

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 A.M., Thursday, January 24, 2013
Santa Rosa

- ITEM: 5
- SUBJECT: *Workshop on draft Order No. R1-2013-0004, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for County Road Management and Activities Conducted Under the Five Counties Program in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties in the North Coast Region.*
- BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item. No action will be taken by the Regional Board.
- BACKGROUND: The North Coast counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Trinity (5C Counties) encompass 17,555 square miles, containing approximately 4,790 miles of county roads and 16,600 culverts (including ditch relief culverts). Roads are a source of existing and potential sediment delivery from: 1) increased surface erosion and fine sediment production and delivery; and 2) an increased potential for stream diversions (stream channel capture), rill and gully erosion, and shallow-seated landslides with corresponding increases in sediment production and delivery. Turbidity, sediment and settleable matter may affect stream channel stability and habitat, resulting in a potential impact to cold water fish habitat (COLD) and other beneficial uses.
- The 5C Counties are responsible for conducting routine and emergency repair and maintenance of county roads and related facilities, and have wholly, or in part, participated in the 5 Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C Program).
- The 5C Program provides an efficient and organized structure for addressing water quality impacts from county road maintenance activities, and for implementing important restoration projects in a large portion of the North Coast Region. When implemented, the 5C Program meets the water quality protection needs of the Regional Water Board while consolidating efforts of various local, state, and federal agencies to conserve resources and avoid duplicative implementation of regulatory requirements.

On January 24, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will conduct a public workshop on draft Order No. R1-2013-0004, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for County Road Management and Activities Conducted under the Five Counties Program in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties in the North Coast Region (5C Waiver).

The 5C Waiver provides regulatory coverage for county road management activities that include road maintenance, culvert maintenance, soil disposal, maintenance yard management, bridge maintenance, emergency maintenance, snow and ice removal, and treatment of legacy sediment sites. The 5C Waiver streamlines the application process for projects conducted as part of the 5C Program by providing CEQA analysis for all projects eligible for coverage and a simplified application procedure for coverage under a general 401 Certification that is included as part of the Waiver.

Regional Water Board staff are in the process of developing a draft Initial Study and mitigated negative declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, which will be released for public and agency comment at a later date.

On January 4, 2013, a public notice was issued announcing the start of the public comment period, the availability of the draft 5C Waiver, and the January 24, 2013 workshop. The public notice was also posted on the Regional Water Board's website. The purpose of the workshop is to provide the Regional Water Board, public, and interested parties the opportunity to comment on and discuss the draft Order during the comment period.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an informational item. No recommendations are proposed at this time.

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

Draft Order No. R1-2013-0004, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for County Road Management and Activities Conducted Under the Five Counties Program in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties in the North Coast Region.