

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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July 21, 2008

Letters of Intent and Compliance Workshops Update

Santa Rosa. The Shasta River TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Action Plan became State law on January 26, 2007, and established new requirements to improve stream habitat for salmon and steelhead trout.

The Action Plan contains measures for improving water quality in the Shasta River and asks that all landowners in the Shasta River watershed that graze livestock or irrigate their land report annually as to their progress in implementing TMDL required water quality protection measures into their operations; the first annual progress report is due to the North Coast Water Board by September 1 2008.

Landowners can choose one of the following two options to complete the reporting requirements:

- 1) Report individually or collectively through the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD);
- 2) Report directly to the North Coast Water Board.

For the first year's reporting, the Regional Water Board is requiring that landowners complete and file a Letter of Intent by September 1, 2008, indicating that they intend to comply with the TMDL. Landowners filing a completed Letter of Intent will be automatically enrolled for coverage under the Shasta River TMDL waiver; landowners that do not file a Letter of Intent will be required to apply for an individual permit and pay an annual fee.

Regional Water Board staff will be holding two TMDL compliance workshops in cooperation with the SVRCD on August 21, 2008. The workshops will be held at 1:00 and 7:00 pm at the Best Western Miner's Inn in Yreka, California. Further information about both the workshops as well as the TMDL is available on our website: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/>.

For technical assistance or suggestions about best management practices that will help with TMDL compliance, we encourage landowners to contact the Shasta Valley RCD or the Yreka Field Office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service, both at (530)842-6123. Landowners may also contact Andy Baker of the Water Board at (707) 576-2690 for information about TMDL requirements and compliance, technical support, or other assistance.