

**Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region**

**Executive Officer's Summary Report  
October 7, 2022**

**ITEM: 7**

**SUBJECT:** Public Workshop on the Draft Resolution No. R1-2023-0001, Condemning Racism, Xenophobia, Bigotry, and Racial Injustice and Strengthening Commitment to Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Anti-Racism in the North Coast Region (*Devon Jorgenson, Kason Grady, and Shannon Strong*)

**BOARD ACTION:** No action will be taken by the Regional Board.

**BACKGROUND:** On November 16, 2021, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted Resolution No. 2021-0050, Condemning Racism, Xenophobia, Bigotry, and Racial Injustice and Strengthening Commitment to Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Anti-Racism (State Water Board Resolution). The State Water Board Resolution acknowledged the role racism has played in creating inequities in affordability and access to clean and safe water; committed to advancing racial equity within the State Water Board and the communities it serves; directed its staff to develop a racial equity action plan; and encouraged the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards to adopt similar resolutions.

The North Coast Regional Water Board identified in its Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Work Plan that its staff would develop a region-specific racial equity resolution for Regional Water Board adoption to address North Coast-specific racial inequities. Leveraging the State Water Board Resolution, Regional Water Board staff began developing draft Resolution No. R1-2023-0001, Condemning Racism, Xenophobia, Bigotry, and Racial Injustice and Strengthening Commitment to Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Anti-Racism for the North Coast Region (Draft Resolution), and parallel initiatives to advance racial equity in early 2022.

**DISCUSSION:** Advancing racial equity is a priority for the Regional Water Board and its staff. Through the development of the Resolution, a subsequent action plan, and other parallel initiatives, the Regional Water Board is working toward a future where it equitably implements the Water Board's mission to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. The Regional Water Board envisions a California where:

1. Race is not a predictor of water and sanitation access a person receives;
2. Race is not a predictor of professional outcomes for Regional Water Board staff; and
3. A racial equity lens is consistently applied to the Regional Water Board decision-making processes.

Regional Water Board staff will hold four public engagement events to seek input on the draft Resolution from Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and other people of color communities, Tribal representatives and members, and all members of the public prior to Regional Water Board consideration of adoption of a proposed Resolution planned in February 2023. These public engagement events include:

1. A hybrid workshop before the Regional Water Board on October 7, 2022;
2. Two in-person listening sessions on October 18 and 19, 2022, at the Blue Lake Hotel and Casino and Happy Camp High School, respectively; and
3. A virtual, region-wide listening session<sup>1</sup> on October 25, 2022.

The 45-day public review and comment period for the draft Resolution is from September 22 through November 7, 2022. The Draft Resolution is included as an attachment to this Executive Officer's Summary Report. The Board workshop will occur on October 7 in Santa Rosa as a part of the regularly scheduled October Board meeting at is scheduled to start at 1:30PM. During the Board workshop, staff will present an overview of the Draft Resolution and the upcoming public engagement events and solicit input and discussion on the draft Resolution from the Regional Water Board and public. Oral comments and discussion on the Draft Resolution from members of the public are welcome and encouraged. Following the closure of the public review and comment period for the Draft Resolution and staff review of public comments, the Regional Water Board will hold a hearing to consider adoption of the Resolution on February 2 or 3, 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Not applicable.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

1. Draft Resolution No. R1-2023-0001

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<sup>1</sup> A quorum of Regional Water Board members will not be present at the listening sessions.