

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
9:00 a.m., December 6, 2007
Wharfinger Building
#1 Marina Way
Eureka, California

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Resolution No. R1-2007-0095, directing staff to execute the sediment control tasks described in the **Work Plan to Control Excess Sediment in Sediment-Impaired Watersheds**.

DISCUSSION

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff have completed the Work Plan to Control Excess Sediment in Sediment-Impaired Watersheds (Work Plan) and will present a summary of the Work Plan at this Board Meeting. Staff will also request the Regional Water Board direct the Executive Officer to execute the sediment control tasks described in the Work Plan.

The Problem

Excess sediment is defined as soil, rock, and/or sediments (e.g., sand, silt, or clay) from human related activities that is discharged to waters of the state in an amount that could be deleterious to beneficial uses or cause a nuisance. Some of the most sensitive beneficial uses to high sediment loads are associated with the migration, spawning, reproduction, and early development of cold water fish such as coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout. Besides harming aquatic life, excess sediment can limit the use of water for domestic consumption, agriculture, industry, wildlife, fishing, and recreation, and can cause or contribute to flooding. Excess sediment can also result in the exceedence of water quality objectives for suspended material, settleable material, sediment, and turbidity.

The Extent of the Problem

Approximately 61% of the North Coast Region drains to water bodies that are impaired by excess sediment. A sediment-impaired water body is one that does not meet sediment-related water quality objectives or does not support beneficial uses because of excess sediment. Such water bodies are listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies.

The following 27 water bodies are sediment impaired per the 2006 303(d) List. Each of these water bodies is discussed in the Work Plan.

Albion River	Estero Americano	Navarro River
Big River	Freshwater Creek	Noyo River
Eel River, North Fork	Garcia River	Redwood Creek
Eel River, Middle Fork	Gualala River	Russian River
Eel River, South Fork	Jacoby Creek	Scott River
Eel River, Upper Mainstem	Klamath River	Stemple Creek & Estero de
Eel River, Middle Mainstem	(downstream of	San Antonio
Eel River, Lower Mainstem	Weitchpec)	Ten Mile River
Eel River, Van Duzen River	Mad River	Trinity River, Mainstem
Elk River	Mattole River	Trinity River, South Fork

The Work Plan

The Work Plan describes the actions and tasks Regional Water Board staff intend to take, as resources allow, to reduce and control human-caused excess sediment in the sediment-impaired water bodies of the North Coast Region.

In November 2004, the Regional Water Board directed the Executive Officer to develop a workplan as part of the *Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Policy Statement for Sediment Impaired Receiving Waters in the North Coast Region* (Resolution R1-2004-0087), which is also known as the Sediment TMDL Implementation Policy. The Work Plan was developed by staff to fulfill the Board's direction.

The Work Plan describes thirty-three regional tasks and many watershed-specific tasks staff of the Regional Water Board intend to execute to reduce and control excess sediment. The Work Plan includes priority rankings for each regional task and for each of the watersheds listed as impaired due to excess sediment. The Work Plan also identifies the year in which Regional Water Board staff expect to commence work as well as an estimate of staff resources needed for each regional task and the tasks for each watershed. Under this schedule and with adequate funding per the estimates, staff will be working on all the regional tasks and in all the sediment-impaired watersheds in ten years. This schedule is dependent upon securing additional staff resources as estimated in the Work Plan.

The Work Plan identifies the need for an estimated 19.2 additional permanent technical staff, plus more support staff (e.g., clerical), to execute all of the tasks listed in the Work Plan and thereby reduce excess sediment and improve water quality. A summary of the estimated staff needed by fiscal year is included in the following table.

Funding Summary by Fiscal Year										
	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
PYs Needed for Regional Tasks	16.0	15.6	30.2	30.4	27.9	27.3	27.1	26.6	26.9	26.4
PYs Needed for Watershed Tasks	5.7	6.1	10.8	10.6	13.0	14.0	14.2	14.8	13.7	13.6
Total PYs Needed to Execute All Tasks	21.7	21.7	41.0	41.0	40.9	41.3	41.3	41.4	40.6	40.0
PYs Currently Funded	21.7	21.7	21.7	21.7	21.7	21.7	21.7	21.7	21.7	21.7
Additional PYs Needed	0.0	0.0	19.3	19.3	19.2	19.6	19.6	19.7	18.9	18.3

* PY = personnel year. One PY is equal to one staff person working full time for one year.

The Work Plan is intended to be a living document that will be revised as more information is gathered, conditions change, tasks are accomplished, priorities are rearranged, and resources become available.

PRELIMINARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution No. R1-2007-0095 as proposed, directing staff to execute the sediment control tasks described in the Work Plan.