

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
9 a.m., March 24, 2011  
Trinity PUD Community Room  
24 Ponderosa Lane  
Weaverville, CA

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: Update on Development of Waiver for County Road Maintenance Activities

### DISCUSSION

Regional Water Board staff is developing a Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Waiver) for non-point source discharges associated with road maintenance activities on counties roads in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties.

In 1997, these five counties entered into a cooperative effort to protect Coho salmon and other salmonid species. These efforts resulted in the development of the *Five Counties Salmon Conservation Program* (5C Program). An important element of the 5C Program is a long term, systematic, prioritization-based, sediment reduction plan to improve water quality and salmonid habitat. The 5C program also developed the *Five Counties' Water Quality and Stream Protection Manual for County Road Maintenance in Northwestern California Watersheds* (5C Manual). The five counties road crews have been trained to adhere to the provisions of the 5C Manual. The 5C Program provides the foundation for the Waiver.

Activities covered under the waiver will include routine road maintenance, emergency road repairs, and maintenance of related county facilities, such as bridges and road maintenance yards. Most of the potential water quality impacts for these activities are associated with erosion and sediment delivery and/or impacts to riparian areas that may reduce shade and affect water temperatures.

Regional Water Board Staff has submitted a draft Waiver to 5C Program managers for comment. The draft Waiver includes a monitoring and reporting program with annual reporting requirements. In addition, staff are working on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation requirements associated with the waiver. Once adopted the waiver will meet the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board Non-Point Source Policy.

At the March 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting both Regional Water Board and 5 C Program staff will update the Board on the content, status, and schedule for completing the waiver. At this time staff anticipates releasing the draft Waiver and CEQA documentation for public review in the summer 2011.

PRELIMINARY STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational item only