
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Response to Written Public Comments

2025 Basin Plan Remediation

June 13, 2025

Introduction

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) forms the basis for regulatory actions taken by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (North Coast Water Board) to protect waters of the state and to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws, including the California Water Code and the federal Clean Water Act. A change to the Basin Plan requires a Basin Plan amendment.

The 2025 Basin Plan Remediation includes proposed non-regulatory amendments to the Basin Plan to incorporate applicable provisions of statewide plans and policies, keep pace with changes in regulations, more accurately describe the physical and social characteristics within the region, improve the overall clarity of the Basin Plan, and comply with accessibility requirements. This Basin Plan Remediation Project was described in the 2023 Triennial Review Staff Report and included in the Planning Program Workplan for Fiscal Years 2024-2027.

North Coast Water Board staff (Staff) prepared a project staff report, track changes draft of the Basin Plan amendment, clean draft of the proposed 2025 Basin Plan, and new Appendix 2 Basin Plan Crosswalk for public review. A public notice announcing the public comment period and public hearing date was sent to the basin planning email subscription list and posted on the Basin Plan webpage with the project documents for a 45-day public review and comment period from March 13 - April 28, 2025.

Staff received one email from Friends of the Shasta River within the comment period, containing multiple comments. Staff appreciate the comments submitted and present them to the North Coast Water Board in this document. Staff reviewed and considered all comments received, and what follows are Staff's responses to the public comments.

Comments have been summarized for clarity, with excerpts of key points provided. For full text of comments, please make a request to NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov and include "Basin Plan comments" in the subject line.

North Coast Water Board
 2025 Basin Plan Remediation– Response to Written Public Comments
[Friends of the Shasta River Basin Plan Comments and Staff Responses](#)

2025 Basin Plan section	Comment	Response
6.3.8.1	“The Shasta River is now being used as a drinking water source for the city of Montague. I do not know if that is now included in its beneficial uses, but should be.”	The Shasta River and its tributaries have MUN designated an existing beneficial use in Table 2-1 of the Basin Plan.
6.3.8	Table numbering suggestions.	The tables are numbered consecutively throughout chapter 6, the numbering does not restart in each action plan.
6.3.8.8	<p><i>Reassessment is likely to occur every three years during the Basin Planning Triennial Review process.</i></p> <p>“Is this every six years now?”</p>	<p>Thank you for the clarifying question. Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act requires water quality control plans to be periodically reviewed, and Section 303(c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act requires a review of water quality control plans every three years to keep pace with changes in regulation, new technologies, and physical changes within the region. The next Triennial Review of the North Coast Water Board’s Basin Plan will begin in 2026. For more information, please see the North Coast Water Board’s Triennial Review webpage (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/triennial_review/).</p> <p>The 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report is a comprehensive review of readily available surface water quality data. The Integrated Report process is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board and the North Coast Water Board conducts data review and assessment when our region is “on cycle,” which occurs every six years. For more information, please see the North Coast Water Board’s Integrated Report webpage</p>

		(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/303d/).
7.1.3	<p>This language appears to have been lost in the newly posted Basin Plan. It should be retained to prevent Board and staff time being wasted by arguments about methodology and laboratory competence or lack thereof.</p>	<p>The language copied in the comment letter has not been lost. It is found in its entirety in the Surveillance and Monitoring chapter of the Basin Plan, now in Section 7.1.3 QA/QC Quality Assurance and Quality Control.</p>
5.1 & 5.3.5	<p>Permitting and Enforcement Tools (5.1): request definition for <i>“when and where appropriate.”</i></p> <p>Specific requests for Temperature Policy (5.3.5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add language to footnote 59 with further details about controllable water quality factors. • Action 7 on page 109, <i>“...ensure that the terms of water right permits and licenses are consistent with the water quality objectives for temperature.”</i> 	<p>Thank you for taking the time to make specific suggestions for the Basin Plan. The suggested language in your comments would constitute a substantive update of the Basin Plan. This Basin Plan Remediation Project is only for non-substantive amendments to the Basin Plan with no regulatory effect.</p> <p>During the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan, Basin Plan amendment project proposals are solicited for consideration. The next Triennial Review is scheduled to begin in 2026, and proposals can be submitted at any time. Staff recommend these suggestions for the Basin Plan be submitted as a future Basin Plan amendment proposal. Please use the online form on our Triennial Review webpage to submit this proposal: Triennial Review California Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/triennial_review/).</p>
6.3.8	<p>Specific suggestions for Shasta River TMDL Action Plan (6.3.8):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring elements of the Scott River TMDL Action Plan and the 	<p>Thank you for your suggestions for the Shasta River TMDL Action Plan. The requested language updates in the comment document constitute a substantive amendment of the Basin Plan. This Basin Plan Remediation Project is only for editorial (non-substantive) amendments to the Basin Plan.</p>

North Coast Water Board

2025 Basin Plan Remediation– Response to Written Public Comments

	<p>Klamath River TMDL Action Plan Thermal Refugia Protection Policy into the Shasta River TMDL Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add more specific timeline information for assessment of implementation.• Additional language suggestions for 6.3.8.3 Temperature and 6.3.8.4 Dissolved Oxygen.• Update out-of-date references, including the Incidental Take Permit.• Add implementation language regarding tailwater.	<p>During the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan, Basin Plan amendment project proposals are solicited for consideration. The next Triennial Review is scheduled to begin in 2026, and proposals can be submitted at any time. Staff recommend these suggestions for the Basin Plan be submitted as a future Basin Plan amendment proposal. Please use the online form on our Triennial Review webpage to submit this proposal: Triennial Review California Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/triennial_review/).</p>
--	--	--