

## Gualala River TMDL Action Plan Development October 2023 Update

You are receiving this email because you have signed up on the North Coast Water Board's email distribution list to receive regular updates on the Gualala River Watershed Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project. This is the first in a series of quarterly information updates that will be sent throughout the development of this project.

### Background Information:

The mission of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

The TMDL program requires states to identify bodies of water that are impaired or polluted. In 1998, the Gualala River watershed was identified as impaired due to excessive sediment pollution in the streams. This type of pollution can have significant impacts on the beneficial uses of the streams such as commercial and sport fishing, cold freshwater habitat, and the spawning, development, and migration of salmonids. The Gualala River TMDL was established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in December 2001, and quantified the amount of sediment entering the streams and whether the sources of sediment were natural or being contributed by human activity. For more information on the TMDL process, see our Regional Board TMDL webpage at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/tmdls/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/)

The TMDL study found that the largest contribution of sediment pollution was coming from roads in the watershed. It is the Regional Boards duty under the Clean Water Act to establish an implementation strategy to address those sources of excess sediment. This strategy will include the development of an order that will require the treatment of significant sediment generating roads in the watershed.

For more 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:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/tmdls/gualala\\_river/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/gualala_river/)

### Status Updates:

Regional Board staff are currently engaging in outreach efforts to inform the public about the project and encouraging interested parties to sign up for this email distribution list. The distribution list currently has 50 subscribers.

Project status updates will continue to be provided approximately every three months.

Regional Board staff have presented project updates on the TMDL process to the Gualala River Watershed Council (GRWC). Staff will continue to provide updates to the GRWC as they become available.

If you know of interested individuals or groups that may want to receive project updates, please forward this email to them, or direct them to sign up at the following link:

[California Water Boards \(govdelivery.com\)](https://www.govdelivery.com)

or

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAWRCB/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=r1\\_tmdl\\_gualala\\_river\\_watershed](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAWRCB/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](mailto:Nicholas.Fetherston@waterboards.ca.gov) or Lisa Bernard (Program Manager), at (707) 576-2677, or by email at [Lisa.Bernard@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lisa.Bernard@waterboards.ca.gov).