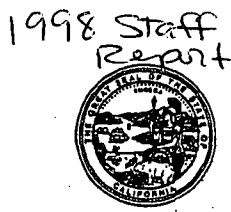


Cal/EPA



Pete Wilson  
Governor

## MEMORANDUM

North Coast  
Regional Water  
Quality Control  
Board

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TO: Nancy Richard  
Division of Water Quality

FROM:   
Bruce Gwynne  
Environmental Specialist

DATE: March 9, 1998

SUBJECT: Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Package

This letter serves as the transmittal of supporting information for the **Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waterbodies for California's North Coast Region**, transmitted under previous cover on January 14, 1998.

On May 21, 1997, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) held a public hearing to consider priorities and scheduling for Clean Water Act section 303(d) listed waterbodies requiring the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). This hearing was duly noticed. The proposed priorities were based upon the dates proposed in settlement of a lawsuit (Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations v. Marcus). The Regional Board accepted testimony from the public which was supportive of the schedule. The Board expressed no objection to the schedule proposed by staff. A subsequent consent decree, entered on July 9, 1997, included those dates as presented at the May 21, 1997 Regional Water Board meeting.

On September 25 and October 23, 1997, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board held an extended public hearing to accept oral testimony and written comments to be considered for the biennial update of the list of water quality limited waterbodies which will require the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load for specified pollutant(s), in compliance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Information received during the extended hearing was compiled with a staff report of recommendations and made available for thirty day review. On December 11, 1997, the Board convened a hearing to consider adoption of the 1998 Water Quality Assessment and 303(d) list of impaired waters. The Board adopted an amended Resolution No. 97-132, as attached. The meetings and hearing were duly noticed in seven Regional publications of record on August 4, 1997 and October 27, 1997.

At the December 11, 1997 Regional Water Board meeting, Resolution No. 97-132 was adopted, authorizing the update of the 303(d) list and 305(b) Water Quality Assessment. The following water bodies were added for the indicated stressor(s);

Elk River, located in the Eureka Plains of Humboldt County and tributary to Humboldt Bay, listed for sedimentation impacts;  
Freshwater Creek, located in the Eureka Plains of Humboldt County and tributary to Humboldt Bay, listed for sedimentation impacts;  
Garcia River, designated reaches, located in Mendocino County, listed for temperature impairment;  
Klamath River, main stem in California located in Siskiyou, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties, listed for low dissolved oxygen impacts to fisheries;  
Navarro River, located in Mendocino County, listed on Regional Water Board list for temperature impairments, as per USEPA 303(d) listing actions in 1996;  
Russian River Basin, located in Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma County, listed for sedimentation and erosion impacts;  
Ten Mile River, located in Mendocino County, listed for sediment impacts, as per USEPA listing actions in 1996;  
South Fork Trinity River, located in Trinity County and tributary to the Trinity River, thence to the Klamath River Basin, listed for temperature impairment;

In addition, the Board removed three water bodies from the 303(d) list, since TMDL Water Quality Attainment Strategies had been adopted by the Board for two of them, and the third was deemed to have been inappropriately listed. This is consistent with guidance from USEPA staff. Those water bodies for which the Regional Board adopted TMDLs are the Laguna de Santa Rosa, located in Sonoma County and tributary to Mark West Creek, thence to the Russian River Basin, and Stemple Creek/Estero de San Antonio, coastal streams located in Marin and Sonoma counties. Beaughton Creek, Siskiyou County tributary to the Shasta River, thence to the Klamath River Basin, was listed for regulatory issues which have been determined to be subject to technological controls.

Water bodies for which public comments were received, which were not added to the 303(d) list, with a brief explanation of the basis for not listing, are as follows:

Lake Pillsbury, located in Lake County, a reservoir on the Eel River: while the concern for fish consumption was forwarded to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment for consideration of issuing an advisory, there is no evidence that mercury contamination is present in the water resource at detectable levels;

Greenwood Creek, located in Mendocino County: no data were readily available to support the public concerns with respect to turbidity impacts to water supplies. Action was deferred, with a request to industry and residential interests to share information in trying to resolve this concern;

Gualala River, located in Sonoma and Mendocino counties: no data were readily available to support a listing for temperature impairment. Supporting data collection and review is now underway;

Mattole River, located in Humboldt County: no data were readily available to support a listing for temperature impairment;

Russian River Basin, located in Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma counties: no data were readily available to support a listing for temperature or nutrient impairment;

Atascadero Creek, located in Sonoma County and tributary to Greenwood Creek, thence to the Russian River: No information was readily available to support a listing for low dissolved oxygen. Specifics of industrial waste discharge were not readily available;

Green Valley Creek, located in Sonoma County and tributary to the Russian River: No readily available information supports a listing for temperature or low dissolved oxygen impairment;

Laguna de Santa Rosa, located in Sonoma County and tributary to the Russian River: Readily available information calls the objective to question. Objective review will preclude a listing for low dissolved oxygen at this time;

Mark West Creek, located in Sonoma County and tributary to the Russian River Basin: no data were readily available to support a listing for temperature impairment;

Ten Mile River, located in Mendocino County: no data were readily available to support a listing for temperature impairment;

Usal Creek, located in Mendocino County: no data were readily available to support a listing for sediment impacts;

Van Duzen River, located in Humboldt and Trinity counties and tributary to the Eel River: no data were readily available to support a listing for temperature impairment;

Yager Creek, located in Humboldt County and tributary to the Van Duzen River, thence to the Eel River Basin: no data were readily available to support a listing for temperature impairment.

The following items are required by the SWRCB for the 303(d) List Submittal Package (as per Jesse Diaz's September 13, 1997 memo to All Regional Water Quality Control Board Executive Officers, with the subject title: UPDATE OF REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS' (RWQCB) 303(d) LISTS AND 303(b) ASSESSMENT DATA):

1. 303(d) list of water bodies (referenced on maps, if feasible), pollutant or stressors, pollutant sources, extent of impairment, TMDL priority ranking and schedule for TMDL development for all listed water bodies; and
2. List of waterbodies and associated watersheds (referenced on maps, if feasible) which were assessed in the current cycle; and
3. Factors used to list or de-list specific waterbodies. Criteria used to prioritize TMDL development. Criteria used to generate TMDL development schedules; and
4. Documentation for TMDL priority ranking and scheduling decisions, which include an estimate of resource needs for high priority water bodies for TMDL development; and
5. Documentation of the public participation process:
  - a. public notice(s)
  - b. responsiveness summary; and
6. List of RWQCB file(s) which contain the individual water body assessment data, information, etc. upon which the listing decision was made (note: a RWQCB may choose to submit the data assessment information in lieu of the minimum list of files to the SWRCB as part of the submittal package.)

Attachments to this transmittal include:

- The 1998 Water Body System, in digital format, called "data98r1.zip", previously sent via WAN. This partially fulfills requirements #1, 2, and 3.
- The Public notice, staff report, and agenda for the May 21, 1997 Regional Water Board meeting. This partially fulfills requirement #4.

- The Public Notice, staff report, and agendas for the September 25, 1997, October 23, 1997 and December 11, 1997 Regional Water Board meetings. This partially fulfills requirements #1, 3, and 5.

- Board Resolution No. 97-132, including:

- Approved 303(d) list of water bodies for the North Coast Region, ATTACHMENT 1;

- Table of comments raised during the extended public hearing held from September 25, 1997 through October 23, 1997, and responses and recommendations from staff, Table A. This fulfills requirements #5;

- Table of readily available information considered at the December 11, 1997 Regional Water Board meeting in the modification of the 303(d) list, Table B. All documents listed in Table B can be found in the official files of the Regional Water Board called:

- "PLANNING - WATER QUALITY - TMDL 303(d) Process 1998 Update"; and

- "PLANNING - WATER QUALITY - Water Quality Assessment 305(b) 1998 Update".

This partially fulfills requirements #1, 3, and 5, and fulfills requirement #6.

Schedules for development of TMDLs will be completed for the public hearing of this item at the April meeting of the Regional Water Board, following a thirty day public review..

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (707)576-2661, or Theresa Wistrom at (707)576-2663.

cc: Michael Perrone  
Nancy Richard  
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Table B

## 1998 Water Quality Assessment for the North Coast Region. Summary of Information Sources and Comments.

Item #	Waterbody	Nature of Concern/Comment	Comment	Attach #
10	Navarro River	Navarro River is temperature impaired with respect to coldwater fisheries habitat.	Dr. Hillary Adams, Vice-President, Greenwood Creek Community Association	39
10	Navarro River	Navarro River is temperature impaired with respect to coldwater fisheries habitat.	Alan Levine	
11a,b,c,1 3a,b, 15	Russian River, Green Valley Creek, Mark West Creek	Lower Russian River water quality problems include high pH, nutrients, sediment, temperature, low dissolved oxygen, and increased flooding. Elevated temperatures are a problem in Mark West Creek and Green Valley Creek.	Brenda Adelman	
11a, 12, 13a, 14	Russian River, Green Valley Creek, Atascadero Creek, Laguna de Santa Rosa	Sedimentation is a problem in the Russian River. Green Valley Creek has problems related to low dissolved oxygen, ammonia, sediment, and storm water runoff.  Atascadero Creek has low dissolved oxygen, unpermitted discharge of industrial waste, loss of spawning habitat, high ammonia levels, odors, and elevated temperatures.	John Rosenblum	40
11a	Russian River	Low dissolved oxygen levels are reported for the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Geomorphic and hydrologic conditions in the Russian River, indicate disturbed sediment transport function.	NCRWQCB files: Philip Williams and Associates, for Mendocino County Water Agency, California State Coastal Conservancy, and Circuit Rider Productions, Inc. Russian River Resource Enhancement and Public Access Plan; Status Report and Riparian Inventory.	41, 42
16a	Ten Mile River	Ten Mile River is 303(d) listed for sediment impairment by USEPA. THP 1-97-348 subject to non-concurrence filing by both CDFG and NCRWQCB staff. The existing 303(d) list needs to be corrected.	Judith Vidaver, Chair, Friends of the Ten Mile River	43
16b	Ten Mile River	Ten Mile River is temperature impaired with respect to coldwater fisheries habitat.	Alan Levine	
17	South Fork Trinity River	South Fork Trinity River displays temperature conditions not suitable for coldwater fisheries. Temperature should be added as a limiting factor.	Terry Stumph, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX	44
18	Usal Creek (Mendocino Coast)	Usal Creek is impaired due to historic and current land management practices.	Richard Geinger	45
19	Van Duzen River	Van Duzen River is temperature impaired with respect to coldwater fisheries habitat.	Alan Levine	
19	Van Duzen River	Van Duzen River is impaired due to historic and current land management practices.	Jesse Noel	6
20	Yager Creek	Yager Creek is impaired due to historic and current land management practices.	Jesse Noel	6
na	All watersheds within United States Forest Service Management	Recommendation of coordination of efforts between USFS management practices and TMDL implementation.	John Rector and Barbara Holder, United States Forest Service	46
na	Region wide, general information and guidance	Documents provided to assist Regional 303(d) list update process.	United States Environmental Protection Agency	47, 48, 49, 50, 51
na	Region wide, general information and guidance	Documents provided to assist Regional 303(d) list update process.	California State Water Resources Control Board	52

**Table A: 1998 Water Quality Assessment for the North Coast Region.**  
**Summary of Concern and Staff Recommendations.**

Item #	Waterbody	Issue of Concern	Recommendation(s) *	Attachment #
11c	Russian River	Nutrients, low dissolved oxygen levels, lead to impaired fisheries habitat, reduced water quality.	1) Determine if objectives are being met.	40
12	Atascadero Creek	Dissolved oxygen levels do not meet Basin Plan objective. Fisheries habitat is impaired due to low dissolved oxygen levels. Unpermitted discharge industrial waste impacts water quality.	1) Defer further action until Regional Board staff investigate dissolved oxygen levels, waste management, and overall water quality in Atascadero Creek to determine if objectives are met.	40
13a	Green Valley Creek	1) Dissolved oxygen levels do not meet Basin Plan objective. Fisheries habitat is impaired due to low dissolved oxygen levels.	1) Defer further action until Regional Board staff investigate dissolved oxygen levels, stormwater management, and overall water quality in Green Valley Creek to determine if objectives are met.	40
13b	Green Valley Creek	2) Elevated temperatures impact coldwater fisheries.	1) Defer further action until Regional Board staff investigate dissolved oxygen levels, stormwater management, and overall water quality in Green Valley Creek to determine if objectives are met.	NA. Recommendation based on oral testimony
* 14	Laguna de Santa Rosa	Dissolved oxygen levels do not meet Basin Plan objective. Fisheries habitat is impaired due to low dissolved oxygen levels.	1) Defer further action until Regional Board staff investigate dissolved oxygen levels in Laguna de Santa to determine if objectives are appropriate; or: 2) Add low dissolved oxygen as a limiting factor under Section 303(d) for Laguna de Santa Rosa.	40
15	Mark West Creek	Elevated temperatures impact coldwater fisheries.	1) Defer further action until supporting data are provided.	NA. Recommendation based on oral testimony
16a	Ten Mile River	1) Sedimentation, threat of sedimentation. Ten Mile River is on the 303(d) list as sediment impaired as a result of USEPA action in 1996.	1) Update the existing 303(d) list to accurately reflect current status.	43
16b	Ten Mile River	2) Elevated temperatures impact coldwater fisheries.	1) Defer further action until USEPA staff begins TMDL effort or supporting data are provided; or: 2) Add temperature as a limiting factor under Section 303(d) for Ten Mile River.	NA. Recommendation based on oral testimony
17	South Fork Trinity River	Elevated temperatures impact coldwater fisheries.	1) Add temperature as a limiting factor under Section 303(d) for the South Fork Trinity River.	44
18	Usal Creek	Sedimentation, threat of sedimentation, impaired irrigation water quality, impaired domestic supply water quality, impaired spawning habitat, increased rate and depth of flooding due to sediment, property damage.	1) Determine if objectives are being met.	45
19	Van Duzen River	Elevated temperatures impact coldwater fisheries.	1) Defer further action until USEPA staff begins TMDL effort or supporting data are provided; or: 2) Add temperature as a limiting factor under Section 303(d) for the Van Duzen River.	6
20	Yager Creek	Current land management activities subject to California Department of Forestry actions for violation of Forest Practice Rules.	1) No action recommended.	6

\* 1) indicates preferred recommendation  
 2) indicates alternate recommendation