

**ATTACHMENT A
WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR DISCHARGES RELATED TO
TIMBER HARVESTING ACTIVITIES
PURSUANT TO
CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13269**

California Water Code (Water Code) section 13269 authorizes the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) to waive the requirement to submit reports of waste discharge and to waive the issuance of waste discharge requirements as to a specific discharge or type of discharge if the waiver is consistent with any applicable state or regional board water quality control plan and the waiver is in the public interest. Such waiver must be conditional, may not exceed five years in duration, and may be terminated at any time.

The Central Valley Water Board, on 30 January 2003 adopted Resolution No. R5-2003-0005, which included an Attachment A; "Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities" (Waiver). The Central Valley Water Board, on 28 April 2005 adopted Resolution No. R5-2005-0052, which renewed the conditional waiver for discharges related to timber harvesting activities for a term of 5 years, revised Attachment A, and added Attachments B "Monitoring and Reporting Conditions for Dischargers Enrolled Under the Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13269" and C "Implementation, Forensic and Effectiveness Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. R5-2010-0022 for Individual Dischargers Under Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities". The Central Valley Water Board, on 18 March 2010 adopted Order R5-2010-0022, which renewed the Waiver and Attachments A, B and C for an additional 5 years.

Subject to the conditions set forth below, the Central Valley Water Board waives the requirement to submit a report of waste discharge or to obtain waste discharge requirements for the categories of waste discharges specified in Part II, Category Specific Conditions below related to timber harvesting activities, provided that the following actions for nonfederal timber lands and for federal timber lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service continue in effect.

1. For nonfederal timber lands: The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) continues to certify the "Water Quality Management Plan for Timber Operations on Nonfederal Lands in California," including those California Forest Practices Rules selected by the State Water Board as "best management practices," and continues the designation of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) as the joint management agencies for implementation of the Water Quality Management Plan for timber operations on nonfederal lands in California.

2. For federal timber lands managed by U.S. Forest Service:
 - a. The State Water Board continues to certify and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to approve, pursuant to Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act, the plan entitled "Water Quality Management for National Forest System Lands in California" including the best management practices set forth therein, and the designation of the U.S. Forest Service as the management agency.
 - b. The U.S. Forest Service maintains: (a) a water quality program consistent with the Basin Plan and consistent with the requirements of all other applicable water quality control plans; and (b) a program to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of best management practices.

For Dischargers eligible for coverage under the Waiver, the Regional Board also waives the requirement to submit a report of waste discharge, provided the Discharger submits all required eligibility documents and meets all applicable conditions of this Waiver.

I. GENERAL WAIVER CONDITIONS

A. Definitions

1. "Timber Harvesting Activities" means all activities on timberland relating to timber harvesting, including the cutting or removal, or both, of timber and other solid wood forest products, from timberlands for commercial purposes, together with all the work incidental thereto, including, but not limited to, construction, reconstruction and maintenance of roads, fuel breaks, firebreaks, stream crossings, landings, skid trails, beds for the falling of trees, fire hazard abatement, site preparation that involves disturbance of soil or burning of vegetation following timber harvesting activities, but excluding preparatory treemarking, surveying or roadflagging. The term "commercial purposes" includes the cutting or removal of trees which are processed into logs, lumber, or other wood products and offered for sale, barter, exchange, or trade, or the cutting or removal of trees or other forest products during the conversion of timberlands to land uses other than the growing of timber, including but not limited to residential or commercial developments, production of other agricultural crops, recreational developments, ski developments, water development projects, and transportation projects.
2. "Discharger" means the timberland owner and anyone working on behalf of the timberland owner in the conduct of timber harvesting activities for nonfederal lands, and the U.S. Forest Service, private timber operators operating on federal lands, and anyone working on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service or a timber operator in the conduct of timber harvesting activities on federal lands.

3. "Plan" means any Timber Harvesting Plan (THP), Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP), or other discretionary permit issued by CAL FIRE to harvest timber, including all amendments thereto that propose a change in timber harvesting activities that may increase the discharge or otherwise pose the potential for increased impacts to water quality. (For example, amendments that propose to add, expand, or extend winter operations shall be considered a "Plan" for purposes of this Waiver. Amendments that do not propose any material change in how or where timber harvesting activities will be conducted, such as a change in timber operator, a time extension from CAL FIRE, etc., shall not be considered a "Plan" for purposes of this Waiver.)
4. "Requirement of applicable water quality control plans" means a water quality objective, prohibition, TMDL implementation plan, or other requirement contained in water quality control plans adopted by the Central Valley Water Board and approved by the State Water Board, and plans or policies adopted by the State Water Board that apply to the timber harvesting activities.
5. "Monitoring" refers to all types of monitoring undertaken in connection with determining water quality conditions and factors that may affect water quality conditions, including but not limited to, implementation, effectiveness, forensic, water quality compliance, assessment and trend monitoring, and Waiver compliance monitoring undertaken in connection with timber harvesting activities.
6. All other terms shall have the same definitions as prescribed by the California Forest Practice Rules and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, unless specified otherwise.

B. General Conditions for Waiver Categories 1 through 5

1. The discharger must comply with all requirements of applicable water quality control plans, and as these may be modified from time to time pursuant to amendments to water quality control plans adopted by the Central Valley Water Board and approved by the State Water Board, and water quality control plans and policies adopted by the State Water Board; and
2. The discharger shall conduct timber harvesting activities in accordance with the approved Plan or CAL FIRE-accepted Exemption or Emergency Notice for nonfederal timberlands; or in accordance with the final environmental document and decision document prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for timber harvesting activities on federal lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service; and
3. The discharger shall not create a condition of pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by Water Code section 13050; and

4. The discharger shall not discharge any waste not specifically regulated by the Waiver described herein and shall not cause alteration in stream temperature which exceeds water quality control plan requirements. Waste specifically regulated under this waiver includes: earthen materials, including soil, silt, sand, clay, rock; organic materials, such as slash, sawdust, or bark; and silvicultural pesticides that enter or threaten to enter into waters of the state. Examples of waste not specifically regulated under this Waiver include petroleum products, hazardous materials, or human wastes; and
5. The discharger shall allow Central Valley Water Board staff reasonable access onto the affected property whenever requested by Central Valley Water Board staff for the purpose of performing inspections and conducting monitoring, including sample collection, measuring, and photographing/taping to determine compliance with waiver conditions. Such inspections and monitoring shall be conducted consistent with Water Code section 13267, subdivision (c), Public Resources Code section 4604, subdivision (b)(1), and other applicable law; and
6. Any person seeking coverage under this Waiver shall file the applicable eligibility document(s) and fees as described herein with the Central Valley Water Board. Dischargers shall file any additional eligibility documents required by the Executive Officer, which may include a State Water Board Form 200; and
7. Unless other timeframes are specified, discharges associated with timber harvesting activities and pesticide applications that comply with the eligibility criteria, conditions, and procedures for a waiver may commence upon receipt by the Central Valley Water Board of the applicable documents as described in Part II – Category Specific Conditions, including acknowledgement of the Monitoring Conditions described in Attachment B; and
8. This Waiver does not apply to discharges requiring an NPDES permit under the Clean Water Act, including silvicultural point sources as defined in 40 CFR 122.27.

II. CATEGORY-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

A. CATEGORY 1: MINOR TIMBER HARVESTING ACTIVITIES ON NONFEDERAL LANDS (including certain activities approved by CAL FIRE under Exemption or Emergency Notices, Timber Harvesting Plans, other Plans, or Amendments).

1. Eligibility Criteria:

- a. Timber harvesting activities (Notices of Exemption or Emergency) within 150 feet of existing structures (i.e., "FireSafe" treatments), harvest of Christmas trees, dead, dying or diseased fuelwood or split products, public agency, public and private utility right of way, fuel hazard reduction, substantially damaged timberland unmerchantable as sawlog and woody debris and slash removal, that are conducted pursuant to a Notice of Exemption accepted by CAL FIRE under 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1038, subdivision (c), will automatically be enrolled in the Waiver.
- b. Timber harvesting activities, other than the notices of exemption or emergency specified in (II)(A)(1)(a) above, that comply with the following criteria:
 1. No timber harvesting activities on slopes greater than 60%.
 2. No tractor or heavy equipment operations on slopes greater than 50%.
 3. No construction of new tractor roads on slopes greater than 40%.
 4. No timber harvesting activities within any Special Treatment Area "type a" or "type c," as defined in 14 CCR 895.1, except hauling over existing roads that complies with the rules associated with that Special Treatment Area.
 5. No tractor or heavy equipment operations on known slides or unstable areas.
 6. No new construction or reconstruction, as defined in 14 CCR 895.1, of logging roads, landings, or watercourse crossings.
 7. No timber harvesting activities within the standard width of a Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone or Equipment Limitation Zone, as defined in 14 CCR 916.4 [936.4, 956.4](b) and (c), except for use and maintenance of existing permanent roads, use of existing bridges and existing culverts as skid trail crossings, and maintenance of associated drainage facilities or structures.
 8. No timber harvesting activities that may disturb, threaten, or damage known or potential aquatic or wetland habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals.
 9. No timber harvesting activities within the buffer zone of a sensitive species, as defined in 14 CCR 895.1.

10. No timber harvesting activities on soils with High or Extreme Erosion Hazard Rating.
11. No heavy equipment operation in meadows or wet areas, except use and maintenance of existing roads and associated drainage facilities or structures.
12. No timber harvesting activities during the winter period from October 15 through May 1 or under saturated soil conditions as defined in 14 CCR 895.1 where such activities may result in discharge of waste to waters of the state.
13. No timber harvesting activities involving mechanical site preparation, as defined in 14 CCR 895.1. (Timberland Conversions excepted)
14. No timber harvesting activities involving prescribed burning. (Timberland Conversions excepted)
15. No timber harvesting activities that do not meet minimum stocking requirements immediately upon completion of harvest, as defined in 14 CCR 912.7 [932.7, 952.7]. (Timberland Conversions excepted)
16. No timber harvesting activities that include, are accompanied by, or followed by post-harvest applications of pesticides.

2. **Conditions:**

- a. The discharger shall comply with the General Conditions described in Part I.B., above.
- b. The Central Valley Water Board receives: (1) a copy of a Plan approved by CAL FIRE, or an Notice of Exemption or Emergency accepted by CAL FIRE, that includes all of the above eligibility criteria, and (2) a Certification Notice, signed by the landowner, certifying that the timber harvesting activities will comply with the eligibility criteria and conditions for Waiver Category 1, received within 15 days from notice acceptance by CAL FIRE and prior to the start of operations, or at least 30 days prior to the start of operations for a Plan. A Certification Notice is not required for Notices of Exemption and Emergency that meet the eligibility criteria described in Part II A.1.a. above.
- c. The discharger shall comply with all conditions specified in Attachment B, "Monitoring Conditions." Agency Monitoring will be sufficient for this Category providing the discharger complies with CAL FIRE Forest Practice Rules and the criteria specified in Part II A.1.b. above.

B. CATEGORY 2: EXEMPT OR EMERGENCY TIMBER HARVESTING ACTIVITIES ON NONFEDERAL LANDS THAT DO NOT QUALIFY FOR WAIVER UNDER CATEGORY 1.

1. **Eligibility Criteria**: Timber harvesting activities that comply with the following criteria as identified in the Notice of Exemption or Notice of Emergency accepted by CAL FIRE, for Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemptions and Notices of Emergency Timber Operations related to fire salvage:
 - a. The Registered Professional Forester (RPF), after conducting a comprehensive field review of proposed timber activities, has specifically identified the presence or absence of any of the following features or conditions in, or affected by, the proposed exempt or emergency timber harvesting activities:
 - aquatic or wetland habitat for salmonids or rare, threatened or endangered species,
 - domestic or municipal water use within one mile downstream of the harvest area,
 - soils with high or extreme erosion hazard rating,
 - known slides and unstable areas, including unstable or erodible watercourse banks,
 - changeable channels, overflow channels, inadequate flow capacity, flood prone areas, riparian areas, elevated stream temperatures,
 - all watercourse crossings, including existing crossings and those to be constructed or reconstructed for all Class I-IV watercourses, and existing and proposed near-stream landings and skid trails.
 - b. For those Plans where aquatic or wetland habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species is identified and where timber harvesting activities may impact such habitat, additional field review has been conducted by a scientist, with a bachelor's or advanced degree in biological sciences and experience in aquatic systems, to determine if the Plan could adversely affect such species or their habitat.
 - c. The Notice of Exemption or Notice of Emergency identifies any additional management practices and/or water quality protective measures (beyond the requirements of the current Forest Practice Rules) to address, at a minimum, the features and conditions described in Part II.B.1.a. above (should any exist), winter period operations between October 15 and May 1, and cumulative watershed effects, to assure compliance with the requirements of applicable water quality control plans. The Notice of Exemption or Notice of Emergency incorporates any and all project modifications and mitigation measures recommended by the biological scientist to avoid adverse impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species.

- d. The management practices and water quality mitigation and protective measures specified in the Notice pursuant to subsection "c" above shall include, at minimum, the following: (1) An Equipment Limitation Zone (ELZ) for any and all Class III and Class IV watercourses of at minimum 25 feet where sideslope steepness is less than 30%, and at minimum 50 feet where sideslope steepness is 30% or greater; (2) Any and all crossing facilities on watercourses that support fish will be installed and maintained so as to allow for unrestricted passage of fish and water during all life stages and flow conditions; (3) Any and all culverts at watercourse crossings in which water is flowing at the time of installation shall be installed with their necessary protective structures concurrently with fill placement; (4) Any and all permanent watercourse crossings and associated fills and approaches shall be installed and maintained to prevent diversion of stream overflow down the road and to minimize erosion of the fill and road prism should the drainage structure become obstructed; (5) Any and all riparian vegetation, other than commercial species, that is found along watercourses and lakes or that is found within or bordering meadows and wet areas shall be retained and protected during timber harvesting activities; and (6) Where seasonal water temperatures are too high to fully support beneficial uses of water in Class I or II waters within or downstream from the logging areas, no trees that provide shade to the waters during critical hours during the summer period shall be cut.

2. **Conditions:**

- a. The Central Valley Water Board receives: (1) a copy of a Notice of Exemption or Notice of Emergency accepted by CAL FIRE that includes the information required by Part II.B.1.a.through d., above, and (2) a Certification Notice, signed by the landowner, certifying that the timber harvesting activities will comply with all conditions applicable to Waiver Category 2, received within 15 days of notice acceptance by CAL FIRE and prior to the start of operations.
- b. The discharger shall comply with the General Conditions described in Part I.B., above.
- c. The discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing at least 60 days prior to any proposed aerial application and 30 days prior to any proposed ground application of pesticides. The written notification shall include the type of pesticide, the proposed date(s) of application, the method and area of application, and measures that will be employed to assure compliance with all applicable water quality control plans. Subsequent changes to the proposal must be submitted in writing no less than 48 hours prior to pesticide application.

- d. The discharger shall comply with all conditions specified in Attachment B, "Monitoring Conditions." The discharger shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Implementation, Forensic and Effectiveness Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2014-xxxx. The discharger shall comply with additional monitoring and reporting program requirements (including, but not limited to, water quality compliance and/or assessment and trend monitoring) when directed in writing by the Executive Officer.
- e. Upon completion of timber harvest activities and cessation of waste discharges (including pesticides), the discharger shall seek termination of coverage under the Waiver in accordance with Part III, Termination of Coverage.

C. CATEGORY 3: TIMBER HARVESTING ACTIVITIES ON NONFEDERAL LANDS THAT RECEIVE DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL FROM CAL FIRE AND FOR WHICH REGIONAL BOARD STAFF HAS FULLY PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW TEAM PROCESS (including Timber Harvesting Plans, Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans, other Plans, and Amendments).

1. Eligibility Criteria:

- a. Central Valley Water Board staff has participated in CAL FIRE's interdisciplinary Review Team process, including an on-site pre-harvest inspection (PHI), except that Central Valley Water Board staff attendance at a PHI for an amendment is optional and is required only upon written notification by Central Valley Water Board staff.
- b. Additional management practices and/or water quality protective measures (beyond the requirements of the current Forest Practice Rules) are identified, if necessary, during the Review Team process to assure compliance with the requirements of applicable water quality control plans.
- c. Such identified management practices, and/or water quality protective measures are submitted in writing to CAL FIRE by Central Valley Water Board staff, or Central Valley Water Board staff accepts, in writing, those management practices and/or water quality protective measures proposed by either CAL FIRE or the RPF.
- d. All identified additional management practices, and/or water quality protective measures are incorporated into the Plan as submitted or accepted by Central Valley Water Board staff, or as subsequently agreed to in writing by the Executive Officer following dispute resolution.

2. **Conditions:**

The Central Valley Water Board receives the following items at least 30 days prior to the start of timber operations: (1) a copy of a Plan approved by CAL FIRE that incorporates all identified additional management practices, and/or water quality protective measures resulting from Central Valley Water Board staff participation in CAL FIRE's interdisciplinary Review Team process, and (2) a Certification Notice, signed by the landowner, listing the Plan number and certifying that the discharger believes that the activities are appropriately covered under Waiver Category 3.

- a. For an approved NTMP, the discharger shall submit each Notice of Timber Operations to the Central Valley Water Board no less than 30 days prior to commencement of timber harvesting activities.
- b. The discharger shall comply with the General Conditions described in Part I.B., above.
- c. The discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board, in writing, at least 60 days prior to any proposed aerial application and at least 30 days prior to any proposed ground application of pesticides. The written notification shall include the type of pesticide, the proposed date(s) of application, the method and area of application, and measures that will be employed to assure compliance with applicable water quality control plans. Subsequent changes to the proposal must be submitted in writing no less than 48 hours prior to pesticide application.
- e. The discharger shall comply with all conditions specified in Attachment B, "Monitoring Conditions." The discharger shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Implementation, Forensic and Effectiveness Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2014-xxxx. The discharger shall comply with additional monitoring and reporting program requirements (including, but not limited to, water quality compliance and/or assessment and trend monitoring) when directed in writing by the Executive Officer.
- f. Upon completion of timber harvesting activities and cessation of waste discharges (including pesticides), the discharger shall seek termination of coverage under the Waiver in accordance with Part III, Termination of Coverage.

D. CATEGORY 4: TIMBER HARVESTING ACTIVITIES ON NONFEDERAL LANDS THAT RECEIVE DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL FROM CAL FIRE FOR WHICH REGIONAL BOARD STAFF HAS NOT FULLY PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW TEAM PROCESS AND WHICH ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A WAIVER UNDER CATEGORY 1 (including Timber Harvesting Plans, Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans, other Plans, and Amendments).

1. Eligibility Criteria:

- a. The RPF, after conducting a comprehensive field review of proposed timber operations, has clearly identified in the Plan submitted to CAL FIRE the presence or absence of the following features or conditions in, or affected by, the proposed Plan:
 - aquatic or wetland habitat for salmonids or rare, threatened or endangered species,
 - domestic or municipal water use within one mile downstream of the harvest area,
 - soils with high or extreme erosion hazard rating,
 - known slides and unstable areas, including unstable or erodible watercourse banks,
 - changeable channels, overflow channels, inadequate flow capacity, flood prone areas, riparian areas, elevated stream temperatures,
 - all watercourse crossings, including existing crossings and those to be constructed or reconstructed for all Class I-IV watercourses , and existing and proposed near-stream landings and skid trails.

- b. For those Plans where aquatic or wetland habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species is identified and where timber harvesting activities may impact such habitat, additional field review has been conducted by a scientist, with a bachelor's or advanced degree in biological sciences and experience in aquatic systems, to determine if the Plan could adversely affect such species or their habitat. For those Plans that propose timber harvesting activities on soils with extreme erosion hazard rating, known slides or unstable areas, or proposes any watercourse crossing that involves the placement of more than 500 cubic yards or 25 vertical feet of fill material, additional field review has been conducted or directed by a registered civil engineer or registered engineering geologist, as his/her California license for practicing engineering and/or geology permits, to determine if the Plan could cause or exacerbate the potential for soil erosion or mass soil movement. Field reviews conducted in accordance with a certified programmatic environmental document satisfy these eligibility criteria, if previously reviewed and accepted by the Central Valley Water Board.

c. The approved Plan:

1. Incorporates, as addenda, signed technical reports from qualified professionals when required to be prepared under Part II.D.1.b. above.
2. Incorporates any additional management practices and/or water quality protective measures (beyond the requirements of the current Forest Practice Rules) to address, at a minimum, the conditions described in Part II.D.1.a and b., above, winter period operations between October 15 and May 1, and cumulative watershed effects to assure compliance with the requirements of all applicable water quality control plans. Incorporates any and all project modifications and mitigation measures recommended by the biological scientist to avoid adverse impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species.
3. The management practices and water quality protective measures specified in the Plan pursuant to subsection (c)(2) above, shall include, at minimum, the following: (1) An Equipment Limitation Zone (ELZ) for any and all Class III and Class IV watercourses of at minimum 25 feet where sideslope steepness is less than 30%, and at minimum 50 feet where sideslope steepness is 30% or greater; (2) Any and all crossing facilities on watercourses that support fish will be installed and maintained so as to allow for unrestricted passage of fish and water during all life stages and flow conditions; (3) Any and all culverts at watercourse crossings in which water is flowing at the time of installation shall be installed with their necessary protective structures concurrently with fill placement; (4) Any and all permanent watercourse crossing and associated fills and approaches shall be installed and maintained to prevent diversion of stream overflow down the road to minimize erosion of the fill and road prism should the drainage structure become obstructed; (5) Any and all riparian vegetation, other than commercial species, that is found along watercourses and lakes or that is found within or bordering meadows and wet areas will be retained and protected during timber harvesting activities; (6) Where seasonal water temperatures are too high to fully support beneficial uses of water in Class I or II water within or downstream from the logging areas, no trees that provide shade to the waters during critical hours during the summer period shall be cut.

2. **Conditions:**

- a. The Central Valley Water Board receives the following items at least 30 days prior to the start of timber operations: (1) a copy of an approved Plan that meets the eligibility criteria in Part IID.1.a.through c.; and (2) a Certification Notice signed by the landowner stating that the approved Plan accurately represents site conditions, and that reasonable

implementation of the approved Plan will assure compliance with Waiver Category 4.

- b. For an approved NTMP, each Notice of Timber Operations shall be submitted to the Central Valley Regional Board no less than 30 days prior to commencement of timber harvesting activities.
- c. The discharger shall comply with the General Conditions described in Part I.B., above.
- d. The discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board, in writing, at least 60 days prior to any proposed aerial application and at least 30 days prior to any ground application of pesticides. The written notification shall include the type of pesticide, the proposed date(s) of application, the method and area of application, and measures that will be employed to assure compliance with applicable water quality control plans. Subsequent changes to the proposal must be submitted in writing no less than 48 hours prior to pesticide application.
- e. The discharger shall comply with all conditions specified in Attachment B, "Monitoring Conditions." The discharger shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Implementation, Forensic and Effectiveness Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2014-xxxx. The discharger shall comply with additional monitoring and reporting program requirements (including, but not limited to, water quality compliance and/or assessment and trend monitoring) when directed in writing by the Executive Officer.
- f. Upon completion of timber harvesting activities and cessation of waste discharges (including pesticides), the discharger shall seek termination of coverage under the Waiver in accordance with Part III, Termination of Coverage.

E. CATEGORY 5: TIMBER HARVESTING ACTIVITIES ON FEDERAL LANDS MANAGED BY THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE (including timber harvesting sales, fuels reduction projects, fire salvage harvest, pesticide applications, Forest Stand Improvement and Hazard Tree Removal projects)

1. Eligibility Criteria:

- a. The U.S. Forest Service has conducted a multi-disciplinary review of the timber harvesting proposal, including review by watershed specialists, and has specified best management practices, and additional control measures as needed, in order to assure compliance with applicable water quality control plans.

- b. The U.S. Forest Service has conducted a cumulative watershed effects (CWE) analysis, where required or appropriate, and included specific measures needed to reduce the potential for CWEs in order to assure compliance with applicable water quality control plans.
- c. The U.S. Forest Service has allowed the public and other interested parties reasonable opportunity to comment on and/or challenge individual timber harvesting proposals.

2. **Conditions:**

- a. The U.S. Forest Service shall submit to the Central Valley Water Board copies of final decision documents that contain information documenting compliance with the eligibility criteria at Part II.E.1., above. A copy of applicable final NEPA documents shall be submitted upon written request by Central Valley Water Board staff.
- b. The U.S. Forest Service shall comply with all conditions specified in Attachment B, "Monitoring Conditions." The U.S. Forest Service shall also comply with all applicable requirements of Implementation, Forensic and Effectiveness Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2014-xxxx. The U.S. Forest Service shall comply with additional monitoring and reporting program requirements (including, but not limited to, water quality compliance and/or assessment and trend monitoring) for all projects (except forest stand improvement and hazard tree removal projects) when directed in writing by the Executive Officer. As specified in Attachment B, the U.S. Forest Service is required to conduct effectiveness and forensic monitoring only when: (1) the discharger's cumulative watershed effects analysis indicates that the project, combined with other U.S. Forest Service projects conducted in the watershed over the past 10 years, may cause any watershed or sub-watershed to exceed a threshold of concern as determined by various models (i.e., Equivalent Roded Acres (ERA), Surface Erosion (USLE), Mass Wasting (GEO), etc.). The U.S. Forest Service shall comply with the General Conditions described in Part I.B., above.
- c. Upon completion of timber harvesting activities and cessation of waste discharges (including pesticides), the U.S. Forest Service shall seek termination of coverage under the Waiver in accordance with Part III, Termination of Coverage.

III. TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

1. The discharger may terminate coverage under this Waiver for a completed timber harvesting activity by submitting to the Central Valley Water Board a Notice of Termination Form (NOT). The following criteria, in general, must be satisfied before termination of waiver coverage will be considered by the Executive Officer:

- Timber harvesting activities are completed,
- All Category specific eligibility criteria were met,
- All elements of required reporting have been completed,
- Soil disturbed by timber harvest activities has stabilized, and
- Pesticide applications have ceased and are not proposed

The NOT shall be signed by the landowner for nonfederal lands and the Forest Supervisor or District Ranger for federal lands. In signing the NOT, the discharger or U.S. Forest Service representative shall certify that: (1) the timber harvesting activities were conducted in conformance with the approved plan, accepted notice or U.S. Forest Service project requirements, all eligibility criteria specified in the applicable Waiver category and all other applicable provisions of this Waiver, and (2) discharges resulting from the timber harvesting activities and pesticide applications were in compliance and will continue to comply with all requirements of applicable water quality control plans.

The Executive Officer shall review the NOT specifically noting compliance with the above criteria. A field inspection may be conducted to verify compliance with all Waiver criteria and conditions. The Executive Officer shall notify the discharger regarding approval or disapproval of the NOT.

Note: Enrollment in a waiver is required until such time that waste discharges related to timber harvesting activities, including pesticides, have ceased.

IV. TERMINATION OF WAIVERS

1. The Executive Officer shall terminate the applicability of a waiver to specific timber harvesting activities if the Executive Officer makes any of the following determinations:
 - a. The proposed timber harvesting activities do not comply with the eligibility criteria for the Waiver.
 - b. The timber harvesting activities are not in compliance with the applicable conditions of the Waiver.
 - c. The proposed timber harvesting activities are reasonably likely to cause or contribute to any violation of an applicable water quality control plan or policy. In making this determination, the Executive Officer shall consider the recommendations of Central Valley Water Board staff that participated in the review of the proposed timber harvesting activities, if any.
 - d. A timber harvesting activity has varied in whole or in any part from the approved Plan (for discretionary approvals) or Notice (for non-discretionary approvals), unless these changes result in better protection of water quality.
2. Upon receipt of notice of termination of applicability of the Waiver, the discharger shall immediately cease all timber harvesting activities that may result in discharges to waters of the State, other than activities necessary to control erosion. Upon such notice of termination, the discharger must file a report of waste discharge and applicable filing fee pursuant to Water Code section 13260. Timber harvesting activities that may result in discharges that could affect the quality of waters of the state may commence only upon enrollment by the Executive Officer under general waste discharge requirements, the adoption by the Central Valley Water Board of an individual waiver of waste discharge requirements or individual waste discharge requirements, or in accordance with Water Code section 13264, subdivision (a).