EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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Integrated Report Program Status Update

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2026 Integrated Report

The Integrated Report fulfills the biennial reporting requirements of Clean Water Act sections 305(b) and 303(d). It describes water quality and support for beneficial uses and identifies impaired waters that do not meet applicable standards.

For each reporting cycle, designated Regional Water Boards conduct comprehensive water quality assessments which the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) combines into a single statewide report. For the 2026 Integrated Report, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) evaluated all readily available surface-water quality data from the region. Staff presented the assessment results at the February 2025 meeting of the North Coast Water Board.

Following a public hearing and an opportunity for review and comment, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the 2026 California Integrated Report, including the North Coast Water Board assessments, on February 3, 2026. The report was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) on March 2, 2026. U.S. EPA accepts the section 305(b) report and approves, disapproves, or partially approves or disapproves the section 303(d) list. As of the date of this status update, U.S. EPA's review of the 303(d) list remains in progress.

2028 Integrated Report

For the 2028 Integrated Report, the North Coast Water Board is "off-cycle," meaning that the Region is not scheduled to conduct a full assessment for the report. However, North Coast Water Board staff are undertaking off-cycle assessments for the 2028 report, as described below.

Public Review and Adoption Schedule

State Water Board staff are scheduled to release the 2028 California Integrated Report on January 29, 2027, for a public review and comment period of at least 60 days. During that period:

- State Water Board staff will host a public workshop on February 9, 2027, to receive initial comments.
- The State Water Board will hold a public hearing on March 16, 2027, to receive additional comments.
- The State Water Board will consider adopting the report in early 2028 before submitting it to U.S. EPA for review and approval.

Off-Cycle Coastal-Stream Assessments

As part of the 2028 Integrated Report's off-cycle work, North Coast Water Board staff assessed several coastal-stream bacteria datasets that were unavailable for the 2026 report because they had not been submitted to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) by the October 21, 2022, deadline.

The assessment results summarized below will proceed through the public review, consideration, and approval processes for the 2028 Integrated Report described above.

Jolly Giant Creek

In 2021 and 2022, North Coast Water Board staff collected bacteria and microbial source-tracking samples from Jolly Giant Creek, a tributary to Humboldt Bay that flows through Arcata in Humboldt County. The 2028 assessment supports retaining Jolly Giant Creek on the section 303(d) list for indicator bacteria.

Humboldt Waterkeeper Data

In 2016, Humboldt Waterkeeper collected indicator-bacteria samples from the Little River watershed in Humboldt County and from McDaniel Slough, the tidal reach of Janes Creek in Arcata.

- **Little River:** Little River was listed for indicator bacteria in the 2012 Integrated Report and delisted in the 2026 Integrated Report. The 2016 data support keeping Little River delisted in 2028.
- **McDaniel Slough:** McDaniel Slough was not listed for indicator bacteria in the 2026 Integrated Report. However, the 2016 data support adding it to the section 303(d) list in the 2028 assessment.

2028 Integrated Report - Coastal Pathogen Source Reduction Strategy Category 4b Demonstration

Category 4b Demonstration Overview

Under Clean Water Act section 303(d), the North Coast Water Board generally must develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for pollutants identified as causing an impairment on the section 303(d) list. A TMDL may not be required when existing or planned pollution-control measures are reasonably

expected to achieve applicable water quality standards within a specified period. In those circumstances, the impairment may be addressed through a Category 4b demonstration.

A Category 4b demonstration must address six elements:

1. Identification of the waterbody and pollutant causing the impairment.
2. A description of the applicable water quality standards.
3. Identification of the pollution-control requirements that will address the impairment.
4. An estimate or projection of when the waterbody will meet water quality standards.
5. A monitoring plan to track progress toward attainment.
6. A commitment to revise the strategy if progress is insufficient.

Together, these elements must show that an alternative pollution-control strategy can address the impairment without a TMDL. U.S. EPA must ultimately accept the Category 4b demonstration through the Integrated Report process.

Coastal Pathogen Source Reduction Strategy

North Coast Water Board staff developed the Coastal Pathogen Source Reduction Strategy (Strategy) as a Category 4b demonstration for coastal streams and beaches impaired by bacteria. The Strategy, which serves as the Category 4b demonstration and Implementation Plan, identifies the principal bacteria sources and the control measures intended to address them for each waterbody shown in Figure 1.

The measures identified in the Implementation Plan will be implemented according to existing regulatory schedules and requirements, with the goal of attaining bacteria water quality standards by 2035.



Figure 1. Waterbodies Addressed through the Coastal Pathogen Source Reduction Strategy

Board Action and Next Steps

At its April 2, 2025, public meeting , the North Coast Water Board considered the Coastal Pathogen Source Reduction Strategy Category 4b demonstration and adopted Resolution No. R1-2025-0010, approving its submittal to the State Water Board for inclusion in the 2028 Integrated Report. The Category 4b demonstration will hence be published for public review and comment in January 2027 and proceed through the public process described above as part of the State Water Board's 2028 Integrated Report.

If the State Water Board adopts the 2028 California Integrated Report and U.S. EPA accepts the Category 4b demonstration, the waterbodies addressed in the Implementation Plan would move from Category 5 to Category 4b. This change would indicate that a TMDL is not needed because other pollution-control requirements are expected to restore water quality within a reasonable period.

Projected List of Future Regional Water Board Agenda Items

The following is a list of Regional Water Board agenda items that staff are planning for the next two Board meetings. **This list of agenda items is intended for general planning purposes and is subject to change.** Questions regarding the listed agenda items should be addressed to the identified staff person.

February 10-11, 2027 – Santa Rosa, CA

- Ukiah Landfill Final Closure Waste Discharge Requirements **[A]**
- Revision of Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of Dorris WWTP **[A]**
- Rescission Order for NPDES individual enrollees prior to enrollment in general order R1-2026-0024 **[A]**
- Mayacamas Golf Club WDR Rescission **[A]**
- Gualala Roads Assessment Order **[A]**
- Resolution in Support of Coordinated Regional Monitoring Programs **[A]**
- Workshop on 2027 Triennial Review **[W]**

April 27-28, 2027- Santa Rosa, CA

- Info Item on Native American Cultural Beneficial Use Project **[I]**
- Glass Mountain KGRA WDR Recission **[A]**
- Roseburg Weed Veneer WDR Recission **[A]**
- Low Threat NPDES Permit **[A]**
- Tentative ACLC Hearing **[A]**

