

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1-2, 2012**

Prepared January 11, 2012

**ITEM NO:** 17

**SUBJECT:** Reissue General Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Timber Harvest Activities in the Central Coast Region, Order No. R3-2012-0007

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**KEY INFORMATION**

Location: Regionwide

Existing Orders: Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Timber Harvest Activities in the Central Coast Region (General Waiver), Order No. R3-2010-0041

**This Action:** Adopt General Waiver, Order No. R3-2012-0007

**DISCUSSION**

On July 8, 2005, the Central Coast Water Board adopted Order No. R3-2005-0066, *General Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Timber Harvest Activities in the Central Coast Region*, which requires owners of lands where timber is harvested to comply with conditions established to ensure timber harvests do not impair the beneficial uses of State waters. Order No. R3-2005-0066 expired on July 8, 2010. On September 2, 2010, the Water Board extended the waiver conditions by adopting Order No. R3-2010-0041, which will expire on February 2, 2012.

Water Board staff has inspected approximately 30 percent of sites enrolled since the monitoring and reporting program was revised in July 2009. Based on a summary of inspection results, Water Board staff is evaluating the waiver's conditions. Water Board staff plans to substantially update the enrollment and application evaluation processes, including the eligibility criteria and the monitoring and reporting program. Students from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) Timber Program are developing a GIS-based system that will aid Board staff in verifying the accuracy of applications, in addition to other features.

The time needed to accomplish these tasks will extend beyond the expiration date of the current waiver order. Therefore, Water Board staff proposes to extend the current waiver order's expiration date by 24 months, to February 2, 2014. Water Board staff is not proposing any changes to the waiver order or the monitoring and reporting program at this time and proposes to only update the expiration date and other administrative provisions. In the meantime, Water Board staff will continue to evaluate relevant issues through a public process and will submit a draft order to the Board for its consideration as soon as possible. Staff anticipates bringing the updated waiver to the Board for consideration during the first half of 2012.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

On November 2, 2011, interested persons were invited to submit comments on the draft waiver order posted on the Water Board's intranet website to the Water Board at its office in San Luis Obispo or via electronic mail ([centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov)) no later than December 2, 2011. Water Board staff did not receive any comments or questions regarding the draft waiver order.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Order No. R3-2012-0007, as proposed.

## **ATTACHMENT**

1. Draft Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2012-0007
2. Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R3-2012-0007

For copies of the attachment, please refer to the Central Coast Water Board's internet website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2011/2011\\_agendas.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2011/2011_agendas.shtml)