

Notice Of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has completed an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for the project described below. The Regional Water Board is scheduled to conduct a public hearing to consider comments and objections to the Draft Order on Thursday or Friday, **April 4 or 5, 2024**, at 8:30 a.m. in the Regional Water Board Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, in Santa Rosa, California.

Project Description: The project is the adoption of draft Order No. R1-2024-0002, General Waste Discharge Requirements and General 401 Water Quality Certification to address pollutant discharges and potential impacts to waters of the state from activities associated with projects that include construction, reconstruction or decommissioning of rural road segments and watercourse crossings and to ensure that such projects incorporate appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for water quality protection described below. The purpose of the Order is to ensure that rural road projects implement all applicable provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan), provide an efficient permitting mechanism to insure adequate regulatory oversight and that covered projects are designed and implemented to prevent or minimize sediment discharges and other impacts to beneficial uses of water.

Project Location: North Coast region, which includes all of Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties, and portions of Trinity, Siskiyou, Modoc, Glenn, Lake, Sonoma, and Marin Counties, and comprises all basins including Lower Klamath Lake and Lost River Basins draining into the Pacific Ocean from the California-Oregon state line southerly to the southerly boundary of the watershed of the Estero de San Antonio and Stemple Creek in Marin and Sonoma Counties.

Finding: On the basis of the Initial Study, the Regional Water Board has determined that with the incorporation of the mitigation measures proposed in the Initial Study, the proposed project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Mitigation measures for cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, and air quality will be required to reduce impacts to less than significant. Accordingly, the Regional Water Board intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, pursuant to Section 21080(c) of the Public Resources Code.

Public Comment Period: The Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) is available for public review and comment. The public review period for this project continues from **December 1, 2023**, and ending on **January 14, 2024**..

Your comments on the IS-MND and Draft Order are welcome. If you wish to comment on this IS-MND and/or the Draft Order, please send any written comments by US mail, email, or fax to Jim Burke at:

James Burke
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
James.Burke@waterboards.ca.gov

(707) 523-0135 Fax

Document Availability: A copy of the IS-MND and related documents may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office during normal business hours or viewed at:

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

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/public_notices/public_hearings/npdes_permits_and_wdrs.shtml

Questions regarding the Draft Order should be directed to Jim Burke, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA, 95403, by phone (707) 576-2289, or email at James.Burke@waterboards.ca.gov

James Burke, Senior Engineering Geologist

Date of Notice: November 30, 2023