

SCH # :

Lead Agency: California Department of Fish and Game

Project Title: Master Agreement for Timber Operations and Road Management Waste Discharge Requirements for Green Diamond Resource Company's Northern California Timberlands

Project Location: Green Diamond Resource Company commercial timberlands in portions of Del Norte, Humboldt and Trinity counties in northern California

Project Description (Proposed Actions, location, and/or consequences):

Green Diamond Resource Company (Green Diamond) seeks programmatic authorizations by the California Department of Fish and Game (Department) and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) necessary for Green Diamond to fully implement conservation measures on its timberlands as required by its Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan (AHCP) and the terms and conditions of the associated federal Incidental Take Permit (ITP), previously approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service on June 12, 2007. This Project consists of: (1) a Master Agreement for Timber Operations (MATO) with the Department (for a term of 50 years) that provides a system of notification for and authorization of lake or streambed alteration and water diversion activities; and (2) issuance of Road Management Water Discharge Requirements (RMWDR) from the NCRWQCB that would regulate potential discharges to watercourses associated with authorized activities. These activities include road construction, repair and maintenance, upgrading, decommissioning and instream restoration. To the extent that the AHCP measures could substantially affect aquatic resources and water quality, they require Department and NCRWQCB agreement and authorization.

Project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect:

Implementation of the Project would not have significant or potentially significant effects on the environment. The Authorized Activities to be covered by the MATO and RMWDR are to be subject to the most current conditions found in standard lake or streambed alteration ("1600") agreements, WDRs and Forest Practice Regulations applied to timber operations. However, in addition to these conditions, the MATO will require additional mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts to aquatic vertebrate populations through focused inventory and recovery actions at Project sites before work begins. Based on required road inventories, timely completion of road repair, maintenance, upgrading and decommissioning as well as instream restoration activities are expected to benefit aquatic species and their habitats by reducing the potential for sediment discharge and enhancing habitat conditions.

If applicable, please describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public:

No areas of controversy are known to the Lead Agency.

Responsible or trustee agencies for the project:

Pursuant to CEQA, the Department of Fish and Game is both Lead and Responsible Agency. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is a Responsible Agency in that it will rely on the IS/MND when issuing its RMWDR.

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