

Notice of Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting For the Proposed Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Policy

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Coast Region Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will hold two California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meetings and workshops on the proposed amendment to add an Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Policy (Restoration Policy) to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan). The first CEQA scoping meeting and workshop (collectively workshop) will be held on November 3, 2011 at the regularly scheduled Regional Water Board meeting in Santa Rosa, CA. The second will be held on November 8, 2011 in Weaverville, CA. The purpose of the workshops is to inform interested parties on the development and scope of the proposed Restoration Policy and to facilitate public comments on potential environmental effects from implementation of a Restoration Policy. A quorum of Regional Water Board members will be present at the November 3, 2011 workshop and may be present at the November 8, 2011 workshop. No action will be taken by the Regional Water Board at these workshops.

BACKGROUND

Regional Water Board staff is proposing the development of a Restoration Policy that will serve to demonstrate the continuing support of the Regional Water Board for the use of aquatic ecosystem restoration as one of the existing tools to be used in the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the region's waters. As envisioned by staff, the proposed Restoration Policy would articulate eligibility criteria and provide a description of the process for obtaining:

- 1) An exemption from certain discharge prohibitions; and/or
- 2) Authorization for discharges that may cause temporary exceedance of water quality objectives.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The CEQA Scoping Document for a Restoration Policy is available for review and download at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/ Hard copies of the document can also be obtained by contacting the Regional Water Board's office at 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 or calling Regional Water Board staff Alydda Mangelsdorf at (707) 576-6735.

PURPOSE OF CEQA SCOPING

The purpose of a CEQA scoping meeting is to provide a forum for early public involvement on the development of projects that have the potential to affect the physical environment. In this case the project is the proposed addition of a Restoration Policy to the Basin Plan. Early public involvement assists the Regional Water Board in determining the range of environmental information and potential impacts the proposed Restoration Policy may have on other categories of environmental resources such as air quality or geologic stability.

As directed by CEQA, comments on the CEQA Scoping Document for the Restoration Policy should be limited to identifying the range of actions, alternatives,

mitigation measures, and potential significant environmental effects to be analyzed in-depth as part of the development of the Restoration Policy.

Following the workshops, staff will review written and oral comments and use them to inform the scope and content of the proposed Restoration Policy and supporting staff report.

Written comments on the CEQA Scoping Document for a Restoration Policy should be submitted no later than **November 8, 2011** by mailing them to:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Attn: Alydda Mangelsdorf

Or emailing them to: AMangelsdorf@waterboards.ca.gov

**Proposed Restoration Policy Basin Plan Amendment
CEQA SCOPING MEETING AND WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

	November 3, 2011 Meeting	November 8, 2011 Meeting
Location:	North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Office 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 Phone (707) 576-2220	Trinity Public Utilities District Office 26 Ponderosa Lane Weaverville, CA 96093 Phone (530) 623-5536
Directions:	Take the Airport Blvd. exit off of Highway 101. Head west on Airport Blvd. Turn right on Skylane Blvd.	Take Highway 299 to Weaverville. Turn onto Ponderosa Lane. If travelling east, it is past the Trinity Alps Golf Course and downtown Weaverville area. If travelling west, it is past Industrial Parkway.
Time:	The Regional Water Board's Board Meeting begins at 8:30am. The Restoration Policy CEQA Scoping item will begin no sooner than 3 pm.	9:00 am to 11:00 am

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

Parking for both meetings is available onsite. Meeting participants are asked to leave the parking spots closest to the Trinity Public Utilities District Office building available to utility customers. Both the Regional Water Board office in Santa Rosa and the Trinity Public Utilities District Office in Weaverville are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Patti Corsie, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2307 or PCorsie@waterboards.ca.gov at least five days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.