

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY,
BOARD WORKSHOP, AND PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A
BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT
REGARDING THE
ACTION PLAN FOR THE GUALALA RIVER SEDIMENT
TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)**

I. Background

In 1994, the entire Gualala River watershed was listed on section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act as impaired for excessive sedimentation/siltation. Excessive sediment in the Gualala River watershed impairs Beneficial Uses associated with the Gualala River's salmonid fishery and habitat. In 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment in the Gualala River Watershed, supported by the *Gualala River Watershed Technical Support Document for Sediment* (TSD), which was developed by North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) staff.

Pursuant to section 13242 of the California Water Code, North Coast Water Board staff have developed the *Action Plan for the Gualala River Sediment TMDL* (Action Plan) and *Staff Report Supporting the Gualala River Sediment TMDL Action Plan* (Staff Report). The Action Plan and Staff Report reference and summarize key components of the Gualala River Sediment TMDL and the TSD. The Action Plan and Staff Report provide an implementation strategy to achieve the TMDL load allocations through various measures to manage sediment sources and attain water quality standards.

II. Public Review and Comment Period

Notice is hereby given that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) opens a **45-day** public comment period regarding the public review draft for the *Action Plan for the Gualala River Sediment TMDL* and *Staff Report Supporting the Gualala River Sediment TMDL Action Plan*. These documents are available on the [Gualala River Sediment TMDL webpage](#)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/gualala_river/). Written comments must be received no later than **5:00 PM on August 25, 2025**. Send comments by selecting from the following methods:

- Email up to 15 megabytes to NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov and use the subject heading "Gualala River Sediment TMDL Comments"
- Follow [electronic submittal guidelines](#) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications_and_forms/available_documents/pdf/2014/ECM_Letter-Guidelines.pdf) for comments greater than 15 megabytes

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- Fax to 707-576-2069
- Mail or Hand Deliver to: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board,
Attention: Gualala River Sediment TMDL, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A,
Santa Rosa, California 95403-1072

III. Public Workshop

Notice is additionally hereby given that the North Coast Water Board will hold a public workshop during the 45-day public comment period. During the public workshop, North Coast Water Board staff will give an oral presentation on the Action Plan and Staff Report, followed by discussion between the North Coast Water Board and staff. Oral and written comments from members of the public 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 time limit for oral comments will be 5 minutes; however, additional time may be provided, upon request, at the discretion of the North Coast Water Board Chair. A timer may be used, and speakers are expected to honor time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson to avoid unnecessary or repetitive presentations. The workshop will be held during the following North Coast Water Board meeting:

Public Board Workshop

Board Meeting Date: **August 14 or 15, 2025**

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

Location: **David C. Joseph Board Room
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

A quorum of North Coast Water Board members will be present at the public board workshop; however, no board action will be taken. No formal decisions will be made, but the Board may provide general direction to staff. Additional information about the workshop, including meeting procedures and information on making presentations, can be found on the North Coast Water Board's website for [scheduled Board Meetings](#) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/) and for the [Gualala River TMDL](#) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/gualala_river/).

IV. Public Hearing

Notice is additionally hereby given that the North Coast Water Board will hold a public hearing to receive oral public input and comments on the Action Plan and Staff Report updates. Following the public hearing, the North Coast Water Board will consider adoption of the Action Plan by Resolution. The public hearing will be held as follows:

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Public Hearing and Consideration of Adoption Meeting

Board Meeting Date: **February 18 or 19, 2026**

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

Location: **To be determined. See [Board Meeting webpage](#) for updated information.**

During the scheduled board meetings, video and teleconference participation may also be provided. Please check the North Coast 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 on the North Coast 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 North Coast Water Board's website.

V. Availability of Documents and Information

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's website:

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

(<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/>)

Gualala River Watershed TMDLs webpage:

[Gualala River | California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board](#)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/gualala_river/)

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

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications_and_forms/available_documents/pdf/2014/ECM_Letter-Guidelines.pdf)

Email List Subscriptions:

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

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg1_subscribe.html)

VI. Potential Future Changes to Noticed Items

Any changes regarding the noticed items will be posted on the North Coast 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 assessing the Email List Subscription Form webpage and subscribing to the "Gualala River Watershed – TMDL" email list.

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VII. North Coast Water Board Contact Information

Please direct questions about the Action Plan and Staff Report to:

Joel Bisson
Environmental Scientist
Joel.Bisson@waterboards.ca.gov
(707) 576-2703

Lisa Bernard
Senior Environmental Scientist
Lisa.Bernard@waterboards.ca.gov
(707) 576-2677

Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in the North Coast Water Board's meetings and hearings should contact Deidre Wilkerson at Deidre.Wilkerson@waterboards.ca.gov at least three days before the scheduled event.