

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Wednesday, November 14, 2018
Regional Water Board Office
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: Workshop on Draft General Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2019-0001 for **Dairies in the North Coast Region** (*Cherie Blatt*)

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational workshop item only; no board action to be taken.

BACKGROUND: Within the past seven years, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) adopted the following Orders to regulate discharges from dairies and other animal feeding operations:

Order No. R1-2012-0001, General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) No. CAG011001 for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations;
Order No. R1-2012-0002, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Existing Dairies;
Order No. R1-2012-0003, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Existing Dairies;
Order No. R1-2015-0051, Mello 3/Llano Oaks Dairy Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements; and
Order No. R1-2016-0045, Renewal of Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Existing Dairies.

Most dairies in the Region are covered by the Conditional Waiver which was renewed in 2016. No animal facilities have been enrolled under the NPDES permit which expired in 2017. Both permits expired in 2017. New regulations since 2012 needed to be added to the dairy regulatory program. Also, a mechanism was needed to cover new dairies, expanding dairies, and re-opening of previously inactive dairies, and to cover the growing number of goat, sheep, and water buffalo dairies in the North Coast.

Regional Water Board staff began stakeholder outreach in 2017 to consider changes for the next dairy regulatory program titled: Draft General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dairies in the North Coast Region, Order R1-2019-0001 (Draft GWDR). Public stakeholder meetings were held in Sonoma and Humboldt Counties in 2017. About 10 goat, sheep, and water buffalo dairies were toured by Regional Water Board staff to assess water quality protection needs and to discuss possible coverage under the Draft GWDR.

Modifications to the Dairy Program reflected in the Draft GWDR include nutrient management planning, riparian protection measures, tribal cultural resource protections, and surface water and groundwater monitoring requirements. The Draft GWDR requires all dairies with manure or other fertilizer application to land or dairies which graze for more than 30 days annually to develop Nutrient Management Plans. Riparian Area Management Plans and associated riparian area protection measures are required to help to enhance protection of streams and watercourses from grazing impacts. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto 2015), Tribal Cultural Resource protections are required. Finally, changes are proposed to the surface water and groundwater monitoring parameters and timing of sampling based on dairy water quality results collected over the past few years.

A draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has been developed for the Draft GWDR. Development of Water Quality Plans, Riparian Management Plans, and an assessment of coverage under the IS/MND are required prior to new or expanding dairy coverage under the Draft GWDR. Nutrient Management Plans for all dairies applying nutrients to crops or pastures are due within two years of GWDR enrollment.

The draft GWDR package including the IS/MND was distributed for a 30-day public and agency review starting November 1, 2018. Written comments are due by December 3, 2018. The purpose of today's workshop is for staff to provide an overview of the requirements in the Draft GWDR, to hear oral comments from stakeholders, and to answer questions from Board Members and the public.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item. No Board action will be taken at this time.

SUPPORTING

DOCUMENTS: Draft Order No. R1-2019-0001