

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

NOTICE OF DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

and

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Draft Order No. R1-2015-0021

**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**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that draft Order No. R1-2015-0021, *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* (draft Order) is now available for public review and comment. The 30-day public review and comment period for the draft Order began on July 29, 2015 and will end on August 31, 2015.

On August 12, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will hold a public workshop to receive comments on the draft Order and accompanying Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MRP) at the Regional Water Board office in Santa Rosa, California. 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 and MRP. No action will be taken by the Regional Water Board at the workshop.

The Regional Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of a proposed Order and MRP on October 8, 2015, or as announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda. The meeting will be held at the Regional Water Board office in Santa Rosa, California. At the public hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the proposed Order.

Overview

The United States Forest Service (USFS) manages approximately 5,099,078 acres within the North Coast Region, accounting for approximately 41 percent of the total area of the North Coast Region. The USFS manages National Forest Service (NFS) lands for multiple uses, which include activities such as grazing, forestry, recreation, vegetation management, and restoration. Activities associated with these uses may generate sediment discharges, affect shade canopy and water temperature, or influence other water quality parameters of waters of the state. This draft Order addresses nonpoint source discharges of waste to waters of the state from activities associated with specific uses of NFS lands.

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). Improvements to the 2010 USFS Waiver in this draft Order include: citing new USFS programs that address restoration and water quality protection; new

National Best Management Practices (BMPs) and monitoring protocols; alternatives for addressing the treatment of legacy sediment sites in certain Category B projects; establishment of forest-wide in-channel monitoring networks; additional livestock grazing monitoring and reporting, road project effectiveness monitoring, and post-fire monitoring; and requirements for tracking and reporting treatment of sediment discharge sites.

The 2010 USFS Waiver was scheduled to expire on June 10, 2015. On May 7, 2015, Order No. R1-2015-0020 was adopted by the Regional Water Board to provide a short-term renewal of the 2010 USFS Waiver and allow Regional Water Board staff additional time to conduct a workshop and develop a revised USFS Waiver for consideration by the Regional Water Board.

Regional Water Board staff prepared the draft Order and MRP as a future replacement for the 2010 USFS Waiver. The draft Order and MRP have been noticed and made available for public review and comment prior to the workshop.

Document Review

Copies of the draft Order and MRP will be on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office during normal business hours, or may be viewed at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

For further information, please contact Regional Water Board staff member Thomas Williams by telephone at (707) 576-2030 or via email at Thomas.Williams@waterboards.ca.gov. Alternatively, please contact Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 or via email at Dean.Prat@waterboards.ca.gov.

Public Comment Period

The draft Order will be available for public review beginning on July 29, 2015 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2015. Persons wishing to comment in writing on the draft Order must submit comments to the Regional Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2015.

Written comments shall be submitted by email to northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov, or by mail or fax to Dean Prat at:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attn: Dean Prat
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Fax: (707) 523-0135

For directions to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Board office, please refer to: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/about_us/contact_us.shtml. Parking for the meetings is available onsite. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Patti Corsie, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2307 or Patti.Corsie@waterboards.ca.gov at least five days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.