

**Executive Officer's Report  
Addendum**

**North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
February 5-7, 2025**

The North Coast Water Board has created a new unit – the *Watershed Assessment and Recovery Unit* – in the Planning and Stewardship Division. The purpose of the unit is to support the recovery of sediment and temperature impaired watersheds in the North Coast Region, with an initial focus on developing and implementing a permitting program for rural roads in the Gualala River Watershed. The new unit was facilitated by a budget change proposal submitted to the California legislature in 2023 to request three new staff positions – a Senior Engineering Geologist to oversee the unit and two Engineering Geologists – and five million dollars in contract funds to support program development and implementation in the Gualala River Watershed. The budget change proposal was approved in June 2024 and the State Water Resources Control Board approved the creation of the unit and transfer of two existing staff into the unit in August and October 2024, respectively.

Seasoned North Coast Water Board staff Maggie Robinson, Engineering Geologist formerly in the Southern Nonpoint Source and Forestry Unit, and Lance Le, Water Resources Control Engineer formerly in the Planning Unit, transitioned into the unit in October 2024. Devon Rabellino, formerly an Engineering Geologist in the Northern Nonpoint Source and Forestry Unit, was hired as the new supervisor for the unit in November 2024. Hiring of the two new Engineering Geologists is underway with a fully staffed unit expected soon. Staff in the unit will focus on 1) drafting a permit that will require the inventory, assessment, and prioritization of road treatments to control sediment sources, 2) engaging with interested parties and landowners and consulting with California Native American Tribes, 3) developing and managing a contract to apply funds to support watershed conditions evaluations and permit implementation, and 4) supporting the development of the Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load Action Plan for the Gualala River Watershed.

In spring 2025, staff will begin landowner and interested party engagement, issue consultation invitations to California Native American Tribes with ancestral territory in the Gualala River Watershed, and prepare a proposed permit framework document. In spring or summer 2026, staff will hold a public workshop during the public review period for the draft permit and supporting California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental analysis. In fall 2026, staff will propose the permit and CEQA environmental analysis to the North Coast Water Board for adoption.

Please contact Devon Rabellino at [Devon.Rabellino@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Devon.Rabellino@waterboards.ca.gov) or (707) 576-2701 for questions related to the Watershed Assessment and Recovery Unit and its work.