

California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 576-2220

Notice of Public Workshop and Public Hearing

Draft General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dairies In the North Coast Region

Order No. R1-2019-0001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will conduct a public workshop and public hearing on General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dairies in the North Coast Region, Order No. R1-2019-0001 (draft Order).

A public workshop to consider comments and objections to the draft Order is scheduled for November 14, 2018, in the Regional Water Board Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, in Santa Rosa, California. A public hearing to consider adoption of proposed Order No. R1-2019-0001 is scheduled for February 20 or 21, 2019, in the Regional Water Board Hearing Room, 5550 Skyland Boulevard, Suite A, in Santa Rosa, California.

I. Overview

The draft Order proposes General Waste Discharge Requirements on dairy operations and related land management activities in the North Coast Region. Past dairy orders to be replaced by the draft Order include: (1.) Order No. R1-2012-0001, General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations; (2) Order No. R1-2012-0002, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Existing Dairies; (3) Order No. R1-2012-0003, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Existing Dairies; (4) Order No. R1-2015-0051, Mello 3/Llano Oaks Dairy Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements; and (5) Order No. R1-2016-0045, Renewal of Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Existing Dairies.

Most dairies in the region are covered under the Conditional Waiver and the subsequent Waiver Renewal order listed above. A new GWDR covering all dairies is needed because Waivers and NPDES orders expire every five years; the 2012 GWDR was for dairies with high risk to water quality; regulations updates are needed; and there was no mechanism to add new and expanding dairies, or goat, sheep, and water buffalo dairies that are increasing in size and number in the region. The draft GWDR proposes one consistent order for continuous permit coverage of all dairies that meet the requirements for water quality protection without the need for individual waste discharge requirements.

Regional Water Board staff participated in stakeholder outreach in 2017 and 2018 for the draft Order, including public stakeholder meetings in Sonoma and Humboldt counties.

Several goat, sheep, and water buffalo dairies were toured by Regional Water Board staff to assess water quality regulation needs and to discuss the draft Order with dairy owners. Staff also met with several other agencies and organizations to discuss concerns.

Modifications to the Dairy Program reflected in the Draft GWDR include nutrient management planning, riparian protection measures, tribal cultural resource protections, and surface water and groundwater monitoring requirements. The Draft GWDR requires all dairies with manure or other fertilizer application to land or dairies which graze for more than 30 days annually to develop Nutrient Management Plans. Riparian Area Management Plans and associated riparian area protection measures are required to help to enhance protection of streams and watercourses from grazing impacts. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto 2015), Tribal Cultural Resource protections are required. Finally, changes are proposed to the surface water and groundwater monitoring parameters and timing of sampling based on dairy water quality results collected over the past few years.

A draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has been developed for the Draft GWDR. Development of Water Quality Plans, Riparian Management Plans, and an assessment of coverage under the IS/MND are required prior to new or expanding dairy coverage under the Draft GWDR. Nutrient Management Plans for all dairies applying nutrients to crops or pastures are due within two years of GWDR enrollment.

The draft GWDR package is being distributed for 30-day public and agency review starting in November 1, 2018 and ending at 5:00 PM on December 3, 2018.

II. Document Availability

The draft Order is available and can be downloaded from the Regional Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

These files can also be viewed or copied by contacting or visiting the Regional Water Board's office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California, weekdays between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Appointments are recommended for document review.

Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

III. Public Comments

Oral comments will be heard at the Regional Water Board Workshop to take place **8:30 A.M., Wednesday November 14, 2018**, at 5550 Skylane Blvd. Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Written comments will be accepted from November 1, 2018 until 5:00 PM, December 3, 2018, at this same physical address or electronically at:

North.Coast@waterboards.ca.gov

IV. Public Hearing Procedures

A public hearing to consider adoption of the Order is scheduled at **8:30 A.M. on February 20-21, 2019**, in Santa Rosa, California, or as announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda. The meeting will be held at the Regional Water Board Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403. Please be aware that dates and venues may change. Our Web address is <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast> where you can access the current agenda for changes in dates and locations.

Time limits may be imposed on oral testimony at the public hearing; groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson. Changes to the proposed Orders consistent with the general purpose of the Orders may be considered by the Regional Water Board during the hearing.

V. Accessibility

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting should contact Patti Corsie at 707-576-2220 at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 800-735-2929 or voice line at 800-735-2922.

VI. Program and Email Subscription

Information on the Regional Water Board's Dairy Program can be found at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/dairies/

Persons wishing to receive notices related to the Dairy Program should subscribe to the Dairies email list, under Subscribe, on the top right side of the Regional Water Board's main web page at <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/>

VII. Regional Water Board Staff Contact

Questions regarding the draft Order should be directed to Cherie Blatt, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA, 95403, by telephone (707) 576-2755, or email at Cherie.Blatt@waterboards.ca.gov

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer
November 1, 2018