

# **Stream and Wetland Systems Protection Policy**

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North Coast Regional Water  
Quality Control Board

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# Presentation Outline

- Policy Background and Need
- Scientific Concepts
- Proposed Amendment Framework
- Public Outreach
- Amendment Schedule

# Policy Background

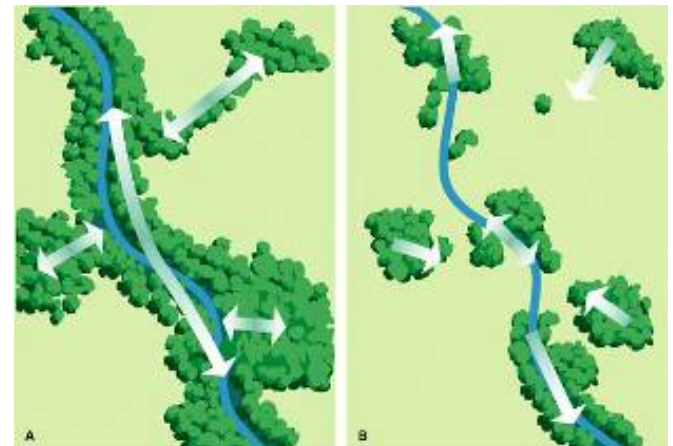
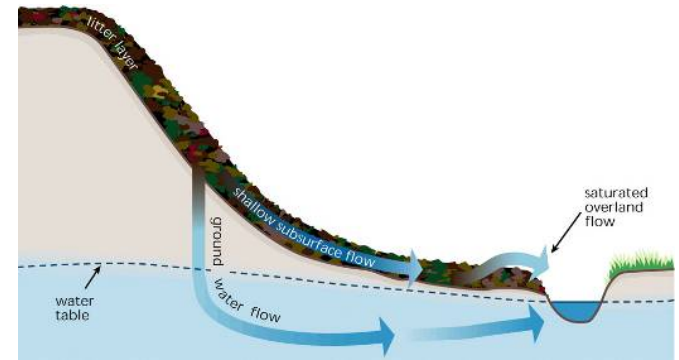
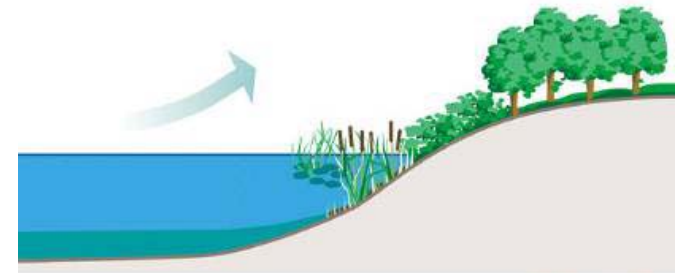
- 2004 Triennial Review
- Scott and Shasta TMDLs
- State Board Scott TMDL Resolution
- State Board Wetland and Riparian Policy
- U.S. EPA Grant

# Policy Need

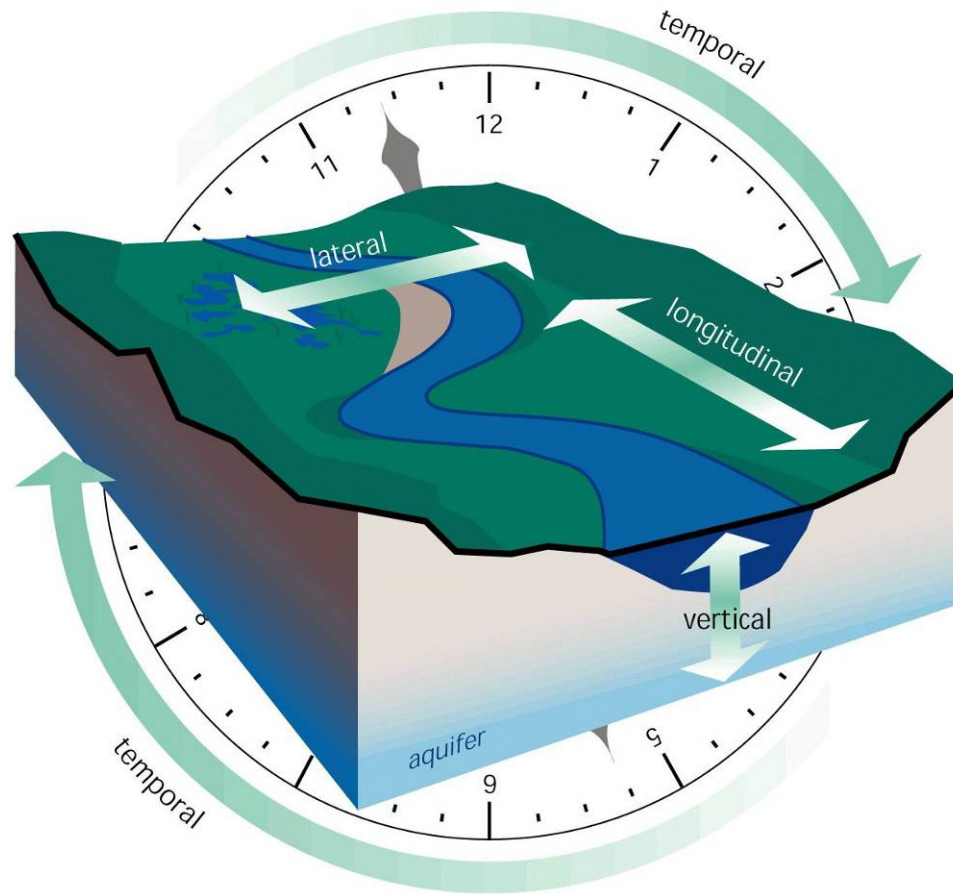
- Degradation of streams and wetlands linked to 86 percent of temperature impairments and 75 percent of sediment impairments in the Region
- Basin Plan does not provide comprehensive framework for addressing cumulative impacts of stream and wetland degradation
- Inconsistent permit requirements across programs and between projects
- FLD, WQE, and WET beneficial uses adopted in 2003, but no implementation plan to protect them

# Stream and Wetland Functions

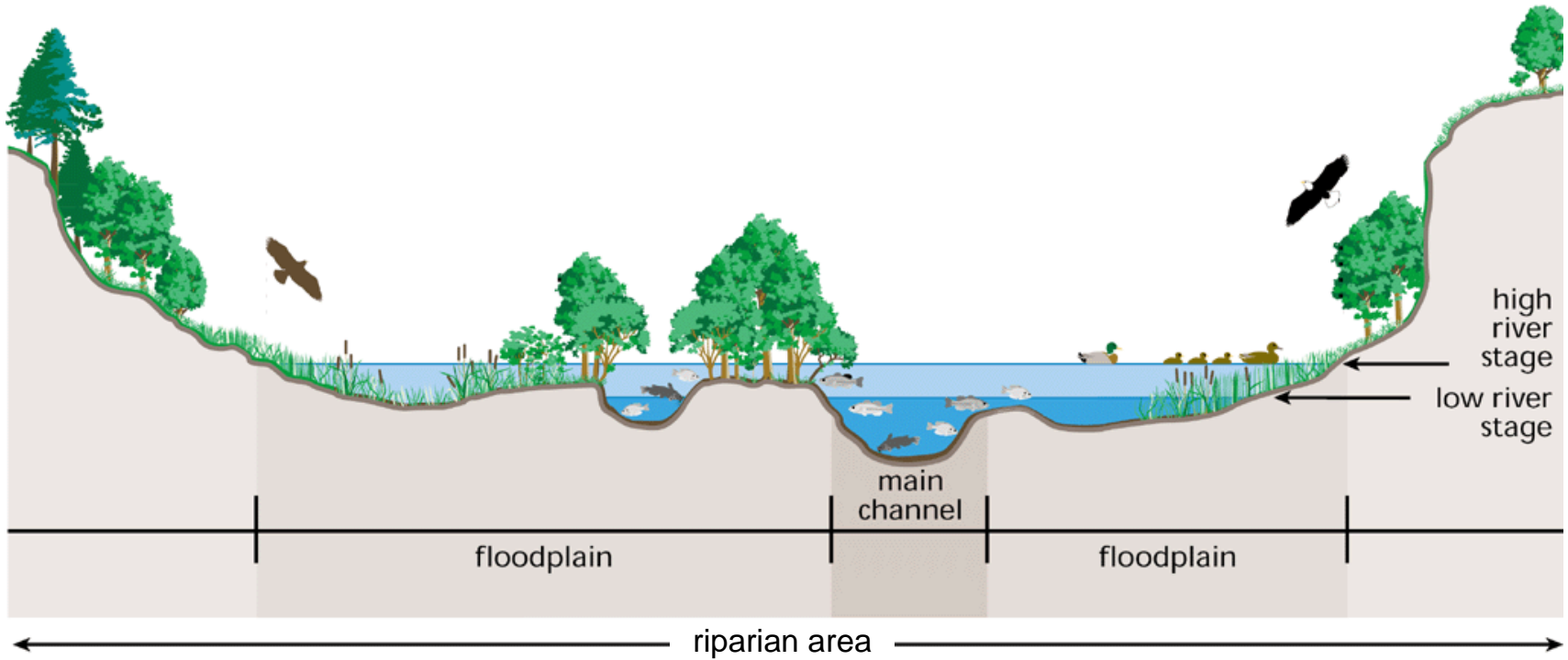
- Flood attenuation
- Groundwater recharge and discharge
- Water supply
- Sediment transport and storage
- Streambank stabilization
- Pollutant filtration
- Energy cycling
- Nutrient cycling
- Temperature and microclimate control
- Biodiversity maintenance



# Scientific Concept: Systems



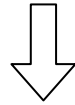
# Scientific Concept: Riparian Areas



# Amendment Framework

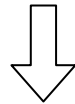
Beneficial Uses

Existing



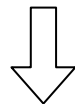
Water Quality Objectives  
(narrative)

New WQOs



Performance Criteria  
(narrative and numeric)

New Implementation Plan



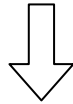
Management Measures

Guidance

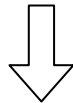


# Amendment Framework

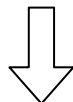
Beneficial Uses



Water Quality Objectives  
(narrative)



Performance Criteria  
(narrative and numeric)



Management Measures

- 
- Watershed Hydrology
  - Stream Channels
  - Floodplains
  - Riparian Vegetation
  - Wetlands

# Public Outreach: CEQA Scoping Comments

- Audubon California
- The Buckeye Conservancy
- CA Department of Fish and Game
- CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- CA Farm Bureau
- CA Licensed Foresters Association
- The Campbell Group
- City of Fortuna
- Coast Action Group
- County of Siskiyou Board of Supervisors
- County of Sonoma Permit and Resource Management Division
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Environmental Protection Information Center
- Fishnet 4C
- Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program
- Friends of the Eel River
- Friends of the Navarro
- Graton Community Services District
- Green Diamond Resources Company
- Home Builders Association of Northern California
- Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
- Humboldt Watershed Council
- Inter-Tribal Council of California
- Karuk Tribe of California
- Klamath Riverkeeper
- Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation
- Lake Shastina Community Services District
- Lake Shastina Property Owners Association
- Mattole Salmon Group
- Morrison & Foerster, LLP
- The Nature Conservancy
- NOAA Fisheries
- North Bay Association of Realtors
- Northcoast Environmental Center
- Occidental Arts and Ecology Center
- People for USA
- Public Lands for the People
- Roberts, Kemp, and Associates, LLC
- Rohnert Park and Cotati Creeks Council
- Roseburg Resources Company
- Russian River Watershed Protection Committee
- Russian Riverkeeper
- Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP
- Sierra Club
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Sonoma County Grape Growers Association
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Sonoma County Winegrape Commission
- Sotoyome Resource Conservation District
- Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District
- Spencer Engineering
- Streamline Planning Consultants
- Timber Products Company
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- WCCB
- Western United Dairymen
- Individual/Self

# Public Outreach: Meetings

- The Buckeye Conservancy
- CA Department of Fish and Game, Northern Region (Region 1)
- CA Department of Fish and Game, Bay Delta Region (Region 3)
- CA Farm Bureau, Humboldt County
- CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
- CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Region 3)
- CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Region 6)
- CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Region 2)
- CA State Water Resources Control Board
- The Cattlemen's Association
- City of Santa Rosa Public Works
- County of Del Norte
- County of Humboldt
- County of Mendocino
- County of Siskiyou
- County of Siskiyou Board of Supervisors
- County of Sonoma
- County of Trinity
- Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program
- Humboldt State University
- Jones and Stokes
- Klamath National Forest
- Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation
- NOAA Fisheries
- Roberts, Kemp, and Associates, LLC
- Russian Riverkeeper
- San Francisco Estuary Institute
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Sotoyome Resource Conservation District
- University of California Berkeley
- University of California Cooperative Extension
- University of California Davis
- University of California Santa Cruz
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- West Coast Watershed

# Recurring Comments

- Recognize diverse watershed conditions and provide implementation flexibility
- Coordinate with other agencies to improve regulatory consistency
- Take a science-based approach
- Address cumulative impacts
- Provide guidance to local agencies
- Encourage best practices through both regulatory and non-regulatory tools

# Amendment Schedule

Project Milestones	Target Completion
Public Scoping Meetings	May 2006 ✓ November 2006 ✓
Update Regional Board on Progress	June 2007 ✓
Complete Draft Amendment and Request Scientific Peer Review	September 2007
Release Draft Amendment Language and Staff Report to the Public	December 2007
Public Review and Comment Period	December 2007 to January 2008
Regional Board Adoption Hearing	March 2008