

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 a.m., January 19, 2012
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
David C. Joseph Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, California

Item: 15

Subject: **Klamath TMDLs Implementation Update: Comprehensive Watershed Stewardship for the Basin**

Background

On December 28, 2010, US EPA Region 9 approved the TMDLs for the Klamath River which had been previously approved by the CA State Water Resources Control Board on September 29, 2010, and by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on March 24, 2010. The purpose of this update is to describe progress towards implementation of the Action Plan associated with the Klamath River TMDLs. During the past year we have laid the planning and stakeholder outreach foundation that will lead to progress on pollutant reduction projects in the near future.

Throughout the Klamath River watershed in California and Oregon, many individuals, groups, and agencies have been working to enhance and restore fish habitat and water quality. These groups include, but are not limited to the United States Forest Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA-Fisheries, the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force, United States Environmental Protection Agency Regions 9 and 10, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Department of Water Resources, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Klamath Tribes, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Yurok Tribe, the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, the Resighini Rancheria, the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, local Resource Conservation Districts, local and national environmental and conservation groups, local irrigation districts, local watershed groups, and private timber companies. Their past and present efforts have improved water quality conditions in the Klamath River and its tributaries.

The strategy employed by Regional Water Board staff has been to better coordinate and integrate the efforts of the natural resource stewards listed above through various ongoing initiatives such as: Klamath Memorandum of Agreement - TMDL Implementation, the Klamath Basin Monitoring Program (KBMP); the Klamath Tracking and Accounting Program (Klamath TAP), Klamath Watershed Stewardship Program,

Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHTSA) Interim Measures 10, 11, and 15; Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement; and the Secretarial Determination Process / KHTSA EIS/EIR. We have continued our close collaboration with Memorandum of Agreement partners: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, EPA Region 9, and EPA Region 10. Regional Water Board staff has been coordinating internally to ensure that the activities of various programs (e.g., Timber) integrate TMDL targets and allocations (e.g., allocations related to shade and pollutant load reductions) into their program activities. In addition, staff has also been working on an Irrigated Lands Discharge Program that will address a key source identified in the TMDL Action Plan.

Another key element of the TMDL implementation plan has been to target and pursue control strategies for the largest sources of nutrients and organic matter which are located in the upper basin in Oregon. Towards that end we have laid out a watershed stewardship framework within which we will be able to work collaboratively with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and other Oregon stakeholders to better control ongoing agricultural related waste discharges and to address legacy pollutants within Upper Klamath Lake and Keno Reservoir sediments.

The staff presentation will briefly describe each of these program elements and the linkages between them. Summary descriptions for the following program elements have been included in the attachments to this report:

- Attachment 1:** Memorandum of Agreement - Klamath River / Lost River TMDL Implementation
- Attachment 2:** Klamath Basin Monitoring Program
- Attachment 3:** Klamath Tracking and Accounting Program
- Attachment 4:** Klamath Watershed Stewardship Program
- Attachment 5:** Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement - Interim Measure 10 – Water Quality Workshop
- Attachment 6:** Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement - Interim Measure 11 – Water Quality Pilot Projects

PRELIMINARY

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational item only.