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North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, WORKSHOP AND HEARING  
TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT  
TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION  
TO UPDATE WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES  
AND  
NOTICE OF FILING UNDER CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 23, § 3779  
FOR  
REVISED DRAFT SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (SED)**

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) is proposing to update the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan). Regional Water Board staff have released for public review, a draft proposed amendment to the Basin Plan entitled “Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to Update Water Quality Objectives” (hereinafter referred to as “draft WQO Update Amendment”).

A draft substitute environmental document (draft SED) analyzing the potential environmental impacts of the draft WQO Update Amendment was prepared pursuant to statutes and regulations governing the Regional Water Board’s regulatory programs. The Regional Water Board’s regulatory programs are certified by the Secretary of the California Resources Agency, in accordance with subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 21080.5, as meeting certain environmental standards, and therefore being exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act to prepare an environmental impact report, negative declaration, or initial study.

This comment period is for the third iteration of the draft WQO Update Amendment and staff report, which has been revised based on two rounds of public comment and input. **Written comments on the revised draft SED and draft WQO Update Amendment must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on April 13, 2015.**

The Regional Water Board plans to consider adoption of the draft WQO Update Amendment and certification of the draft SED under 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code, at its regularly scheduled public meeting on June 18, 2015.

**BACKGROUND**

The draft WQO Update Amendment has been developed by staff at the direction of the Regional Water Board. The primary goals of the draft WQO Update Amendment are to add a narrative groundwater toxicity objective, revise the surface water and groundwater objectives for chemical constituents, revise the surface water objective for dissolved oxygen (DO), and clarify the process the Regional Water Board uses when translating narrative objectives into numeric limits in permits, orders, or other regulatory actions. Other revisions to the Basin Plan, as described in the draft SED, are necessary to meet these goals.

Two public review periods for the draft WQO Update Amendment and the draft SED were previously held. The first from February 3, 2012 through March 29, 2012 with a public workshop held on March 15, 2012. The second was on a revised draft WQO Update Amendment and the draft SED, in response to the public comments received, from February 21, 2013 through April 15, 2013 with an informational item held before the Regional Water Board on June 13, 2013.

The updated staff report and draft WQO Update Amendment are available for public review and comment and can be downloaded from the Regional Water Board's website at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/water\\_quality\\_objectives\\_update\\_amendment.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/water_quality_objectives_update_amendment.shtml)

The 2012 and 2013 staff reports and public comments are also available to download from the Regional Water Board's website.

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Regional Water Board's office at 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or calling 707-576-2220.

Interested parties who would like to receive email notifications for various basin planning projects of the North Coast Regional Water Board, including the draft WQO Update Amendment, are encouraged to sign up on the Basin Planning email list subscription form located at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/reg1\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg1_subscribe.shtml)

Questions regarding the draft WQO Update Amendment or draft SED should be submitted to: [Jeremiah.Puget@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jeremiah.Puget@waterboards.ca.gov) or by phone at 707-576-2835.

**STAFF LEVEL WORKSHOP**

The staff of the Regional Water Board will hold a public workshop to review the draft WQO Update Amendment, draft SED, and accept public comment.

**Time and Date: 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., Tuesday March 17, 2015**

**Location: 5550 Skylane Blvd. Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA**

Time limits may be imposed on oral comment at the public workshop to ensure adequate time for all views to be presented; groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson.

### **SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS**

**In order to be considered, written comments must be received by 12:00 p.m. on April 13, 2015.** Please send comments to the attention of Jeremiah Puget at the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to the mailing address or email address listed above, or by fax to 707-523-0135.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Following the public workshop, close of the written public comment period, and development of staff responses to public comments, the Regional Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of staff's proposed WQO Update Amendment and certification of the SED at its regular public meeting scheduled:

**Time and Date: 8:30 A.M., Thursday June 18, 2015**  
**Location: 5550 Skylane Blvd. Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA**

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with 23 Cal. Code of Regulations §649.3. Time limits may be imposed on oral testimony at the public hearing; groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson. All exhibits presented at the hearing, including charts, graphs, and other testimony must be left with the Regional Water Board. They will become part of the administrative record.

All comments previously submitted in writing during the public comment period in 2012 & 2013, as well as oral comments made before the Regional Water Board on March 15, 2012 and June 13, 2013, are part of the public record and have been considered in the development of the draft WQO Update Amendment. Any new written comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period will be considered by the Regional Water Board as part of their decision making process. Changes to staff's proposed WQO Update Amendment consistent with the general purpose of the amendment may be considered by the Regional Water Board during the hearing. Testimony at the above-scheduled hearing may summarize or explain timely submitted written evidence.

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

A map and directions to the hearing are available online at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/about\\_us/contact\\_us.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/about_us/contact_us.shtml)

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact Patti Corsie, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2307, at least five days prior to the scheduled Board Meeting. The hearing location is accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer  
February 25, 2015