

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SOLICITATION PERIOD AND PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Triennial Review of 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 conduct a Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan). Regional Water Board staff will hold workshops on the dates set forth below for the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan.

BACKGROUND

The North Coast Region encompasses watersheds from the Oregon state border to the Estero de San Antonio which drain to the Pacific Ocean, and includes Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties and portions of Siskiyou, Sonoma, Glenn, Modoc, Lake and Marin counties. The Basin Plan describes beneficial uses for watersheds in the North Coast Region, and establishes objectives and programs to protect those beneficial uses.

The purpose of the triennial review is to examine and update the focus of Regional Water Board planning efforts for the next three-year period. State and federal law require that the Basin Plan be reviewed periodically to accommodate changes in technologies, policies, and physical characteristics of the planning areas.

Based on previous stakeholder comments, coordination with the statewide basin planning roundtable, and a review of regulatory program needs, Water Board staff has identified general topics for consideration in the upcoming Triennial Review. These are listed below along with a few examples of the specific issues that could be addressed within each topic area.

➤ **UPDATES OF REGULATORY PROGRAMS**

- Review the seasonal waste discharge prohibitions in Section IV. Implementation Plans.
- Consider an amendment addressing composting operations.
- Consider a prohibition for pollutants in toxic amounts for groundwater, similar to the surface water prohibition.
- Consider a mixing zone policy.

➤ **WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

- Update the water quality objectives for bacteria.
- Participate in a statewide workgroup to update beneficial uses.
- Consider a policy describing implementation of narrative water quality objectives.

➤ **WATERBODY PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

- Consider an instream flow policy.
- Develop a road management policy.
- Develop a riparian management policy.
- Review the issue of gravel mining and impact to beneficial uses.

➤ EDITORIAL CHANGES

- Expand and clarify the discussion on Federal and State Antidegradation Policies in the Basin Plan and consider discussion on policy implementation.
- Complete editorial revisions and minor clarifications or corrections to text and reference to new laws, plans, and regulations.

Staff to the Board is asking for public input on these issues as well as others, including any new issues the public would like to raise regarding the adequacy of the Basin Plan and need for revision. This notice solicits public input for the preparation of the Regional Water Board's Triennial Review Workplan, with written comments due to the above address by August 9, 2004.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The Regional Water Board staff will hold two workshops to solicit comments regarding the Triennial Review to the Basin Plan. The Regional Water Board will take no action at the public workshops.

The workshops will be held as follows:

Date	Time	Location
July 13, 2004	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A Santa Rosa, California 95403 Directions: Airport Blvd. Exit off Hwy 101 (Head west toward airport); Turn right on Skylane Boulevard
July 15, 2004	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	River Lodge Conference Center Steelhead Room 1800 Riverwalk Drive Fortuna, California 95540 Directions: North on Hwy 101 KenMar Exit off Hwy 101. Turn left onto Riverwalk Dr. South on Hwy 101 12 th Street Exit off Hwy 101. Straight at stop sign on Riverwalk Dr. Lodge is on right side.

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Following a review of public comments, staff will prepare a final staff report responding to the public input and prioritizing the issues. Staff will then bring the Staff Report and proposed Workplan to the Board for consideration and adoption at the October 2004 board meeting.

Triennial Review Solicitation Period:

Solicitation Period Opens:	July 7, 2004
Public Workshops:	July 13th and 15th 2004
Written Comments:	August 9, 2004
Board Hearing:	October 6, 2004

Public participation is an important part of this process. Regional Water Board staff encourages interested parties to obtain relevant project documents at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/programs/basinplan/bptr.html>. All comments timely received will become part of the administrative record. 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 information to the attention of those known to you with an interest in this matter.

ACCESSIBILITY

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in any of the workshops should contact Jean Lockett, Executive Assistant, 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 A. Kuhlman
Executive Officer

June 14, 2004