

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 576-2220

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD

for

Draft Order No. R1-2024-0003

General Waste Discharge Requirements
and General Water Quality Certification
for the
Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program

Mendocino County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board), will receive written comments on the above-referenced draft Order no later than **December 3, 2023**, in accordance with this notice, and will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the above-referenced draft Order.

A public hearing to consider comments and objections to the draft Order is scheduled for **February 8 or 9, 2024**, at 8:30 a.m. in the Regional Water Board Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, in Santa Rosa, California. This meeting is scheduled to occur with both a physical meeting location and an option for remote participation via video and teleconference. At the public hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the draft Order.

Live video and audio broadcasts of the public hearing will be available via the internet and can be accessed at the [CalEPA Public meeting live webcasts webpage](https://video.calepa.ca.gov) (<https://video.calepa.ca.gov>). The public hearing will be recorded.

Please be aware that dates and venues may change. In accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Gov. Code, § 11120 et seq.), an agenda will be posted to the Board's website at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. The agenda will specify any updates to the meeting format. You can access the current agenda for changes in dates and locations at the [North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Meetings webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/).

Overview

The District and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) developed the Program to promote the implementation of high-quality conservation and restoration

projects on farms, ranches, and forestland throughout the watersheds of Mendocino County.

Projects implemented through the Program are designed to control erosion and sediment discharges, improve instream habitat for aquatic species, stabilize eroding streambanks, promote native vegetation growth, and enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitat that may be affecting water quality and beneficial uses.

The Program is designed to address sediment and temperature impairments, including on lands within the following watersheds: Albion River, Big River, Eel River-Upper Main, Eel River Middle Main, Eel River-Middle Fork, Eel River-South Fork, Garcia River, Gualala River-North Fork, Mattole River, Navarro River, Noyo River, Upper Russian River, and Ten Mile River.

The Program also provides effectiveness monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure successful project outcomes, address unforeseeable problems, and to verify that agency mandates are met.

On June 12, 2012, the District adopted a mitigated negative declaration (SCH No. 2012052019) for the Program to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R1-2019-0004 on February 21, 2019. The Order expires five years later, on February 21, 2024. By transitioning from a Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements to Waste Discharge Requirements, this Order would have no expiration date. Under Water Code section 13263, subdivision (e), waste discharge requirements may be reviewed and revised at any time, and all requirements shall be reviewed periodically.

No substantive changes to the Conditional Waiver were made as part of this transition to a General Waste Discharge Requirements Order.

Document Availability

The Draft Order is available and can be downloaded from the [Regional Water Board's website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) – (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/).

These files can also be viewed or copied by contacting or visiting the Regional Water Board's office, 5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Appointments are recommended for document reviews and can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

Public Comments

Any written comments or evidence regarding the Draft Order must be submitted to Northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov and received by the Regional Water Board by

5:00 p.m. on December 3, 2023. Written material received after December 3, 2023, will not be accepted except at the discretion of the Regional Water Board Chair.

Oral comments or testimony will also be accepted at the hearing. The time limit for public oral comments or testimony will be 5 minutes; however, additional time may be provided, upon request, at the discretion of the Regional Water Board Chair. A timer may be used, and speakers are expected to honor time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson to avoid unnecessary or repetitive presentations.

Public Hearing Procedures

The procedures governing Regional Water Board hearings may be found in the California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq. and are available upon request.

Accessibility

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting should contact Deidre Wilderson at Deidre.Wilkerson@waterboards.ca.gov or at (707) 576-2066 at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting. The meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 800-735-2929 or voice line at 800-735-2922.

Regional Water Board Staff Contact

Questions regarding the proposed Order should be directed to Jake Shannon, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA, 95403, by phone (707) 576-2673, or email at Jacob.Shannon@waterboards.ca.gov.