONRW candidates
 - Responsive to stakeholder input
 - Initiate stakeholder process on proposed Chapter 4 revisions, including ONRW candidate waters

- Biostimulatory Substances (New project)
 - Revise existing biostimulatory substances objective to address biostimulatory conditions
 - Regulatory support for the actions necessary to address all of the factors associated with cyanotoxin assessment and control

- Native American Culture and Subsistence Fishing (New project)
 - Update existing beneficial use definitions with statewide definitions for CUL, T-FISH, and FISH
 - Revise existing designations, as appropriate
 - Add new designations, as appropriate

- Exemption criteria for seasonal point source discharge prohibition in the Eel River (Drop project)
 - City of Fortuna partners have been delayed
 - Immeasurable flow augmentation benefits

Review and Decision Making Process

- Draft documents released for public review— May 5, 2018
 - Staff Report, Planning Program Workplan, and Adopting Resolution
- Public workshop-- May 17, 2018
- Written comments due-- June 22, 2018
- Public Hearing-- September 6, 2018

Adopting Resolution

- Adopts the triennial review and 2018-2021
 Planning Program Workplan
- Makes Policy Statements
 - Expresses an opinion of the Board, without regulatory effect
 - Findings generally derived from declarations of Governor, State Board, or statewide panels
 - Resolutions provide direction to staff

Adopting Resolution

- Policy Statement Topics:
 - Climate Change
 - Contaminants of Emerging Concern
 - Water Conservation
 - Groundwater Protection

Additional information

- https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast /water_issues/programs/basin_plan/#TriRe view2018
- Contact
 - Alydda.Mangelsdorf@waterboards.ca.gov
- Comments submitted to
 - NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Due June 22, 2018

Questions and Comments

