

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING/WORKSHOP SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2011**

ITEM 17

SUBJECT

WORKSHOP TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING: (1) A PROPOSED STATEWIDE WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR NONPOINT SOURCE DISCHARGES RELATED TO CERTAIN ACTIVITIES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN CALIFORNIA, AND (2) A SUPPORTING MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to State Water Resources Control Board [Order 2009-0064](#), staff has worked with the United States Forest Service (USFS), affected Regional Water Quality Control Boards and stakeholders to support USFS in updating the existing USFS Water Quality Management Plan and to develop a proposed statewide regulatory mechanism for controlling nonpoint source discharges from a variety of activities on National Forest System lands. Staff has prepared and circulated the proposed statewide Waiver, which is conditioned in part on the implementation of the updated USFS Water Quality Management Plan, and a supporting Mitigated Negative Declaration. The State Water Board documents have been circulated for public review, which closed on August 24, 2011. This informational workshop is presented to provide an opportunity for further public comment. The State Water Board is not voting on this issue at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in: (1) reaching Goal 5 (Improve transparency and accountability by ensuring that Water Board goals and actions are clear and accessible, by demonstrating and explaining results achieved with respect to the goals and resources available, and by encouraging the creation of organizations or cooperative agreements that advance this goal) and (2) fulfilling Objective 5.1 (Improve current Water Board programs to enhance effective and consistent implementation of Water Board plans and policies, and State and federal laws and regulations, and to reduce processing time and costs). It will also assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 6 (Enhance consistency across the Water Boards, on an ongoing basis, to ensure our processes are effective, efficient, and predictable, and to promote fair and equitable application of laws, regulations, policies, and procedures)