

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Order No. R1-2013-0004

Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
and
General Water Quality Certification
for
County Road Management and Activities
Conducted Under the Five Counties Program
in the Counties of
Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Trinity
in the
North Coast Region

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff will conduct a public workshop on draft Order No. R1-2013-0004, *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for County Road Management and Activities Conducted Under the Five Counties Program in the Counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou and Trinity in the North Coast Region* (5C Waiver). No action will be taken by the Regional Water Board at the workshop at the regularly scheduled Regional Water Board meeting on January 24, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at the Regional Water Board's Office, located at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide the Regional Water Board, public, and interested parties the opportunity to comment on and discuss the draft Order.

Background

The North Coast counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Trinity (5C Counties) encompass 17,555 square miles, containing approximately 4,790 miles of county roads and 16,600 culverts (including ditch relief culverts). Roads are a source of existing and potential sediment delivery from: 1) increased surface erosion and fine sediment production and delivery; and 2) an increased potential for stream diversions (stream channel capture), rill and gully erosion, and shallow-seated landslides with corresponding increases in sediment production and delivery. Sediment and settleable matter may affect stream channel stability and habitat, resulting in a potential impact to cold water fish habitat (COLD) beneficial uses.

The 5C Counties are responsible for conducting routine and emergency repair and maintenance of county roads and related facilities, and have wholly or in part, participated in the 5 Counties program. The 5C Program provides an efficient and organized structure for addressing water quality impacts from county road maintenance activities, and implementing important restoration projects in a large portion of the North Coast Region. When implemented, the 5C Program meets the water quality protection needs of the Regional Water Board while consolidating efforts of various local, state, and federal agencies to conserve resources and avoid duplicative implementation of regulatory requirements.

The 5C Waiver provides regulatory coverage for county road management activities that include road maintenance, culvert maintenance, soil disposal, maintenance yard management, bridge maintenance, emergency maintenance, snow and ice removal, and treatment of legacy sediment sites. The 5C Waiver streamlines the application process for projects conducted as part of the 5C Road Maintenance Program in part by providing a simplified application procedure for coverage under a general 401 Certification that is included as part of the Waiver. A draft Initial Study and mitigated negative declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will be circulated at a later date.

Document Review

Copies of the proposed Order, related documents, and comments received are on file and 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_info/board_meetings/01_2013/

For further information, please contact Regional Board staff member Maggie Robinson (707) 576-2292 or Maggie.Robinson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Public Comment Period

The draft Order is available for public review prior to the Public Workshop beginning on January 4, 2013 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on February 19, 2013. Persons wishing to comment in writing on the draft Order must submit comments to the Regional Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 19, 2013

Written comments may be submitted by US mail, email, or fax to Maggie Robinson at:

North Coast Regional Water Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Maggie.Robinson@waterboards.ca.gov
(707) 523-0135 Fax

For directions to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board offices, please refer to: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/about_us/contact_us.shtml. Parking for the meetings is available onsite. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Patti Corsie, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2307 or patti.corsie@waterboards.ca.gov at least five days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.