

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2012

Prepared November 2, 2011

SUBJECT **Reissuance of General Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Timber Harvest Activities in the Central Coast Region Order No. R3-2012-0007**

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KEY INFORMATION

Location: Regionwide
Existing Orders: Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2010-0041
This Action: **Adopt Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2012-0007**

SUMMARY

On July 8, 2005, the Central Coast Water Board adopted Order No. R3-2005-0066, *General Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Timber Harvest Activities in the Central Coast Region*, which requires owners of lands where timber is harvested to comply with conditions established to ensure timber harvests do not impair the beneficial uses of State waters. Order No. R3-2005-0066 expired on July 8, 2010. On September 2, 2010, the Water Board extended the waiver conditions by adopting Order No. R3-2010-0041, which will expire on February 2, 2012.

Water Board staff has inspected approximately 30 percent of sites enrolled since the monitoring and reporting program was revised in July 2009. Based on a summary of inspection results, Water Board staff is evaluating the waiver's conditions. Water Board staff plans to substantially update the enrollment and application evaluation processes, including the eligibility criteria and the monitoring and reporting program. Students from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) Timber Program are developing a GIS-based system that will aid Board staff in verifying the accuracy of applications, in addition to other features.

The time needed to accomplish these tasks will extend beyond the expiration date of the current waiver order. Therefore, Water Board staff proposes to extend the current waiver order's expiration date by 24 months, to February 2, 2014. Water Board staff is not proposing any changes to the waiver order or the monitoring and reporting program at this time and has only updated the expiration date and other administrative provisions. In the meantime, Water Board staff will continue to evaluate relevant issues through a public process and will submit a draft order to the Board for its consideration as soon as possible. Staff anticipates submitting to the Board the draft updated waiver during the first half of 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order No. R3-2012-0007, as proposed.

ATTACHMENT

1. Draft Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2012-0007, which includes Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R3-2012-0007

For copies, please refer to the Central Coast Water Board's internet website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2011/2011_agendas.shtml

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