

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

Notice of Public Hearing

Extension of Limited Term Amendment Order No. R1-2011-0038,
to NTMP Provisions of Order No. R1-2009-0038,
Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for
Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities on
Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region

On March 14, 2013, the Regional Board will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of Order No. R1-2013-0013, an Extension of Order No. R1-2011-0038, Limited Term Amendment to NTMP Provisions of Order No. R1-2009-0038, Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region.

On March 24, 2011, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R1-2011-0038, the *Limited Term Amendment to Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) Provisions of Order No. R1-2009-0038, Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region* (referred to as the Limited Term Amendment).

The Limited Term Amendment provided Regional Water Board staff time to evaluate the adequacy of the Forest Practice Rules to protect water quality within NTMPs and to engage in dialogue with stakeholders to reconcile Waiver conditions that implement water quality standards with practical considerations of landowners, foresters and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

Regional Water Board staff have concluded their investigations of the water quality protection provided by the FPRs in collaboration with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and has engaged in ongoing and productive dialogue with stakeholders from a wide spectrum of viewpoints on timber and related watershed protection. As a result of these efforts, Regional Water Board has developed draft Order No. R1-2013-0005, a Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements specific to NTMPs (NTMP Waiver).

The draft Order was publicly noticed on January 8, 2013 and the comment period ended on February 11, 2013. At the Workshop, the Regional Water Board directed staff to complete ongoing discussions with landowners, foresters, focus groups, and CAL FIRE and to bring a final Waiver for Regional Water Board consideration. It is the intent of Regional Water Board staff to bring the proposed order to the Board for consideration at the May 2, 2013 Board Meeting.

Public Hearing Procedures

The public meeting to consider the proposed Amendment has been scheduled for March 14, 2013, at the Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room, located at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, in Santa Rosa, California. At the hearing, the Regional Water

Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the proposed Amendment Order, or take another action.

Order No. R1-2013-0013 will be available for review upon request on or after February 14, 2013 by contacting the Regional Water Board office at (707) 576-2220 or on the website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

Comments on the proposed Order No. R1-2013-0013 may be submitted in writing and received at the Regional Water Board up to the day of the Board Meeting on March 14, 2013.

All those who plan to testify at the hearing must submit written statements to the Regional Water Board prior to the consideration of the proposed Order on March 14, 2013. The statements should provide the name of the witness, their qualifications (if an expert), and the scope of their intended testimony. Testimony at the above-scheduled hearing may summarize or explain timely submitted or late accepted written evidence, but shall not add new evidence. The time constraints for oral testimony or comments will be set by the Regional Water Board Chair and usually allow no more than 15 minutes for Regional Water Board staff and the Discharger and three minutes for other interested persons. A timer may be used and speakers are expected to honor the time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive.

For further information, please contact Regional Water Board staff member Jim Burke at (707) 576-2289 or at james.burke@waterboards.ca.gov.

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

February 14, 2014