

FY 2021 - 2022 WORK PLAN

Watershed Stewardship Program Draft V.1



*Watershed Stewardship
Coordinator: Clayton Creager*

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Cover Image: *Effective delivery of RB1 water quality services in collaboration with our watershed partners for healthy watersheds.*

1.0 BACKGROUND

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Watershed Stewardship Approach is a strategic initiative designed to support the Water Board's efforts to coordinate program activities, build watershed-based partnerships, and improve / restore water quality. Watershed Stewardship is more of a strategy than an independent program and is intended to provide connective tissue between the organization's component programs. Additionally, watershed stewardship enhances the Regional Water Board's commitment to establishing external partnerships and work through collaborative frameworks to improve water quality and ecological resiliency throughout the North Coast Region. Watershed Stewardship is a coordination framework that is applied to resources in all the Regional Water Board Divisions to optimize the delivery of the Region's water quality services on a watershed basis.

The Regional Water Board Watershed Stewardship Approach involves the coordination of both regulatory and nonregulatory agency tools and resources. Frequently in the North Coast Region impacts to water bodies are the result of large-scale landscape disturbances that have physically altered watershed processes, contribute to ongoing pollutant loading, and reduce the assimilative capacity (i.e., resilience) of the affected waterbody. These disturbances can be either legacy impacts without a responsible party in the present landscape, or from many contributing activities resulting in cumulative effects. In the case of legacy impacts the options for remediation are limited to invoking some form of inherited liability to current occupants or alternatively, through the watershed stewardship approach, apply a coordinated program of regulation, grant support, and watershed partnerships to reconcile water quality issues. The watershed stewardship approach also applies when dealing with cumulative impacts that are difficult to assign to a single source.

The North Coast Watershed Stewardship Coordinator facilitates the application of this strategy by identifying internal and external opportunities for coordination on a watershed basis. The Watershed Stewardship Coordinator strives to develop and implement strategies to promote sustainable land use practices, undertake restoration where legacy impacts have impeded progress towards supporting conditions, and promote investment in environmental infrastructure to increase resiliency within our aquatic ecosystems. Watershed Stewardship identifies priority watersheds and projects relying on collaborative partnerships to increase Regional Water Board capabilities in adaptive management, collaborative project funding, large-scale ecological restoration, and building consensus solutions. The North Coast watershed stewardship mission is grounded in putting in the hard work to build internal and external partnerships based on mutual respect and trust.

The primary components of the North Coast Regional Water Board Watershed Stewardship Approach include 1) Strategic Watershed Stewardship Teams, 2) Cross-Program Coordination, 3) Partnership Development, and 4) Watershed Stewardship Organizational Capacity. While not every watershed stewardship project is defined by a single program component, the commitment of resources to a project must advance at

least one of the program components. These watershed stewardship program components are briefly described in the following sections. The projects and activities of the Regional Water Board Watershed Stewardship Approach for FY 2021 – 2022 are summarized in Table 3.1.

Because the Watershed Stewardship Approach is more strategy than a resourced program, this work plan identifies key partnerships, projects, and watersheds which have been identified as priorities for implementation of the Watershed Stewardship Approach.

1.1 Watersheds Selected for Watershed Stewardship Approach

Many North Coast watersheds do not provide supporting water quality conditions for desired beneficial uses in part due to ongoing sources of pollution and in many cases due to long-term legacy impacts. The primary pollutant sources in most impacted rural watersheds are from non-point sources of pollution. Many watershed assessments have indicated that much of the risk factors for degraded waterbodies are the result of legacy sources of pollutants / impacts for which society will bear responsibility, rather than an individual entity. For ongoing sources of pollution there are many water quality regulations and policies that have been adopted to more broadly encourage / require actions to address sources of pollution that are difficult to resolve. The Clean Water Act (CWA) 319(h) grant process, which funds many implementation activities for TMDLs and nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control projects, requires a watershed approach of applicants. This is consistent with the understanding that NPS TMDLs and regulatory programs require close collaboration with land managers and an inherent uncertainty with NPS targets. Therefore, a watershed approach with an adaptive management component is an essential element of improving water quality conditions in the rural areas of California and Oregon. State water quality agencies do not always have sufficient resources to ensure that TMDL implementation plans, NPS projects or restoration actions that address legacy impacts (which can be substantial in certain watersheds) are implemented to a level that is needed to fully attain and maintain supporting conditions in these waterbodies. The intent of the watershed stewardship approach is to build partnerships that will result in more complete implementation of rehabilitation activities to improve / restore water quality.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the watershed stewardship approach is to establish collaborative frameworks within pilot watersheds to promote water quality protection and improvement activities. The initiative will build partnerships with other agencies and organizations with shared environmental goals, and through the watershed stewardship framework coordinate resources for partnership building, assessment, monitoring, project identification and implementation, reporting, and adaptive management.

Objectives include:

- Broader participation and where possible integrated participation of watershed stewardship participants;
- Improved and optimized monitoring networks within participating watersheds;

- More comprehensive assessments to support problem identification and project priorities;
- Increased transparency and distribution of watershed stewardship information through use of web-based reporting and documentation of assessments and activities;
- Increased level of resources for project activities through coordinated funding and activities;
- Improved tracking and documentation of stewardship activities of watershed stewardship participants; and
- Use of adaptive management principles to update implementation activities by comparing water body assessments to anticipated outcome of stewardship activities.

The watersheds selected for strategic application of the stewardship approach and with an assigned “steward” include Garcia River, Klamath Basin, Shasta River, Scott River, Elk River, Laguna de Santa Rosa, and Smith River. The Russian River is under consideration, though a watershed steward has not been assigned and a team charter has not been prepared. There are several other watersheds that would benefit from a targeted stewardship approach as well (e.g., Eel River), however, limited staff resources do not allow for any additional watersheds to be added to the program at this time. For other watersheds not designated as strategic but with a high level Regional Water Board engagement, the approach is applied as a general framework where the principles of watershed stewardship are applied without a single coordinating steward, relying on the coordination of staff across divisions to implement respective programs with a shared water quality protection vision.

1.2 Cross-Program Coordination

Cross-program coordination at the Regional Water Board is essential to achieving the vision of effective regulation and strong partnerships. Water quality services provided by individual programs require coordination to be effectively delivered to our watersheds and to build enduring partnerships with our external partners. The goal of cross-program coordination is to optimize achievement of the State and Regional Water Board’s mission statement and the North Coast Regional Board’s vision statement by ensuring consistency, effectiveness, and engagement throughout our organization. The Watershed Stewardship Work Plan implements guidance and criteria established by the Executive Team to support cross-program coordination where necessary and appropriate.

There are three categories of cross-program coordination reflecting different expectations, opportunities, and suggested approaches to doing cross-program coordination. The three categories are:

- Program-Only Coordination
- Low to Moderate Coordination, and
- Comprehensive Coordination

The Watershed Stewardship Work Plan focuses only on opportunities in the Comprehensive Coordination category after consultation and agreement of affected

programs. The comprehensive coordination category is designated for projects that require collaboration among multiple programs and/or agencies in order to achieve the objectives of the project, particularly for projects within a set geographic area and/or to serve a multi-jurisdictional initiative. In addition to meeting the criteria provided in the Executive Team Cross-Program Coordination Guidance Memorandum, projects proposed for cross-program coordination must be approved by an Executive Team sponsor. This is necessary due to the increased workload associated that enhanced coordination requires, and resources may not be available for every project that meets the prescribed criteria. A more complete description of the goals and objectives of cross-program coordination and the criteria for each coordination category will be described in the Cross-Program Coordination Guidance Memorandum, which is being developed by the Regional Water Board Executive Team for internal guidance.

Example Regional Water Board Cross-Program Coordination Projects Include:

- Federal Lands Permit
- Russian River Pathogen TMDL Implementation
- Klamath Dam Removal Permitting Coordination
- Caltrans Stormwater Permit TMDL Compliance Strategy
- Potter Valley Relicensing
- The Russian River is being considered as a strategic stewardship watershed due to large number of programs with complementary objectives and the large number of overlapping partners (see Table 3.1 for additional details).

1.3 Partnership Development

Watershed Stewardship places an emphasis on forming strategic partnerships with agencies, organizations, and tribes that share resource protection and resiliency objectives. Strategic partnerships allow the Regional Water Board to leverage their staff resources, financial resources, and regulatory activities by creating agreements such as operating charters, memoranda of agreement or understanding, or through shared sponsorship of initiatives. Priority opportunities are those that benefit multiple Regional Water Board programs, affect policy or implementation across the Region, or provide significant opportunity for joint funding of restoration activities or projects. Identifying these opportunities as part of the watershed stewardship work plan includes identifying an agency lead for the partnership initiative, describe provisions for distributing information on the initiative, and a mechanism to ensure that all program interests are addressed.

Example Regional Water Board Partnership Initiatives include:

- Caltrans Statewide Stormwater Permitting Work Group
- California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Cutting Green Tape Initiatives
- Klamath Basin Integrated Fish Restoration and Monitoring Plan
- Russian River Confluence
- Climate Resiliency Projects

1.4 Watershed Stewardship Organizational Capacity

Improving Regional Water Board capabilities to conduct watershed-scale assessments is critical to a science-based adaptive management program. Improved assessments require more and better information with a key first step being to coordinate monitoring with watershed stewardship partners. There are several ongoing watershed stewardship projects where the Regional Water Board and our agency, NGO, and Tribal partners have realized that we are seeking common information regarding watershed processes which can be used to support assessments for water quality improvement and decision-making as well as other resource management issues. In addition, the creation of web-based reporting programs has the potential to satisfy a wide variety of reporting needs that provides local participants and remotely located oversight agencies with the information necessary to support local watershed management interests and larger-scale program effectiveness reporting requirements. The Regional Water Board currently uses and supports various forms of comprehensive reporting such as GeoTracker, TMDL analyses, 305(b) Integrated Report, and individual watershed-based programs. There are also many different geo-spatial databases that could also be better utilized if the tools were available to pull the information together into a single work space supporting assessments that would bring clarity to water quality resiliency needs in a priority fashion. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Watershed Resiliency Mapping Tool is undertaking an inventory of existing agency assessment activities and needs which will be used to determine whether the Regional Water Board should undertake the development of a comprehensive assessment tool.

Current Watershed Assessment projects include:

- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Watershed Resiliency Mapping Tool
- Russian River Regional Monitoring Program
- North Coast Monitoring Strategy

2.0 STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES

The Regional Water Board allocation to the Watershed Stewardship Approach is the designation of a full time Watershed Stewardship Coordinator (WSC) position, a non-supervisory position, who reports directly to the Executive Officer. The WSC is part of the Executive Team. The Regional Water Board currently has two watershed steward staff positions within the Planning and Watershed Stewardship Division for the Scott, Shasta, and Elk Rivers. Please refer to the Planning Watershed Stewardship Division Work Plan for additional details.

3.0 WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP APPROACH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Table 3.1 provides a summary overview of the Watershed Stewardship Approach projects and activities for FY 2021 - 2022 which fall into one of the four program component areas: 1) Strategic Watershed Stewardship Teams, 2) Cross-Program

Coordination, 3) Partnership Development, and 4) Watershed Stewardship Organizational Capacity. Projects and activities are assigned to a program component which they are most closely aligned. A project or activity may address more than one program component. Many of the listed projects are further described in other Division work plans; references to other Division work plan sections are generally provided when this is the case. The purpose of this table is to illustrate the concept of watershed stewardship as our agency's connective tissue and to briefly describe those projects and activities that fulfill the watershed stewardship strategic initiative that was identified during the reorganization and visioning undertaken by Regional Board staff in 2014.

Table 3.1: Watershed Stewardship Program Projects and Activities 2021 – 2022

PROJECT	TASK / ACTIVITY	PURPOSE / ISSUE / GOAL	DELIVERABLE / MILESTONE	MILESTONE DATES	PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS (See abbreviations below)	KEY EXTERNAL PARTNERS
STRATEGIC WATERSHEDS						
Garcia River	Garcia River Monitoring Program	Monitoring program developed to assess the physical, chemical and biological condition of a watershed with substantial TMDL compliance investments.	Project reports and periodic assessment updates.	TBD	NNSF, SNSF, NN4C, SN4C, RS	The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Mendocino Redwood Company, Mailliard Ranch.
Klamath Basin Watershed Stewardship	Klamath Basin Monitoring Program	Basin-wide coordinated status and trends monitoring	Steering committee, Biannual meetings, website, data assessments	Twice annual meetings	WSC, AMU, NNSF, RS, GWS, FRPS, PU	45 member organizations
	Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement Interim Measures (IM-10, 11, & 15)	Water Quality Improvement Project Feasibility Analyses providing designs, efficacy assessments, and funding estimates for a wide-range of water quality improvement techniques.	15 completed feasibility studies	Quarterly	WSC, PU	IMIC – 33 member organizations
	Klamath Dam Removal NPDES Permitting Activities / Oversight	Ensure dam removal construction activity compliance with CGP and compliance with Hatchery NPDES permit.	Construction activity oversight and hatchery discharge permit	TBD	NPDES, WSC, RS, AMU	Klamath River Renewal Corporation
	Klamath Basin Integrated Fish Restoration and Monitoring Plan	Participate in USFWS led basin-wide restoration program.	Basin-wide funding priorities linked to Federal budgeting planning.		WSC, RS, AMU, NNSF, FRPS	Thirty-six participating organizations
	Upper Klamath Watershed Action Team / Plan	Voluntary restoration program driven by science-based restoration tool focused on the Upper Klamath Basin.	Watershed Action Plan and collaborative framework	August 2021	WSC	Trout Unlimited, USFWS, Klamath Tribe, Reclamation, Klamath Watershed Partnership, TNC, ODEQ, Regional Water Board
	Upper Klamath Lake Algal Biomass Removal Project	Project funded through the Klamath Sucker Summit (Senator Merkley) to conduct feasibility analysis for using algal biomass harvesting for both short and long-term water quality improvement in Upper Klamath Lake	Project report with recommendations for next steps (if any).	September 2021	WSC	USFWS, Klamath Tribes, ODFW, ODEQ, ODA, Aquatic Science Center, Stillwater Sciences
	Klamath Coalition of the Willing	Department of Interior sponsored facilitated meetings	List of priority projects by watershed	September 2020	WSC	46 participating organizations
	Lower Klamath Lake Treatment Wetland	SWAMP study to evaluate treatment wetland potential within Lower Klamath Lake NWR, for agriculture return flows to restore desiccated wetland cells and return water meeting TMDL targets to the Klamath River.	Design feasibility report with 20% for approved treatment option.	September 2023	WSC, PU, AMU	USFWS, Klamath Tribes, Reclamation, Irrigation Districts, KWUA, ODEQ, ODWR, ODFW

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PROJECT	TASK / ACTIVITY	PURPOSE / ISSUE / GOAL	DELIVERABLE / MILESTONE	MILESTONE DATES	PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS (See abbreviations below)	KEY EXTERNAL PARTNERS
	Lower Klamath Lake / Lost River Watershed Stewardship Charter	ODEQ funded 319(h) Grant with Klamath Water Users Association serving as project sponsor to develop a stewardship charter to meet Klamath River / Lost River TMDL objectives, restore NWF wetlands, and support long-term agricultural resiliency in the Klamath Project.	Watershed Stewardship Charter Agreement	September 2023	WSC, PU	USFWS, Klamath Tribes, Reclamation, Irrigation Districts, KWUA, ODEQ, ODWR, ODFW
<p style="text-align: center;">Shasta Watershed Stewardship</p>	<p>The Shasta River TMDL primary implementation tool is implementation of the Shasta River TMDL Waiver and other Regional Water Board permits. The watershed steward aims to coordinate permit implementation and regulatory compliance with other project initiatives that result in a coherent and strategic holistic watershed scale restoration approach. The project initiatives include the Shasta / Scott flow workgroup in coordination with the Flow and Riparian Specialist, restoration initiatives in coordination with local watershed groups and the Restoration Specialist, advocacy to and involvement in the Groundwater Sustainability Planning process in coordination with the Groundwater Specialist, coordinating across agencies to support the Upper Shasta Safe Harbor Agreement, and supporting other efforts lead from within the watershed that complement ecological recovery. The task work plan objectives include ecologically functional flows, reduced water temperatures, improved water quality through improved agricultural / ranching practices, restoration projects, and developing a dataset that enables adaptive management of Regional Water Board regulatory programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement TMDL Conditional Waiver to minimize, control and prevent discharges of waste from agricultural operations and enhance nutrient assimilation, habitat diversity, and biodiversity on the working landscape. ▪ Identify opportunities to enhance and expand thermal refugia, spawning habitat, and rearing habitat for salmonids and pacific lamprey. ▪ Support key restoration efforts through grants and contracts. ▪ Work with staff across divisions, including key specialists and permitting staff, to advance TMDL implementation and strategic Regional Water Board initiatives. ▪ Coordinate among agency partners to develop a unified approach to landowner compliance assistance and enhance the ecological function of agricultural lands. ▪ Support and coordinate with the Restoration Specialist around novel approaches to instream restoration including Beaver Dam Analogues, instream wood placement, and other techniques to enhance geomorphic function and increase floodplain connectivity. ▪ Support the Shasta River Monitoring Program through funding, personnel, and data analysis to support ongoing adaptive management. ▪ Collect data to support the Integrated Report process if new impairment is suspected. ▪ Pursue and support progressive enforcement, as appropriate. 	<p>See detailed work plan in Planning and Watershed Stewardship Division (PAWS) work plan section.</p>	<p>See detailed work plan in PAWS work plan section</p>	<p>PAWS, FRPS, WSC, NNSF, NNS4C, NPDES, EU, PU, GWS, GPU</p>	<p>Private landowners, Shasta Valley RCD, CalTrout, CDFW, USFS, NMFS, USFWS, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, Karuk Tribe, Yurok Tribe, Siskiyou County, UCCE, MWCD, NRCS</p>

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PROJECT	TASK / ACTIVITY	PURPOSE / ISSUE / GOAL	DELIVERABLE / MILESTONE	MILESTONE DATES	PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS (See abbreviations below)	KEY EXTERNAL PARTNERS
<p>Scott River Watershed Stewardship</p>	<p>The Scott River TMDL primary implementation tool is implementation of the Shasta River TMDL Waiver and other Regional Water Board permits. The watershed steward aims to coordinate permit implementation and regulatory compliance with other project initiatives that result in a coherent and strategic holistic watershed scale restoration approach. The project initiatives include the Shasta / Scott flow workgroup in coordination with the Flow and Riparian Specialist, restoration initiatives in coordination with local watershed groups and the Restoration Specialist, advocacy to and involvement in the Groundwater Sustainability Planning process in coordination with the Groundwater Specialist, and supporting other efforts lead from within the watershed that complement ecological recovery. The task work plan objectives include ecologically functional flows, reduced water temperatures, improved water quality through improved agricultural / ranching practices, restoration projects, and developing a dataset that enables adaptive management of Regional Water Board regulatory programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement TMDL Conditional Waiver to minimize, control and prevent discharges of waste from agricultural operations and enhance nutrient assimilation, habitat diversity, and biodiversity on the working landscape. ▪ Identify opportunities to enhance and expand thermal refugia, spawning habitat, rearing habitat, and timing of river connectivity to support salmonids and pacific lamprey survival and recovery. ▪ Support key restoration efforts through grants and contracts. ▪ Work with staff across divisions, including key specialists and permitting staff, to advance TMDL implementation and strategic Regional Water Board initiatives. ▪ Coordinate among agency partners to develop a unified approach to landowner compliance assistance and enhance the ecological function of agricultural lands. ▪ Support and coordinate with the Restoration Specialist around novel approaches to instream restoration including Beaver Dam Analogues, instream wood placement, and other techniques to enhance geomorphic function and increase floodplain connectivity. ▪ Increase instream monitoring on the Scott River through funding, personnel, and data analysis to support ongoing adaptive management, including confirming the 2012 biostimulatory conditions listing. ▪ Pursue and support progressive enforcement, as appropriate. 	<p>See detailed work plan in PAWS work plan section.</p>	<p>See detailed work plan in PAWS work plan section</p>	<p>PAWS, FRPS, RS, WSC, NNSF, GWS</p>	<p>Private landowners, Scott River Watershed Council, Siskiyou RCD, CDFW, CalTrout, USFS, NMFS, USFWS, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, Karuk Tribe, Yurok Tribe, TNC, Siskiyou County, UCCE, Scott River Water Trust, NRCS</p>
<p>Elk River Watershed Stewardship</p>	<p>The Elk River TMDL implementation program includes the Elk River Recovery Strategy, Elk River Stewardship Framework, and the timber operation WDRs. The program calls for a combination of large-scale watershed restoration activities, enhancement of critical habitat for listed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completion of 100% design plan for recovery strategy 	<p>See PAWS work plan for details:</p>		<p>PAWS, RS, WSC, SNSF, PU</p>	<p>CDFW, NMFS, NFWF, BLM, Save the Redwoods League, HRC/ GDRCo, NRCS, County of Humboldt,</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Permitting for restoration actions for pilot projects 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop drinking water supply and transportation infrastructure plan 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Science and monitoring framework 				

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	salmonids, and reduction of sediment sources through effective WDR implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete feasibility study within timber ownership for sediment remediation in high source areas 	See SNSF work plan for details.	Ongoing		CA SCC, CA WCB, USFWS, USEPA	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure compliance with timber harvest operations WDRs 					
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop agency partnerships and funding strategy for long-term implementation of recovery strategy. 	Detailed Work Plan available upon request.	Ongoing			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Study Plan 	Detailed Work Plan available upon request.	Complete			CalTrout/NHE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with SCC & WCB grant managers 	Detailed Work Plan available upon request.	Ongoing			SCC, WCB, CalTrout, NHE, NHE, GHD
Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed Water Quality Improvement Plan	The draft Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDL recovery strategy is based on both reducing pollutant loadings and using restoration to increase watershed resiliency to biostimulatory conditions. As currently drafted, the implementation program would include undertaking a restoration vision that has been under development for several years and integrating that with the use of the regulatory authority of several Regional Water Board programs to reduce inputs to the Laguna. The draft implementation program also involves an innovative funding strategy that will require partnership with a broad array of local and regional organizations.	Complete TMDL for nutrients, sediment, and temperature	See PAWS work plan for more details:	2023	PAWS, WSC, RS, SN4C, NPDES (WWTP), NPDES (stormwater), GWS, FRPS, GWP	Sonoma Water, CDFW, Sonoma RCD, City of Santa Rosa, RRWA, SCAOSD, USFWS, NMFS, Graton Rancheria, Russian River Keeper, Russian River Confluence,	
		Integrate TMDL and Laguna Restoration Vision Planning documents	Consider development of model to inform assessment of water quality improvements under different restoration scenarios	2026			
		Develop funding options for Laguna reconciliation plan	Consider creation of restoration district, steering committee/board; consider including MS4, Vineyards, Dairies, etc. in WQTF	2028			
		Implement watershed stewardship framework for TMDL implementation, restoration, and reconciliation activities.	All permits, waivers, and WQTF updated to reflect TMDL	2028			
		Conduct adaptive management monitoring program	Consider R3MP state of the watershed reports w/Laguna specific appendix	2025 & on-going			
		Participate in stewardship infrastructure	Consider RB1 representation on	2028			

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PROJECT	TASK / ACTIVITY	PURPOSE / ISSUE / GOAL	DELIVERABLE / MILESTONE	MILESTONE DATES	PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS (See abbreviations below)	KEY EXTERNAL PARTNERS
			board/steering committee of restoration district, if developed; CEQA for integrated watershed restoration plan			
Russian River Watershed Stewardship Framework	There are many watershed level initiatives currently underway within the Russian River all directed to improving watershed conditions and increasing the resiliency of an increasingly stressed ecosystem. Several of these initiatives emanate from the Regional Water Board, others require regulatory engagement, and others are complementary / supportive of our mission in the watershed.	<p>Ongoing watershed initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internal Regional Water Board Work Group ▪ Pathogen TMDL ▪ Vineyards Permit ▪ Potter Valley Project ▪ Russian River Confluence / DWR - CA FWD ▪ Russian River Regional Monitoring Program ▪ Biostimulatory Conditions Assessment ▪ Regional Stormwater ▪ Independent Science Review Panel - Comprehensive Restoration Strategy ▪ Flow Studies and Drought Response 	No existing work plan that integrates these individual initiatives into a single watershed coordination framework. However, several are addressed in other Division Work Plan sections.		NPDES, AMU, PU, SN4C, GWS, FRPS, RS, GWP, WSC	Sonoma County, CDFW, NOAA NMFS, Rep. Huffman, RRWA, DWR, RCDs, Mendocino County, SCAOSD, Santa Rosa, Windsor, Ukiah, Rohnert Park, others
Smith River Plain Water Quality Management Plan	In April 2018, the Regional Water Board directed staff to create a working group of landowners, agencies, and organizations to develop solutions to control discharges from lily bulb grow operations in the Smith River plain. Staff created a Watershed Stewardship Team to develop an adaptive management water quality management plan that will inform development of a permit (WDR) for lily bulb operations. BMPs and a monitoring program are being implemented while the plan is being written.	Develop science based adaptive management water quality management plan for lily bulb operators in the Smith River Plain.	Web-based adaptive management plan	December 2021	GWP, WSC, PAWS, PU, SCR, RS	Lily bulb growers, CDFW, Tolowa Di Ni', NMFS, Smith River Alliance, Del Norte RCD, Del Norte Ag Commissioner, NRCS, Dept. of Pesticide Regulation
Conduct adaptive management water quality monitoring to evaluate BMP effectiveness.		11 monitoring stations – upstream /downstream	Ongoing			
Inspect / document BMP implementation for all lily bulb operations.		Staff site inspections and report	Ongoing			
Conduct Watershed Stewardship Team meetings at least twice annually.		Both Team and on-site	Ongoing			
Compile, assess, and report annual program results.		Water quality sampling results	Annually (February 2022)			
Periodic reports to the Regional Water Board		Board Presentation	Ongoing			

Unit	Abbreviation	Unit	Abbreviation	Unit	Abbreviation
Southern Nonpoint Source & Forestry	SNSF	Northern Cannabis Regulatory	NCR	Cleanup	CU
Northern Nonpoint Source & Forestry	NNSF	Enforcement	EU	Groundwater Permitting Unit	GWP
Southern Nonpoint & 401 Certification	SN4C	Planning	PU	Southern Cannabis Regulatory	SCR
Northern Nonpoint Source & 401 Certification	NN4C	Watershed Adaptive Management	WAMU	Groundwater Specialist	GWS
NPDES	NPDES	Flow & Riparian Protection Specialist	FRPS	Watershed Stewardship Coordinator	WSC
				Restoration Specialist	RS

PROJECT	TASK / ACTIVITY	PURPOSE / ISSUE / GOAL	DELIVERABLE / MILESTONE	MILESTONE DATES	PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS	KEY EXTERNAL PARTNERS
CROSS-PROGRAM COORDINATION PERMITS / PROJECTS						
Caltrans Stormwater Permit TMDL Compliance Strategy	Caltrans Stormwater Permit Interagency Work Group	Assist SWRCB with revised permit to address RB1 TMDL allocations and objectives	Assist statewide SWRCB / RWB work group to revise updated permit providing a more meaningful connection to TMDLs.	September 2021	NPDES, WSC, PAWS, RS, SN4C, NNS4C, FRPS	Caltrans, SWRCB
	Caltrans RB1 Compliance Plan	Translate approved permit into a stepwise regional compliance strategy.	Post permit renewal develop a TMDL compliance plan with Caltrans for RB1.			
	RB1 TMDL Restoration Project Catalog	Identify alternative restoration projects to satisfy Caltrans proportional load allocations for sediment and temperature. Prepare a catalog of compiled projects for Caltrans to select and fund.	RB1 Restoration Project Catalog	See PAWS Workplan	NPDES, RS, PU, WSC	SWRCB, Caltrans, project sponsoring organizations throughout RB1
Federal Lands Permit	<p>Adopt a region-wide general order to address discharges of waste from certain nonpoint source activities on federal lands with special attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ lessons learned by implementing previous permit iterations ▪ feedback from Board, federal agencies, and environmental groups ▪ changes to the environment, and ▪ new state and federal policies. 	<p>Improve effectiveness, efficiency, and enforceability by:</p> <p>Convert from Waiver to GWDR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conducting new supporting CEQA analysis ▪ Better incorporate other federal agencies ▪ Include new legacy sediment site treatment option ▪ Incorporate a General 401 Certification ▪ Revise regulatory approach to livestock grazing ▪ Revise MRP 	New WDR	February 2023	NNSF, Federal Permit Team has created an internal Advisory Team drawing from several programs	USFS

Unit	Abbreviation	Unit	Abbreviation	Unit	Abbreviation
Southern Nonpoint Source & Forestry	SNSF	Northern Cannabis Regulatory	NCR	Cleanup	CU
Northern Nonpoint Source & Forestry	NNSF	Enforcement	EU	Groundwater Permitting Unit	GWP
Southern Nonpoint & 401 Certification	SN4C	Planning	PU	Southern Cannabis Regulatory	SCR
Northern Nonpoint Source & 401 Certification	NNS4C	Watershed Adaptive Management	WAMU	Groundwater Specialist	GWS
NPDES	NPDES	Flow & Riparian Protection Specialist	FRPS	Watershed Stewardship Coordinator	WSC

PROJECT	TASK / ACTIVITY	PURPOSE / ISSUE / GOAL	DELIVERABLE / MILESTONE	MILESTONE DATES	PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS	KEY EXTERNAL PARTNERS
RB1 PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE(S)						
Cutting the Green Tape Initiative	The California Natural Resources Agency and the CDFW are sponsoring a series of white papers, workshops, and webinars to present proposed administrative improvements and to receive feedback on potential reforms to increase the pace and scale of environmental restoration in CA.	Increase the pace and scale of ecological restoration projects statewide. Potentially increase the level of collaboration and coordination between agencies on watershed-scale restoration projects.	List of administrative reforms, streamlined procedures, enhanced collaboration network, watershed level coordination	TBD	NPS, RS, ATM, WSC, RS, AMU, SN4C, NNS4C, FRPS	California Natural Resources Agency and Department of Fish & Wildlife, others

Unit	Abbreviation	Unit	Abbreviation	Unit	Abbreviation
Southern Nonpoint Source & Forestry	SNSF	Northern Cannabis Regulatory	NCR	Cleanup	CU
Northern Nonpoint Source & Forestry	NNSF	Enforcement	EU	Groundwater Permitting Unit	GWP
Southern Nonpoint & 401 Certification	SN4C	Planning	PU	Southern Cannabis Regulatory	SCR
Northern Nonpoint Source & 401 Certification	NNS4C	Watershed Adaptive Management	WAMU	Groundwater Specialist	GWS
NPDES	NPDES	Flow & Riparian Protection Specialist	FRPS	Watershed Stewardship Coordinator	WSC

PROJECT	TASK / ACTIVITY	PURPOSE / ISSUE / GOAL	DELIVERABLE / MILESTONE	MILESTONE DATES	PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS	KEY EXTERNAL PARTNERS
RB1 STEWARDSHIP ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS						
Executive Team Procedures for Cross-Program Coordination	Executive Team collaboration on criteria and procedures to identify and move forward projects that require program coordination to fulfill their objectives.	Water quality services provided by individual programs require coordination to be effectively delivered to our watersheds and to build enduring partnerships with our external partners. The goal of cross-program coordination is to optimize achievement of the State and Regional Water Board’s mission statement and the North Coast Regional Board’s vision statement by ensuring consistency, effectiveness, and engagement throughout our organization. The Watershed Stewardship Work Plan implements guidance and criteria established by the Executive Team to support cross program coordination where necessary and appropriate.	Guidance document describing cross-program team development process.	Summer 2021	Exec Team	Document is also intended to improve external partnership building.
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Watershed Resiliency Mapping Tool	Create an internal and external serving data visualization tool to answer long-term watershed strategy questions, to promote agency accomplishments, and to coordinate internal and external partner activities to promote watershed resiliency.	Integrate existing Regional Water Board databases and incorporate new sources of information into a web-based communication portal that supports the needs of staff, agency partners, the public, and our Board better understand watershed status, needs, and activities.	Long-term phased development project which will likely be staged over the next five years. Data visualization tools to support watershed scale assessments in strategic watersheds.	2026 - Contingent on Executive Project Charter approval - pending Exec Team Approval	Initially PU, PAWS, WSC, and specialists with later involvement of all programs.	
RB1 Watershed Stewardship Roundtables	Watershed Stewardship Coordinator to host voluntary forums on a focus watershed every three to four months. Format would be a two-hour brown bag with a summary fact sheet provided on each watershed.	Three roundtables each year focusing on RWB objectives, projects, issues, partnerships, and resources for a single watershed. The purpose is to promote communication across programs, evaluate coordination needs, and identify partners in common.	Voluntary workshops, watershed stewardship fact sheets	Pending Executive Team approval - Every 4 months	WSC	Document shared external partners

Unit	Abbreviation	Unit	Abbreviation	Unit	Abbreviation
Southern Nonpoint Source & Forestry	SNSF	Northern Cannabis Regulatory	NCR	Cleanup	CU
Northern Nonpoint Source & Forestry	NNSF	Enforcement	EU	Groundwater Permitting Unit	GWP
Southern Nonpoint & 401 Certification	SN4C	Planning	PU	Southern Cannabis Regulatory	SCR
Northern Nonpoint Source & 401 Certification	NNS4C	Watershed Adaptive Management	WAMU	Groundwater Specialist	GWS
NPDES	NPDES	Flow & Riparian Protection Specialist	FRPS	Watershed Stewardship Coordinator	WSC