

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 576-2220

Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Workshop

Proposed Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for
Nonpoint Discharges Related to
Certain Federal Land Management Activities
On U. S. Forest Service Lands in the North Coast Region

Order No. R1-2010-0029
(Rescinding and Replacing Operational Sections of Order No. R1-2004-0015)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Board) will hold a Public Workshop on March 25, 2010, to receive input on an order that would waive waste discharge requirements for nonpoint source discharges related to certain Federal land management activities on United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) lands in the North Coast Region. This notice provides notice of the Public Workshop and public comment period.

Purpose and Justification for Proposed Action

The Regional Board regulates waste discharges to the waters of the North Coast Region through issuance of waste discharge requirements. Pursuant to CWC Section 13269, the Regional Board may waive the prescription of waste discharge requirements for a specific discharge or a specific type of discharge if the waiver is in the public interest. In 1987, 1989, and 1992 the Regional Board adopted policies waiving waste discharge requirements for specific types of discharges.

The Regional Board, in compliance with CWC section 13269, reviewed the previously issued categorical waiver for timber harvest activities (Regional Board Resolution No. 87-113) and adopted Order No. R1-2002-0109 Interim Categorical Waiver for Discharges Related to Timber Operations in the North Coast Region on December 10, 2002. Order No. R1-2002-0109 was replaced with Order No. R1-2003-0116 on November 5, 2003. Subsequently, Order No. R1-2004-0015 was adopted on March 24, 2004 and waived discharges related to timber harvest activities on USFS lands.

Regional Water Board staff have reviewed the 2004 order and propose a new Order to replace Order No. R1-2004-0015 and expand waiver coverage beyond timber harvest activities to certain nonpoint source activities on USFS land in the North Coast Region.

The proposed new Order will be presented and discussed, and public comment will be taken, at a Public Workshop on March 25, 2010. Following the public comment period, Regional Board staff will revise the proposed Order and develop documents preparatory to a public hearing on June 10, 2010 to consider adoption of the proposed Order. The revised proposed Order and supporting documents will be made available for a 30-day public comment period prior to the public hearing.

Public Comment Period

The tentative Order is available for public review prior to the Public Workshop. The review period is 19 days, beginning on **March 4, 2010**, ending at 5:00 p.m. on **March 23, 2010**. Persons wishing to comment on the proposed Order must submit comments in writing to the Regional Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on **March 23, 2010**.

Comments may be submitted to Robert Klamt, North Coast Water Board, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 or RKlamt@waterboards.ca.gov

After revision, the proposed Order and supporting documents will be made available for a 30-day public comment period prior to consideration for adoption at the June 10, 2010 public hearing.

Public Workshop

A public workshop to provide comments on the proposed Order No. R1-2010-0029, *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Nonpoint Discharges Related to Certain Federal Land Management Activities On U. S. Forest Service Lands in the North Coast Region*, will be conducted on March 25, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Eureka Public Marina, #1 Marina Way, Eureka, California.

Copies of the proposed Order are available at the Regional Board office. They also are accessible electronically at the Regional Board Internet address: www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/.

For further information, please contact Regional Board staff member Robert Klamt (707) 576-2693 or RKlamt@waterboards.ca.gov.