

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY,
BOARD WORKSHOP, AND DECEMBER PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF
WATER CODE SECTION 13267 INFORMATIONAL ORDER
DIRECTING APPLICABLE LANDOWNERS IN THE GUALALA RIVER WATERSHED
TO SUBMIT TECHNICAL REPORTS PERTAINING TO THE INVENTORY,
ASSESSMENT, AND PRIORITIZATION OF OWNERSHIP-WIDE
ROAD-RELATED SEDIMENT DISCHARGE SITES**

I. Background

In 1993, the entire Gualala River Watershed was placed on the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) List as impaired for excessive sedimentation/siltation. Excessive sediment in the Gualala River Watershed impairs Beneficial Uses associated with the Gualala River's salmonid fishery and habitat and threatens municipal, domestic, and agricultural water supplies and other Beneficial Uses of water. In 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established a *Total Maximum Daily Load* (TMDL) for sediment in the Gualala River Watershed, supported by the *Gualala River Watershed Technical Support Document for Sediment* (Technical Support Document), which was developed by North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) staff. The *Total Maximum Daily Load* and *Technical Support Document* identified roads as the largest human-caused source of sediment in the watershed. Report findings remain valid 25 years later because land use in the watershed has generally remained unchanged since these reports were developed. Road assessments conducted as part of the Order will collect updated, property-specific data on road-related sediment sources and identify areas where source control is needed.

Pursuant to section 13267 of the California Water Code, North Coast Water Board staff have developed the draft *Water Code Section 13267 Informational Order Directing Applicable Landowners in the Gualala River Watershed to Submit Technical Reports Pertaining to the Inventory, Assessment, and Prioritization of Ownership-Wide Road-Related Sediment Discharge Sites* (draft Order). The draft Order requires landowners in the Gualala River Watershed whose aggregated ownership is 1,000 acres or more to inventory, assess, and prioritize rural roads on their property and prepare road management and treatment plans. The 1,000-acre threshold incorporates into the draft Order 74% of the total road miles in the watershed, addressing a portion of rural roads large enough to significantly reduce sediment delivery to surface waters in the watershed and result in road-related sediment load reductions.

The North Coast Water Board has secured \$5 million in contract funds to support landowners in the Gualala River Watershed. These funds are being used to (1) develop technical reports that describe current watershed conditions and industry standard road assessment protocols, (2) conduct community outreach, (3) provide landowner trainings on road improvement techniques, and (4) conduct on-the-ground road assessments and

Notice of Public Comment Period, Board Workshop, and December Public Hearing Gualala Roads Assessment Order

develop Road Management and Treatment Plans for landowners subject to the Order.

II. Public Review and Comment Period

Notice is hereby given that the North Coast Water Board opens a **30-day** public comment period regarding the public review draft of the Order. These documents are available on the [Gualala Roads Program webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/gualala_roads/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/gualala_roads/). Written comments must be received no later than **5:00 PM on August 14, 2026**. Send comments by selecting from the following methods:

- Email up to 15 megabytes to RB1-Gualala@waterboards.ca.gov and use the subject heading "Draft Gualala Roads Assessment Order Comments"
- Follow [electronic submittal guidelines](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications_and_forms/available_documents/pdf/2014/ECM_Letter-Guidelines.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications_and_forms/available_documents/pdf/2014/ECM_Letter-Guidelines.pdf) for comments greater than 15 megabytes
- Fax to 707-523-0135
- Mail or Hand Deliver to:
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attention: Matt Graves
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403-1072

III. Public Workshop

Notice is additionally hereby given that the North Coast Water Board will hold a public workshop on the draft Order during the 30-day public comment period. During the public workshop, North Coast Water Board staff will give an oral presentation on the draft Order, followed by discussion between the North Coast Water Board and staff. Oral and written comments from members of the public will be accepted. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations will be time limited and therefore submission of written comments to accompany oral presentations is encouraged. The time limit for oral comments will be 5 minutes; however, additional time may be provided, upon request, at the discretion of the North Coast Water Board Chair. A timer may be used, and speakers are expected to honor time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson to avoid repetitive presentations. The workshop will be held during the following North Coast Water Board meeting:

Public Workshop

Board Meeting Date: **July 23, 2026**
Board Meeting Start Time: **9:00 AM**
Location: **David C. Joseph Board Room**
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Notice of Public Comment Period, Board Workshop, and December Public Hearing Gualala Roads Assessment Order

A quorum of North Coast Water Board members will be present at the public workshop; however, no board action will be taken. No formal decisions will be made, but the Board may provide general direction to staff. Additional information about the public workshop, including meeting procedures and information on making presentations, can be found on the North Coast Water Board webpages for [scheduled Board Meetings](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/) and for the [Gualala Roads Program](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/gualala_roads/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/gualala_roads/).

IV. December Public Hearing

Notice is additionally hereby given that the North Coast Water Board will hold a public hearing to receive oral public input and comments on the proposed Order. Following the public hearing, the North Coast Water Board will consider adoption of the proposed Order. The public hearing will be held as follows:

Public Hearing and Consideration of Adoption Meeting

Board Meeting Date: **December 3 or 4, 2026**
Board Meeting Start Time: **9:00 AM**
Location: **David C. Joseph Board Room**
5550 Skyline Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

V. Remote Participation

During the scheduled board meetings, video and teleconference participation may also be provided. Please check the North Coast Water Board's website for updates to meeting location, date, and format. Additional information on the hearing and consideration of adoption meeting can be found on the North Coast Water Board's website. Any person desiring to receive future notices about changes to the date, time, location, or format of the public workshop and hearing should sign up for the e-mail list, as described below. Updates will also be posted on the North Coast Water Board's website.

VI. Availability of Documents and Information

[North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/)
(<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/>)

[Gualala Roads Program webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/gualala_roads/)
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/gualala_roads/)

[Electronic Submittal Guidelines](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications_and_forms/available_documents)
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications_and_forms/available_documents)

/pdf/2014/ECM_Letter-Guidelines.pdf)

[Email List Subscriptions – Gualala River Watershed – TMDL](#)

(https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAWRCB/subscriber/new?qsp=north_coast)

VII. Potential Future Changes to Noticed Items

Any changes regarding the noticed items will be posted on the North Coast Water Board's webpages for [scheduled Board Meetings](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/) and the [Gualala Roads Program](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/gualala_roads/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/gualala_roads/). Changes to noticed items will also be circulated through the email distribution list. Any person desiring to receive future notices must sign up for the email distribution list by accessing the Email List Subscription webpage linked above and subscribing to the "Gualala River Watershed – TMDL" email list.

VIII. North Coast Water Board Contact Information

Please direct questions about the Order to:

Matt Graves
Engineering Geologist
Matt.Graves@waterboards.ca.gov
(707) 576-2831

Devon Rabellino
Senior Engineering Geologist
Devon.Rabellino@waterboards.ca.gov
(707) 576-2701

Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in the North Coast Water Board's meetings and hearings should contact Emma Cianfichi at Emma.Cianfichi@Waterboards.ca.gov at least three days before the scheduled event.