

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board FY 2019-2020 Recommended Priorities

NPDES Wastewater Program

Consider reissuance of NPDES permits for the City of Santa Rosa Laguna Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility, the Town of Windsor Wastewater Treatment, Reclamation and Disposal Facility, and the new Samoa Townsite Wastewater Treatment Facility.

NPDES Stormwater Program

Increase focus on enforcement of non-compliant industrial and construction stormwater sites. Work with the State Water Board Office of Enforcement and Office of Chief Counsel as appropriate to identify and take appropriate action on sites that fail to comply with statewide industrial and construction general NPDES permit requirements.

Groundwater Protection Program

Continue development of the Groundwater Protection Strategy for the North Coast Region.

Focused Work in Disadvantaged Communities

Continue to provide compliance assistance to the region's disadvantaged communities, including facilitating meetings between our federal and state funding partners, technical assistance providers, and community representatives to fund much-needed public infrastructure and water quality improvement projects.

Forest Activities Program & Nonpoint Source Planning

Coordinate with the CAL FIRE and U.S. Forest Service to investigate post-fire salvage activities in the North Coast Region. Continue to participate in the Governor's Forest Management Taskforce to support projects that improve forest health, community protection, and fire-resilience, while also ensuring water quality protection.

Revise the Timber Categorical Waiver and/or Federal Lands Waiver to ensure that post-fire timber salvage activities are sufficiently protective of water quality.

Implement WDR for Humboldt Redwood Company in Elk River watershed (scheduled for adoption in 4th Quarter FY 18/19) and consider adoption of a revised WDR for Green Diamond Resource Company within the watershed.

Work with the State Water Board and U.S. EPA to develop California's 5-Year Nonpoint Source Implementation Workplan. Identify priority NPS initiatives that will be implemented during the 2020-2025 period.

401 Certification Program

Support implementation of Senate Bill 901 (Dodd) – Implementation for Wildfire Prevention and Recovery. Provide technical support to the State Water Board during development of a new statewide permit to cover discharges associated with vegetation management and other wildfire prevention activities conducted in utility corridors to prevent wildfire.

Dairy Program

Implement general WDR for dairies (scheduled for adoption in 4th Quarter FY 18/19).

Restoration Program

Continue to provide leadership role in the Wood for Salmon Working Group, including ongoing focus to incorporate restoration actions through CAL FIRE's timber harvest planning process. Continue to promote large wood augmentation through grants and contracts.

Continue implementation of Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program.

Work with California State Parks and Redwood National Park to facilitate permit coordination on the Redwood National and State Parks through a collaboration collectively known as Redwood Rising.

Watershed Adaptive Management Programs

Continue the development of sector specific agricultural regulatory programs, with particular focus on vineyards and lily bulb operations.

Consider adoption of federal CWA section 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Report.

Continue CyanoHAB monitoring, and post-fire (October 2017) monitoring activities.

TMDL Implementation & Watershed Stewardship

Complete construction of pilot restoration projects in the Elk River and continue implementation of the Elk River Stewardship Program.

Continue to implement the Shasta and Scott River Conditional Waivers. Pursue progressive enforcement, where necessary. Complete the second water quality assessment update for the Shasta River Watershed Stewardship Report. Initiate historical data compilation in the Scott River Watershed to inform development of a status and trends water quality monitoring network and report.

Begin implementation of the Upper Klamath Watershed Action Plan; projects located adjacent to Upper Klamath Lake and in the Wood, Sprague, and Williamson River watersheds will reduce nutrient loading to Upper Klamath Lake and restore habitat for reintroduced anadromous fish.

Continue to develop the Lower Klamath Lake (aka Klamath Irrigation Project) watershed stewardship charter. Initiate planning for agriculture water conservation and water quality improvement projects in the Klamath Irrigation Project area with the objective of improving flows and water quality in the Klamath River.

Continue to develop Russian River watershed stewardship approach through coordination with ongoing initiatives including the Russian River Confluence, Department of Water Resources Water Plan, and Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP), among others. Secure funding to implement Phase 2 of the R3MP.

Basin Planning Program

Obtain State Water Board, OAL, and USEPA approval of the Action Plan for the Russian River Watershed Pathogen TMDL to protect contact and non-contact recreation beneficial uses.

Continue work for the TMDL Program Retrospective Review which will consider the requirements of each adopted TMDL and develop recommendations to inform the future of the TMDL program.

Update conceptual sediment and nutrient impairment models and draft a linkage analysis for the Laguna de Santa Rosa which will inform a program of implementation to attain water quality standards in the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Commence development of a regional narrative flow objective and corresponding implementation methodology to address the impacts of altered flows on water quality and beneficial uses in the North Coast Region.

Cannabis Regulatory Program

Provide compliance assistance and transition cannabis cultivation sites currently enrolled under the North Coast Regional Cannabis General Order to the Statewide Cannabis General Order as appropriate. Increase focus on enforcement of non-compliant cannabis cultivations sites.

Enforcement Program

Pursue progressive enforcement in line with the Region's current enforcement priorities:

- Prioritize and pursue enforcement cases for discharge violations associated with site development and use for cannabis cultivation.
- Identify, prioritize, and pursue enforcement cases for discharge violations associated with agricultural activities other than cannabis cultivation.
- Pursue non-filers under all our applicable regulatory programs.
- Take timely follow-up enforcement, including progressive enforcement and/or penalty assessment, where appropriate, on missed deadlines for all active enforcement orders.
- Scale up regulatory oversight and enforcement for violations of NPDES stormwater permits.

Other

Open the North Coast Regional Board's Northern Field Office in Eureka to administer the Cannabis Regulatory Program within the northern portions of the region.

Provide professional training and development opportunities to the staff of the North Coast Region.