

NORTH COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD'S RESTORATION PROGRAM

INCREASING THE PACE AND SCALE OF RESTORATION

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1. Restoration Program
2. Restoration Policy
3. Increasing the pace and scale of restoration
4. Supporting the key actions for Coho



January 2015: Adoption of the Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region
(Resolution No. RI-2015-0001)

May 2015: Restoration Specialist position created





Healthy Watersheds, Effective Regulation,
Strong Partnerships

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- NOAA
 - California Department of Fish & Wildlife
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Trout Unlimited
 - California Trout
 - Smith River Alliance
 - AquaTerra Consulting
 - Salmon River Restoration Council
 - Mid Klamath Watershed Council
 - Scott River Watershed Council
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - Humboldt Redwood Company
 - City of Arcata
 - City of Yreka
 - Siskiyou County Resource Conservation District
 - Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
 - Trinity County Resource Conservation District
 - Sonoma Land Trust
 - Klamath National Forest
 - Sanctuary Forest
 - Save the Redwoods League
 - Yurok Tribe
 - Blue Lake Rancheria
 - Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, & Conservation District
 - State Parks
 - National Parks Service
 - Redwood Community Action Agency
 - Friends of the Dunes
 - Trinity River Restoration Program
 - Humboldt Redwood Company
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Sustainable Conservation
 - State Water Resources Control Board
 - and more

THE RESTORATION POLICY

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Resolution No. R1-2015-0001

Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, (hereinafter the Regional Water Board) finds that:

Introduction

1. The primary objective of the federal Clean Water Act is to *restore* and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters (Clean Water Act section 101(a)). The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, section 13000 et seq.) is California's comprehensive water quality control statute, which implements portions of the federal Clean Water Act. Under Porter-Cologne, water quality objectives are established to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses¹ and the prevention of nuisance, in consideration of various factors including past, present and probable future beneficial uses of water (Water Code, § 13241).
2. Many of the North Coast Region's aquatic ecosystems - *rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, enclosed bays, and estuaries* - are home to sensitive beneficial uses and at-risk species. The structure, function, and biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems are vulnerable to disruption, and often require proactive, restorative measures to correct impairment, prevent further degradation, or increase resilience.
3. The pressures associated with population growth and development, impacts from land use activities and "legacy" problems, disruption of native plant and animal communities, changes to instream flows, effects of climate change, and the cumulative effects of past and present impacts, continue to threaten and degrade many of our aquatic ecosystems.
4. The goal of aquatic ecosystem restoration is the return of the chemical, physical, and biological attributes of an aquatic ecosystem to a closer approximation of its condition prior to disturbance or disruption by recreating the ecosystem's natural structure, function, or biodiversity.
5. To achieve the objectives of the Clean Water Act and Porter-Cologne, the Regional Water Board must take an active role in promoting the implementation of restoration projects that are expected to help restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters within the region.

¹ Beneficial uses that may be enhanced or protected as a result of restoration include, but are not necessarily limited to: recreation; aesthetic enjoyments; navigation; Native American cultural use, subsistence fishing, and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife and other aquatic resources and preserves.


- Importance of restoration projects for the protection, enhancement, and recovery of beneficial uses
- Obstacles that impede restoration actions
- Requirements for permitting restoration projects
- Ongoing support of restoration projects
- Direction to continue to support restoration

THE RESTORATION POLICY



Directives

- Develop effective regulation & permitting tools
- Build strong partnerships
- Facilitate grant funding opportunities
- Strategic Projects

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- Small Habitat Restoration Project General Order and CDFW's accompanying Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act
 - Statewide Restoration General Order
 - Cutting the Green Tape Initiative

FACILITATE GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding Sources

- 319h
- Timber Regulatory & Forest Restoration Funds (AB 1492)
- Discretionary TMDL Contract Funds
- Access to the Cleanup and Abatement Fund
- Supplemental Environmental Projects
- Other Potential Mitigation Dollars

STRATEGIC PROJECTS



Key Programmatic Permitting Efforts

- Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program
- Trinity River Restoration Program
- Redwoods Rising

Watershed Stewardship Framework

- Klamath Basin
- Elk River
- Laguna de Santa Rosa
- Scott and Shasta Rivers
- Mendocino Coastal watersheds
- Eel River

- Restoration at a Watershed Scale
- Improving Instream Flow
- Continue and Expand Captive Broodstock Programs
- Partnering and Outreach

Species in the Spotlight: Central California Coast Coho Salmon | PRIORITY ACTIONS: 2021–2025



Coho salmon in Lagunitas Creek. Photo: Mt. Tamalpais Photos.

The Species in the Spotlight Initiative

In 2015, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) launched the *Species in the Spotlight* initiative to provide immediate, targeted efforts to halt declines and stabilize populations, focus resources within and outside of NOAA on the most at-risk species, guide agency actions where we have discretion to make investments, increase public awareness and support for these species, and expand partnerships. We have renewed the initiative for 2021–2025.

RESTORATION AT A WATERSHED SCALE

Programmatic Permitting

- Trinity River Restoration Program
- Redwoods Rising Projects
- Statewide Restoration General Order

Agency collaboration

- Salmonid Habitat Restoration Priorities (SHaRP)

IMPROVING INSTREAM FLOW

Groundwater Recharge Projects

- Sanctuary Forest's work in the Mattole River Watershed
- Scott River Watershed Council's Beaver Dam Analogs
- Yurok Tribe's Indian Creek Stage 0 Restoration Project

Mendocino Coho Salmon Supplementation Program



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PARTNERING AND OUTREACH



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