

**NORTH COAST REGIONAL  
WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**

**RESOLUTION NO. R1-2025-0019**

*Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to Incorporate Applicable Provisions of Statewide Plans and Policies and Improve Clarity*

**WHEREAS:**

1. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) was first established in 1974 and has been amended numerous times since then, in response to changes in regulation and other conditions. The Basin Plan has been duly adopted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) and approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), the Office of Administrative Law, and U.S. EPA, where required.
2. The Basin Plan may be amended in accordance with California Water Code section 13240, et seq. The Basin Plan was last amended in June 2018.
3. The Basin Plan is the North Coast Water Board's primary water quality control planning document and regulatory tool. It contains the regulations adopted by the North Coast Water Board to control the discharge of waste and implement other controllable factors affecting the quality of waters of the state within the boundaries of the North Coast Region.
4. The Basin Plan includes definitions and designations of beneficial uses of waters in the North Coast Region, water quality objectives to protect those beneficial uses, implementation programs and prohibitions to achieve water quality objectives, and incorporates by reference statewide plans and policies, including antidegradation.
5. The Clean Water Act section 303 requires the North Coast Water Board to review the Basin Plan at least every three years and where appropriate modify water quality objectives or beneficial uses in the Basin Plan. The North Coast Water Board approved the 2023 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan at a public hearing on June 14, 2024. A Basin Plan Remediation project was included in the approved FY2024-2027 Planning Program Workplan, for the purpose of incorporating applicable provisions of statewide plans and policies into the North Coast Basin Plan and editorial amendments to improve clarity. The amendments are corrections and updates, and the Board is not revising or adopting water quality objectives, so the Water Board is not required to consider the factors in

Water Code section 13241.

6. The Basin Plan amendments, including specifications on physical placement in the Basin Plan, are described in the Staff Report, Attachment 1 to this Resolution, and shown in Attachment 2, the track changes draft 2025 Basin Plan. The Staff Report describes the revisions to the Basin Plan to incorporate applicable provisions of statewide plans and policies adopted by the State Water Board since 2018 (new and amended), reorganize the implementation information in a logical manner, update regulatory and program information as needed to reflect applicable regulations, correct typographical errors and formatting, and comply with Assembly Bill 434 web accessibility requirements.
7. The amendments make changes to the Basin Plan that are non-regulatory because they are editorial in nature or incorporate adopted TMDLs, or amendments that were adopted by the State Water Board and are already in effect statewide. Consequently, the amendments are changes that do not materially alter any requirement, right, responsibility, condition, prescription, or other regulatory element of the Basin Plan, and are therefore without regulatory effect.
8. The North Coast Water Board finds the amendments are corrections or updates that do not have scientific elements requiring independent, external scientific peer review in accordance with Health and Safety Code section 57004.
9. The Basin Plan is the basis for regulatory actions by the Regional Water Boards to protect waters of the state and assure compliance with the California Water Code. Therefore, the language should be corrected and updated to assure that stakeholders are aware of the applicable regulations. The proposed action meets the “Necessity” standard of the Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code, section 11353, subdivision (b).
10. The basin planning process has been certified by the Resources Agency as an exempt regulatory program because its process adequately fulfills the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The North Coast Water Board is therefore exempt from CEQA’s requirements to prepare an environmental impact report, negative declaration, or initial study (Pub. Res. Code, §§ 21000 et seq.) for the proposed amendment. Instead, the North Coast Water Board prepares substitute environmental documents under the certified regulatory program. However, the proposed amendments are exempt from the certified regulatory program requirements because those requirements do not apply if the proposed amendments are exempt from CEQA. The action to amend the Basin Plan is not a “project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it will cause neither a direct physical change in the environment nor a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (Pub. Res. Code, § 21065; Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, §§ 15378, 15060 (c); Pub. Res. Code, § 21080.1). As a result, the non-regulatory Basin Plan amendments are not subject to CEQA and, therefore, not subject to the State Water Board’s certified regulatory program regulations for

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implementing CEQA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3720, subdivisions (b) and (c)(2)).

11. A Staff Report describing elements of the Basin Plan proposed for amendment was made available to the public for review on March 13, 2025 along with supporting documents. Interested persons had an opportunity to submit written comments during a 45-day comment period ending on April 28, 2025.
12. On June 13, 2025, the North Coast Water Board held a public hearing to receive oral comments on the Basin Plan amendments. Notice of the public hearing was given to all interested persons and published in accordance with the requirements of Water Code section 13244, Government Code 11125, and 40 C.F.R. section 25.5.
13. The North Coast Water Board has carefully considered all comments and testimony received, including responses thereto, on the Basin Plan amendments, as well as the evidence in the administrative record.
14. The Basin Plan amendments must be submitted for approval by the State Water Board and Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The Basin Plan amendments will become effective upon approval by OAL. After approved by OAL, the Basin Plan amendments, as appropriate, will be submitted to the U.S. EPA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Pursuant to Water Code section 13240, the North Coast Water Board, after considering the record, including oral testimony at the hearing, hereby adopts the Basin Plan amendments as set forth in Attachment 2 to this Resolution R1-2025-0019.
2. North Coast Water Board staff will forward copies of the Basin Plan amendments to the State Water Board in accordance with the requirement of Water Code section 13245.5. The North Coast Water Board requests that the State Water Board approve the Basin Plan amendments in accordance with the requirements of Water Code sections 13245 and 13246. North Coast Water Board staff will then forward the Basin Plan amendments to OAL for approval, and to U.S. EPA.
3. The Basin Plan as it currently exists remains effective until such time as it is changed by formal North Coast Water Board action and approved by OAL.
4. If, during the approval process, North Coast Water Board staff, the State Water Board, or OAL determines that minor, non-regulatory corrections to the language of the amendments are needed for clarity or consistency, the Executive Officer or their designee may make such changes and shall inform the North Coast Water Board of any such changes.

Certification:

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I, Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on June 13, 2025.

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Valerie Quinto  
Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. [Staff Report](#)
2. [Track changes draft 2025 Basin Plan](#)