

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Staff Report on the Regulation of Timber Harvest Activities within the Central Valley Region

BOARD ACTION: Informational Item Only

BACKGROUND: The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Timber Harvest Program has been in place since the late 1970's. Program staff reviews timber harvest projects as well as other projects proposed in our forested watersheds. Projects reviewed are located on both federal and non-federal lands in the region and most receive coverage under our current Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities in the Central Valley Region (Order No. R5-2010-0022).

The program has been through significant changes in the past couple of years and has been provided new resources through the passage of AB 1492 in the fall of 2012. AB 1492 requires additional efforts be made to ensure adequate environmental review of projects on non-federal lands and requires the development of ecological performance measures.

Program staff is frequently drawn into issues not specifically related to timber harvesting such as; off-highway vehicle use areas, native surfaced rural roads, utility line corridors that discharge sediment and potentially other contaminants to surface waters.

RECOMMENDATION Not applicable-Informational Item Only

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

16 May 2014