



REGIONAL STATUS AND TREND MONITORING PROGRAM (NORTH COAST REGION)

What is it?

The purpose of this study is to identify current status and trends of north coast water quality. This status and trend monitoring will evaluate the north coast watersheds geographic and seasonal trends; evaluating a number of key water quality constituents. The goal is to determine whether there is any evidence that beneficial use protection of north coast waters, particularly known impacted beneficial uses such as aquatic life, are currently being met and if the trends in water quality are improving or not.

This status and trend monitoring program rotates annually between four key watershed groupings in northern California; the Russian River watershed, the Eel River watershed, Coastal River watersheds, and the Klamath and Trinity River Basins. In 2011, the North Coast Region monitored the Russian River watershed. The Coastal River Watersheds are being monitored in 2012 as part of this program. The Russian River status and trend monitoring will occur in concert with the North Coast Regions nutrient study in the Russian River.

Why is it important?

The results in this status and trend monitoring program provide valuable information to determine whether beneficial use protections are improving (or not) in the various watersheds located throughout the North Coast Region.

This status and trend monitoring program provides information on human and environmental health issues that concern everyone. This status and trend monitoring was designed specifically to



An aborist next to Del Norte Titan at the Grove of Titans

address local watershed concerns, including impacts to recreation, aquatic life, irrigation supply, and drinking water beneficial uses.

How will this information be used?

The North Coast watersheds support multiple beneficial uses (e.g. drinking water, aquatic life, irrigation, water supply and recreation). Data collected as part of this study provided background water quality information which was used in combination with other available data to assess water quality impairment during the Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d) Integrated Report (2010). This report assesses overall water quality within the north coast watersheds, and also identifies impaired waterbodies (waterbodies not meeting their beneficial use designations). The findings within this report can help determine future program design by focusing resources toward identified concerns.

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