




North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Karen Larsen
Deputy Director, Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board

FROM: Matthias St. John, Executive Officer 

DATE: July 14, 2017

SUBJECT: ACTION PLAN for the UPPER ELK RIVER SEDIMENT TMDL

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Regional Board) adopted an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) on May 12, 2016 in Resolution R1-2016-0017. The Basin Plan Amendment establishes Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for sediment and a Program of Implementation for the Upper Elk River Watershed located in Humboldt County and approximately eight miles south of Eureka, CA. The Amendment is to be added to Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan and titled *Action Plan for the Upper Elk River Sediment TMDL* (TMDL Action Plan).

North Coast Regional Board Resolution No. R1-2012-0062 grants the Executive Officer the authority to make minor, non-substantive changes to the language of the adopted Basin Plan Amendment. The language of the TMDL Action Plan was modified to improve consistency and add clarity to sections that may potentially confuse readers. None of these modifications substantively change the content or goals of the TMDL Action Plan. The modifications are as follows and descriptions organized by section:

Introductory Paragraph

- Remove capitalization of the "Program of Implementation" for consistency with rest of TMDL Action Plan;
- Remove the word "both" for clarification;
- Add dash to "nonregulatory" into "non-regulatory".

II. Source Analysis

- Changes first sentence of paragraph 1: "...deposited in the low gradient channel and floodplain impacted reaches" to "...deposited in low gradient channel floodplain reaches" for clarification;
- Add reference to Table 1 in last sentence of paragraph 3.

III. Water Quality Indicators

- Add "targets" to last sentence of paragraph 1 as both indicators and targets "are designed to help assess the overall effectiveness of the program of implementation";
- Replace "objectives" with "standards" for clarification in first sentence of paragraph 2;
- Add footnote describing "attainment of water quality standards" with respect to control of sediment delivery in paragraph 2;
- Remove "increased" from paragraph 2;
- Add "control of" to paragraph 2;
- Change "decrease in" to "decreasing" for consistency in Table 2.

IV. Sediment TMDL and Load Allocation, including Margin of Safety and Consideration of Seasonal Variation

- Remove "nonpoint source" from "load allocation" and "sediment" in paragraph 3;
- Replace "tributary system" with "upper watershed" from last sentence of paragraph 3;
- Remove "regulatory" from first sentence of paragraph 4;
- Add "waste discharge requirements" to define WDR in paragraph 4;
- Replace "reduce" with "minimize" for consistency with Section III, paragraph 2.

VI. Program of Implementation

- Remove capitalization of the "Program of Implementation" in first sentence of paragraph 1;
- Replace "Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) or waiver of WDRs" with "WDRs or waivers" in second paragraph, element a. for consistency with Section IV, paragraph 4;
- Replace "reduce" with "minimize" in footnote to Table 4 for consistency with Section III, paragraph 2;
- Add footnote to WDR subsection to reflect that North Coast Board staff and management have begun consideration of updates to South Fork Elk River Management Plan;
- Remove "including any revisions," adding "revised" and "River" for clarity and consistency with footnote from Table 4, Sediment Source Control, Green Diamond Resource Company, row 2;
- Add "adopted WDRs and waivers have successfully controlled sediment delivery from the upper watershed to impacted reaches" to Table 4, row 8 to be consistent with final row of Table 4;
- Replace "objectives" with "standards" in final row of Table 4 for consistency with Section III, paragraph 2.

VI. Monitoring and Adaptive Management

- Remove capitalization of the "Program of Implementation" in first sentence of paragraph 1;
- Add "including an evaluation of the effectiveness of WDRs and waivers" in third paragraph for consistency with Table 4;
- Add "water quality data" as an element to be reviewed by North Coast Board staff in paragraph 2;
- Replace "protecting" with "restoring" beneficial uses and add "abating nuisance flooding conditions" in third paragraph.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Alydda Mangelsdorf at (707) 576 – 6735.

CC:

North Coast Board Members

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