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Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region  
Staff Summary Report  
June 13, 2025

**ITEM: 6**

**SUBJECT:**

Public Hearing to consider adoption of Resolution R1-2025-0019 Amending the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* to Incorporate Applicable Provisions of Statewide Plans and Policies and Improve Clarity (Michelle Fuller).

**BOARD ACTION:**

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board will consider adoption of proposed Resolution R1-2025-0019.

**BACKGROUND:**

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) forms the basis for regulatory actions taken by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (North Coast Water Board) to protect waters of the state and to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws, including the California Water Code and the federal Clean Water Act. The Basin Plan establishes beneficial uses for surface waters and groundwater, water quality objectives to support beneficial uses, and describes the programs, plans, prohibitions and other actions that are necessary to achieve water quality objectives. The Basin Plan also summarizes State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and North Coast Water Board plans and policies to protect water quality and describes statewide and regional surveillance and monitoring programs. A change to the Basin Plan requires a Basin Plan amendment. The attached staff report summarizes the proposed amendment to the Basin Plan to incorporate applicable provisions of statewide plans and policies, keep pace with changes in regulations, more accurately describe the physical and social characteristics within the region, improve the overall clarity of the Basin Plan, and comply with Assembly Bill 434<sup>1</sup> web accessibility requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> [Bill Text - AB-434 State Web accessibility: standard and reports.](#)

HECTOR BEDOLLA, CHAIR | VALERIE QUINTO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## **DISCUSSION:**

The proposed amendment to the Basin Plan was identified as a priority project in the 2023 Triennial Review and included in the fiscal year 2024-2027 Planning Program Workplan. The adopted 2023 Triennial Review Staff Report provided an overview of this project, listing some of the proposed editorial changes to each chapter of the Basin Plan. These include general changes to improve clarity and consistency, correct typographical errors, and remediate the basin plan to comply with accessibility requirements.

The proposed Basin Plan amendment's chapter specific changes include: improving accuracy of the physical and social characteristics within the region, alphabetizing beneficial uses, incorporating applicable objectives and provisions of statewide plans and policies that have been adopted by the State Water Board (new and amended), TMDLs adopted by U.S.EPA, and reorganizing Implementation contents to improve clarity - creating separate chapters for different spatial scales of implementation information. The proposed amendment lists Basin Plan chapters as: (1) Implementation; (2) Beneficial Uses; (3) Water Quality Objectives; (4) Statewide Implementation, Prohibition, Plans and Policies; (5) Regionwide Implementation, Prohibitions, Plans and Policies; (6) Total Maximum Daily Loads and Watershed Specific Action Plans; and (7) Surveillance and Monitoring. Full descriptions of proposed changes are found in the *Staff Report 2025 Remediation of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region*.

The proposed Basin Plan amendment improves the accuracy and clarity of the Basin Plan and is entirely non-regulatory. Objectives, plans, and policies adopted by the State Water Board, or incorporating TMDLs by reference that have already been established are considered non-regulatory editorial amendments when brought into the Basin Plan. Existing objectives, plans and policies adopted by the State Water Board have already been through the regulatory process at the state level, including scientific peer review, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and public comment. Existing statewide requirements that override existing Basin Plan language are in full effect once passed by the State Water Board and approved by the Office of Administrative Law as well as U.S. EPA. These regulatory requirements are then later amended into the Basin Plan to improve clarity and consistency.

Revisions of existing Basin Plan language that do not have a regulatory effect are also considered editorial amendments. These amendments generally improve the accuracy and clarity of the Basin Plan. Basin Plan amendments are not final until adopted by the North Coast Water Board and approved by the State Water Board and Office of Administrative Law. While this proposed Basin Plan amendment does not add or modify water quality standards, copies of the revisions will be sent to U.S. EPA.

Staff coordinated with the Division of Water Quality at the State Water Board as appropriate when summarizing statewide standards for the Basin Plan. The proposed Basin Plan amendment and accompanying Staff Report were made available for public review and comment from March 13 to April 28, 2025.

One public comment letter was received, with a request for a Basin Plan amendment project to update the Shasta River TMDL Action Plan. This would be a substantive amendment to the Basin Plan, which cannot be included in this editorial amendment project. Staff has prepared a Response to Comments document, found in the supporting documents of this agenda item. No changes were made as a result of public comments. An errata sheet is included detailing minor editorial changes made in the final edit of the 2025 Basin Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt Resolution No. R1-2025-0019 as proposed.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

1. [Proposed Resolution No. R1-2025-0019](#)
2. [Staff Report 2025 Remediation of the Water Quality Control plan for the North Coast Region \(Basin Plan\)](#)
3. [2025 Basin Plan Amendment with Track Changes](#)
4. [2025 Basin Plan Amendment Clean Draft](#)
5. [Response to Written Public Comments](#)
6. [Notice of Public Hearing](#)