

Gualala River TMDL Action Plan Development January 2024 Update

Staff are drafting initial environmental documentation in support of a draft Action Plan for the Gualala River TMDL. As part of these efforts, staff are initiating the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. CEQA does not include all aspects of the project. The purpose of the CEQA process is focused upon identification and assessment of potential environmental impacts that could arise from project requirements. CEQA scoping, the first step in this process, allows the Regional Board to receive input from internal staff as well as the public and other stakeholders regarding possible environmental impacts of the project. Input from stakeholders is key in project development, as it can provide insight into project alternatives, implementation options, and potential environmental impacts not otherwise identified by project staff. Stakeholder opportunities to provide comments on other aspects of the project, such as coordination, economics, future monitoring considerations, etc. will be announced later during project development.

The public process for CEQA scoping has not yet begun. Timing for the public CEQA scoping period and associated public workshop(s) will be announced on the project website and through the Regional Board's email distribution mailing list. Staff will first conduct internal scoping to compile an initial list of potential compliance measures that could be included in an Action Plan to address sources of sediment in the Gualala River watershed. Once developed, that initial list along with project background information will be distributed for public review and comment when the CEQA scoping period is announced. Staff will host a public workshop(s) during the public comment period to provide stakeholders an opportunity for questions and answers.

For background information on this project, please see our project webpage which includes announcements, a project fact sheet, and staff contact information. The project webpage can be found here: [Gualala River | California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board](#)

or at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/gualala_river/

Regional Board staff will continue to provide quarterly updates throughout the development of the project. Please forward this email and/ or direct interested individuals or groups to subscribe at the following link for timely project information: [California Water Boards \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

or at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAWRRCB/subscriber/new?topic_id=r1_tmdl_gualala_river_watershed

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to know how to get further involved, please feel free to contact Nick Fetherston (Project Manager), at (707) 570-3761, or by email at Nicholas.Fetherston@waterboards.ca.gov or Lisa Bernard (Program Manager), at (707) 576-2677, or by email at Lisa.Bernard@waterboards.ca.gov.