



North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

To: Phillip Crader, Deputy Director
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board

From: Valerie Quinto
Executive Officer
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Date: July 31, 2025

SUBJECT: NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION TO INCORPORATE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF STATEWIDE PLANS AND POLICIES AND IMPROVE CLARITY, ADOPTED BY NORTH COAST WATER BOARD RESOLUTION NO. R1-2025-0019

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) adopted the *Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to Incorporate Applicable Provisions of Statewide Plans and Policies and Improve Clarity* on June 13, 2025, by Resolution R1-2025-0019 (Basin Plan Amendment or Amendment). The Basin Plan Amendment is entirely non-regulatory and editorial, with no regulatory effect. The Amendment adopted by the North Coast Water Board updates the North Coast Basin Plan from the 2018 edition to the 2025 edition, incorporating applicable provisions of State Water Board plans and policies, incorporating by reference US EPA adopted TMDLs, ensuring web accessibility requirements are met, and improving the overall clarity.

North Coast Regional Water Board Resolution No. R1-2025-0019 grants the Executive Officer the authority to make minor, non-substantive changes to the language of the adopted Basin Plan Amendment if corrections are needed for clarity or consistency. This memo transmits the Basin Plan Amendment showing non-substantive changes made for clarification.

The clarifying changes include: 1) correcting formatting of water quality objectives for bacteria; 2) updating the reference to the appropriate agency in the Cannabis Cultivation Policy summary; and 3) updating table and figure numbers in Chapter 6.

Change 1, correcting the formatting of water quality objectives for bacteria, is necessary to ensure the water quality objectives for bacteria are consistent with updating the Basin Plan to incorporate the Statewide Bacteria Provisions. To improve clarity, and remove any ambiguity as to whether the change was editorial, a previously stricken sentence from the 2018 Basin Plan is returned to the objective, with the word *coliform* removed to

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be consistent with updated Statewide Bacteria Provisions applicability to coliform and non-coliform bacteria.

Change 2, updating the reference to the appropriate agency in the Cannabis Cultivation Policy summary, is necessary as the California Department of Food and Agriculture's CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing Program no longer exists. The Department of Cannabis Control is the appropriate agency to be referenced here.

Change 3, updating table and figure numbers in Chapter 6, improves clarity and corrects a formatting oversight. Table and figure numbers in Chapter 6 have been updated from numbering that was continuous throughout the chapter to numbering that is unique to each action plan.

The minor, non-substantive changes are shown in underline/strikeout text below. The Attachment hereto is a clean copy of the Basin Plan Amendment.

Change 1: Section 3.3.1 Bacteria (p44)

~~3.3.1.1 North Coast Narrative Bacteria Objective~~

The bacteriological quality of waters of the North Coast Region shall not be degraded beyond natural background levels. In no case shall coliform concentrations in waters of the North Coast Region exceed the following: *(note to reader that the preceding underlined text is how the Basin Plan previously read)*

~~3.3.1.2 SHELL~~

At all areas where shellfish may be harvested for human consumption (SHELL), the fecal coliform concentration throughout the water column shall not exceed 43/100 mL for a 5-tube decimal dilution test or 49/100 mL when a three-tube decimal dilution test is used (National Shellfish Sanitation Program, Manual of Operation).

~~3.3.1.3 REC-1~~

The State Water Board established two bacteria water quality objectives applicable to waters with the REC-1 beneficial use, depending on the salinity level, and an implementation plan in Part 3 of the *Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Water, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California – Bacteria Provisions and a Water Quality Standards Variance Policy*, State Water Board Resolution 2018-0038 (Statewide Bacteria Provisions)...

Change 2: Section 4.8 Cannabis Cultivation policy (p68)

The Cannabis Cultivation Policy requirements are primarily implemented through the Water Boards Cannabis Cultivation General Order and Cannabis Small Irrigation use Registration (SIUR) permits in addition to the ~~California Department of Food and Agriculture's CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing Program~~ Department of Cannabis Control.

Change 3: Chapter 6 (p109-288)

Table and figure numbers in Chapter 6 have been updated from numbering that was continuous throughout the chapter (i.e., 6-1 to 6-28) to numbering that is unique to each Action Plan (i.e., 6.3.3-1, 6.3.4-1, etc.). Figure numbers in Chapter 6 were similarly updated.

These changes are made solely for clarification and do not result in regulatory changes to the 2018 Basin Plan (the last time regulatory changes were made) or Resolution R1-2025-0019.

If you have any questions about this transmittal, please contact Michelle Fuller at michelle.fuller@waterboards.ca.gov or (707) 576-2350.

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Attachment: Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, June 2025 edition