
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION TO 1) INCORPORATE THE ACTION PLAN FOR PATHOGENS IN THE RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ESTABLISHING A FECAL WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION AND A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD FOR BACTERIA IN THE RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED, AND 2) REMOVE THE POLICY ON THE CONTROL OF WATER QUALITY WITH RESPECT TO ON-SITE WASTE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL PRACTICES SPECIFIC TO THE RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED, INCLUDING THE LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA

The State Water Resources Control Board will conduct a Board Meeting on August 18, 2026 to consider approval of amendments to the North Coast Water Quality Control Board's (North Coast Water Board) Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) to include the Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to 1) incorporate the Action Plan for Pathogens in the Russian River Watershed establishing a Fecal Waste Discharge Prohibition and a Total Maximum Daily Load for Bacteria in the Russian River Watershed, and 2) remove the Policy on the Control of Water Quality with Respect to On-Site Waste Treatment and Disposal Practices Specific to the Russian River Watershed, including the Laguna de Santa Rosa (Basin Plan Amendment). The Basin Plan Amendment was adopted by the North Coast Water Board on August 15, 2025, via Resolution No. R1-2025-0030. The Action Plan adds a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), waste load allocations (WLA), load allocations (LA), and targets for all surface waters of the Russian River Watershed with the water contact (REC-1) beneficial use based upon the [statewide Bacteria Water Quality Objectives](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/docs/bacteria.pdf) (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/docs/bacteria.pdf>) for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) or enterococci applicable to those waters, depending on the salinity level. Key to the program of implementation, the Action Plan adds a watershed-wide fecal waste discharge prohibition, mechanisms and compliance timeframes for each sector to comply with the prohibition, and establishes a region-specific assessment program for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) across the Russian River Watershed. Taken together with the WLAs and LAs, these elements minimize human exposure to pathogens and protect the REC-1 beneficial use. Compliance with the fecal waste discharge prohibition can be achieved by providing adequate treatment or management practices that prevent the discharge of fecal waste, compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, or Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit, waiver of WDRs, or implementing terms of Memoranda of Understanding between the North Coast Water Board and relevant local agencies, as applicable. The

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

North Coast Water Board incorporated the Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems [statewide OWTS Policy](#) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/docs/owts_policy.pdf) into its Basin Plan in 2015, retaining the pre-existing Policy on the Control of Water Quality with Respect to On-Site Waste Treatment and Disposal Practices Specific to the Russian River Watershed, Including the Laguna de Santa Rosa (Regional OWTS Policy). The Regional OWTS Policy for the control of OWTS discharges in the Russian River Watershed remains in effect until the Action Plan takes effect. Upon effect of the Action Plan, the siting and design requirements within the Regional OWTS Policy will be removed from the Basin Plan, no longer applying to the Russian River Watershed. Instead, the Action Plan applies standard statewide OWTS Policy requirements for WDR waiver coverage across the Russian River Watershed. All design and siting criteria for OWTS will be as described under the statewide OWTS Policy or in accordance with provisions under an approved Local Agency Management Program (LAMP). This includes requirements for OWTS subject to an Advanced Protection Management Program (APMP). Compliance with an approved LAMP also complies with the statewide OWTS Policy. In addition to statewide OWTS Policy and LAMP requirements, the Action Plan establishes the components for the basic operational inspection of OWTS and a North Coast Water Board OWTS assessment program to identify OWTS not authorized under the statewide OWTS Policy or approved LAMPs.

Additional information about the Basin Plan Amendment is provided below.

Participation Options

Review the Available Documents

Review the Basin Plan Amendment and related documents at the following link. Physical copies of the available documents may be mailed to you upon request by contacting staff as described below.

[Russian River | California Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board](#)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/russian_river/).

Attend the Public Meeting

A Board Meeting agenda will be available 10 days before the meeting at www.waterboards.ca.gov/.

- Participate in person to observe or provide a comment:
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
- Submit an online speaker card if you wish to provide a public comment at the Board meeting in person or remotely: bit.ly/speaker-card-form. The form accepts responses a few days prior to the Board meeting. The Board Clerk will provide instructions to join Zoom in advance of the meeting. For more information about participating remotely at a Board meeting, please visit bit.ly/providingcomments.

- For those who only wish to watch the meeting, the webcast remains available at either youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport or video.calepa.ca.gov (closed captioning available) and should be used UNLESS you intend to comment.

The written comment period closed on February 12, 2026. No Comment Letters were received during the public comment period.

Language Services

This meeting will be offered in English. To request translation of a written document, interpretation services for the meeting, or sign language services please use one of the following options at least ten (10) business days before the meeting, if possible:

- Submit an online request: bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm
- Call (916) 341-5254
- Email languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Contact us to request information in your language.

Contáctenos para solicitar información en su idioma.

Liên hệ chúng tôi để yêu cầu thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị.

귀하의 언어로 작성된 정보를 요청하려면 저희에게 문의하십시오.

ਆਪਣੇ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika.

请联系我们，以您的语言获取相关信息。

Accessibility & Reasonable Accommodations

Users of a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or the teletype (TTY) voice line at (800) 735-2922.

Any person who requires reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should email contact@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 341-5254, at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting. Learn more about accessibility within Zoom at www.zoom.com/en/accessibility.

Building and Parking Information

- Directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building and public parking information: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>.
- Visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance on 10th Street.
- Please allow 5 to 10 minutes to receive security clearance.

Background

Several reaches of the Russian River Watershed are listed on the 303(d) list of impaired waters for pathogens. TMDL studies confirmed evidence of pollution and fecal waste discharge from numerous land use sectors throughout the watershed. The data considered to establish the TMDL and the program of implementation specified in the Action Plan include: observed levels of *E. coli*, enterococci, human-, bovine-, dog-, and

bird- specific Bacteroides bacteria, PhyloChip™ Microbial Community Analysis, land cover, and land use. The Action Plan addresses Russian River Watershed fecal indicator bacteria impairments and protections by establishing a TMDL, a fecal waste discharge prohibition, and a program of implementation for wastewater treatment facilities, sanitary sewer systems, recycled water, land application of biosolids, municipal stormwater runoff, OWTS, dairies, ranches and hobby farms, and homeless encampments.

Stay Informed

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Any person interested in receiving additional information about this Basin Plan Amendment, including any change to the date, time, or meeting location in this public notice, should subscribe to the email distribution list.

Contact Information

- Staff contact: Prachi Kulkarni, Water Resource Control Engineer at Prachi.Kulkarni@waterboards.ca.gov or 707-576-2650; or Nathan Jacobsen, Staff Counsel, at Nathan.Jacobsen@waterboards.ca.gov or 916-341-5181
- Program contact: Lisa Bernard, Planning Unit Supervisor, at Lisa.Bernard@waterboards.ca.gov or 707-576-2677
- Website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/russian_river/

July 3, 2026

Date



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board