

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Order No. R1-2015-0020

Short-Term Renewal of Order No. R1-2010-0029

Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements  
For  
Nonpoint Source Discharges Related to  
Certain Federal Land Management Activities  
on National Forest System Lands  
in the North Coast Region

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. On June 10, 2010, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R1-2010-0029, *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements For Nonpoint Source Discharges Related to Certain Federal Land Management Activities on National Forest System Lands in the North Coast Region* (2010 USFS Waiver). This Waiver is scheduled to expire on June 10, 2015.
2. The intent of this short-term renewal is to provide Regional Water Board staff additional time to develop a revised draft Waiver, conduct a Regional Water Board Workshop on the revised draft Waiver, and prepare a proposed Waiver for Regional Water Board consideration.
3. A short-term renewal of the existing Waiver is necessary and appropriate so as to maintain Waiver coverage on existing and new United States Forest Service (USFS) projects. The renewal of the Waiver retains all of the provisions of the 2010 USFS Waiver, which include terms and conditions to protect water quality, until a revised Waiver or Waste Discharge Requirements are adopted by the Regional Water Board. In the interim, the Regional Water Board retains all its authorities under the Water Code to address discharges of waste from USFS projects during this time period, including enforcement actions, requesting reports of waste discharge for individual sites, and authority to deny or terminate coverage under the 2010 USFS Waiver, as appropriate. For these reasons, a renewal of the 2010 USFS Waiver is in the public interest and consistent with the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).
4. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) (CEQA), the renewal of the 2010 USFS Waiver is a “project” and the Regional Water Board is the lead agency responsible for approving that project. Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines (section 15000 et seq of title 14 of the California Code of Regulations) allows a lead agency to find a project exempt from CEQA if “it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in

question may have a significant effect on the environment.” The renewal of the 2010 USFS Waiver will not have any effect on the environment because the environmental baseline, against which the Regional Water Board considers the environmental impacts of a project, includes the protections provided by the previous waiver. There is no possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, and it is, therefore, exempt from CEQA.

5. The Regional Water Board has notified interested parties of its intent to provide a short-term renewal of Order No. R1-2010-0029 until adoption of a revised Waiver or Waste Discharge Requirements. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting on May 7, 2015, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this renewal.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that Order No. R1-2010-0029, *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Nonpoint Source Discharges Related to Certain Federal Land Management Activities on National Forest System Lands in the North Coast Region* is renewed to continue coverage of specific land management activities in the interim while a replacement waiver or waste discharge requirements are developed and adopted.

I, Matthias St. John, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on May 7, 2015.

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Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer