



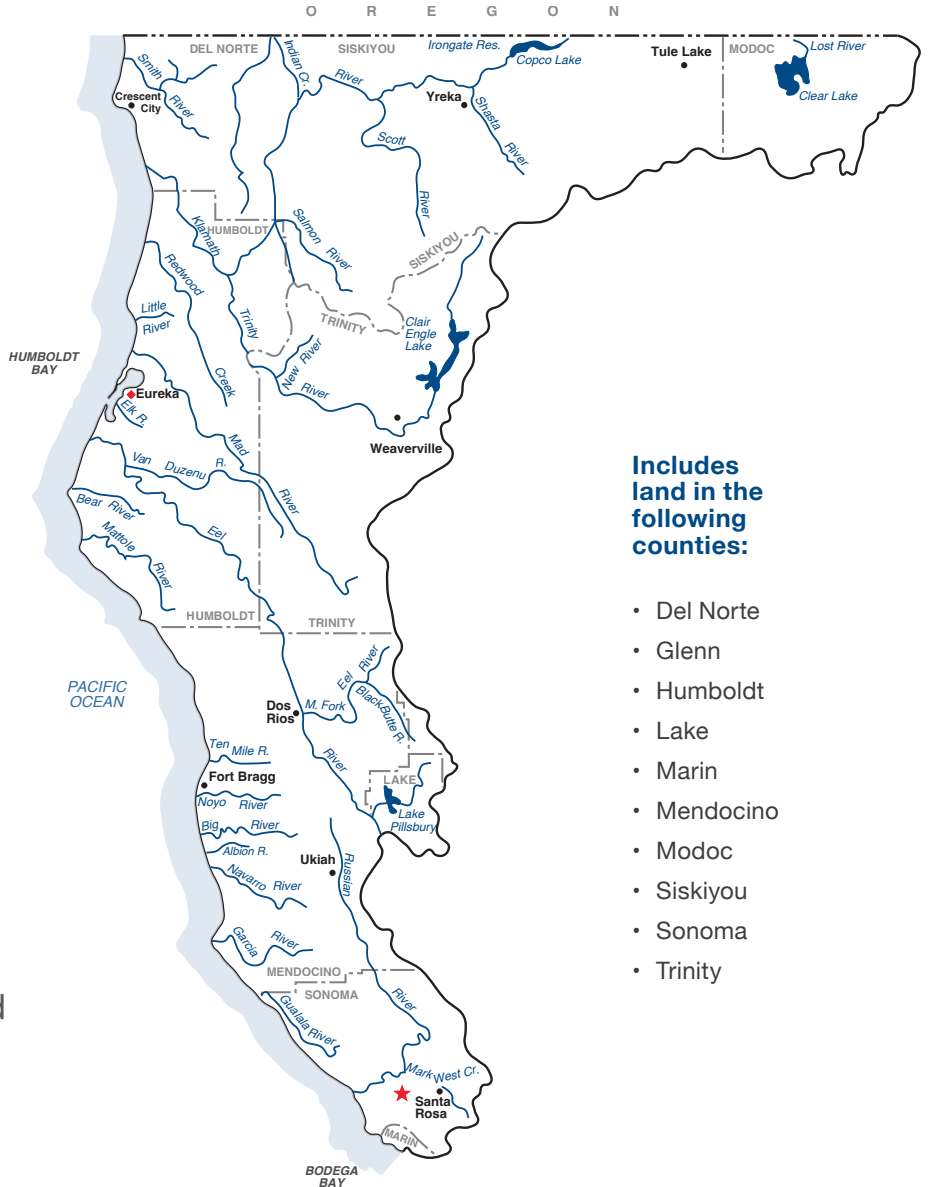
Fact Sheet

Region 1 | North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board



Rugged coastline, fertile valleys, and forest lands characterize the **North Coast Region**, which is

home to numerous tribes, diverse fisheries, and wildlife. The region stretches from Marin County to the Oregon Border and east to Modoc County, constituting 12 percent of the state's land area, yet producing about 41 percent of the state's annual runoff that feeds rivers, lakes and reservoirs, and replenishes groundwater. Its 340-mile-long coastline includes estuaries and environmentally sensitive areas protected by state law. The North Coast is a primarily rural region, where most pollution comes from non-point sources. Tourism, recreation, timber harvesting, aggregate mining, commercial and sport fisheries, sheep, beef and dairy production, vineyards and wineries represent the region's major economic sectors.



Includes land in the following counties:

- Del Norte
- Glenn
- Humboldt
- Lake
- Marin
- Mendocino
- Modoc
- Siskiyou
- Sonoma
- Trinity

20,000

Appx. Area Size of Region (Square Miles)

340

Miles of Coastline

27,000

Acres of Lakes

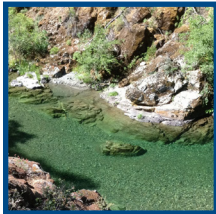
67,297

Miles of Streams

NORTH COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

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The **Vision Statement** of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is “Healthy Watersheds, Effective Regulation, Strong Partnerships”.



Healthy Watersheds: The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board oversees the protection of surface and ground water resources in the North Coast Region. Surface waters provide habitat for many threatened and endangered species, including 15 of the 31 types of native salmon, steelhead, and trout species in California. Groundwater in the North Coast Region is generally of high-quality and serves as a substantial water supply for human consumption and sanitary purposes. The Regional Water Board’s efforts to protect and restore our watersheds from the threats caused by point-source and non-point source pollutants are essential to protecting the beneficial uses of water including agriculture, municipal supply, and rare and endangered species. Further, the Regional Water Board’s actions help protect these uses from legacy impacts, consumptive water use, and the effects of climate change. The North Coast Regional Water Board focuses significant resources into restoration efforts throughout the region that are critical to long-term protection and improvement of water quality.

Effective Regulation: The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board endeavors to craft its regulations to be effective and impactful. Given the Region’s diverse composition of private lands, state and federal lands, and urban and rural industrial and agricultural activities, the Regional Water Board strives to ensure our regulatory authority is applied in a manner to maximize water quality protections for each distinct area. Unique within the state, the North Coast Region’s Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) contains a prohibition on point-source discharges to inland surface waters with

limited exemptions (i.e. seasonal exemptions and at a discharge rate not exceeding one percent of the receiving stream’s flow in limited watersheds). Eight out of the 10 counties in the region are considered “disadvantaged” and face financial hardships. Of the 124 communities in the North Coast Region evaluated by the State Water Board’s Division of Financial Assistance, 77% are disadvantaged, 57% are “small and severely disadvantaged”, and an additional 19% are “small and disadvantaged”. The high percentage of disadvantaged communities in the region informs how the Regional Water Board develops permit requirements, balances enforcement actions versus compliance assistance efforts, and adopts and implements state and regional policies.

Strong Partnerships: The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board recognizes that the water quality challenges facing the region will only be solved through the engagement and actions of the region’s diverse communities, organizations, tribes, and federal, state, and local agencies. To build and leverage strong partnerships, the North Coast Regional Water Board implements a watershed stewardship program in focused, critical watersheds as well as on a regional basis. The watershed stewardship program seeks to best integrate the Regional Water Board’s actions (both regulatory and non-regulatory) with our partners’ actions in order to more efficiently attain and maintain water quality standards while endeavoring to support shared goals.

RACIAL EQUITY: The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is working toward a future where we equitably implement our mission and vision to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California’s water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. We envision a California where: Race is not a predictor of water and sanitation access a person receives; Race is not a predictor of professional outcomes for Regional Water Board staff; and a racial equity lens is consistently applied to the Regional Water Board decision-making processes.