

Executive Officer's Summary Report
9:00 a.m., March 15, 2012
River Lodge Conference Center
1800 Riverwalk Drive
Fortuna, CA 95540

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **Workshop** on a five-year evaluation of progress implementing the Scott and Shasta TMDL Action Plans

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the workshop is to inform the Regional Water Board and the public about progress made in implementing the Scott and Shasta River TMDLs and to seek input for evaluation of the Scott and Shasta TMDL conditional Waivers.

Scott River TMDL Background

In December, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) adopted the *Action Plan for the Scott River Watershed Sediment and Water Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads* (Scott TMDL Action Plan). In June, 2006, the State Water Resources Control Board deferred adoption of the Scott TMDL Action Plan until Regional Water Board adoption of a mechanism for compliance with the *Policy for the Implementation and Enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program* (Nonpoint Source Policy). In August, 2006, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R1-2006-0081, "Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Specific Land Management Activities in the Scott River Watershed, North Coast Region" (Scott Waiver), thereby achieving compliance with the Nonpoint Source Policy. In September, 2006, the Scott TMDL Action Plan was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board and incorporated into the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan).

The Scott River Action Plan requires landowners to implement measures that will protect and enhance riparian vegetation to reduce stream temperatures, and to prevent, minimize, and control discharges of sediment. The Scott River Action Plan and Waiver do not have provisions for formal reporting of completed activities that would enable the Regional Water Board to assess participation and compliance status. To address this deficiency, Regional Water Board staff hosted a public workshop in Fort Jones on April 21, 2011 to provide the community covered by the Scott River Waiver an opportunity to report to Regional Water Board staff on activities reflecting progress made in implementing measures described in Table 4-10 of the Scott River Action Plan.

Regional Water Board staff received significant information during and subsequent to this workshop regarding such activities.

The Scott TMDL Action Plan calls for a formal assessment of the effectiveness of implementation efforts which rely on encouragement as the first step. In this workshop, Regional Water Board staff will review progress and effectiveness of the Scott TMDL Action Plan implementation actions, with particular focus on actions identified in Table 4-10 of the Basin Plan.

Shasta River TMDL Background

The Regional Water Board and State Water Board adopted the Shasta River TMDL Action Plan on June 28, 2006 and January 26, 2007, respectively. The TMDL contains an Action Plan that requires landowners to take specific actions to reduce pollutant loads and ultimately achieve water quality standards. The Shasta River is listed on the Federal Clean Water Act 303(d) list as impaired due to elevated stream temperatures and reduced dissolved oxygen levels. The Action Plan requires landowners to implement measures that will protect streams and enhance riparian vegetation to reduce stream temperatures, and to reduce discharges of sediment, nutrients, and other oxygen-consuming materials in order to increase dissolved oxygen levels. The TMDL also encourages landowners to work together to improve water conservation and water management efforts in order to increase dedicated cold water in the Shasta River.

The Shasta River TMDL contains a waiver of waste discharge requirements for discharges related to specific land management activities in the Shasta River Watershed. The conditional waiver was scheduled to expire on January 26, 2012; however, on January 19, 2012, the Regional Water Board extended the conditional waiver until August 23, 2012 to provide additional time for staff to consider whether revisions to the waiver are necessary.

For more information on the Shasta TMDL, including the TMDL Action Plan and conditional water, visit our web site at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/shasta_river/

Workshop

Regional Water Board staff will provide an overview of the Scott and Shasta River TMDL regulatory programs, report on the progress made toward implementing actions identified in the respective Action Plans, and provide information on the effectiveness of the conditional waiver so the Regional Water Board can consider appropriate terms and conditions of new waivers for these watersheds.

PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational item only.