

Planning & Watershed Stewardship Division Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Workplan

Programs:

TMDL and Basin Planning Program
Watershed Adaptive Management Program
Watershed Stewardship Program
Flow and Riparian Protection Program

Division Supervisor: Vacant

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1.0 Division Introduction

The Planning and Watershed Stewardship Division (PAWS Division) plays a unique role at the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board). The Division is responsible for developing and maintaining the planning, monitoring, assessment, and stewardship functions of the office. These activities serve as the bedrock upon which the Regional Water Board implements its vision of Healthy Watersheds, Effective Regulation, and Strong Partnerships.

In addition to the primary programs of the Division, staff in this Division also dedicate time to office-wide initiatives, including the development of climate change adaptation and resilience initiatives, and implementation of engagement committee initiatives.

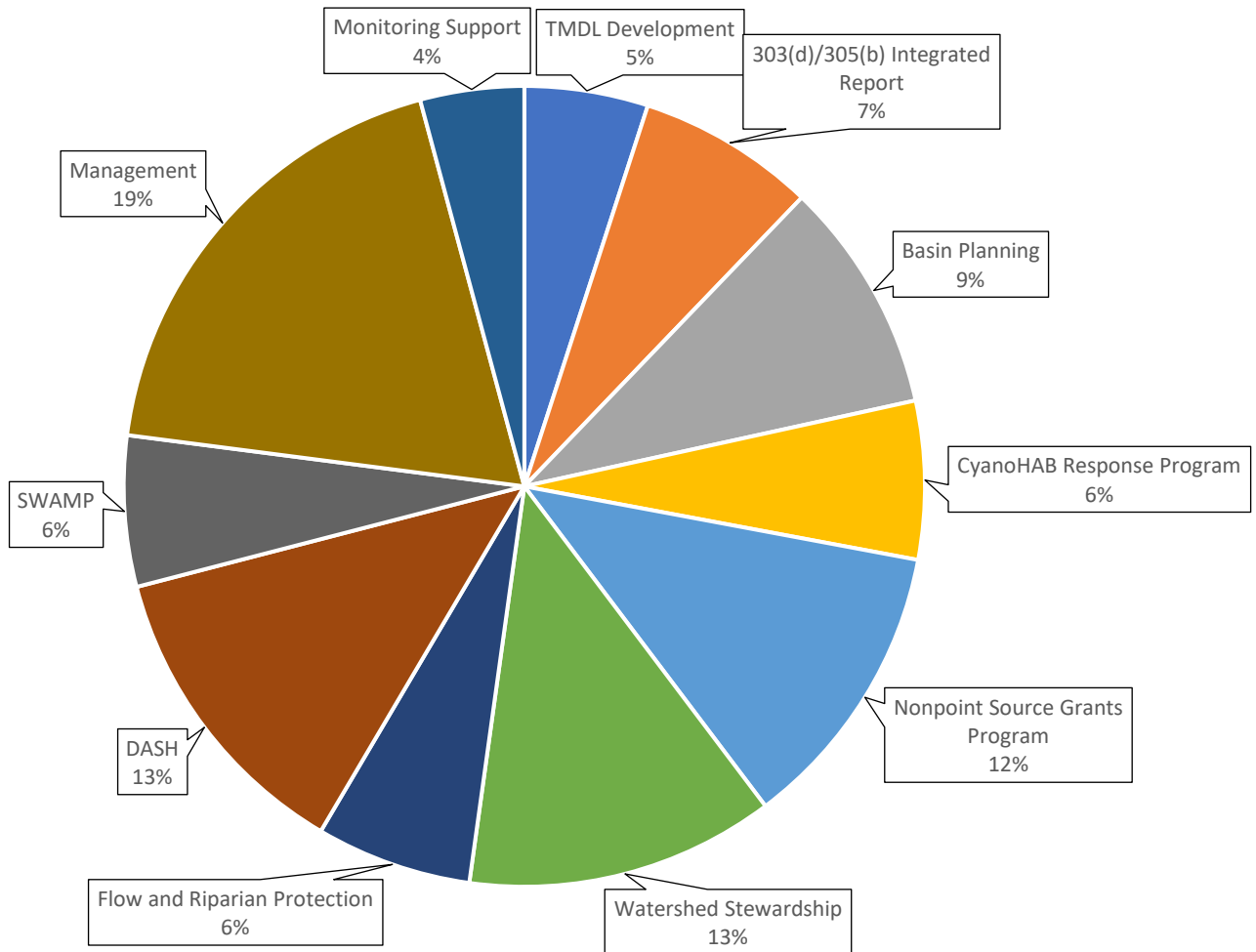
2.0 Division Resources

2.1 Staffing

The Division consists of two units and three specialists implementing four distinct programs. Staffing for the Division is comprised of 17 professionals within the following classifications: Environmental Scientist (ES), Water Resource Control Engineer (WRCE), Engineering Geologist (EGs), Scientific Aid, and specialist and supervisory levels within these classifications. Consistent with all divisions in the office, the Planning & Watershed Stewardship Division receives program support from staff in the Administration Unit.

The pie chart below depicts the distribution of staff resources by program, and the subsequent sections of this workplan describe the work staff perform in each program. The “Introduction and Office-Wide Initiatives” section preceding these workplans generally describes the work of supervisors and other elements of work that are common to staff throughout the organization.

Planning & Stewardship Staff Allocation



The Planning and Watershed Stewardship Division often hosts 2 AmeriCorps members who begin their tenure in October and complete their service the following August. The AmeriCorps Program is administered by the California Conservation Corps who recruits each year's members, conducts their initial interviews, and places them at host sites. A contract with the California Conservation Corps to cover some of the costs of each member, including stipend and travel expenses, is administered by the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board on RB1's behalf. The members typically work with Planning staff, the Flow and Riparian Specialist, Watershed Steward Specialists, and the Climate Specialist to learn data collection, data analysis and watershed stewardship skills. The skills and commitment the AmeriCorps members bring to their tenure with the agency is a demonstrable augmentation to the technical work capacity of the Division. The management and reporting obligations to the California Conservation Corps associated with their tenure, however, is a cost to the division.

3.0 TMDL and Basin Planning Program

The Planning Unit is composed of a Senior, two TMDL staff, and three Planning staff. Staff are organized into project teams based on skills, interests, and project priorities.

The Planning Unit Senior manages the [TMDL](#)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/) and [Basin Planning Programs](#)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/triennial_review/), develops workplans to satisfy United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Water Pollution Control Program Grant funding requirements, and supports implementation of the triennial review priorities in each of these programs through management of individual project leads and teams.

All staff in the Planning Unit belong to the Data Analytical Support Help (DASH) Team and the Monitoring Support Team, which support multi-disciplinary planning and TMDL development, implementation, and adaptive management efforts. The DASH Team is supervised by the Planning Unit Supervisor. The Monitoring Support Team is supervised by the Watershed Adaptive Management Unit Supervisor.

3.1 Activities and Projects by Priority

The primary responsibilities of program staff are categorized based on the priority listed in Table 3.1. Most are described in detail in Section 3.2. The details associated with Priority 3 projects, those 2018 Triennial Review projects that are unstaffed, are not described here but can be reviewed in the [2018 Triennial Review Staff Report](#) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/09_2018/pdf/7/20180808_final%202018%20TR%20Staff%20Report.pdf).

Table 3.1 – FY 23/24 Program Activities and Projects by Priority

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Target Completion Date
1	a. Coastal Pathogen Project	Nov-23
1	b. Triennial Review	Mar-24
1	c. Gualala River TMDL Action Plan	FY 25-26
1	d. Laguna de Santa Rosa Sediment, Nutrient, and Temperature TMDL/Alternative Restoration Plan	FY 26-27
1	e. Tribal Beneficial Uses	FY 26-27
1	f. Data Analytical Support Help (DASH) Team	Ongoing
2	g. Stemple Creek Nutrient and Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load Watershed Conditions Retrospective Assessment	FY 26-27

3.2 Activity and Project Descriptions

Activities and projects are listed below and identified by the priority (1, 2, 3) and the letter (a, b, c, etc.) listed in Table 3.1 above.

1.a – Coastal Pathogen Project

Summary: The Ocean Beaches and Freshwater Creeks Pathogen TMDL Project (Coastal Pathogen Project) was first adopted as a high priority TMDL Project during the 2014 triennial review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) and again adopted as a high priority during the 2018 triennial review. Since 2014, staff collected dry and wet season ambient water quality data from Clean Water Act 303(d) listed ocean beaches and freshwater streams, reference streams, and suspected fecal waste source areas over two calendar years. Initial analyses of streams data indicated strong human markers for Jolly Giant Creek. In follow-up, staff initiated additional source identification monitoring specific to Jolly Giant Creek in collaboration with Humboldt Bay Keeper and the City of Arcata. Supplemental Monitoring in Jolly Giant Creek began in September 2021 and was completed in November 2022. Region 1 staff are developing Technical Reports summarizing the data and analyses conducted which will be completed in late FY 22-23. In FY 23-24, staff will conduct a series of stakeholder outreach meetings to review the data analyses findings and solicit feedback. A Synthesis Report will follow with recommendations for next steps.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.20

Milestones	Target Date
Stakeholder Outreach	Sep-23
Final Synthesis Report	Dec-23
EO Report Article	Dec-23

1.b – Triennial Review

Summary: Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Act and Section 303(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act require a review of the basin plan at least once each three-year period to keep pace with changes in regulation, new technologies, policies, and physical changes within the region. The Regional Water Board is responsible for reviewing the Basin Plan and is required to: 1) identify those portions of the Basin Plan, which are in need of modification or new additions; 2) adopt standards as appropriate; and 3) recognize those portions of the Basin Plan, which are appropriate as written. The Regional Water Board solicits written and oral public input, which it considers prior to adopting by resolution a prioritized list of basin planning projects. The highest priority projects establish the foundation for the workplan of the Regional Water Board's Planning Program for the next 3-year period. The adopting resolution for the Triennial Review can also approve non-substantial revisions to the Basin Plan, such as editorial revisions.

The last triennial review was conducted in 2018, and a subsequent triennial review is currently underway, scheduled to be completed in FY 23-24.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.40

Milestones	Target Date
Public Review Draft Staff Report	Sep-23
Regional Board Hearing	Feb-24

1.c – Gualala River TMDL Action Plan

Summary: The Gualala River Sediment TMDL was established by the U.S. EPA in December 2001. To date, the Gualala TMDL has not been adopted into the Basin Plan. The primary goal of this project is to incorporate the Gualala Sediment TMDL into the Basin Plan which will be accomplished by adopting a Gualala Sediment TMDL Action Plan (Action Plan), as supported by an accompanying staff report. The project will involve assessing water quality and aquatic habitat conditions in the watershed using readily available information, collaborating with stakeholders, and developing a program of implementation.

Key Issues and Considerations: The Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division and Planning and Watershed Stewardship Division must closely coordinate to ensure compliance with the Stipulated Settlement Agreement that initiated this project.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.60

Milestones	Target Date
EO Report Article	Nov-23
CEQA Scoping	Jan-24
Initiate Tribal Consultation	Jan-24
Preliminary Draft Staff Report	May-24

1.d – Laguna de Santa Rosa Sediment, Nutrient, and Temperature TMDL/Alternative Restoration Plan

Summary: The Laguna de Santa Rosa is a subwatershed of the Russian River watershed. It is listed on the Clean Water Act 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies due to water quality impairments associated with nutrients, low dissolved oxygen, elevated temperature, and excess sediment, which cause biostimulation. Fundamental to the impairments in the Laguna is the underlying altered hydrology of the watershed due to urbanization and other anthropogenic causes, demanding a multifaceted and multidimensional solution set, including pollutant allocations to multiple sectors, characterization of the loading effects of landscape-wide modifications, and active

restoration, with consideration of future impacts due to climate change. Planning Unit staff are developing a TMDL Action Plan/Alternative Restoration Plan to address these impairments.

The main goals in FY 23-24 will be to initiate stakeholder outreach, conduct additional scientific peer review as necessary, conduct CEQA scoping, and draft an Action Plan for management review.

Key Issues and Considerations: This is a large-scale project in the most urbanized portion of the region therefore, stakeholder outreach, input, and collaboration are key to success. The projected milestones consider stakeholder engagement but could be delayed due to project complexities. Another key consideration is the concept of watershed reconciliation. Due to the loading capacity of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, a combination of source control and increased assimilative capacity will be required to restore supporting conditions for beneficial uses. Based upon current and projected levels of urbanization, typical restoration or remediation projects that restore assimilative capacity may not be feasible in many locations. Therefore, engineered or managed projects may also be needed to perform the sediment and nutrient settling and uptake processes of lost natural features. These kinds of projects reconcile needed water quality improvements with the current landscape.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.60

Milestones	Target Date
CEQA Scoping	Oct-23
Additional Scientific Peer Review, as needed	Nov-23
EO Report Article	Feb -24
Draft Action Plan for management review	Jun-24

1.e – Tribal Beneficial Uses

Summary: In 2003, the Regional Water Board adopted two definitions recognizing the traditional and cultural uses of waters within the North Coast Region: Native American Cultural (CUL) use and Subsistence Fishing (FISH) use. As part of the 2003 Basin Plan update process, the Regional Water Board also designated the newly defined CUL beneficial use in twenty-eight Hydrologic Areas (HAs) and/or Hydrologic Sub-areas (HSAs).

In May of 2017, the State Water Board adopted three beneficial uses applicable to Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB). The Regional Water Boards are required to use these

beneficial use definitions and abbreviations only to the extent such activities are defined in a water quality control plan after June 28, 2017.

This project, which will involve significant tribal consultation and engagement, will: evaluate and potentially update the Basin Plan CUL definition to comport with State Board definitions, gather data for subsistence fishing and cultural use designations, potentially designate additional waterbodies with subsistence fishing and tribal cultural uses, and create implementation plans as needed. Following completion of the Triennial Review, staff will turn attention to this project, establishing the fundamental elements that support its full launching in FY24-25.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.10

Milestones	Target Date
Create Project Webpage	Oct-23
Create Project Charter	Mar-24
Initiate Outreach and Consultation	Apr-24

1.f – Data Analytical Support Help (DASH) Team

Summary: Planning and Stewardship Division Projects require a unique skill set calling for complex geospatial analysis, complex statistical computation, computer programming, coding, modeling and similar fields of expertise. The Data and Analytical Support Help (DASH) team serves the role of expert technical support, augmenting the Project lead staff’s skill set to accomplish the high priority work. Milestones associated with DASH and other team support activities correlate with individual projects. The DASH Team receives and executes tasks related to data analysis and data management for which other Regional Water Board units or divisions have no capacity or skills to perform themselves. Additionally, the DASH Team will focus on training other staff where possible in order to build internal capacity.

The staff allocation below includes 0.15 PY toward the CannaVision project, further described in the Cannabis and Enforcement Division Workplan.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 2.0

Milestones	Target Date
DASH Projects Semi-Annual Report	Dec-23
DASH Projects Year End Report	Jun-24

2.g – Stemple Creek Nutrient and Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load Watershed Conditions Retrospective Assessment

Summary: The TMDL Program has been underway in Region 1 for more than two decades, beginning with the Stemple Creek TMDL. Since its implementation in the 1990s, there have been significant changes to land management practices, water quality protections, and source controls. A retrospective review of conditions in Stemple Creek allows for an assessment of TMDL implementation and effectiveness. To conduct this retrospective review, staff propose to establish key management questions, conduct desktop analyses, and develop and implement monitoring and analytical designs. Region 1 will use its assessment of the Stemple Creek TMDL to inform future TMDL programmatic policies and practices.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.40

Milestones	Target Date
Project Charter	Sep-23
Draft Monitoring Plan	Jun-24

3.3 Performance Targets

Performance targets are established each year for the Planning and TMDL Programs and are based on 1) the number of TMDLs adopted, 2) the number of waterbody pollutant pairs that will be addressed by an action of the Board, and 3) the number of basin plan amendments adopted. The performance targets for FY 23/24 are zero.

4.0 Watershed Adaptive Management Program

The Watershed Adaptive Management (WAM) Unit is composed of a Senior and five staff. The WAM Unit houses several inter-related programs that support the monitoring and adaptive management functions of Watershed Stewardship, permit development, and other Regional Board programs. In addition to supervising staff and managing programs, the Senior also coordinates with the Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division to develop the 5-Year Nonpoint Source Workplan, required under the Nonpoint Source funding grant from U.S. EPA. The current 5-Year Nonpoint Source Workplan is for the period of 2020-2025.

Many staff in the WAM Unit also belong to the Monitoring Support Team supervised by the WAM Unit Senior.

4.1 Activities and Projects by Priority

Priorities for the WAM Unit are centered around implementing each of the unit's programs and conducting monitoring to support the work of the office (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 – FY 23/24 Program Activities and Projects by Priority

Priority Level	Activity/Project	Target Completion Date
1	a. SWAMP Program	Ongoing
1	b. CyanoHAB Response Program	Ongoing
1	c. 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Report Program	Ongoing
1	d. Nonpoint Source Grant Program	Ongoing
1	e. Monitoring Support Team	Ongoing
2	f. Technical Support to Permit Programs	Ongoing

4.2 Activity and Project Descriptions

The activities and projects that will be the focus of the WAM Unit during the fiscal year are described below and identified by the priority (1, 2, 3) and the letter (a, b, c, etc.) listed in Table 4.1 above.

1.a – Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

Summary: The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, or SWAMP, is a statewide monitoring effort designed to assess the conditions of surface waters throughout the

state of California. The program is administered by the State Water Board and implemented at the regional level. To support the regions' monitoring activities, the statewide SWAMP Program has created a Quality Assurance (QA) program, developed a standardized data storage system, created Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for sampling, generate peer reviewed monitoring plans for each project, and regularly updates a list of key water quality indicators for surface water monitoring.

With input from staff and management, the SWAMP Coordinator develops a workplan to direct SWAMP monitoring resources to the highest surface water monitoring priorities. Implementation of the SWAMP Workplan is an on-going activity with field work conducted both during the summer season (e.g., CyanoHAB) and winter season (e.g., stormwater runoff). Other activities associated with implementing the SWAMP Program/Workplan include coordinating laboratory contracts, managing the region's laboratory and equipment, database management, data analysis and technical report writing, developing project-specific monitoring and QA/QC plans, providing training and support to other staff, and supporting regional monitoring programs, including those in the Russian River watershed and Klamath Basin.

In recent years, the SWAMP Coordinator has allocated monitoring funds to individual projects on an annual basis. This fiscal year, monitoring funds were allocated for the next three FYs (23/24 – 25/26) to support program work (e.g. TMDL assessment) and permitting actions. A portion of these funds has not yet been allocated to specific work tasks and will be available as future high priority projects are identified. The Region is in the process of exploring goals for long-term monitoring to inform future work and funding needs. This fiscal year, the SWAMP Coordinator will begin working with regional staff to develop a long-term monitoring strategy. The expected outcome of this effort is a long-term monitoring framework and plan for surface water monitoring in the Region. Development of this plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2025 to coincide with the development of new monitoring contracts occurring in 2026, with implementation beginning in FY 26-27.

SWAMP monitoring projects planned for FY 23-24 are highlighted in bold in Table 4.2 below. They include monitoring for the Benthic CyanoHAB Guidance Update, CyanoHAB Emergency Response, Elk River, Scott River, and the Smith River.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.98

Milestones	Target Date
EO Report Article	Dec-23
Workplan for scoping a Long-Term Monitoring Plan	Jun-24

Table 4.2 SWAMP Budget and Workplan

Identified Regional Projects	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
CyanoHAB Special Study (Benthic HAB Guidance Update)		\$30,000		
CyanoHAB Emergency Response	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$40,000
Elk River Habitat Assessment	\$10,000	\$10,000		
Emergency Response	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$12,500
General Lab Services	\$89,569	\$50,569	\$24,319	
Analysis of Mercury in Fish Tissue (Lakes)	\$20,000		\$20,000	
Russian River E-coli Analysis		\$32,000	\$32,000	
Scott River Biostimulatory Conditions	\$117,500	\$122,500	\$92,500	\$33,750
Shasta River Bacteroides Analysis		\$40,000	\$40,000	
Smith River Agriculture Waiver Development	\$70,000	\$50,000		
Stemple Creek Habitat Assessment		\$32,000	\$32,000	
Total Yearly SWAMP Allocation	\$367,069	\$427,069	\$300,819	\$86,250

1.b – CyanoHAB Response Program

Summary: Over the last decade, there has been an increased frequency and severity of freshwater harmful algal blooms (FHABs) around the world. The Regional Water Board has received reports of FHABs and other nuisance algae in the North Coast Region, including those associated with human and animal illnesses. The risk factors that contribute to FHABs and nuisance algae include nutrient enrichment (phosphorus and nitrogen), warming climate, reduced riparian shade, channel aggradation, and lower flows. The Regional Water Board is working to reduce risk factors through its water quality improvement programs. There is a current need to track and respond to FHABs through improved monitoring, assessment, partner coordination, and increased educational outreach.

Activities associated with the FHAB Program include database and webpage management, development of annual program workplans, annual FHAB status monitoring within the Region, FHAB emergency/incident response and monitoring, provide training and support to water body managers and counties monitoring FHABs, provide input and guidance on public health alert postings, state-wide and regional coordination of FHAB work.

During FY 23-24 staff will be focusing on two program related activities: 1) assist U.S. EPA with fieldwork as they develop standardized methods for benthic FHAB sampling; and 2) co-lead the California Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Bloom (CCHAB) Benthic Subcommittee as it revisits the guidance for posting public health alerts due to benthic HABs.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 1.02

Milestones	Target Date
Partner Field Training—Sample Identification and Collection	Oct-23
End-of-Year Summary Report	Dec-23
EO Report Article	Feb-24

1.c – 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Report Program

Summary: Section 305(b) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to assess the condition of its waters and report its findings. Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to identify water bodies that do not meet water quality standards and are not supporting their beneficial uses. These waters are placed on the Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments (also known as the list of Impaired water bodies or 303(d) List). California has integrated the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and the 305(b) Water Quality Assessment Report into a single report (Integrated Report). This Integrated Report satisfies the requirements of both Clean Water Act Sections 303(d) and 305(b). The State Water Board is responsible for producing an Integrated Report every 2 years. Each report compiles and assesses data for three regions at a time, such that each region is on a 6-year cycle.

Ongoing staff activities associated with the Integrated Report include participation in statewide roundtables and workgroups, data coordination with State and Regional Water Board staff, federal agencies, tribes, NGOs and the public, data review and analysis, and management of public information resources such the program webpage and 303(d) listing extents map.

In 2022, the process began for the North Coast Regional Water Board’s 2026 Integrated Report cycle. The Region will be evaluating all readily available data and recommend changes to the North Coast Region’s 303(d) listings, which were last updated during the

2018 cycle. During FY 23-24 lines of evidence will be generated for each waterbody-pollutant pair to determine if pollutant loads support or impair beneficial uses. Decision development will also begin towards the end of the fiscal year.

The State Water Board has determined that, for the time being, they will continue to administer the Integrated Report on behalf of all Regional Boards to ensure completion within the timeframe allowed by the Clean Water Act.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 1.15

Milestones	Target Date
Waterbody maps updated	Dec-23
Lines of Evidence (LOE) development completed	Mar-24
EO Report Article	Jun-24

1.d – Nonpoint Source Grant Program

Summary: The State Water Board, Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program, administers grant money it receives from United States Environmental Protection Agency through Section 319(h) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). These funds are allocated to third party grantees on a competitive basis, to plan and implement projects associated with nonpoint source pollution control, remediation, and restoration. These NPS 319(h) Grants are managed by regional board staff, across multiple programs.

The Program Preferences identified by the Region each year represent the Region’s highest priority watersheds for third party pollution control, remediation, and restoration. The Region’s 2023 NPS Program Preferences were identified by Regional Water Board staff as: Russian River, Eel River*, Mattole River*, Gualala River, Navarro River*, Albion River*, Big River*, Ten Mile River*, Noyo River*, Garcia River*, Trinity River, Van Duzen River*, Redwood Creek*, Mad River, Elk River, Shasta River, Scott River, Estero San Antonio HA, Laguna De Santa Rosa, and Salmon River. (* *Waterbodies that include Critical Coastal Areas.*) In addition to setting these Program Preferences through an internal review process, regional board staff also participate annually in updating Grant Guidelines.

The grants cycle involves assisting applicants in developing grant applications, reviewing and ranking applications statewide, and participating in the development and execution of grant agreements. Regional board staff manage individual grants and coordinate across programs on issues such as technical project review and permitting. Active grants are listed below in Table 4.3 and grants management staff periodically report on the status of these grants to management, the Board, and the public.

As part of the evolution of this region’s 319(h) NPS grants program, staff will conduct routine outreach with various organizations including resource conservation districts

(RCDs), tribes, and watershed groups to cultivate NPS projects that address water quality improvement needs. Further, program staff will assist grant applicants to build their understanding of the 319(h) program and expand their capacity as project applicants and implementers. Associated with this effort, staff created and continuously maintain the “Water Quality Improvement Projects and Funding Catalog” (Catalog). This Catalog is used internally to house restoration projects cultivated through outreach that are ready to develop and/or implement. The goal is to match projects from the catalog with funding sources to optimize staff efforts to: a) support the Watershed Stewardship Framework, b) support 319h grant selection, c) support Caltrans’ ability to achieve its proportional TMDL responsibility as required under their statewide stormwater NPDES permit, d) serve as supplemental environmental projects for consideration in enforcement negotiation, and e) serve as a basis for identifying mitigation projects, especially as may be required as a condition of a 401 Certification.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 1.88

Milestones	Target Date
Final Program Preferences and Grant Guidelines for 2024	Jul-23
Closeout of 1 grant	Feb-24
EO Report Article	Feb-24
Closeout of 4 grants	Mar-24
Final grant selection for 2024	Apr-24
EO Report Article	Jun-24

Table 4.3 NPS Program Active Grants

Agreement No.	Grant Contract Name	Grant Manager	Total Dollar Amount	Start Date	End Date	Description
D1813107*	Mendocino Coast TMDL Implementation Program, Phase 2	Ryan Bey	\$717,134	4/1/2019	3/31/2024	Implement NPS pollution controls along 14 miles of road in the Gualala & Navarro River watersheds.

Agreement No.	Grant Contract Name	Grant Manager	Total Dollar Amount	Start Date	End Date	Description
D1913111*	Parks Creek Riparian Improvement	Eli Scott	\$679,953	4/30/2020	3/31/2024	Stabilize Streambank, install fencing, riparian plantings, stock watering system on Parks Creek.
D2013114*	Tenmile Creek Streambank Erosion Prevention and Riparian Restoration Project	Carrieann Lopez	\$473,500	5/1/2021	3/31/2024	Stabilize stream bank on eroding tributary locations within the Tenmile Creek watershed using bioengineering techniques and riparian planting to reduce sediment contributions and reduce solar loading affecting water temperatures .

Agreement No.	Grant Contract Name	Grant Manager	Total Dollar Amount	Start Date	End Date	Description
D2013115*	Hart Ranch Stock Watering and Riparian Fence Project	Eli Scott (Division Senior Specialist)	\$799,929	6/1/2021	2/29/2024	Increase dissolved oxygen and decrease temperature by installing off-stream stock watering systems, upgrading water transport infrastructure, installing fencing, and restoring riparian habitat with native plants and trees.
D2013116*	Post-Fire Recovery and Sediment Reduction in Mark West Creek	Michele Fortner	\$402,358	6/1/2021	3/31/2024	Post-Fire Recovery and sediment reduction into Mark West Creek by re-constructing a retaining wall destroyed in the 2017 Tubbs Fire.
D2113117	Eel River Road Sediment Treatment Project-Phase 2	Michele Fortner	\$608,886	6/1/2022	3/31/2026	Implementation of stormproof designs on at least 5 road miles in the Outlet Creek basin.

Agreement No.	Grant Contract Name	Grant Manager	Total Dollar Amount	Start Date	End Date	Description
D2113118	Post-Fire Recovery in Russian River Subwatersheds	Michele Fortner	\$632,782	5/1/2022	3/31/2026	Reduce loading of sediment as well as other toxins in the Russian River watershed from lands in Sonoma County impacted by recent wildfires. Project activities will include planning and implementation of a suite of post-fire BMPs on burned lands.
D2113119	Scott River EFM Road Mill Creek Sediment Reduction Improvements	Elias Scott (Division Senior Specialist)	\$333,333	5/1/2022	5/31/2025	Reduce sediment delivery to tributaries of the Scott River by treating several urgent or high priority sites, which includes stream crossings, road crossings, and misaligned culverts

Agreement No.	Grant Contract Name	Grant Manager	Total Dollar Amount	Start Date	End Date	Description
D2213120	Mendocino Coast TMDL Implementation Program, Phase 3	Michele Fortner	\$945,265	3/31/2023	4/30/2026	Reduce sediment delivery to streams and improve anadromous fish habitat on a variety of properties in the Noyo River, Big River and Navarro River watersheds.

Grant Agreements that will end during FY 23-24 are denoted with an asterisk (*) and shaded in grey.

1.e – Monitoring Support Team

Summary: A core group of PAWS Division staff participate in the division’s Monitoring Support Team. This team has approval from respective supervisors to provide support on approved SWAMP monitoring projects. Other staff in the office also participate in the Monitoring Support Team as approved by their respective supervisors.

Activities of this team include:

- Maintain a project request and tracking system (i.e., Field Monitoring Calendar)
- Project tracking and time management
- Project scoping
- Project charters/workplans as necessary
- Performance of monitoring work as described
- Reporting results of monitoring work as described, including field safety plan, field notes, and chain of custody forms
- Team meetings and coordination with Unit Supervisor

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 0.67

4.3 Performance Targets

The programs within this unit do not establish annual performance targets.

5.0 Watershed Stewardship Program

The Watershed Stewardship Program serves an integrative function, ensuring that the regulatory and non-regulatory activities of the agency are conducted in coordination to achieve the restoration and/or reconciliation goals for impaired watersheds and watersheds with high habitat or climate resiliency value. The program is jointly led by the Division's two Steward Specialists, with support from the Division Supervisor and Climate Specialist, policy advisor to the EO. The Watershed Stewardship Program implements targeted activities in the Scott and Shasta watersheds and Humboldt Bay, including the Elk River. It provides support to stewardship efforts in the Klamath River watershed, Russian River watershed, and Smith River Plain.

Eli Scott, who is the Scott and Shasta Steward Specialist and Elizabeth Pope, who is the Humboldt Bay Steward Specialist, each are allocated 1.0 PY, for a total allocation to the program of 2.0 PYs.

5.1 Scott and Shasta Watershed Stewardship

The Regional Water Board adopted sediment and temperature TMDLs for the Scott River in 2005. It adopted temperature and dissolved oxygen TMDLs for the Shasta River in 2006. TMDL Waivers were adopted in 2012 and again in 2018 to address multiple pollutant concerns in each of these watersheds. The 2018 waivers have been extended for 2.5 years to allow for development of more comprehensive and encompassing orders. The pollutant concerns are largely related to ranch management, road management, tailwater management, and water conservation needs. The Scott and Shasta Watershed Steward implements the TMDL Waivers by prioritizing high risk/high value properties, conducting inspections, and requesting Ranch Management, Tailwater Management, Grazing Management, Erosion Control, and Monitoring plans, as appropriate. The Steward Specialist also coordinates with staff in the Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division on timber harvest activities, restoration project planning and permitting, and other 401 certification projects within the Scott and Shasta watersheds. Further, the Steward Specialist coordinates with the Groundwater Protection Specialist on groundwater management planning.

The Scott and Shasta Watershed Steward's activities in the Scott and Shasta watersheds include duties as a mentor to Americorps members. He is also supported by the Monitoring Support Team, which provides a rotating field sampling crew who implement sampling plans designed to assess biostimulatory conditions in these watersheds. The amount of time required of the field sampling crew is managed on an ad hoc basis through the Monitoring Support Team. Ongoing activities include grant management, internal and external coordination, water quality monitoring/reporting, TMDL implementation, and enforcement as appropriate. There are no performance measures associated with this project.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 1.0

Milestones	Target Date
Order Development Team Charter	Jul-23
Draft Data Gap Analysis Memo for both watersheds	Dec-23
Draft Water Quality Status and Trends Memo for both watersheds	Mar-24
Online data platform initiated	Apr-24
Internal discussion of draft Orders	Jun-24

5.2 Humboldt Bay/Elk River Watershed Stewardship

The Elk River has been listed as impaired due to sediment and sedimentation since the late 1990s. The Regional Water Board adopted a Sediment TMDL for the Upper Elk River in 2016, which was subsequently approved by the State Water Board (2017), Office of Administrative Law (2018), and U.S. EPA (2018). The Sediment TMDL for the Upper Elk River addresses sediment discharges from timberlands by requiring enrollment in and implementation of applicable Waivers and Waste Discharge Requirements. It also addresses sedimentation in the “impacted reach” by pointing to the state-funded Elk River Recovery Assessment as a modeling tool to help define the most strategic restoration/remediation projects. Further, it addresses the coordination needs of activities in the Elk by pointing to the Elk River Stewardship Program as the venue within which to address health and safety issues, water supply, flooding, coordinated science and monitoring, and habitat restoration and sediment remediation.

The TMDL Action Plan requires a 5-Year Review of the progress towards meeting TMDL goals in 2021, 2026, and 2031. The first 5-Year Review was presented to the Board in FY 22-23. CalTrout and subcontractors delivered The Elk River Sediment Remediation and Habitat Rehabilitation Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan) August 2022. Completed under a contract with the Regional Water Board, the Recovery Plan will be the basis for restoration design, permitting, funding and implementation beginning in FY 23-24. Efforts to interview residents and engage with Humboldt County and the Division of Drinking Water on numerous health and safety topics (e.g., water supply and flooding) were initiated in FY 22-23 and will continue into FY 23-24.

The Humboldt Bay Watershed Steward’s activities will focus on the Elk River in FY 23-24. She will be supported by members of the Analytical Support Team, internal core team, CalTrout and other contractors on an as-needed basis. This stewardship work is funded by the Waste Discharge Permit Fund and federal NPS Support Fund, the latter of which has additional work planning and reporting obligations.

Undertake actions that support the Elk River Stewardship Program by integrating scientific studies, developing stakeholder workgroups, and implementing projects that

benefit water quality and increase coordination in the watershed across interested parties.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 1.0

Milestones	Target Date
Conduct first meeting of Science and Coordinated Monitoring Workgroup	Dec-23
Complete an internal memo that documents issues efforts to date and delineates next steps for drinking water solutions	March 24
Execute discretionary contract with CalTrout for support with the Science and Coordinated Monitoring Workgroup	June 24
Execute discretionary contract with Humboldt County for road flooding analysis	June 24

5.3 Performance Targets

There are no performance targets for this work in FY 23/24.

6.0 Flow and Riparian Protection Program

The Region's Flow and Riparian Protection Specialist, Bryan McFadin, is engaged in a variety of ongoing activities. Core activities include internal coordination, information sharing, and consulting with other staff on flow and riparian issues that arise in permitting, enforcement, planning, and grant development contexts. These activities also include representing the agency in various Interagency meetings including: the California Water Quality Monitoring Council eFlow Workgroup, the Interagency Flow Coordination Committee, California Streamflow and Salmon meetings, and the California Water Action Plan coordination committees (e.g., to coordinate development of flow objectives in Mark West Creek, South Fork Eel, and Shasta rivers).

One of the Flow and Riparian Protection Specialist's core projects is the development of a narrative water quality objective for instream flow. This project involves coordinating discussions with staff and the State Water Resources Control Board, development of a staff report document, CEQA scoping, and other elements of the basin plan amendment process.

The Flow and Riparian Protection Specialist serves as the liaison between the Regional Water Board and the State Water Resource Control Board's Division of Water Rights and coordinates the Regional Water Board's regulatory responses on water right permits and the Division's planning efforts. During times of drought, the specialist coordinates the Regional Water Board's drought response activities and coordinates with the Division, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and National Marine Fisheries Service on Temporary Urgency Change Petitions, flow augmentation projects, and public outreach.

The Flow and Riparian Protection Specialist is part of a team of mentors that supervise two Americorps members that provide support to such activities as flow monitoring and data assessment. The specialist works with the Americorps members, agencies, and NGOs on a variety of flow monitoring projects, primarily in the Navarro, but also in the Russian, South Fork Eel, and Scott Rivers. The specialist supervises the members' work to develop stream hydrographs and an annual summary report documenting streamflow conditions during the previous low-flow monitoring season.

Finally, the Flow and Riparian Protection Specialist is the manager of a contract with UC Berkeley to develop numeric relationships between dissolved oxygen and flow conditions and is responsible for all other program management activities.

Staff Allocation for FY 23/24: 1.0

Milestones	Target Date
Draft Problem Statement for Narrative Flow Objective Staff Report	Sep-23

Milestones	Target Date
Final Outreach Strategy for Narrative Flow Objective	Dec-23
CEQA Scoping Meeting on Narrative Flow Objective	Mar-24
Stream Flow Monitoring Summary Report (2023 Data)	Mar-24
Peer Review Draft Staff Report for Narrative Flow Objective	Jun-24

6.3 Performance Targets

There are no performance targets for this work in FY 23/24.