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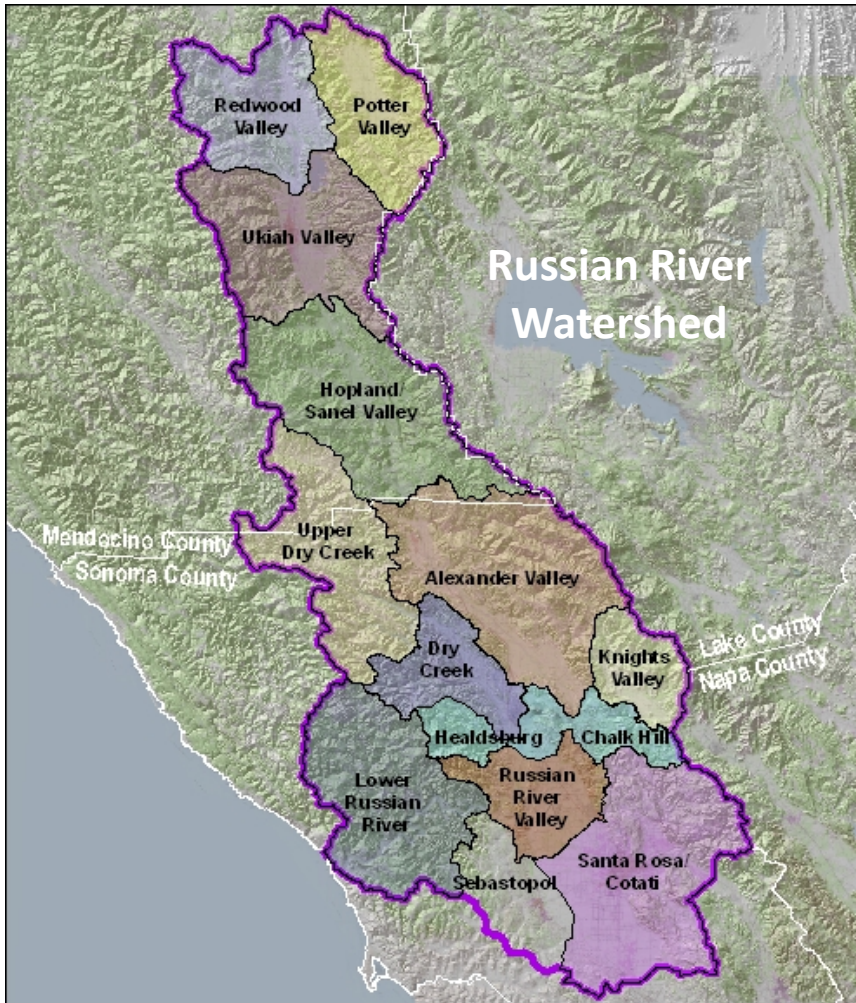
Item 8

# Russian River Watershed Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL

an update to the  
North Coast Regional  
Water Quality Control Board

November 19, 2015

# Topics



1. TMDL History
2. TMDL Staff Report
3. Public Comments
4. Possible Revisions
5. Next Steps



# Pathogen Impairment

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- Russian River listed as impaired for pathogens – 2002
- Water Quality Monitoring from 2007-2013
- Confirmation of Impairment
- TMDL Development
- Basin Plan Amendment - TMDL Action Plan



# TMDL Staff Report Timeline

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- Scientific Peer Review of Draft TMDL Staff Report
  - Submitted to peer reviewers on January 16, 2015
- Draft TMDL Staff Report and Basin Plan Amendment
  - Public review draft released on August 21, 2015
  - Public comment period closed on October 8, 2015
- Public Meetings
  - CEQA scoping meeting held on January 30, 2015
  - Public workshops held on September 22-24, 2015
  - Public Hearing scheduled for November 19, 2015-- POSTPONED



# Commenting Parties

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- County of Sonoma
- County of Mendocino
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Healdsburg
- Mendocino Farm Bureau
- Hacienda Improvement Association
- Russian Riverkeeper
- Odd Fellows Recreation Club
- Northwood Property Owners Association
- Russian River Watershed Association
- The OWTS Residents of the Russian River
- Russian River Watershed Protection Committee
- Marin-Sonoma Area Rail Transit (SMART)
- Private Individuals



# Comments Categories

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- General Comments
- Data and Technical Analysis
- Implementation Measures
- Costs and Funding
- State/County Coordination
- Developing Local Management Agencies
- Homeless Encampments, Vacation Homes, and Recreational Users
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Other Water Quality Priorities



# Preliminary Response

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- Staff is preparing detailed response to comments
- No significant revisions to Technical Analysis
- Needed revisions:
  - Actions for homeless encampments and recreational users
  - CEQA analysis
  - Other changes not yet determined
- Significant substantive revisions are planned for implementation plan for onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS)



# Comments on OWTS Plan

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- Adequacy of public noticing and opportunity to participate
- Fairness to individual OWTS owners
- Reasonableness of Options 1-3
- Identification of who's in priority areas
- Financial burden
- Public funding





# Substantive Changes Related to OWTS

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## Preliminary Staff Proposal: Phased approach in coordination with local agencies

- Phase 1 – Risk-based Assessment
  - Secure funding for planning and assessment
  - Clearly identify Priority Areas
  - Determine status of each parcel in Priority Areas
  - Focus on existing OWTS that are failing or substandard
  - Citizen’s Advisory Group for planning purposes
- Phase 2 – Planning
  - Identify failing and substandard individual OWTS
  - Develop plan for upgrading OWTS individually or in groups
  - Establish funding mechanisms for private OWTS owners
- Phase 3 – Implementation
  - Establish reasonable time schedules for individual or community upgrades



# Efforts Still Needed

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- Coordinate with Sonoma and Mendocino Counties
  - Develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Establish role of citizen's advisory group
- Secure public funding for planning and technical assistance



# Next Steps

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- Prepare of formal written response to comments
- Prepare of revised Draft Staff Report and Basin Plan Amendment (TMDL Action Plan)
- Initiate second public comment period
- Bring TMDL Action Plan to Regional Water Board for consideration of adoption in Summer 2016



# Final Thoughts

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- Staff commitment to TMDL
- Responsiveness to public comments
- Anticipation of effective TMDL Action Plan
- Thank You!



# Public Participation

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## Email Subscription

To subscribe to the listserve, go to

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/reg1\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg1_subscribe.shtml) and click on “Russian River TMDL.”

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