



# Operations on Saturated Soils

Or:

“To ensure that operations occur on a stable operating surface that does not produce sediment in quantities that violate Water Quality Requirements.”



The Regional Water Quality Control Boards' Mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.



# Background

- 💧 State and Regional Water Boards
- 💧 Implement State and Federal Water Law
- 💧 Basin Plan
- 💧 Non-Point Source Policy
- 💧 TMDLs
- 💧 WDRs/Waivers



# Beneficial Uses of Water

HU/HA/ HSA	HYDROLOGIC UNIT/AREA/ SUBUNIT/DRAINAGE FEATURE	BENEFICIAL USES																										
		MUN	AGR	IND	PRO	GWR	FRSH	NAV	POW	REC1	REC2	COMM	WARM	COLD	ASBS	SAL	WILD	RARE	MAR	MIGR	SPWN	SHELL	EST	AQUA	CUL	FLD	WET	WQE
111.70	Middle Fork Eel River Hydrologic Area																											
111.71	Eden Valley Hydrologic Subarea	E	E	E	P		E	E	P	E	E	E	E	E			E	E		E	E			E				
111.72	Round Valley Hydrologic Subarea	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E			E	E		E	E			E				
111.73	Black Butte River Hydrologic Subarea	E	E	E	P		E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E			E	E		E	E			P				
111.74	Wilderness Hydrologic Subarea	E	E	E	P		E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E			E	E		E	E			P				
<b>112.00</b>	<b>Cape Mendocino Hydrologic Unit</b>																											
112.10	Oil Creek Hydrologic Area	P	E	E	P		E		P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E		E	E	E			
112.20	Capetown Hydrologic Area	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E			P	E			
112.30	Mattole River Hydrologic Area	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E			E	E		E	E		E	E				
<b>113.00</b>	<b>Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit</b>																											
113.10	Rockport Hydrologic Area	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E		E	P				
113.11	Usal Creek Hydrologic Subarea	E	P	P	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E							
113.12	Wages Creek Hydrologic Subarea	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E							
113.13	Ten Mile River Hydrologic Subarea	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E		E	P				
113.20	Noyo River Hydrologic Area	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	E	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E		E	E				
113.30	Big River Hydrologic Area	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E		E	P				
113.40	Albion River Hydrologic Area	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E		E	P				
113.50	Navarro River Hydrologic Area	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E		E	P				
113.60	Pt Arena Hydrologic Area																											
113.61	Greenwood Creek Hydrologic Subarea	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E		E	P				
113.62	Elk Creek Hydrologic Subarea	P	P	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E		E	P				
113.63	Alder Creek Hydrologic Subarea	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E		E	P				
113.64	Brush Creek Hydrologic Subarea	E	E	E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E	E		E			E	E		E	E		E	P				



# **Timber-Related Sections of the Basin Plan for the North Coast**

- 💧 **Antidegradation policy**
- 💧 **Non-Point Source Policy**
- 💧 **TMDL Implementation Plans**
- 💧 **Sediment TMDL Implementation**
- 💧 **Action Plan for Logging, Construction, and  
Associated Activities**



## **Antidegradation Policy**

“Existing instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected.”

## **Non-Point Source Policy**

To “address all discharges of waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the State, including potential nonpoint sources of pollution.”



# TMDL Implementation Plans

- 💧 Garcia, Scott, and Shasta Rivers
- 💧 Each plan has Timber-specific section

## Sediment TMDL Implementation

To control sediment waste discharges to impaired water bodies so that the TMDLs are met, sediment water quality objectives are attained, and beneficial uses are no longer adversely affected by sediment.



# Action Plan for Logging, Construction, and Associated Activities

- ◆ **Prohibition against discharge** of soil, silt, bark, slash, sawdust, or other organic and earthen material from any logging, construction, or associated activity of whatever nature into any stream or watercourse.
- ◆ **Prohibition against placing or disposal** of soil, silt, bark, slash, sawdust, or other organic and earthen material from any logging, construction, or associated activity of whatever nature at locations where such material could pass into any stream or watercourse.
- ◆ **Turbidity shall not be increased** more than 20 percent above naturally occurring background levels.



# “Significant” Discharge

- 💧 **All unpermitted discharges are significant.**
- 💧 **A variety of activities result in some level of discharge.**
- 💧 **Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) are the mechanism to regulate waste discharges.**
  - **General WDR regulate discharges from Timber Activities.**
  - **Categorical Waiver where discharge can be reduced to below significant levels.**



# “Increase in Visible Turbidity”

An “increase in visible turbidity”:

- 💧 Greatly exceeds the 20% threshold.
  - 20% threshold is biologically based, not observationally based
  - Visible increase is generally 100% to 500% or more
- 💧 Represents a violation of the Basin Plan.



## **Need for Enforceable Language in the Forest Practice Rules**

- 💧 The current language, “may produce sediment,” is unenforceable.
- 💧 “quantities sufficient to cause a visible increase in turbidity of downstream waters” implies that saturated soil conditions exist only after a visible increase in turbidity is observed.



## Proposed Road Use Language in the Forest Practice Rules

- Support substitute language to remove ~~“quantities that may cause a visible increase in turbidity of downstream waters in receiving Class I, II, III or IV waters”~~
- Support retaining “quantities that violate Water Quality Requirements” language
- Support DFG Option 932.5(p)(4) and (5)
- Support CGS Option 923.5(ii)



# Sediment affects Multiple Beneficial Uses





# **North Coast Region Contact Information**

**[www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast)**

**Maggie Robinson**

**707-576-2292**

**[mrobinson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mrobinson@waterboards.ca.gov)**

**David Fowler**

**707-576-2756**

**[dfowler@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dfowler@waterboards.ca.gov)**

Copy of the North Coast Basin Plan available at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/083105-bp/070605\\_Basin\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/083105-bp/070605_Basin_Plan.pdf)