

Environmental Services Division Update

Subregional Technical Advisory Committee

April 2, 2026

Presented by Sean McNeil, Deputy Director of Environmental Services

Overview

Laguna TMDL



2023 Triennial Review of Water Quality Control Plan

- 3-year workplan for North Coast Region
- Proposes new regulations in Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed
 - Concerns are: Nutrients, Temperature, and Dissolved Oxygen

Options

- TMDL Action Plan -
Wasteload Allocations
- Advanced Restoration Plan
- Action Plan



Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

- Action plans to restore and maintain clean surface waters in “impaired” waterbodies
- Consists of:
 - Problem statement
 - Numeric targets
 - Source analysis
 - Allocations
 - Implementation plan



Phosphorus

Land Cover	Median Load/Year	Acres in Watershed	Cost if No Net Load*
Forest	5,884	48,315	\$ 529,560
Cropland and pasture	86,032	44,458	\$ 7,742,880
Rangeland	15,726	21,767	\$ 1,415,340
Residential with sewer	20,729	15,348	\$ 1,865,610
Residential w/out sewer	14,926	9,857	\$ 1,343,340
Commercial	8,873	8,577	\$ 798,570
Orchards and vineyards	13,938	12,825	\$ 1,254,420
Other	1,622	1,461	\$ 145,980
Total	167,730	162,608	\$ 15,095,700

* Assumes 1:1.5 ratio and \$60/credit

Over \$4,000,000/ year for all MS4s

Advanced Restoration Plan (ARP)

- Focus on defining restoration goals in advance of a TMDL
- Near-term plan with schedule and milestones
- Not adopted into the Basin Plan
- Does not impose waste load allocations
- Designed to be more immediately beneficial to restore water quality objectives
- As of April 2025, US EPA has approved 115 ARPs in 28 different states

Action Plan



- Hybrid planning and restoration option
- Adopted into Basin Plan
- Waterbody specific
- Source Reductions + Actions = Water Quality Objectives

Next Steps

- Form Core Team including a facilitator and key stakeholders including City, County, Laguna Foundation, Regional Water Board, Tribes
- Form a Taskforce to discuss options
 - About 13 meetings Spread from August 2026-July 2028
- Work with Regional Board to modify permits
- Implement new work plans



Questions