

NORTH COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

Nonpoint Source & Surface Water Protection Division

Programs:

*Forest Activities Program
Surface Waterbody Protection
Dairy Program
Restoration Program
Five-Year Nonpoint Source Workplan*

FY 2021-2022 WORKPLAN
Division Chief: Jonathan Warmerdam



Photo Credit: Robin Loznak

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1.0 NONPOINT SOURCE AND SURFACE WATER PROTECTION DIVISION

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (North Coast Water Board) Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division (Division) is made up of four staffed units and one dedicated Restoration Specialist that together conduct the Division's primary core activities and oversee several special projects/programs. The four staffed units include the Northern and Southern Nonpoint Source and Forestry Units (informally referred to as the "Forest Activities Program") and the Northern and Southern Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Units. The Restoration Specialist is a senior-level staff who works directly with the division chief and who's focus is to support implementation of the *Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region*.

1.1 Nonpoint Source and Forest Activities Program

The North Coast Water Board's Forest Activities Program addresses nonpoint source (NPS) discharges associated with the land use activities of our forested landscapes. Our forested watersheds are of significant economic importance, providing a source of water supply, timber, fisheries, and recreational use, while supporting a diverse array of both terrestrial and aquatic species, including several threatened and endangered salmonid species. Potential impacts from land disturbing activities in our forests include sediment discharges from felling trees; yarding and hauling of logs; road construction and reconstruction; watercourse crossing construction, reconstruction, or removal; livestock grazing; herbicide applications; and road use and maintenance. Impacts to stream temperature can result from removal of vegetation providing shade to streams. These activities can impact the beneficial uses of water by: 1) silting over fish spawning habitats; 2) clogging drinking water intakes; 3) filling in pools creating shallower, wider, and warmer streams, and increasing downstream flooding; 4) creating unstable stream channels; 5) losing riparian habitat and function; and 6) increasing stream temperatures.

Some forest management activities have the potential to positively affect the beneficial uses of our surface waters. Timber harvesting and fuels reduction operations provide an opportunity to decommission, replace or reconstruct legacy roads which are frequent sources of chronic sediment inputs to surface waters. Fuels reduction projects can assist in reducing wildfire severity and thus can reduce post-fire sediment discharges. Mitigation and restoration work can provide opportunities for addressing legacy erosion sites and removal of fish migration barriers.

The North Coast Water Board has developed several permits (i.e., Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) or Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Waivers)) for addressing NPS discharges associated with forest management activities on both private and federal lands.

Program Activities

- *Regulation of Private Timber Harvest Activities and Participation in CAL FIRE Review Team Process*
North Coast Water Board's Forest Activities Program implement several general, individual, and watershed wide WDRs and Waivers regulating timber harvest and related activities. In addition, staff coordinate with CAL FIRE in the review of timber harvest projects including Timber Harvest Plans, Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans, Working Forest Management Plans, Exemptions and Emergency Notices submitted to CAL FIRE for evaluation and review on non-federal lands. Detailed review and field inspections by staff are reserved for those projects that appear to pose the greatest threat to water quality. This effort constitutes a proactive approach to prevent timber harvest related impacts on water quality and assists in educating the timber industry of the need to implement additional management measures (beyond those required by the Board of Forestry's Forest Practice Rules) where necessary to comply with Porter-Cologne, our Basin Plan objectives, and Total Daily Maximum Load requirements.
- *Regulation of Activities on Federal Lands*
Forest Activities Program staff oversee various land management activities on federal lands such as timber harvesting, livestock grazing, vegetation management, road-related work, fire suppression and recovery, restoration, and recreation. On October 8, 2015, the North Coast Water Board adopted the *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Certain Federal Land Management Activities on National Forest System Lands in the North Coast Region*, Order No. R1-2015-0021 (Federal Waiver). The Regional Water Board approved a short-term renewal of the Federal Waiver in August 2020. North Coast Water Board staff are developing a new permit for certain nonpoint source activities on federal lands (Federal Lands Permit) to address lessons learned from implementing the Federal Waiver; changes to the environment; an increasing annual fire regime; new state and federal policies; and other factors that affect how the North Coast Water Board should regulate federal lands.
- *Post-fire Salvage Logging Inspection Workplan*
In 2019, North Coast Water Board staff initiated a Post-fire Salvage Logging Inspection Workplan to review projects that are submitted to CAL FIRE as emergency notices. Staff worked with CAL FIRE to review 20 post-fire salvage operations to ensure that emergency notices are conducted in a manner that is protective of water quality. During Fiscal Year 2020-21, staff conducted more than 20 additional inspections of emergency notices that were filed subsequent to the wildfires that occurred in late 2020. During Fiscal Year 2021-22, staff will continue to conduct inspections of emergency notice projects but are collaborating with CAL FIRE to continue to investigate the use and performance of different exemption and emergency projects as is required by Senate Bill 901, Wildfire (Dodd). The Post-Fire Salvage Logging Inspection Workplan and ongoing investigation of exemption and emergency projects will assist North Coast Water Board staff in the future revisions

to the Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Non-Federal Timber Harvest Related Activities.

- *Participation in the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program (TRFRP)*
North Coast Water Board Forest Activities Program staff are members of the TRFRP leadership team and various working groups. TRFRP provides statewide guidance to a variety of timber harvest related activities, including regulation, interagency coordination, restoration, grants, monitoring, improving efficiencies, training, etc.
- *CAL FIRE and Board of Forestry's California Vegetation Treatment Program*
North Coast Water Board staff are coordinating with CAL FIRE on their new *California Vegetation Treatment Program and its associated Programmatic Environmental Impact Report*. CAL FIRE developed the *California Vegetation Treatment Program* in order to support non-commercial fuels management activities conducted without a timber harvest plan. North Coast Water Board staff provide comments on vegetation management projects in the region. In 2020-2021 North Coast Water Board staff coordinated with the State Water Board and other regional water quality control board forest activities programs to inform the State Water Board's development of a new statewide Vegetation Management General Order. The draft General Order was available for public review and comment until April 20, 2021. State Water Board staff anticipate that the Vegetation Management General Order will be considered for adoption by the State Water Board on July 6, 2021. The Vegetation Management General Order will rely on the *California Vegetation Treatment Program's* associated *Programmatic Environmental Impact Report* for CEQA coverage and will provide water quality permitting for projects conducted within the state responsibility area (SRA).
- *Participation in California Board of Forestry Committees and Rule Making Process*
Program staff attend select Board of Forestry committee and regular meetings where proposed rule changes relating to water quality protection are drafted and then considered for adoption.
- *Coordination with the State Water Board, CAL FIRE and other Regional Boards*
Staff works closely with the State Water Board and other regional boards to coordinate review and oversight of forest activities, comment on proposed legislation, and communicate regularly on issues with the potential to affect the program.
- *Outreach to Industry and Watershed Groups*
Staff works with local watershed groups to address concerns regarding water quality issues associated with forest activities. Staff also communicates with the regulated industry by speaking at conferences and industry group meetings.

- *Enforcement Actions*
Staff initiates enforcement actions in the form of Notices of Violation for corrective actions, Cleanup and Abatement Orders, or civil penalties for those activities that violate WDR or Waiver conditions and threaten to adversely affect water quality.
- *5-County Roads Program*
Staff oversees the implementation of the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C Program) via Order No. R1-2018-0011. The 5C Program provides an efficient and organized structure for preventing and mitigating water quality impacts from county and rural road maintenance activities and implements important fish passage and restoration projects in much of the North Coast Region.
- *Governor's Forest Management Task Force*
Staff participate in the Governor's Forest Management Task Force. The task force was formed in 2018 in order to implement the Governor's Executive Order on Forests and the recommendations of the California Forest Carbon Plan.
- *Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan*
In January 2021, the Governor's Task Force issued the [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#)¹ – *A Comprehensive Strategy of the Governor's Forest Management Task Force*. The Action Plan includes more than 100 recommendations which are intended to implement the following goals: (1) increase the pace and scale of forest health projects, (2) strengthen protection of communities, (3) manage forests to achieve the State's economic and environmental goals, and (4) drive innovation and measure progress. Regional Water Board staff are participating in the implementation of portions of the Action Plan and will continue to coordinate with other state regulatory agencies to support the implementation of the described recommendations which have a relationship to water quality.

1.2 Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Program

The Northern and Southern Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Units issue permits for dredge, fill and excavation activities, and assist the public in understanding the rules and regulations regarding proposed projects that may impact "waters of the state", which are defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state. Examples of waters of the state that are regulated under this unit include isolated wetlands, coastal wetlands, streams, rivers and lakes.

If a project is located within or adjacent to waters of the state, and the proposed project may directly or indirectly impact those waters, the applicant is required to apply for a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects). The rules and regulations apply to all waters of the state, including isolated wetlands and stream channels that may be dry during much of the year, have been

¹ <https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/ps4p2vck/californiawildfireandforestresilienceactionplan.pdf>

modified in the past, look like a depression or drainage ditch, have no riparian corridor, or are on private land. 401 Program staff review the applications, visit project sites, and write the permits, that are issued by the Executive Officer.

Anyone proposing to conduct a project that requires a federal permit or involves dredge or fill activities that may result in a discharge to U.S. surface waters and waters of the state, are required to obtain a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the North Coast Water Board. If a proposed project does not require a federal permit, but does involve dredge or fill activities that may result in a discharge to waters of the state, the North Coast Water Board has the option to regulate the project under its state authority (Porter-Cologne) in the form of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) or Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements.

On April 2, 2019 the State Water Resources Control Board adopted the *State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State* (Procedures), for inclusion in the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries and Ocean Waters of California. The Procedures consist of four major elements: 1) a wetland definition; 2) wetland delineation procedures; 3) a wetland jurisdictional framework; and 4) procedures for the submittal, review and approval of applications for Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements for dredge or fill activities. The Procedures apply to all applications for discharges of dredged or fill material to waters of the state and became effective on May 28, 2020. On September 11, 2020, Federal EPA issued the Clean Water Act section 401 Certification Rule that changed process flow, deadlines and certification requirements. North Coast Water Board staff have revised the 401 Program webpage and 401 application accordingly and are following the Procedures and Rule changes and supporting stakeholders to adapt to and meet these the new requirements.

Restoration projects, such as fish passage improvements, large woody debris fish habitat structures, beaver dam analogs (BDAs), and other restoration projects are also permitted through the Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Unit as well as the North Coast Water Board's Restoration Specialist.

The Northern and Southern Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Units also respond to complaints that may involve impacts to surface waters of the state. Complaints may require enforcement actions by 401 Program staff, in cooperation with Office of Chief Counsel, Office of Enforcement, County District Attorneys, Attorney General, or Federal Department of Justice. 401 Staff enforce requirements within issued 401 Certifications/WDRs, or other issued permits.

As a result of SB-901 Wildfires (Dodd), the Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Units were provided additional staff to oversee utility corridor management projects. The State Water Board began development of a new statewide Utility Wildfire Prevention General Order in mid-2020 and set a goal for its adoption in January or February of 2022. North Coast Water Board staff are collaborating with the State Board and other regional water

quality control boards as the new Utility Wildfire Prevention General Order is being developed.

Other Program Activities

- *Caltrans Liaison*

Under contract with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Southern Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Unit has one dedicated staff who functions as the Caltrans Liaison for the North Coast Water Board. The Liaison reviews all Caltrans projects throughout the region that have the potential to affect waters of the state, conducts field inspections during project implementation, and issues water quality certifications.

- *Vineyard and Fish Friendly Farming*

Division staff participate in the review of vineyard management activities, including the Fish Friendly Farming certification program for agricultural activities managed to restore fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality.

- *Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan*

See description of Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan provided in the Forest Activities Program.

1.3 Dairy Program

The North Coast Water Board's Dairy Program currently regulates waste discharge from dairies under Order No. R1-2019-0001, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dairies in The North Coast Region. The Dairy Program regulates operations in the North Coast Region that include cow, goat, sheep and water buffalo dairies. Other Dairy Program activities include compliance inspections, review of annual reports and water quality data, education meetings annually for dairy operators, and meetings with dischargers and dairy representatives regarding regulation, project funding, enforcement, and general compliance.

1.4 Restoration Program

The Division also includes a dedicated Senior Environmental Scientist assigned as the office's Restoration Specialist. The Restoration Specialist provides support across the office to implement the North Coast Water Board's Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region - Order No. R1-2015-0001 (Restoration Policy). The Restoration Policy is primarily a narrative expressing support for restoration and similar type projects. The Policy describes in detail: (1) the importance of restoration projects for the protection, enhancement and recovery of beneficial uses, (2) the obstacles that slow or preclude restoration actions, (3) the legal and procedural requirements for permitting restoration projects, (4) the ongoing North Coast Water Board effort to provide support towards the implementation of restoration projects, and (5) direction to staff to continue to support restoration in the future.

The Restoration Specialist is actively engaged in supporting the development, design, permitting, and/or funding of beneficial restoration projects throughout the region,

including but not limited to the following watershed/regions of the North Coast: Prairie Creek, Trinity River, Scott River, Ten Mile River, Garcia River, Salmon River, Elk Creek (Del Norte), Elk River, Shasta River, Mattole River, Smith River, and Eel River.

Other Program Activities

The Restoration Program includes a variety of special projects designed to increase the pace and scale of aquatic habitat enhancement, including:

- *Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program*
Staff oversee the ongoing implementation of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District's *Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program* (MCPCP). The MCPCP was designed to provide streamlined state and federal permitting and programmatic CEQA for specific conservation and restoration practices. The MCPCP is regulated through Order No. R1-2019-0004, a Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, General Water Quality Certification, and Monitoring and Reporting Program.
- *Wood for Salmon Working Group*
Staff continue to chair the Wood for Salmon Working Group (WFSWG), an ongoing collaboration between state and federal regulatory agencies, environmental non-profits, and stakeholders. The mission of the WFSWG is to promote recovery actions described in state and federal salmonid recovery plans by accelerating the pace and scale of instream restoration projects, especially large wood enhancement.
- *Grant Management and Technical Assistance*
Staff manage two grants funded through the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFR), conduct reviews of new grant proposals through the TRFR and 319h Nonpoint Source Grant Funding Program, and provide technical assistance to the grant managers from the Watershed Adaptive Management Unit.
- *Trinity River Restoration Program*
Staff oversee the activities of the Trinity River Restoration Program through implementation of existing General 401 Water Quality Certifications and waste discharge requirements and ensuring that projects are consistent with a Master Environmental Impact Report.
- *Redwoods Rising*
Staff are coordinating with the National Parks and California State Parks to develop and adopt General Water Quality Certifications for two watershed-scale restoration projects (the Greater Mill Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project and the Greater Prairie Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project).

1.5 Nonpoint Source Workplan

The Nonpoint Source Workplan is primarily a planning effort to detail the North Coast Water Board's NPS pollution control activities. Division staff, in collaboration with other

planning staff from the Watershed Adaptive Management Unit, work together to prioritize, track and report nonpoint source activities in the region. Division staff developed the Five-Year Nonpoint Source Workplan (2020-2025) in coordination with State Water Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency staff. The State Water Board approved the Five-Year NPS Workplan in November 2020.

2.0 DIVISION RESOURCES

2.1 Staffing

There are four units that implement the Division’s program activities: 1) the Northern Nonpoint Source and Forestry Unit, 2) the Southern Nonpoint Source and Forestry Unit, 3) the Northern Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Unit, and 4) the Southern Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Unit. The Division also supports the Region’s Restoration Specialist. The Administration Unit provides program support. In FY 2019-20 additional staff were incorporated into the Division as a result of the SB-901 requirements. The introduction of new SB-901 staff is currently underway as is accounted for in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Division Staff, Includes Management and Support Staff

Position	Name	Division or Unit	PYs
Division Chief	Jonathan Warmerdam	NPS and Surface Water Protection	1.0
Restoration Specialist	Jake Shannon	NPS and Surface Water Protection	1.0
Senior Technical	Forest Fortescue	Northern NPS and Forestry	1.0
Technical	7 Staff	Northern NPS and Forestry	7.0
Senior Technical	Jim Burke	Southern NPS and Forestry	1.0
Technical	7 Staff	Southern NPS and Forestry	7
Scientific Aide	1 Staff	Southern NPS and Forestry	Variable
Senior	Ryan Bey	Northern NPS and 401 Certification	1.0
Technical	4 Staff	Northern NPS and 401 Certification	4.0
Senior	Gil Falcone	Southern NPS and 401 Certification	1.0
Technical	4 Staff	Southern NPS and 401 Certification	4.0
Admin Officer	Edith Viera	Administration Unit	Variable
Support Staff	3 Staff	Administration Unit	Variable
		Total:	28
		Vacancies:	0.0

2.2 COVID-19-related impacts on Division output during FY 2021-22

The coronavirus pandemic which began in late 2019 has spread to every country across the planet and has already claimed approximately 3 million lives worldwide as of the end of April 2021. The effects on lives and the economy around the planet is profound, with little success at controlling the virus's spread, and an unknown timeline for when the virus may be contained. In California, cases are continuing to rise, including within the North Coast Region, which is greatly disrupting both the personal and professional lives of staff from the North Coast Water Board.

Staff from the Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division have seen significant impacts on their normal work activities as a result of office depopulation, staff transitions to telework, technical difficulties with home computers, resource limitations, shelter-in-place orders, school closures, and at-risk dependents.

Safety protocols to protect staff from becoming infected by the virus, or potentially spreading it to others, have required a new approach to inspection activities, personal protection measures, vehicle decontamination, social distancing, and more. Additionally, based on the vast size of the North Coast Region, some inspections of project sites or facilities would necessitate staff to stay overnight in questionable and/or difficult lodging circumstances. Some staff, their families, and/or stakeholders, are uncomfortable conducting business as usual, especially when they or their loved ones are considered "at risk" due to age or specific health conditions.

Contract negotiations were conducted between unions and the Governor in 2020 to identify approximately 10% cost savings to offset the economic losses to the State. These cost savings have resulted in approximately two days of less work per staff, each month. It is not clear yet that the Personal Leave Program 2020 pay reductions will persist in the next fiscal year.

As a result of these disruptions, staff have been unable to successfully keep up with the demands of their normal performance commitments. The diversity and volume of work that is expected of staff continues even with these significant disruptions. New project applications, special assignments, permit processing, complaints, enforcement, negotiations with agencies and stakeholders, all continue at a steady pace, even as staff time and resources are compromised.

Although access to various forms of the COVID-19 vaccine are now available, the Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division's Fiscal Year 2021-22 Workplan remains adjusted to accommodate some of the reduced performance metrics due to the coronavirus pandemic. Several programs, including the Forest Activities Program, 401 Water Quality Certification Program, Dairy Program, and Five Counties Road Maintenance Program, have identified conservative expectations on proposed performance metrics, which are reflected in this document, and will be adjusted over time.

3.0 FOREST ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

3.1 Core Activities and Projects by Priority

The primary responsibilities of program staff are categorized based on priority listed in Table 2. Most are described in detail and assigned to specific staff in Section 3.2.

Table 2 – FY 21/22 Program Core Activities and Projects by Priority

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Category	Target Date
1	a. Review/permit/enforcement of timber projects on private land and nonpoint source activities on Federal lands	Core	Ongoing
1	b. Develop new Federal Lands Permit and CEQA Analysis	Special	December 2022
1	c. Governor’s California Forest Management Task Force	Core	Ongoing
1	d. Participate in activities from the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan	Core	Ongoing
1	e. Review projects permitted through the State Board Vegetation Treatment General Order	Core	Ongoing
1	f. Implement and report on AB1492 requirements	Core	Ongoing
1	g. Review and participate in BOF rule making efforts	Core	Ongoing
1	h. Conduct SB-901 related activities	Core	Ongoing
1	i. Elk River TMDL 5-Year Reassessment	Special	December 2021
1	j. Staff Supervision	Core	Ongoing
2	k. Renew or revise Categorical Waiver for Non-Federal Timber Harvest Activities	Special	December 2022
2	l. Develop Working Forest Management Plan permit	Special	TBD
2	m. Engage in Effectiveness Monitoring Committee	Special	Ongoing
2	n. 5-County Roads Program	Core	Ongoing
2	o. Unplanned work activities	Special	Ongoing

3.2 Core Activity and Special Project Descriptions

Core activities and special projects are listed below and identified by the priority (1, 2, 3, etc.) and the letter (a, b, c, etc.) listed in Table 2 above.

a - Review/permit/enforcement of timber projects on private land and nonpoint source activities on Federal lands

Summary: Core activity. See description above under Forest Activities Program.
PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 8.9

b - Develop new Federal Lands Permit and CEQA Analysis

Summary: Special project. Transition of *the Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Certain Nonpoint Source Activities on Federal Lands in the North Coast Region*, Order No. R1-2015-0021 (extended via a short-term renewal by Order No. R1-2020-0021) to new General WDR (Federal Lands Permit) with accompanying CEQA analysis. The new Federal Lands Permit is expected to incorporate the following general revisions: Transition to General Order; generate EIR for Federal Lands Permit; better incorporate the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS) into the permit; revise approach to grazing, legacy sediment site treatment, and fuels management projects. Initiate Tribal Consultations per AB-52 prior to circulation of draft CEQA document. Circulate draft CEQA analysis to managers and public for draft Federal Lands Permit. Initiate agency/public review of draft Federal Lands Permit in September 2022 and host a public workshop during the comment period of the draft Federal Lands Permit. Bring the proposed Permit to the Board for consideration of adoption by February 2023.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 1.3

Milestones	Target Date
<i>Development of draft Federal Lands Permit</i>	<i>August 2021</i>
<i>Tribal consultations</i>	<i>March 2022</i>
<i>CEQA public review</i>	<i>July 2022</i>
<i>Draft Federal Lands Permit Board workshop</i>	<i>October 2022</i>
<i>Proposed Federal Lands Permit adoption hearing</i>	<i>February 2023</i>

c – Governor’s Forest Management Taskforce

Summary: Core activity. Participate in the Governor’s Forest Management Taskforce and subgroup meetings. See description above under Forest Activities Program.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.05

d – Participate in activities from the Wildfire Forest Resilience Action Plan

Summary: Core activity. Participate in the activities recommended through the Forest Management Taskforce’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. See description above under Forest Activities Program.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.25

e – Review/inspect projects permitted through the State Board Vegetation Treatment General Order

Summary: Core activity. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is developing a statewide water quality order for vegetation treatment activities (proposed Vegetation Treatment General Order) to ensure vegetation treatments are conducted in a way that is protective of water quality. The proposed Vegetation Treatment General Order would require project proponents to follow the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) developed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF). Regional Water Board staff will review and prioritize for inspection some fuel reduction projects that have been authorized under the State Water Board's Vegetation Treatment General Order.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.1

f – Implement and report on AB1492 requirements

Summary: Core activity. Participate in Effectiveness Monitoring Committee, AB 1492 leadership meetings, and CalTREES permitting synchronizations. See description above under Forest Activities Program.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.2

g – Review and participate in Board of Forestry rule making efforts

Summary: Core activity. See description above under Forest Activities Program.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.2

h – Conduct Senate Bill 901 (SB-901) related activities

Summary: Core activity. SB-901 tasks include oversight of fuels reduction projects conducted through CalFire timber exemptions, assistance to the State Water Board in the development of a new statewide Vegetation Management General Order and a new Utility Wildfire Mitigation General Order, and oversight of utility corridor activities in collaboration with Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Units staff.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 2.4

i – Elk River TMDL and Watershed Stewardship Effectiveness

Summary: Forest Activities Program staff are participating in the Elk River TMDL and Watershed Stewardship Effectiveness assessment in coordination with the Planning and Watershed Stewardship Division that is required by the TMDL Action Plan to be completed in 2021. Regional Water Board staff will evaluate the available information and assess the degree to which 1) adopted WDRs and waivers have successfully controlled sediment delivery from the upper watershed to the impacted reaches, and 2) the efforts of the Watershed Stewardship Program are making sufficient progress towards achievement of health and safety, coordinated monitoring and sediment remediation improvements.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.05

Milestones	Target Date
<i>Participate in evaluation of TMDL and Watershed Stewardship Effectiveness to support presentation of findings to Regional Water Board</i>	<i>December 2021</i>

j – Staff Supervision

Summary: Support Program staff and provide supervision for work-related activities and products.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: Variable

k – Renew or revise Categorical Waiver for Non-Federal Timber Harvest Activities

Summary: Special project. Renew or revise the *Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region*, Order No. R1-2014-0011 (extended via a short-term renewal by Order No. R1-2019-0008).

Key Issues to Resolve: Determine whether activities covered under the Categorical Waiver are implemented in a manner that are protective of water quality. Consider revising regulatory requirements based on ongoing review of CALFIRE exemptions (EX) and emergency (EM) notices. Continue to work with CalFire and Board of Forestry to conduct monitoring and reporting of EX/EM projects as required by Senate Bill-901. Prepare a revised Categorical Waiver for adoption in December 2022.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.1

Milestones	Target Date
<i>Invite CalFire/BOF to present to the Board findings of Post-Fire Salvage Monitoring</i>	<i>August 2022</i>
<i>Adoption hearing for new Categorical Waiver</i>	<i>December 2022</i>

l – Develop permitting approach to Working Forest Management Plans

Summary: Special project. Permit new Working Forest Management Plans (WFMP) on a case-by-case basis.

Key Issues to Resolve: It is not clear whether we will receive many WFMP project submittals within the North Coast Region. Currently, we do not have a general WDR or waiver of WDR that is specifically focused on WFMPs. However, our existing permitting mechanisms may be sufficient to authorize these special projects on a case-by-case basis. Evaluate need for a future dedication of resources to develop a WFMP-specific permit, depending upon number of projects and other project-specific considerations.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.05

m – Engagement in Effectiveness Monitoring Committee

Summary: Core activity. See description under Forest Activities Program.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.1

n – 5-County Roads Program

Summary: Core activity. See description above under Forest Activities Program.

Key Issues to Resolve: Continue to pursue/develop rural roads initiative.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.2

o – Unplanned Work Activities

Summary: Identify, prioritize and respond to unplanned work activities.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: Variable

3.3 Performance Targets

3.3.1 Reported to State Board

The Performance Target for the Forest Activities Program that is reported to the State Water Board is based on the number of inspections conducted on private land timber harvesting projects and federal agency nonpoint source activities. Senate Bill 901 did not come with specific targets for total number of inspections, so the Workplan provides a cumulative sum of all timber inspections. Table 3 shows our targets, the number of inspections conducted, and the percent completed since 2016-17.

Table 3 – Performance Targets for the last FY and proposed for FY 21/22

Fiscal Year	Target Inspections	Reported Inspections	% Target Complete
2016-17	175	256	146%
2017-18	185	174	94%
2018-19	175	201	115%
2019-20	180	188	105%
2020-21	90*	158	175%
2021-22	135*	-	-

*Target inspection for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 reduced as a result of Covid-19 pandemic.

4.0 NONPOINT SOURCE AND 401 CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

4.1 Core Activities and Projects by Priority

The primary responsibilities of program staff are categorized based on priority listed in Table 4. Most are described in detail and assigned to specific staff in Section 4.2 with estimated time for each.

Table 4 – FY 21/22 Program Core Activities and Projects by Priority

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Category	Target Date
1	a. Review/Permit Dredge and Fill projects	Core	Ongoing
1	b. Respond to complaints and conduct enforcement	Core	Ongoing
1	c. Coordinate with State Board on program policies and new general orders	Core	Ongoing
1	d. Caltrans Liaison	Core	Ongoing
1	e. Utility Wildfire Mitigation General Order	Core	Ongoing
	f. Participate in activities associated with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan	Core	Ongoing
1	g. Staff Supervision and 401 Program efficiencies	Core	Ongoing
2	h. Vineyard and Fish Friendly Farming review/inspection	Core	Ongoing
2	i. Unplanned Work Activities	Special	Ongoing

4.2 Core Activity and Project Descriptions

Activities and projects are listed below and identified by the priority (1, 2, 3, etc.) and the letter (a, b, c, etc.) listed in Table 4 above.

a – Review/Permit Dredge and Fill projects

Summary: Review and issue dredge and fill permits for impacts to waters of the state. See Nonpoint Source and 401 Water Quality Certification Unit description for details. Combined, the Northern and Southern 401 Units have two supervisors and seven technical staff reviewing and processing applications. While not in the 401 Unit, the Restoration Specialist also reviews and processes applications. On average, these 10 staff that issue 401s are each reviewing approximately 20 new dredge and fill project applications and manage a caseload of up to 70 open individual projects.

Key Issues to Resolve: In 2019, the State Water Board adopted new Dredge and Fill Procedures, and Federal EPA issued the 401 Certification Rule which presents some changes to how the North Coast Water Board regulates these activities. Additionally,

staff from the Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Unit provide technical assistance to the Cannabis Program, watershed stewardship activities, and some external enforcement activities.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 7.0

b - Respond to complaints and conduct enforcements

Summary: Respond to complaints and conduct enforcement if necessary, both for projects permitted through the program and through public-generated complaints for non-permitted projects.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.7

c – Coordinate with State Board on program policies and new general orders

Summary: Includes participation in the implementation of the new Wetland Procedures, 401 Certification Rule. Engage with State Board staff during their development of new Utility Wildfire Mitigation General Order that is required to be developed as part of Senate Bill 901 and is expected to be considered for adoption in early 2022. Continue to engage with State Board staff during their development of new Statewide Restoration General Order permit for mid-scale to large-scale restoration projects. Support State Board in renewals of the Pre-Certified Nationwide Permit General Certification. Participate in AB1282 transportation permit streamlining working groups with Caltrans and agency representatives.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.3

d – Caltrans Liaison

Summary: The Caltrans Liaison works with the California Department of Transportation to ensure that highway improvement projects are protective of water quality.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 1.0

e – Utility Wildfire Mitigation General Order

Summary: Engage with State Board staff during their development of new Utility Wildfire Mitigation General Order that is required to be developed as part of Senate Bill 901 and is expected to be considered for adoption in early 2022. Review and inspect utility corridor maintenance activities as required by final Utility Wildfire Mitigation General Order. Coordinate with SB-901 Forest Activities Program staff during review and permitting of utility corridor projects.

Key Issues to Resolve: Work with State Water Board, CalFire, and public utilities to identify most appropriate permitting mechanism and review process for utility corridor maintenance projects.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.2

f – Participate in activities associated with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan

Summary: Core activity. Participate in the activities recommended through the Forest Management Taskforce's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. See description above under Nonpoint Source 401 Certification Program.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.3

g – Staff Supervision and 401 Program Efficiencies

Summary: Support Program staff, provide supervision for and enhance 401 program efficiencies for work-related activities and products.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.6

h – Vineyard and Fish Friendly Farming review/inspection

Summary: Participate in the review of participating vineyards for conformance with Fish Friendly Farming certification program. Staff review farm plans conduct vineyard inspections and coordinate with other reviewing agencies, including staff from other Regional Water Board divisions working on vineyard and irrigated land permit development.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.2

i – Unplanned Work Activities

Summary: Identify, prioritize and respond to unplanned work activities.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: Variable

4.3 Performance Targets

4.3.1 Reported to State Board

The 401 program is not yet required to have official performance targets. However, data from permits are entered into CIWQS and the first four non-official performance measures are listed in Table 5. These are not officially required or reported.

Table 5 – CIWQS Performance Measures by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Perf. Measure 1 Total # Active Permits	Perf. Measure 2 Total # Permits Received in FY	Perf. Measure 3 Median number of days from receipt to initial action (Goal<30)	Perf. Measure 4 Median Number of days from receiving complete application to issuance of permit (Goal<60)	Perf. Measure 5 Median days from application to final permit
f2016/17	639	150	27	46	n/a
2017/18	649	149	14	29	n/a
2018/19	659	~151	24	24	n/a
2019/20	670	198	19	28	106
2021/22*	-	-	-	-	-
2021/22*	-	-	-	-	-

*Performance targets for FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 likely to be reduced as a result of Covid-19 pandemic. Performance measures are not available until after the end of the fiscal year.

5.0 DAIRY PROGRAM

5.1 Core Activities and Projects by Priority

The primary responsibilities of program staff are categorized based on priority listed in Table 6. Dairy program activities are assigned to one staff as detailed in Section 5.2.

Table 6 – FY 21/22 Program Core Activities and Projects by Priority

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Category	Target Date
1	a. Dairy enrollments/un-enrollments	Core	Ongoing
1	b. Dairy inspections (enrollment, compliance, complaint, enforcement, etc.)	Core	Ongoing
1	c. Monitoring Program: maintenance and data analysis	Core	Ongoing
1	d. Nutrient Management Plan Review	Core	Ongoing
1	e. Staff Supervision	Core	Ongoing
2	f. Education and Outreach Workshops	Core	Ongoing
2	g. Implement contract funding for UCCE study on North Coast Nutrient Management Planning Budget Analysis	Special	June 2023
2	h. Assess dairy ponds for flood inundation vulnerabilities	Special	FY 2021/22
2	i. Unplanned Work Activities	Special	Ongoing

5.2 Core Activity and Project Descriptions

Activities and projects are listed below and identified by the priority (1, 2, 3, etc.) and the letter (a, b, c, etc.) listed in Table 6 above.

a – Dairy enrollments/un-enrollments

Summary: Enroll and un-enroll dairies into the revised GWDR.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.4

b – Dairy inspections (enrollment, compliance, complaint, enforcement, etc.)

Summary: Conduct inspections for enrollments, permit compliance, complaints, and enforcement in order to protect waters of the state, avoid/minimize impacts, mitigate for unavoidable impacts.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.2

c – Monitoring Program: maintenance and data analysis

Summary: Implement existing Monitoring and Reporting Program requirements.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.1

d – Nutrient Management Plan Review

Summary: Review Nutrient Management Plan information in Water Quality Plans and during onsite inspections.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.2

e – Staff Supervision

Summary: Support Program staff and provide supervision for work-related activities and products.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: Variable

f – Education and Outreach Workshops

Summary: Maintain an education and outreach program for dairy program.

Key Issues to Resolve: Facilitate dairy operator's ability to understand water quality protection measures they can implement to help protect water quality; stay up to date on the latest issues and protection measures.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.1

g – Contract Management UCCE Nutrient Management Plan Analysis

Summary: Manage discretionary contract with U.C. Cooperative Extension to conduct Dairy Nutrient Management Planning. The project will determine nutrient variability in Northern California dairies related to pasture and grasslands in response to grazing and/or manure applications.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.1

h – Assess dairy ponds for flood inundation vulnerabilities

Summary: Following submittal of Water Quality Plans in July 2021, work with State Water Board or North Coast Water Board GIS technical staff to evaluate flood inundation for individual dairies waste manure ponds.

Key Issues to Resolve: Determine who will provide technical GIS support. If inhouse, then ensure that time is allocated to conduct the analyses from the staff person(s) and reflected in their appurtenant Division Workplan.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.1

i – Unplanned Work Activities

Summary: Identify, prioritize and respond to unplanned work activities.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: Variable

5.3 Performance Targets

5.3.1 Reported to State Board via ORPP

The Performance Target for the program that is reported to the State Water Board is based on the number of dairy inspections conducted. Table 7 shows our targets, the number of inspections conducted, and the percent completed since 2016-17. The reduced number of inspections completed in FY 18/19 and 19/20 was due to staff's prioritized time spent in drafting the revised GWDR. The reduced number of inspections completed in FY 19-20 and FY 20-21 was due to impacts from the coronavirus pandemic.

Table 7 – Performance Targets for the last FY and proposed for FY 21/22

Fiscal Year	Target Inspections	Reported Inspections	% Target Complete
2016-17	25	24	96%
2017-18	25	25	100%
2018-19	25	12	48%
2019-20	15	18	120%
2020-21	5*	7	140%
2021-22	25	-	-

*Target inspection for FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 may be reduced as a result of Covid-19 pandemic.

6.0 RESTORATION PROGRAM

6.1 Core Activities and Projects by Priority

The primary responsibilities of program staff are categorized based on priority listed in Table 7.

Table 7 – FY 21/22 Program Core Activities and Projects by Priority

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Category	Target Date
1	a. Implement Policy in Support of Restoration	Core	Ongoing
1	b. Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program	Core	Ongoing
1	c. Wood for Salmon Working Group	Core	Ongoing
1	d. Work with Agencies and Stakeholders to Address Roadblocks to Restoration	Core	Ongoing
1	e. Develop Programmatic 401 Certification strategy for Redwoods Rising Ecosystem Restoration Projects	Special	June 2021
1	f. Statewide Restoration General Order	Core	Ongoing
1	g. Staff Engagement in CalTrans TMDL Credit Projects	Special	Ongoing
1	h. Staff Supervision	Core	Ongoing
2	i. Unplanned Work Activities	Special	Core

6.2 Core Activity and Project Descriptions

Activities and projects are listed below and identified by the priority (1, 2, 3, etc.) and the letter (a, b, c, etc.) listed in Table 7 above.

a – Implement Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region

Summary: The primary duty of the Restoration Specialist, with support from the Division Chief, is to implement the Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.75

b – Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program

Summary: Oversee the ongoing implementation of the Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program (MCPCP). Renew the General 401 and Waiver of WDRs for MCPCP.

Key Issues to Resolve: Seek public funding assistance to support further implementation of conservation and restoration projects through the MCPCP.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.1

c – Wood for Salmon Working Group

Summary: Continue to chair the Wood for Salmon Working Group.

Key Issues to Resolve: Develop incentives and remove barriers that inhibit the implementation of large wood restoration projects.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.1

d. – Work with Agencies and Stakeholders to Address Roadblocks to Restoration

Summary: Participate in multi-agency and stakeholder coordination efforts to address roadblocks to restoration, including the Resource Agency’s “Cutting the Green Tape” initiative and CDFW’s “Stronger, Faster, Better” efforts. Support State Water Board effort to develop statewide general permit for mid-scale to large-scale restoration projects.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.1

e – Develop Programmatic 401 Certification strategy for Redwoods Rising Ecosystem Restoration Projects

Summary: Develop and adopt General Water Quality Certifications for two watershed-scale restoration projects (the Greater Mill Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project and the Greater Prairie Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project).

Key Issues to Resolve: Coordinating with California State Parks and the National Parks Service to develop appropriate project notification, monitoring, and reporting programs and schedule.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.05

f – Statewide Restoration General Order

Summary: Regional Board staff are working with the State Water Board staff during their development of a new Statewide Restoration General Order. The purpose of the Statewide Restoration General Order is to provide programmatic permitting and associated CEQA coverage for a suite of restoration actions, and that exceed the size limitations and eligibility requirements of the existing Small Habitat Restoration General Order. State Board staff anticipate public review of the draft Statewide Restoration General Order in mid-2021 with an adoption hearing scheduled for late 2021. Regional Board staff will rely on the new Statewide Restoration General Order to permit restoration actions beginning in 2022.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: Variable

g – Staff Engagement in CalTrans TMDL Credit Projects

Summary: Coordinate with other program staff to support the CalTrans TMDL Credit Projects.

Key Issues to Resolve: Roles and responsibilities for this new cross-program process is necessary and will need to be defined. Work closely with other Division staff/programs to determine various duties associated with this effort.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: TBD

h – Staff Supervision

Summary: Support Program staff and provide supervision for work-related activities and products.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: Variable

i – Unplanned Work Activities

Summary: Identify, prioritize and respond to unplanned work activities.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: Variable

7.0 NONPOINT SOURCE WORKPLAN

7.1 Core Activities and Projects by Priority

The primary responsibilities of program staff are categorized based on priority listed in Table 8. Implementation of the Nonpoint Source Workplan activities is done with support from staff across the North Coast Water Board office, especially the Adaptive Management unit.

Table 8 – FY 21/22 Program Core Activities and Projects by Priority

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Category	Target Date
1	a. Annual Workplan	Core	Ongoing
1	b. Semi-Annual Progress Reports	Core	Ongoing
1	c. Develop Annual Report	Core	Ongoing

7.2 Core Activity and Project Descriptions

Activities and projects are listed below and identified by the priority (1, 2, 3, etc.) and the letter (a, b, c, etc.) listed in Table 7 above.

a – Develop Annual Workplan

Summary: The Annual Workplan is developed each fiscal year and lays out how our region is using the 319h dollars that we received from the USEPA/State Board to fund staff work.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.025

b – Develop semi-annual progress reports (SAPRs)

Summary: SAPRs document staff progress towards accomplishing the goals in the Annual Workplan.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.025

c – Develop Annual Report

Summary: The Annual Report identifies our NPS accomplishments over the previous year and is reported to EPA in August of each year.

PY Allocation for FY 21/22: 0.025