

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP
&
SCOPING SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2004**

FOR

**THE COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT
TO
THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN (BASIN PLAN)
FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION**

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) is proposing to update the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan). The Regional Water Board will hold a workshop on the date and at time set forth below for the Compliance Schedule Amendment to the Basin Plan.

PROJECT TITLE

Proposed Compliance Schedule Amendment to the Basin Plan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Regional Water Board will conduct a public workshop to consider adoption of an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) to incorporate language authorizing the inclusion of schedules of compliance in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Schedules of compliance are a recognized and existing mechanism for ensuring compliance with effluent limitations and the water quality objectives these limitations are intended to implement. This mechanism, which is presently approved for Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), has not been used in NPDES permits due to the lack of explicit authorization in the Basin Plan to do so (with certain exceptions).

Immediate compliance with effluent limitations, and, thereby, with water quality objectives, may not be feasible in all circumstances. In particular, this may be the case for new or revised water quality objectives for which management or physical controls must be developed or constructed. In such cases, it is reasonable to allow permittees a period of time to comply. The need for and duration of a schedule of compliance would be considered by the Regional Water Board at a public hearing, based on information provided by the permittee and other interested parties. If appropriate, the compliance schedule would be included in the NPDES permit along with interim effluent limitations.

A Basin Plan amendment to add language to provide explicit authorization for the inclusion of compliance schedules in NPDES permits issued by the Regional Water Board is proposed. The Regional Water Board seeks comment on this matter and, toward that end, will conduct a public workshop as follows:

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The Regional Water Board will hold a workshop to receive comments regarding the Compliance Schedule Amendment to the Basin Plan. The workshop will be held as follows:

Date:

February 10, 2004

Time:

3:00 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as practicable, or as announced in the Regional Water Board's meeting agenda to be mailed on January 20, 2004).

Location:

Regional Water Quality Control Board
Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403

Directions:

Airport Boulevard exit off Highway 101
(Head West on Airport Boulevard);
Turn right on Skylane Boulevard

The Regional Water Board will take no action at the public workshop. Following the workshop, the Regional Water Board will consider at a public hearing, approval of the Compliance Schedule Amendment to the Basin Plan. Copies of the notice for the Public Hearing will be sent out at least 45 days prior to the scheduled date.

Action on the proposed amendment will be taken in accordance with a regulatory program exemption under Section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 2100 et seq.) and with other applicable laws and regulations.

STAFF CONTACT

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PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENT

The proposed Basin Plan amendment, staff report that discusses this issue and possible alternatives, and an Environmental Checklist that evaluates the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts as a result of the amendment, will be available upon request to Regional Water Board staff by February 3, 2004.

Documents may also be reviewed or copied at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays. Persons wishing to review said documents should telephone the Regional Water Board office at (707) 576-2220 to schedule an appointment. Persons may request a copy of public reports associated with this item by telephoning the same number. A copy of this Notice, the Staff Report and the current Basin Plan can be accessed through the North Coast Regional Water Board website at: www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/

Public participation is an important part of this process. The Regional Water Board will accept written and oral testimony at or prior to the workshop and hearing. All comments received will become part of the administrative record of the amendment. For the sake of the accuracy of the record, written copies of oral comments are requested. Comments should be submitted to the staff contact listed above. Please bring this matter to the attention of those known to you with an interest in this matter.

DIRECTIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY

Directions for the workshop location can be found above or on the Regional Water Board website. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the workshop should contact Jean Lockett, Secretary, at (707) 576-2307, at least five days prior to the scheduled workshop. The workshop location is accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Catherine E. Kuhlman
Executive Officer

January 7, 2004

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