

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

Order No. R1-2019-0021

Update on implementation of Order No. R1-2019-0021, Waste Discharge Requirements for Humboldt Redwood Company in the Elk River Watershed (Elk River WDR), including harvest activity limits in high-risk areas and riparian zone protections.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will hold a public meeting to consider comments and provide Regional Water Board staff direction on potential changes to the above specific requirements of the Elk River WDR is scheduled for Friday, **August 16, 2024**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Eureka City Hall City Council Chambers, 531 K Street, Room 208, in Eureka, California. The Regional Water Board will accept written comments on requirements related to harvesting in high-risk areas and riparian management zone protection established by the Elk River WDR no later three days before the Board meeting, in accordance with this notice.

This meeting is scheduled to occur with both a physical meeting location and an option for remote participation via video and teleconference. Live video and audio broadcasts of the public hearing will be available via the internet and can be accessed at the [CalEPA Public meeting live webcasts webpage](https://video.calepa.ca.gov) (<https://video.calepa.ca.gov>). The public hearing will be recorded.

Please be aware that dates and venues may change. In accordance with the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act (Gov. Code, § 11120 et seq.), an agenda will be posted to the Board's website at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. The agenda will specify any updates to the meeting format. The [Regional Water Board's website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast) (<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast>) is where you can access the current agenda for changes in dates and locations.

BOARD ACTION: This is an information item only; no formal action will be taken by the Regional Board.

BACKGROUND: The purpose of this information item is to provide the Regional Water Board an opportunity to consider requirements of the Elk River WDR limiting harvest activities in high-risk areas and riparian zone protection, and after public notice and comment to provide staff direction on potential changes to the harvest limitations and riparian zone protection.

Harvesting in High-Risk Areas

The Elk River WDR establishes specific requirements for high-risk areas, identified as areas dominated by the Hookton Formation within portions of the six subwatersheds in the Upper Elk River watershed. Findings 63-65 and section I.A.4 of the Elk River WDR describe harvest limitations that apply to these high-risk areas as well as describing the current 5-year update for the Board to consider those requirements.

Riparian Zone Protection

Section I.B of the Order establishes protection measures for watercourses and riparian zones throughout HRC's timberlands in the Elk River Watershed, including additional measures for high-risk areas.

Copies of the Order and related documents may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office during normal business hours or viewed at:

[Private Forest Lands | California Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/forest_activities/private_forest_land/#permitting)
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/forest_activities/private_forest_land/#permitting)

For further information, please contact Regional Board staff member Jim Burke (707) 576-2289 or James.Burke@waterboards.ca.gov.

Written Public Comment Period

Written comments and materials for information items must be submitted at least three days before the Board meeting. Written comments and materials that are received after identified deadlines will not generally be admitted. Any person requesting to submit late materials must demonstrate good cause, and the Chair must find that the admission of the late materials would not prejudice the North Coast Regional Water Board or any designated party.

Written comments may be submitted by US mail, email, or fax to Jim Burke at:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
James.Burke@waterboards.ca.gov
(707) 523-0135 Fax

Public Meeting Procedures

The public meeting to consider implementation of the Elk River WDR and conditions that limit harvest activities in high-risk areas and riparian zone protection has been scheduled for Friday, **August 16, 2024**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Eureka City Hall City Council Chambers, 531 K Street, Room 208, in Eureka, California, or as otherwise noticed in the Meeting Announcement. Please be aware that dates and venues may change.

Oral comments or testimony will be accepted at the hearing. The time limit for public oral comments or testimony will be 5 minutes; however, additional time may be provided, upon request, at the discretion of the Regional Water Board Chair. Requests for additional time must be submitted no later than three days ahead. A timer may be used, and speakers are expected to honor the time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive.

Accessibility

For directions to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board offices, please refer to the [Regional Waterboard's website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/about_us/contact_us.shtml) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/about_us/contact_us.shtml). Parking for the meetings is available onsite. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Deidre Wilkerson, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2066 or

Deidre.Wilkerson@Waterboards.ca.gov at least five days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Regional Water Board Staff Contact

Questions regarding the item should be directed to Jim Burke, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA, 95403, by phone (707) 576-2289, or email at James.Burke@waterboards.ca.gov