

---

## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region

#### Draft Rescission Order No. R1-2021-0018 Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order Number R1-2016-0041 and Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2016-0043

for the

#### COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

NPDES Permit No. CA0006700  
WDID NO. 1B80121OHUM

#### Humboldt County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. The College of the Redwoods (Permittee) is a two-year community college that serves four counties in the North Coast Region. Its main campus is located in Eureka, in Humboldt County. The 156.4-acre main campus consists of residence halls, campus dining facilities, multiple science labs, maintenance buildings, a community stadium, a greenhouse, and additional infrastructure. Activities at the college generate approximately eighty thousand gallons per day of domestic strength wastewater.
2. On December 27, 2016, Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2016-0043 (2016 CDO) was issued to the Permittee for potential chronic violations of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) for the creation of pollution, contamination, or nuisance as defined by section 13050 of the California Water Code. Additionally, the Permittee could not meet final effluent limitations for copper, nitrate and ammonia.

3. The 2016 CDO replaced CDO No. R1-2010-0079 that was adopted for effluent limitation violations and required the Permittee to implement source control measures reduce or eliminate copper lead and silver from the waste stream, prepare and submit a Feasibility Study and conduct a translator study and/or a water effects ratio study by December 1, 2013. The Permittee requested a 24-month extension on November 27, 2013 due to administrative challenges, including budget cuts and loss of key personnel, which prevented the Permittee from meeting the final compliance date of December 1, 2013. Regional Water Board staff granted the extension request in a letter dated December 22, 2014. On April 20, 2015, the Permittee submitted a preliminary plans and costs for a new onsite wastewater treatment and disposal system.
4. On June 7, 2018, the Executive Officer of the North Coast Regional Water Board issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) to the Permittee for enrollment under the State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems. The NOA was issued prior to completion of the onsite wastewater treatment and disposal system (New Facility) to provide a permitting path for the new system.
5. The 2016 CDO required the Permittee to comply with copper, ammonia and nitrate final effluent limitations by the earliest possible date but no later than June 1, 2020. The Permittee chose a septic tank and leach field disposal system to comply with water quality-based effluent limitations required by the 2016 NPDES permit.
6. The Permittee's New Facility consists of an influent septic tank, a recirculating tank, two recirculating gravel filters, two leach fields and support facilities. The current Facility has been decommissioned.
7. The New Facility completed construction of the influent septic tank and leach fields in March of 2020. The gravel bed filters and the recirculating tank are currently in construction and are anticipated to be completed by March 5, 2021 with final site grading, paving, fencing, and cleanup completed by the end of March 2021.
8. The Permittee notified Regional Water Board staff that discharge to surface waters ceased and effluent was being discharged to the leach field on March 30, 2020.
9. Documentation submitted by the Permittee confirms that actions necessary to achieve full operation of the Capital Improvement Project in compliance with applicable WDRs, including effluent limitations and Basin Plan prohibitions and requirements have been completed as of March 5, 2021.

10. Regional Water Board action to rescind NPDES Order No. R1-2016-0041 and CDO No. R1-2016-0043 is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15061(b)(3).
11. The Regional Water Board will hold a public hearing on the Rescission Order during its regular Board meeting on the following date and time and at the following location:

Date: June 17 and 18, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Live video and audio broadcasts of the public hearing will be available via the internet and can be accessed at [the CalEPA Public Meeting Live Webcasts](https://video.calepa.ca.gov/) page (<https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>). The public hearing will be recorded.

Due to the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders (Order Nos. N-29-20 and N-33-20) to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, this meeting is scheduled to occur solely via remote participation. Please follow the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board website for information on how to participate in the meeting and any updates regarding this agenda item.

Interested persons are invited to attend. At the public hearing, the Regional Water Board will hear testimony pertinent to the Rescission Order. For accuracy of the record, important testimony is requested in writing. Please be aware that dates and venues may change. You can access the current agenda at our Web address [Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Board Meeting information](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board\\_info/board\\_meetings/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/))

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, except for enforcement purposes, NPDES Order No. R1-2016-0041 and CDO No. R1-2016-0043 for the Permittee are rescinded.

Ordered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer