

NOTICE OF DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

AND

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Draft Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region;
Resolution No. R1-2015-0001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the *draft* Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region; Resolution No. R1-2015-0001 (Restoration Policy) is now available for public review and comment. The 45-day public review and comment period for the *draft* Restoration Policy began on November 17, 2014 and will end on January 1, 2015.

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the *draft* Restoration Policy on January 29, 2015 at 8:30 a.m., or as announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda. The meeting will be held at the Regional Water Board office in Santa Rosa, California. At the public hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the draft Restoration Policy.

Overview

The *draft* Restoration Policy is primarily a narrative expressing support for restoration and similar type projects. The accompanying resolution describes in more 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 Regional Water Board effort to provide support towards the implementation of restoration projects, and (5) directs staff to continue to support restoration in the future. The corresponding basin plan amendment provides a similar expression in support of restoration, but without specific details on current restoration efforts that will become dated over time. Staff proposes to include this Basin Plan narrative amendment in Chapter 4 (Implementation) of the Basin Plan, under nonpoint source measures.

While the Restoration Policy is primarily a narrative and description of existing law, staff proposes to treat the Restoration Policy as a regulatory amendment out of an abundance of caution. Staff already circulated a CEQA scoping document and intends to rely on the Supplemental Environmental Document (SED) generated for the Temperature Policy¹ (adopted by the Regional Water Board on March 13, 2014). The SED analyzed and addressed potential impacts and mitigation measures of a full range of potential

¹ The SED from the Public Review Draft Staff Report for the Temperature Policy can be found on the world-wide-web at the following locations:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/130830_temp/staff_report/08_Environmental_Setting.pdf; and

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/130830_temp/staff_report/09_California_Environmental_Quality_Act_CEQA_Environmental_Analysis.pdf

restoration projects that could be implemented to meet temperature objectives. Staff will prepare an addendum that analyzes factors to determine whether this Restoration Policy will result in any new significant effects, or substantially more severe significant effects than previously examined (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, §15162.)

Document Review

Copies of the *draft* Restoration Policy and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office during normal business hours of viewed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/restoration_policy.shtml

For further information, please contact Regional Water Board staff member Jonathan Warmerdam by telephone at (707) 576-2468 or via email at Jonathan.Warmerdam@waterboards.ca.gov. Alternatively, please contact Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 or via email at Stephen.Bargsten@waterboards.ca.gov.

Public Comment Period

The *draft* Restoration Policy is available for public review beginning on November 17, 2014 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on January 1, 2015. Persons wishing to comment in writing on the *draft* Order must submit comments to the Regional Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 1, 2015.

Written comments may be submitted by U.S. mail, email, or fax to Jonathan Warmerdam or Stephen Bargsten at:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Jonathan.Warmerdam@waterboards.ca.gov
Or Stephen.Bargsten@waterboards.ca.gov
Fax: (707) 523-0135

For directions to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Board offices, please refer to: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/contact.html>. Parking for the meetings is available onsite. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Patti Corsie, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2307 or Patti.Corsie@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.