

Notice of Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting

Evaluating Water Quality Objectives for
Dissolved Oxygen in North Coast waterbodies

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) staff will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting and public workshop on October 22, 2008 seeking input on the environmental information that should be considered in the development and adoption of a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) to revise water quality objectives for dissolved oxygen (DO).

BACKGROUND

The existing DO objectives are presented in two parts: 1) objectives designed to protect specific beneficial uses and 2) site specific objectives for individual waterbodies. Since their original adoption in 1975, additional guidance, scientific literature, data, and modeling have become available which suggest the need to update the existing DO objectives. Staff conducted a preliminary assessment and developed tentative recommendations for the public's consideration. The preliminary assessment and tentative recommendations are included in the Scoping Document which will be presented at the Public Workshop.

The Scoping Document will be available for download in PDF format from the Regional Water Board's Internet website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast> on September 26, 2008. Copies of this document can also be obtained by contacting the Regional Water Board's office at 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 or calling Regional Water Board staff Alydda Mangelsdorf at (707) 576-6735.

PURPOSE OF CEQA SCOPING

The purpose of the scoping meeting is to provide a forum for early public consultation on the development of the Basin Plan Amendment. This consultation will assist the Regional Water Board in determining what environmental information responsible and trustee agencies, as well as other interested parties, may require to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed amendment.

Scoping is helpful to the Regional Water Board in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant environmental effects to be analyzed prior to the decision making process. Scoping has been found to be an effective way to bring together and resolve the concerns of affected federal, State, and local agencies, the proponent of the actions, and other interested persons including those who might not be in accord with the proposed actions on environmental grounds. A quorum of Regional Water Board members may be present at the scoping meeting; however, no action will be taken by the Regional Water Board at the scoping meeting.

CEQA SCOPING MEETING AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP CONDUCT AND SCHEDULE

This meeting and workshop will provide participants with: (1) an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the proposed amendment and environmental documents to be prepared pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) and the Regional Water Board's certified regulatory program for basin planning (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15251, subdivision (g); and Title 23, section 3775 et seq.); and (2) an overview of the conditions in the project area.

Following the workshop, staff will review written and oral comments, prepare a summary of scoping comments and a draft staff report for public comment. **Written comments should be submitted to Alydda Mangelsdorf no later than November 4, 2008** (contact information provided below). Comments should be limited to identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and potential significant environmental effects to be analyzed in-depth in the development of this project. Comments provided at the workshop will be reviewed and considered prior to Regional Water Board's consideration of the proposed amendment in Spring 2009. All comments will be included in the final administrative record.

Notice of CEQA Scoping Meeting

CEQA Scoping Meeting Location:	Weaverville Victorian Inn 2015 Main Street Weaverville, CA (707) 576-2220
Date:	22 October 2008
Time:	10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Contact information:	Alydda Mangelsdorf North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A Santa Rosa, CA 95403 (707) 576-6735

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions and location information, please refer to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/about_us/contact_us.shtml. The facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Jean Lockett, executive assistant, at (707) 576-2307 or JLockett@waterboards.ca.gov at least five days prior to the meeting.

TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.