



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific  
Southwest  
Region

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File Code: 2530-3/5150

Date: February 6, 2009

Andrea Stanley  
Engineering Geologist  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board,  
Lahontan Region  
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Dear Ms. Stanley:

The revised Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) timber waiver, as proposed on January 7, 2009, will improve the ability of the USDA Forest Service to effectively manage timber and fuels, reduce the risks of wildfires, and protect water quality on National Forest System (NFS) lands. I encourage the Regional Board to adopt the proposed waiver at its March meeting.

Fuels management projects in the Lake Tahoe, Little Truckee, and Truckee River hydrologic units will continue to face stringent regulatory requirements resulting from basin plan prohibitions. However, the recent Regional Board delegation of authority to the executive officer for approval of exemptions to basin plan prohibitions is encouraging, and should allow for expeditious approval of projects that include adequate monitoring and mitigation. The exemption process will be critical to the success of fuels management projects on NFS lands in the Lake Tahoe and Truckee watersheds, owing to the need for pile burning in riparian areas. Forest Service regional and national forest staff will continue to work with Regional Board staff to ensure that projects that require basin plan prohibition exemptions can be implemented effectively while maintaining protection for water quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the revised waiver. If you have any questions, please contact Barry Hill of my staff at (707) 562-8968.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Richard J. Cook (for)*  
RANDY MOORE  
Regional Forester

cc: Terri Marceron  
Tom Quinn



Jim Irvin  
Erin Lutrick  
Robert G Taylor  
Joanne B Roubique  
Quentin Youngblood  
Sue Norman  
Andrew Breitbart  
Peter L Adams  
Mike LeFevre  
Kathy Murphy