

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION
San Luis Obispo, California**

RESOLUTION NO. 00-003

**ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
AND REQUESTING APPROVAL FROM THE STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD TO:**

**ADOPT A TOTAL MAXIMUM LOAD FOR NITRATE IN THE SAN LORENZO
RIVER WATERSHED**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Regional Board), adopted the Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan), on March 14, 1975,

WHEREAS, the Regional Board periodically revises and amends the Basin Plan,

WHEREAS, in response to extreme environmental conditions found in the San Lorenzo River Watershed, the excessive number of failing septic systems, and water quality degradation, the Regional Board adopted Resolution 95-04 to implement a program to improve water quality,

WHEREAS, Regional Board Resolution 95-04 partially satisfies Federal Clean Water Act Total Maximum Daily Load requirements,

WHEREAS, a Total Maximum Daily Load is necessary to identify an appropriate target to protect water quality,

WHEREAS, staff prepared a study titled San Lorenzo River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load Model for Nitrate, Santa Cruz, California dated June 29, 2000 to satisfy clean Water Act Requirements,

WHEREAS, the aforesaid study identifies the nitrate problem, develops an appropriate nitrate target, determines nitrate sources, allocates loads to the nitrate sources, discusses the implementation plan adopted by the Regional Board with Resolution 95-04, and discusses the monitoring program/public participation activities,

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz is required to report upon Resolution 95-04 implementation to the Regional Board by annual reports. Resolution 95-04 annual reporting is a cumbersome frequency,

WHEREAS, the Regional Board has determined the Basin Plan requires further revision and amendment,

WHEREAS, drafts of the proposed amendment have been prepared and distributed to interested persons and agencies for review and comment,

WHEREAS, Regional Board staff followed appropriate procedures to satisfy the environmental documentation requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act (PL 92-500 and PL 95-217). The Regional Board finds adoption of these amendments will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment,

**RESOLUTION NO. 00-003
ATTACHMENT - PROPOSED BASIN PLAN AMENDMENTS**

The following Basin Plan amendment is proposed. New language is shown in **bold** and deleted language is ~~struck out~~.

1. Revise the September 8, 1994 Basin Plan, Chapter Four, as follows:

Add the following to the end of Chapter Four.

III. TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS

The goal of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is to attain state water quality standards. A TMDL is a quantitative assessment of water quality problems and contributing pollutant sources. It specifies the maximum amount of pollutant that can be discharged (or the amount of a pollutant that needs to be reduced) to meet water quality standards). The TMDL allocates pollutant loads among sources in the watershed and provides an implementation plan needed to protect or restore water quality.

This section identifies TMDLs completed to date and identifies the maximum pollutant contributions allowed to attain water quality standards.

<u>Target Attainment Stations</u>	<u>Nitrate Target</u>	<u>Total Maximum Load*</u>	<u>Percent Reduction</u>	<u>Target Attainment Year</u>
San Lorenzo River at Felton,		4233 pounds nitrate/month	15 %	2005
		4076 pounds nitrate/month	20%	2010
	1.5 mg/l nitrate, as nitrate	3728 pounds nitrate/month	30%	2020
Carbonera Creek at the confluence of Branciforte Creek		339 pounds nitrate/month	15%	2005
		326 pounds nitrate/month	20%	2010
	1.5 mg/l nitrate, as nitrate	299 pounds nitrate/month	30%	2020
Shingle Mill Creek at the confluence of the San Lorenzo River		77 pounds nitrate/month	15%	2005
		74 pounds nitrate/month	20%	2010
	1.5 mg/l nitrate, as nitrate	68 pounds nitrate/month	30%	2020

* Measured in July, August, and September

1. Revise Regional Board Resolution 95-04 (adopted on April 14, 1995) as follows:

"In fulfilling the responsibilities identified above, the County of Santa Cruz shall submit ~~annual~~ **triennial** reports beginning on January 15, ~~1996-2003~~. The report shall state the status and progress of the Wastewater Management Plan within the San Lorenzo River Watershed. The County of Santa Cruz ~~annual~~ **triennial** report shall document the results of:

- a. Existing disposal system performance evaluations,
- b. Disposal system improvements,

- c. Inspection and maintenance of on-site systems,
- d. Community disposal system improvements,
- e. New development and expansion of exiting systems protocol and standards,
- f. Water quality monitoring and evaluation,
- g. Program administration management, and
- h. Program information management.

The report shall also document progress on each element of the Nitrate Management Plan, including,

- a. Parcel size limit,
- b. Wastewater Management Plan Implementation,
- c. Boulder Creek Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade,
- d. Shallow leachfield installation,
- e. Enhanced wastewater treatment for sandy soils,
- f. Enhanced wastewater treatment for large on-site disposal systems,
- g. Inclusion of nitrogen reduction in Waste Discharge Permits,
- h. Livestock and stable management,
- i. Protection of ground water recharge areas,
- j. Protection of riparian corridors and erosion control,
- k. Nitrate control for new uses,
- l. Scotts Valley nitrate discharge reduction, and
- m. Monitoring for nitrate in surface and ground water.

Every five years, the County will submit a Report on Nitrate Management Plan Implementation. The report will include loading rates for the previous five years. The reports shall be due December 31 beginning year 2000. The Regional Board will compare actual loading to target loading and evaluate compliance with this TMDL. In the event the nitrate loads for ~~County does not meet the target nitrate loads specified by the interim and final targets (for years 2005, 2020, and 2045) are not met,~~ the County will perform a nitrate budget within six months. Major nitrate sources will be expressed in terms of loading. The Regional Board will determine additional monitoring, implementation, or enforcement measures are necessary upon receiving the County's loading evaluation report.