

January 14, 2015

NOTICE
CEQA Scoping Meeting
for the
Russian River Watershed
Pathogen Indicator Bacteria
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Action Plan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) staff will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) public scoping meeting concerning development and adoption of a Basin Plan amendment (Action Plan) and establishment of a TMDL for pathogen indicator bacteria in the Russian River watershed. The scoping meeting will be held to gather input on possible environmental impacts of this project.

The scoping meeting will be held as follows:

When: January 30, 2015
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Where: Regional Water Board Office
David C. Joseph Meeting Room
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

CEQA SCOPING OVERVIEW

California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3775.5, subdivision (b) states the purpose of a scoping meeting is to seek input from public agencies and members of the public on the range of project actions, alternatives, reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, significant impacts to be analyzed, cumulative impacts if any, and mitigation measures that will reduce impacts to a less than significant level as part of the development of the Action Plan and establishment of a TMDL.

Adoption of an Action Plan is a discretionary action subject to CEQA; however, basin planning is certified as exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) or negative declaration and initial study. (Cal. Code Regs., tit.14, § 15251, subd.(g).) To include a Policy in the Basin Plan requires the amendment of the Basin Plan and compliance with the basin planning requirements of Porter-Cologne, as well as CEQA. In lieu of an EIR or negative declaration and initial study, a substitute environmental document (SED) will be prepared which simultaneously complies with both these environmental laws. The SED will be released for public review along with the TMDL Staff Report at a later date.

The public scoping meeting will provide participants with: (1) an overview of the CEQA process & requirements for TMDL Action Plans; (2) an overview of the Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL development process and findings thus far, including a discussion of the probable sources of pathogen indicator bacteria in the Russian River watershed; and (3) an opportunity to provide input and comment on the probable sources, suggest possible implementation actions that can be taken to address the impairment, and offer input on the possible environmental impacts of implementation actions.

Early public involvement assists the Regional Water Board staff in refining the scope of the project and determining the range of environmental information and potential impacts the project might have on the various categories of environmental resources such as water quality.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At the meeting, members of the public will have the opportunity to present oral and/or written comments on the CEQA aspects of the proposed project. Comments should discuss concerns and identify those issues on which the commenter believes that the Regional Water Board needs to focus its in-depth environmental analysis. Examples include significant environmental issues, potential means of compliance, significant environmental effects of compliance, and any mitigation measures that should be explored to reduce any potentially significant impacts.

The public comment period for comments pertaining to CEQA is open as of the date of this notice, and will close at 5PM on Wednesday February 18th, 2015. Please submit written comments to:

Katharine Carter
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Document Availability

Information on the Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL can be found at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/russian_river.

Persons wishing to receive notices related to the Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL should subscribe to the email list at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg1_subscribe.shtml.

Accessibility

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting should contact Patti Corsie at 707-576-2220 at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 800-735-2929 or voice line at 800-735-2922.

STAFF CONTACTS

Questions regarding this meeting or general questions regarding the Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL should be directed to Charles Reed, by phone at 707-576-2752 or email at Charles.Reed@waterboards.ca.gov or Rebecca Fitzgerald, by phone at 707-576-2650 or email at Rebecca.Fitzgerald@waterboards.ca.gov.