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State Water Resources Control Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION TO INCORPORATE A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) FOR SEDIMENT AND TEMPERATURE IN THE SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will now accept comments on an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the North Coast Region that would establish a TMDL for sediment and temperature in the Scott River Watershed. The proposed amendment and the State Water Board item language and draft resolution are available on the State Water Board's Web site at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/tmdl.html> or by request. The proposed amendment was adopted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) on December 7, 2005. The State Water Board expects to consider the proposed amendment at a future meeting. Notice of that meeting will be published separately.

The TMDL sediment source analysis identifies the following sediment delivery processes and sources in the Scott River Watershed. Natural sources of sediment in the Scott River Watershed include landslides; large discrete streamside features (defined as "generally, long-term continuing sources of sediment that typically originate on, or extend up onto, the mountainside based on on-site streamside surveys"); and small discrete streamside features (defined as "stream bank failures, sullies, and other small failures that mostly deliver episodically to a water body based on on-site streamside surveys"). Anthropogenic sources include landslides; large discrete streamside features; small discrete streamside features; road related sources; and unique landslide features. The sediment TMDL for the Scott River Watershed is the estimate of the total amount of sediment, from both natural and anthropogenic sources that can be delivered to a water body without causing violation of applicable water quality standards. The temperature source analysis identifies the various heating and cooling processes and sources of elevated water temperatures in the Scott River Watershed. Anthropogenic processes that affect water temperature include changes to stream shade, stream flow changes via changes in groundwater accretion, stream flow changes via surface water use, changes in microclimate due to vegetation changes, and changes in channel geometry. The sediment and temperature targets include an implicit margin of safety based on conservative assumptions, to account for uncertainties in the analysis.

The North Coast Water Board will require implementation actions to achieve the TMDLs and the sediment and temperature related-water quality standards in the Scott River Watershed. The implementation actions are designed to encourage and build upon on-going, proactive restoration and enhancement efforts in the watershed.

Comment letters to the State Water Board must be received by 5 p.m. on April 12, 2006. After the April deadline, State Water Board staff will not accept additional written comments unless the State Water Board determines that such comments should be accepted or unless changes are made to the proposed resolution before the State Water Board meeting. Please send comments on the proposed amendment to:

Song Her, Clerk to the Board, by email at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5620 (fax), or addressed to State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please also indicate in the subject line, "Comment Letter - Sediment and Temperature TMDL in Scott River Watershed."

Please direct questions about this notice to Rik Rasmussen, Division of Water Quality, at (916) 341-5549 or rrasmussen@waterboards.ca.gov or Senior Staff Counsel Steven H. Blum at (916) 341-5177 or sblum@waterboards.ca.gov.

March 22, 2006

Date



Song Her
Clerk to the Board