

October 30, 2025

NOTICE
CEQA Public Scoping Notice for the
Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed Reconciliation Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) has begun a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) public scoping period for the implementation plan (Action Plan) for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed Reconciliation Project (Laguna Reconciliation Project). The 45-day scoping period begins as of the date of this notice, October 30, 2025, and ends on December 15, 2025.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Coast Water Board is developing an Action Plan for the Laguna Reconciliation Project to address sediment, phosphorus, nitrogen, and temperature impairment in the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed that aims to reconcile natural ecological functions with the altered landscape. The Action Plan will seek to restore supporting conditions for beneficial uses of water, mitigate the impacts of biostimulatory conditions, control pollutants of concern, and expand the assimilative capacity of the watershed to manage natural pollutant loads. The Action Plan may incorporate several alternative strategies to address water quality impairments, including total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and accompanying load and waste load allocations, or an alternate reconciliation plan. The Action Plan will implement the North Coast Water Board's Temperature Policy¹, Sediment TMDL Implementation Policy², and the Policy in Support of Restoration in The North Coast Region³ to protect the watershed's most sensitive beneficial uses.

See the project webpage for further details:

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

CEQA SCOPING PUBLIC MEETINGS

North Coast Water Board staff will host two public CEQA scoping meetings for the Laguna Reconciliation Project, one in-person and one virtual, as follows:

1. **Wednesday, November 19, 2025**, from **11:30 am to 12:30 pm** at the North Coast Water Board office. Address: 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
2. **Thursday, November 20, 2025**, from **5:30 pm to 6:30 pm** via Zoom video conference call. Zoom meeting link, meeting ID, and passcode:
Zoom hyperlink:
<https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/87369994796?pwd=IOFGivTGBBI1sc6joPWif7AZ7awJV2.1>
Meeting ID: 873 6999 4796
Passcode: 102450

¹ Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, chapter 4, section 4.3.1.2.B: [Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature](#)

² Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, chapter 4, section 4.3.1.2.A: [Sediment TMDL Implementation Policy](#)

³ Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, chapter 4, section 4.2.5: [Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region](#)

CEQA SCOPING OVERVIEW

California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3775.5, subdivision (b) states that the purpose of a scoping meeting is to seek input from public agencies and members of the public on the range of project actions, alternatives, reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, significant impacts to be analyzed, cumulative impacts if any, and mitigation measures that will reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

Adoption of an Action Plan is a discretionary action subject to CEQA; however, basin planning is certified as exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) or negative declaration and initial study. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251, subd.(g).) In lieu of an EIR or negative declaration and initial study, a substitute environmental document (SED) will be prepared. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, section 3777.) The SED will be released for public review along with a draft Action Plan at a later date. The Draft CEQA Checklist is available for review and comment during the comment period, and will be discussed at the public meetings at the time and date given above.

The public scoping meeting will provide participants with: (1) an overview of the CEQA process & requirements for basin plan amendments; (2) an overview of the Laguna Reconciliation Project, existing North Coast Water Board permits that address sources identified by relevant water quality studies, and proposed additional reasonably foreseeable compliance measures; and (3) an opportunity to provide input and comment on the possible implementation actions that can be taken to address sediment, nutrient, and temperature impairment, and offer input on the possible environmental impacts of implementation actions.

Early public involvement assists North Coast Water Board staff in refining the scope of the project and determining the range of environmental information and potential impacts the project might have on the various categories of environmental resources such as water quality.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At the public scoping meetings, members of the public will have the opportunity to present oral and/or written comments on CEQA-specific aspects of the Laguna Reconciliation Project. Comments should discuss concerns and identify those issues on which the commenter believes that the North Coast Water Board needs to focus its in-depth environmental analysis. Examples include significant environmental issues, potential means of compliance, significant environmental effects of compliance, and any mitigation measures that should be explored to reduce any potentially significant impacts.

The public comment period for comments pertaining to CEQA is open as of the date of this notice and will close at **11:59:00 pm on Monday, December 15, 2025**. Comments may be submitted via email to lisa.bernard@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line: "Laguna de Santa Rosa Reconciliation Project CEQA." Written comments may also be submitted via mail to:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attn: Lisa Bernard, Senior Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit Supervisor
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Public scoping meeting materials, including the Draft CEQA Checklist, will be posted to the project webpage:

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

STAFF CONTACT

Questions regarding the CEQA scoping process, public meetings, requests for accommodations, or other matters related to the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed Reconciliation Project should be directed to Lisa Bernard via email at lisa.bernard@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at 707-576-2677. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 800-735-2922.