

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 a.m., November 3, 2011
Regional Water Quality Control Board
David C. Joseph Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: CEQA Scoping Meeting for the Proposed Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Policy

INTRODUCTION

On November 3, 2011 staff from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will conduct a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting on the proposed amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) to establish an *Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Policy*. A staff-led workshop is also scheduled for November 8, 2011 in Weaverville. A copy of the Public Notice is included with this Executive Officer's Summary Report (EOSR) as Attachment 1.

On October 6, 2011, Regional Water Board staff released a CEQA scoping document that presents the framework of the proposed *Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Policy*. This scoping document is available for review at the Regional Water Board website http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/aquatic_ecosystem_restoration_policy.shtml and is included as Attachment 2 to this EOSR.

DISCUSSION

The proposed *Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Policy* will serve to demonstrate the continuing support of the Regional Water Board for the use of aquatic system restoration as one of the several existing tools to be used in the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the region's waters. The policy is proposed to articulate eligibility criteria and provide a description of the process for obtaining 1) an exemption from certain discharge prohibitions and/or 2) authorization for discharges that may cause temporary exceedence of certain water quality objectives. The development of such a policy was identified as a high priority on the last Triennial Review.

Public comments on the scope of the policy and the environmental issues to be analyzed under CEQA will be solicited at the meetings. Written comments regarding environmental issues and alternatives should be submitted by November 8, 2011.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational item; no Board action will be taken.