

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 A.M., August 23, 2012
Santa Rosa

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: Workshop on the Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Green Diamond Resource Company's Forest Management Activities Conducted within the Area Covered by its Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan in the North Coast Region (Kaete King)

BOARD ACTION: Informational item, no Regional Water Board action will be taken at this time.

BACKGROUND: On August 23, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will conduct a public workshop on the proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Green Diamond Resource Company's Forest Management Activities Conducted within the Area Covered by its Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan in the North Coast Region (Forest Management WDR).

On August 1, 2012, a public notice was issued announcing the availability of the draft Forest Management WDR and the upcoming workshop. The public notice was posted on the Regional Water Board's website at that time.

On June 10, 2010 the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R1-2010-0044 Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Road Management and Maintenance Activities Conducted Pursuant to the Green Diamond Resource Company Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan in the North Coast Region (Roads WDR). The Forest Management WDR complements the Roads WDR, and together will provide Green Diamond with programmatic, ownership-wide waste discharge coverage for timber management activities.

In July 2007, Green Diamond began implementing their Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan (AHCP). The AHCP is designed to maintain cool water temperature, minimize and mitigate human-caused sediment inputs, provide for the recruitment of large wood into streams, and minimize timber harvest-related impacts, all with the goal of maintaining or increasing populations of Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, southern torrent salamander, and tailed

frog. Management measures address riparian, slope stability, road, and harvest-related impacts of timber harvest operations.

The Forest Management WDR represents a new, integrated approach to regulating industrial timber harvest activities that improves upon the piecemeal approach that it replaces. The Forest Management WDR will result in greater consistency across multiple state and federal agencies, will streamline paperwork submittals, and will promote landscape-based stewardship of water quality.

It is anticipated that the Forest Management WDR will be brought before the Regional Water Board for consideration for adoption in October 2012.

KEY ELEMENTS: The project area includes all commercial timberland acreage on the west slopes of the Klamath Mountains and the Coast Range in Del Norte and Humboldt counties where Green Diamond owns land or harvesting rights that are subject to the AHCP. This area is currently 384,400 acres, and is subject to adjustment as Green Diamond buys and sells property. This area is located in the following watersheds: Smith River, Lower Klamath River, Redwood Creek, Maple Creek, Little River, Mad River, Jacoby Creek, Freshwater Creek, Elk River, Salmon Creek, and the Lower Eel River.

The draft Forest Management WDR will require Green Diamond to comply with enforceable mitigation measures contained in the AHCP as well as with applicable provisions of the California Forest Practice Rules and the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Master Agreement for Timber Operations prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game. The draft WDR also supersedes and incorporates the provisions of Order No. R1-2006-0043, Watershed Wide Waste Discharge Requirements for Timber Harvesting Plan Activities Conducted by, or on Land Owned by, Green Diamond Resource Company in the South Fork Elk River Watershed.

Management activities to be covered in the draft Forest Management WDR include:

- **Timber Product Harvest**
 - Felling and bucking timber
 - Yarding timber (ground-based, cable, aerial)
 - Loading and other landing operations
 - Salvaging timber products
 - Transporting timber and rock products
 - Road construction and maintenance
 - Landing construction and maintenance
 - Rock pit construction and use
 - Water drafting
 - Equipment maintenance

- **Silvicultural Regimes and Methods**
 - Regeneration harvest (clearcut)
 - Commercial thinning
 - Other silvicultural methods including single tree selection, group selection, seed tree, and shelterwood
- **Timber Stand Regeneration and Improvement**
 - Site preparation (prescribed burning, machine piling, mechanical scarification)
 - Planting
 - Vegetation management (mechanical cutting and chipping, (herbicides not covered))
 - Pre-commercial thinning (cutting trees, sawing or chipping rows or groups, pruning – material left on site; future improvements in machinery could make material merchantable and this would become commercial thin)
- **Minor Forest Product Harvest**
 - Burls, stumps, boughs, and greenery
- **In-stream and Riparian Restoration**
 - Improving in-channel habitat (altering the local channel morphology by placing objects such as logs, root wads, and boulders in or adjacent to the stream channel that provide or create additional habitat complexity, structure, or cover)
 - Improving riparian habitat (providing bank stability and future recruitment of wood and shade canopy to the stream)
- **Road Construction and Reconstruction**
- **General Road Use**