

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, WORKSHOP, AND PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF UPDATES TO THE TMDL ACTION PLAN FOR THE
RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED
PATHOGEN TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD
AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE
WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION**

I. BACKGROUND

In August 2019, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) adopted Resolution R1-2019-0038, to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) to include the Russian River Watershed Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Action Plan (Action Plan). The Action Plan summarizes the findings of the TMDL analyses conducted across the Russian River Watershed to address pathogen pollution and listings of the Russian River on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waters (303(d) list).

During the development of the North Coast Water Board's Section 303(d) list in 2020, Regional Water Board staff reassessed fecal indicator bacteria and microbial source tracking data used in the TMDL and determined that some changes to the Action Plan adopted in 2019 were warranted. The proposed changes are primarily related to the Advanced Protection Management Program (APMP) boundary within which the Action Plan prioritizes investigation of cesspools and failing or substandard Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems. The APMP is a key component of the Action Plan as the APMP definition and associated implementation actions are necessary to comply with the State Water Board's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy. The reassessment of fecal indicator bacteria and microbial source tracking data led to changes in APMP boundaries.

II. PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Notice is hereby given that the Regional Water Board will receive public comments on the updated Action Plan for the Russian River Pathogen TMDL, updated Staff Report for the Action Plan for the Russian River Pathogen TMDL, and the Reassessment of Fecal Indicator Bacteria and Microbial Source Tracking Data for the Russian River Watershed Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load (2020 Technical Report).

Document Availability

On August 14, 2019, the Regional Water Board adopted [Resolution No. R1-2019-0038](#) that approved the Basin Plan Amendment for the [Russian River Watershed Pathogen TMDL Action Plan](#). The Action Plan and Staff Report have been revised to reflect updates to the data analysis as reported in the Technical Report (2020). Updated documents are available on the [Russian River Watershed TMDL webpage](#) for a 45-day

public review and comment period. The public comment period will close at 5:00 PM on September 22, 2021.

Submission of Written Comments on Updated Portions of Staff Report, TMDL Action Plan, and Technical Report (2020)

The Regional Water Board will accept comments on the Russian River Pathogen TMDL staff report, the associated Action Plan and on the Technical Report (2020). All updates are shown in strikethrough and underline. Comments can be made upon any part of the available documents. However, comments submitted during prior renditions of this TMDL project need not be resubmitted. Staff has previously prepared written responses to all comments received on the August 14, 2019 staff report, Action Plan, and Resolution. Those responses are available on the [06/2019 Board Meeting | California Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board](#) website. Comments received during this comment period, which mimic those received for prior renditions of this TMDL project will be directed to the previous response. Written comments must be received no later than 5:00 PM on September 22, 2021. Send comments by selecting from the following methods:

- Email up to 15 megabytes to NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov and use the subject heading "Russian River Watershed Pathogen TMDL Update Comments"
- Follow [electronic submittal guidelines](#) for comments greater than 15 megabytes
- Fax to 707-576-2069
- Mail or Hand Deliver to: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Attention: Russian River Watershed Pathogen TMDL Update, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403-1072

III. PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Notice is additionally hereby given that the Regional Water Board will hold a public workshop, during the 45-day public comment period. During the public workshop Regional Water Board staff will present the proposed updates, followed by discussion between the Regional Water Board and staff. Oral and written comments from members of the public regarding on the proposed updates will be accepted. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be time limited and therefore submission of written comments to accompany oral presentations is encouraged. The workshop will be held during the following Regional Water Board meeting:

Public Board Workshop

Board Meeting Date: **August 19, 2021**

Board Meeting Start Time: **9:00 A.M.**

Location: **Video and teleconference meeting only**

No Physical meeting Location (Authorized by and in furtherance of Executive Orders [N-29-20](#) and [N-33-20](#))

A quorum of Regional Water Board members will be present at the public board workshop; however, no board action will be taken. Although no formal decisions will be made, the Board may provide direction to staff. The Regional Water Board will consider adopting the proposed updates to the staff report, Russian River Watershed Pathogen TMDL Action Plan, by adopting a Resolution at a subsequent meeting currently scheduled for December 2 or 3, 2021.

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

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is additionally hereby given that the Regional Water Board will hold a public hearing to receive oral public input and comments on the proposed Russian River Pathogen TMDL Action Plan and staff report updates. Following the public hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider adoption of the staff report and Action Plan updates, by Resolution. The public hearing and consideration of adoption meeting will be held as follows:

Public Hearing and Consideration of Adoption Meeting

Board Meeting Date: **December 2 or 3, 2021**

Board Meeting Start Time: **9:00 A.M.**

Location: **Regional Water Board Hearing Room, 5550 Skyland Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California**

At this time this board meeting is scheduled to be held at the North Coast Water Board's office in Santa Rosa; video and teleconference participation may also be provided. Please check the Regional 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 at the Regional 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 Regional Water Board's website.

V. SCOPE OF PUBLIC COMMENTS SOLICITED, WORKSHOP, AND HEARING

Interested persons may present relevant written and oral comments and evidence on the Basin Plan amendment (i.e. Action Plan), Staff Report, and on the Technical Report (2020). Please be advised that comments or evidence concerning the appropriateness of any previously adopted Basin Plan amendment elements are not relevant to this

action and will not be responded to other than directing the commenter back to previous responses.

VI. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's website:

[Homepage | California Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board](#)

Russian River Watershed TMDLs webpage:

[Russian River | California Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board](#)

Electronic Submittal Required for Correspondence and Reports to the Regional Board:

[Electronic Submittal Required for Correspondence and Reports to the Regional Board](#)

Email List Subscriptions:

[Email List Subscription Form | North Coast Regional Board \(ca.gov\)](#)

VII. POTENTIAL FUTURE CHANGES TO THE NOTICED ITEMS

Any changes regarding the noticed items will be posted on the Regional 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 accessing the [Email List Subscription Form webpage](#) and subscribing to the "Russian River TMDL" email list.

VIII. NORTH COAST WATER BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice, the proposed amendment, or the Russian River Pathogen TMDL Action Plan to Lisa Bernard, Planning Unit Supervisor, at Lisa.Bernard@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please contact Patti Corsie at Patti.Corsie@waterboards.ca.gov for disability accommodations at least three days before a scheduled meeting.