

May 24, 2024

**NOTICE  
CEQA Scoping Meeting  
for the  
Gualala River Watershed  
Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Action Plan**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the North Coast Water Board will be hosting two public California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meetings for the Gualala River TMDL Action Plan. The two meetings will include the same information but will provide an opportunity to join either online via a Zoom video conference call or in person in Annapolis, CA. The purpose of public CEQA scoping meetings is to gather public input on potential environmental impacts of actions that may result from the project.

The scoping meetings will be held as follows:

1. Monday June 3rd, 2024, from 12:00pm - 1:00pm PST, online via Zoom video conference call. Below is the Zoom meeting link, meeting ID, and passcode:

<https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/98703888597?pwd=cythTjh1dzlBM1JRR1NyU25oRGRzUT09>

Meeting ID: 987 0388 8597  
Passcode: 647509

2. Wednesday June 5th, 2024, from 5:30pm - 6:30pm PST. The meeting location will be in the Hickory Room at Horicon School - 35555 Annapolis Rd. Annapolis, CA, 95412.

**CEQA SCOPING OVERVIEW**

California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3775.5, subdivision (b) states the purpose of a scoping meeting is to seek input from public agencies and members of the public on the range of project actions, alternatives, reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, significant impacts to be analyzed, cumulative impacts if any, and mitigation measures that will reduce impacts to a less than significant level as part of the development of the Action Plan.

Adoption of an Action Plan is a discretionary action subject to CEQA; however, basin planning is certified as exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) or negative declaration and initial study. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251, subd.(g).) In lieu of an EIR or negative declaration and initial study, a substitute environmental document (SED) will be prepared which simultaneously complies with both these environmental laws. The SED will be released for public review along with a draft Action Plan at a later date.

The public scoping meeting will provide participants with: (1) an overview of the CEQA process & requirements for TMDL Action Plans; (2) an overview of the Gualala River Sediment TMDL which was established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), existing Regional Board permits that address sources identified in the TMDL, and proposed additional reasonably foreseeable compliance measures; and (3) an opportunity to provide input and comment on the possible implementation actions that can be taken to address sediment impairment, and offer input on the possible environmental impacts of implementation actions.

Early public involvement assists the Regional Water Board staff in refining the scope of the project and determining the range of environmental information and potential impacts the project might have on the various categories of environmental resources such as water quality.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

At the meeting, members of the public will have the opportunity to present oral and/or written comments on the CEQA aspects of the proposed project. Comments should discuss concerns and identify those issues on which the commenter believes that the Regional Water Board needs to focus its in-depth environmental analysis. Examples include significant environmental issues, potential means of compliance, significant environmental effects of compliance, and any mitigation measures that should be explored to reduce any potentially significant impacts.

The public comment period for comments pertaining to CEQA is open as of the date of this notice, and will close at 5PM PST on Monday July 8th, 2024. Comments may be submitted via email to [Nicholas.Fetherston@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Fetherston@waterboards.ca.gov) with the subject line: Gualala Sediment TMDL CEQA. Please submit written comments to:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Attn: Nicholas Fetherston, Environmental Scientist  
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project information and meeting materials will be posted to the project webpage:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/tmdls/gualala\\_river/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/gualala_river/)

### **STAFF CONTACTS**

Questions regarding this meeting, general questions regarding the Gualala River TMDL Action Plan, or requests for accommodations should be directed to Nicholas Fetherston at [Nicholas.Fetherston@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Fetherston@waterboards.ca.gov) or by phone at (707) 570-3761. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 800-735-2929 or voice line at 800-735-2922.