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State of Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

**To:** North Coast Subbasins TMDL File

**Date:** July 29, 2003

**From:** Michael T. Llewelyn, WQ Administrator

**Subject:** North Coast Subbasins TMDL Order

On June 30, 2003, the North Coast Subbasins Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was issued as an order by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The area covered by the North Coast Subbasins corresponds to four fourth-field hydrologic unit codes (HUC): 17080003, 17080006, 17100201, and 17100202. These subbasins include all Oregon lands that drain to the Lower Columbia River below river mile 86, lands that drain to the Pacific Ocean through Necanicum River and Nehalem Bay and other Oregon tributaries to the Pacific Ocean north of Rockaway Beach. The TMDLs submitted are for temperature, bacteria, and biological criteria (see attachment). These TMDLs are applicable to all perennial waters, and the allocations are applicable to all sources and land uses in the four subbasins listed above.

This final North Coast Subbasins TMDL, developed under §303(d) of the Clean Water Act, has been submitted for US EPA approval. The document, when approved, will be an update to Oregon's Continuous Planning Process per §303(e) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Oregon's WQMP is also being submitted to EPA, although it does not need to be approved or disapproved as specified under the terms of the February 1, 2000 Memorandum of Agreement between EPA and DEQ regarding the implementation of §303(d) of the CWA. Should EPA modify or disapprove this TMDL, such actions will be made public.

The watershed analyses and draft TMDLs were presented to and discussed with a variety of agencies, committees, and interests including EPA, counties, local dischargers, and watershed councils representing the Upper and Lower Nehalem River, the Skipanon River, the Clatskanie River, and various other groups between 1999 and 2002. The intent was to get informal review and comment while DEQ was completing the development of the draft TMDLs.



The public comment period on the draft North Coast Subbasins TMDL was opened on December 12, 2002 and closed on February 21, 2003. Informational meetings to present background on the technical and modeling components of the draft TMDLs were provided at several venues preceding the public comment period, and two formal public hearings were held on January 27<sup>th</sup> and January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003 in the cities of Seaside and St. Helens, respectively. DEQ received comments on the draft TMDLs from 13 individuals representing themselves, watershed councils, agencies, an environmental group, and several forest industry groups. DEQ summarized the issues raised, prepared responses, and made revisions to the draft TMDL and WQMP.

This memo and the related public notification represent the beginning of the 60-day appeal period on this DEQ action. The Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) allow for the following:

- (1) Any person who participated in establishing a TMDL, including those who submitted comments, and any other person entitled to seek judicial review of an order issuing a TMDL may request reconsideration by the Director in accordance with OAR 137-004-0080.
- (2) A person may file a petition for judicial review of a final TMDL order as allowed by ORS 183.484.

This TMDL can be found at the following website: [www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm) or can be viewed at the following locations: DEQ Headquarters, 811 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 or DEQ Northwestern Regional Office, 2020 SW Fourth Avenue #400, Portland, OR, 97201. Once EPA has approved this TMDL, this document will be made available via a CD electronic file or paper.

Should you have any questions about this TMDL, please contact either Andy Schaedel at 503-229-6121 or Greg Aldrich at 503-229-6345.

Issued by:

Michael T. Llewelyn  
Water Quality Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

