

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
8:30 A.M., Thursday, June 13, 2013  
Santa Rosa

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Status of the draft Basin Plan amendment to establish a Policy to Implement the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature and the draft Action Plan to Address Elevated Water Temperature in the Mattole, Navarro, and Eel River Watersheds (Bryan McFadin)

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item.

BACKGROUND: In January 2012 the Board adopted Resolution R1-2012-0013, Policy Statement for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objective for Temperature in the North Coast Region. The resolution directs Board staff to develop a temperature implementation policy for incorporation into the Basin Plan. The resolution describes a policy approach that relies on existing authorities and opportunities to achieve temperature standards.

In February of 2011 the Executive Officer entered into a settlement with petitioners in the form of a stipulated agreement, in which Regional Water Board staff agreed to develop temperature TMDL implementation plans for the Mattole, Navarro, and Eel Rivers. The USEPA has established TMDLs for these watersheds; however no corresponding program of implementation has been incorporated into the Basin Plan. The Action Plan will establish a program of implementation, and thus meet the terms of the stipulated agreement.

ISSUES: Staff will update the Board on the status of efforts to bring the temperature implementation policy and action plan Basin Plan amendments to the Board. To date, staff has completed CEQA scoping, developed drafts of the policy, action plan, and staff report, and arranged for peer review. Staff has and will continue to meet with stakeholders. Staff anticipates releasing a public review draft in August, holding workshops in October, and presenting the basin plan amendment for Board consideration at the November Board meeting.