

**Status Update: Nov. 7, 2007**

Actions by the Regional Board in response to the Wild Fires  
October 22, 2007 to the Present (Mike McCann)

On October 22, 2007, the San Diego Regional Board was tasked by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to coordinate the Southern California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Region Boards) participation in the Emergency Response effort on Fire Debris and Restoration and Erosion Control. The four Southern California Regional Boards affected by the fires consist of the Los Angeles, Santa Ana, Lahontan (Victorville Office), and San Diego Boards.

On October 24, 2007, the first Multi-Agency Coordination meeting was convened as part of CalEPA's Emergency Response Management Committee.

- First order of business was to address the Fire Debris and Hazardous Material problem. Federal, state, and local agencies outlined a course of action that would ultimately provide federal and state funding for the coordinated removal and disposal of fire debris wastes from burned sites, namely residences.
- The second issue has been Restoration and Erosion Control. The efforts to assess fire damage by watersheds throughout Southern California are ongoing. Numerous technical teams, called BAER Teams (Burned Area Emergency Response) have been formed utilizing staff from a range of federal, state and local agencies.

The San Diego Regional Board as provided information to two BAER Teams and has provided a staff geologist to participate on a BAER Team lead by the California Geological Survey that is assessing fire damage at the Harris, Witch, and Poomacha fire areas.

The San Diego Regional Board has also participated in a number of meetings with other governmental agencies and volunteer groups to assist in the selection of effective erosion control measures.