



Item 5

**Public Hearing on Resolution No. R1-2021-0055
to Consider Adoption of an Amendment to the Water Quality
Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan)
to Include the Action Plan for the Russian River Watershed
Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and
Prohibition Against the Discharge of Fecal Waste Materials**

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North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
December 2, 2021**



Presentation Purpose

- 1. Present an overview of the TMDL project to date**
- 2. Identify the key revision to the Action Plan since 2019 Board adoption**
- 3. Review the 2021 public comments**
- 4. Consider Resolution R1-2021-0055 amending the basin plan to incorporate *The [Revised] Action Plan For The Russian River Watershed Pathogen TMDL***



TMDL Development

Listed as impaired due to pathogens in 2001

TMDL studies - 2008 to 2014

- Land cover study
- Recreation study
- Onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) study
- PhyloChip™ study

Affirmed sources of fecal waste, impairment or pollution

- Entire Russian River watershed

Protection of human health for year-round recreational use



Watershed-Wide Fecal Waste Discharge Prohibition (keep human and domestic animal waste out of streams)

Existing Permits & Programs

- Dairies & CAFOs
- Wastewater holding ponds and disposal by irrigation
- Municipal stormwater runoff
- Caltrans stormwater runoff
- Municipal wastewater discharges
- Sanitary sewer systems
- Large OWTS
- Land application of treated sewage sludge (biosolids)

Memorandum of Understanding

- Recreational water users
- Homeless encampments

New program

- Non-dairy livestock & farm animals

Updated program

- Individual OWTS



Advanced Protection Management Program (APMP)

Objective of the APMP - Identify and correct failing and substandard OWTS

Applicability - OWTS in proximity to surface waters in impaired or polluted HUC-12 Subwatersheds

General requirements for property owners within the APMP - Basic operational inspection every 5 years

Corrective action criteria - Only required for failing or substandard OWTS

Determined based upon exceedance of water quality thresholds and evidence of human fecal waste

2020 Reassessment

- 2020 Reassessment Technical Report
- Appendix to revised TMDL staff report
- Available for public review
- No comments received

TECHNICAL REPORT

2020
Reassessment of
Fecal Indicator Bacteria and Microbial Source Tracking Data
for the
Russian River Watershed Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load

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California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region





One Substantive Change to 2019 Adopted TMDL

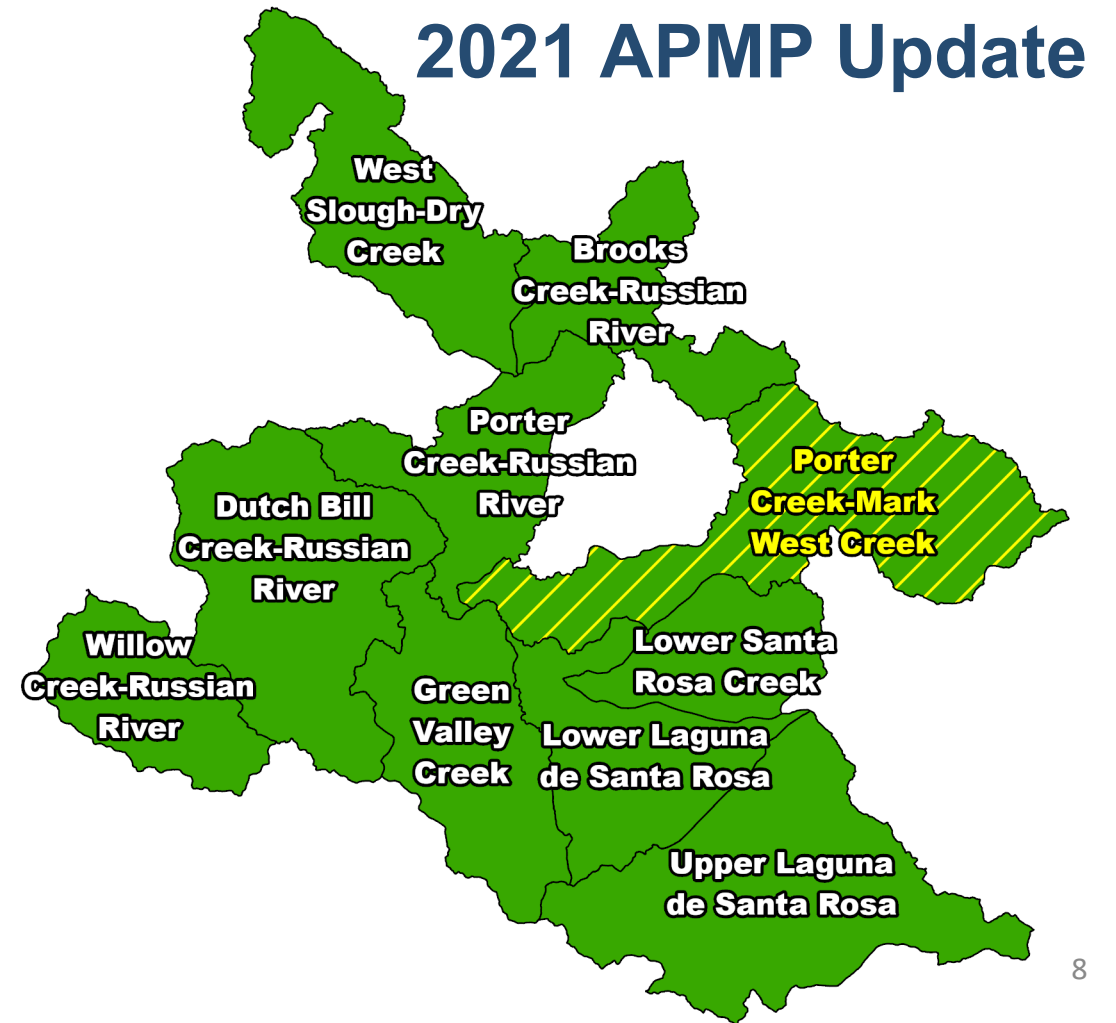
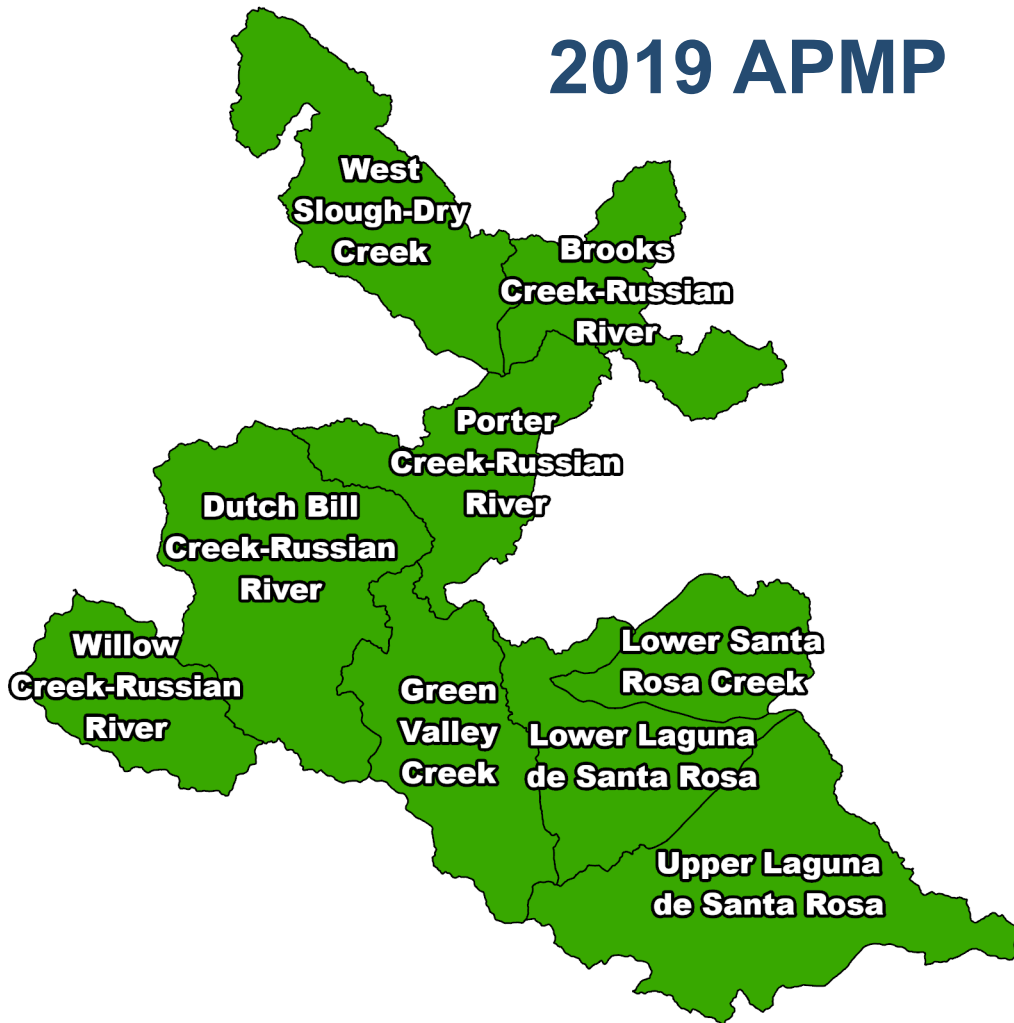
Singular Substantive Revision

- **Add Porter Creek Mark West Creek HUC-12 to the geographic extent of the APMP**

Other Changes

- Revisions Based upon 2020 reassessment results
- Addition of Technical Report, 2020 to Staff Report Appendices
- Revisions throughout to provide clarifications distinguishing 303(d) Listing process from the establishment of a TMDL action plan

HUC-12s Meeting APMP Boundary Criteria





Public Process

Public review draft project documents

- 2015 – lead to significant revisions
- 2017 – lead to significant revisions
- 2019 – lead to minor revisions
- 2021 – 54 days of public comment opportunity
 - Two stakeholder meetings
 - Five comment letters
 - Two minor staff report revisions



2021 Public Comments Data Assessment and Monitoring Analyses

Public Comments	Response
Data correlation from TMDL studies does not show impairment or pollution in the river	TMDL Studies were scientifically peer reviewed and found to support a finding of watershed wide impairment or pollution
The HUC-12 assessment should not combine tributary and mainstem data	HUC-12 subwatershed analysis used to inform narrowing APMP
Analytical methods outdated and do not establish linkages to OWTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacteroides• PhyloChip™	Analytical options have grown over time. Development of future monitoring plans will consider the state of art methods at the time of development

2021 Public Comments OWTS Implementation

Public Comments	Response
Proposal to change implementation requirements related to the APMP	Requirements ensure OWTS in the APMP are properly designed, operated, and maintained to provide adequate removal of pathogenic organisms consistent with statewide OWTS Policy
Postpone TMDL adoption and implementation	Staff believe that 15 - 20 years is sufficient time to correct failing, substandard, and overloaded OWTS in the APMP
Consider water conservation, water reuse, and improvements to OWTS technology	Plans and decisions should consider water conservation, re-use, and state-of-the-art technology



Public Process

- June 2019 public workshop
- August 2019 public hearing
 - **The Board adopted this Russian River Pathogen TMDL Action Plan**
- August 2021 public workshop
 - Staff presented the data reassessment results and the resulting single proposed change affecting the APMP extent
- **December 2021 (today) public hearing**
- State Board approval hearing spring 2022
- Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approval summer 2022
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval fall 2022



Staff Recommendations

Adopt Resolution R1-2021-0055:

- Amending the Basin Plan to incorporate the [Revised] Action Plan For The Russian River Pathogen for The Russian River Watershed Pathogen TMDL
- Approving and adopting the CEQA substitute environmental documentation for this project
- Encouraging:
 - Consideration of the need for water conservation
 - Safe and reliable wastewater reuse where appropriate
 - Support for improved OWTS technologies



Questions and Comments