
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 8, 2023

Mr. Dean Kerstetter,
Executive Vice President
Humboldt Sawmill Company
Scotia Sawmill and Cogeneration Plant
125 Main Street
Scotia, CA 95565

Certified Mail No: 7021-0950-0001-6500-2138

Dear Mr. Kerstetter:

Subject: Emergency Cleanup and Abatement Order and Investigative Order No. R1-2023-0059 for Humboldt Sawmill Company, LLC (Scotia Sawmill and Cogeneration Plant)

File: Humboldt County, Scotia Sawmill and Cogeneration Plant (Facility), WDID No. 1 121027974

Enclosed is a Cleanup and Abatement Order, No. R1-2023-0059 (Order), to be issued by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) in response to violations of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities NPDES Order CAS00001, State Water Resources Control Board Order 2014-0057-DWQ.

On December 4, 2023, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Warden Shane Embry (Warden Embry) inspected the Facility and the discharges to the banks and gravel bar of the Eel River. Warden Embry identified recent unauthorized grading in riparian areas which extended from the bank of the Eel River at Discharge Point 001-OUT to the Facility's log deck.

This Order directs you to take steps to clean up and abate the effects of unauthorized discharges of sediment-laden water, fine sediment, woodchips, and other material from the Facility to the Eel River. **Due to the imminent threats to water quality, the Order requires submittal of an Interim Cleanup and Stabilization Plan (ICSP) by December 20, 2023. The ICSP must be implemented by the Discharger after Regional Water Board approval and by January 5, 2024. A final Completion Report is due by January 15, 2024.**

The enclosed Order is a Final Order. With the issuance of this final Order, all requirements to cleanup, abate, and provide technical reports, and their deadlines are effective immediately.

For any questions on this matter, please contact Farzad Kasmaei at Farzad.Kasmaei@waterboards.ca.gov or Heaven Moore at Heaven.Moore@waterboards.ca.gov. For legal questions, please contact Paul Ciccarelli at Paul.Ciccarelli@Waterboards.ca.gov.

Additionally, we are available to meet with you if you wish to discuss the Order.

Sincerely,

Valerie Quinto
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R1-2023-0059 and CDFW Inspection documentation and findings from December 3 and 4, 2023 of the Scotia Sawmill and Cogeneration Plant

cc: [via email only]

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Claudia Villacorta, Claudia.Villacorta@waterboards.ca.gov
Charles Reed, Charles.Reed@waterboards.ca.gov
Heaven Moore, Heaven.Moore@waterboards.ca.gov
Jeremiah Puget, Jeremiah.Puget@waterboards.ca.gov
Farzad Kasmaei, Farzad.Kasmaei@waterboards.ca.gov
Paul Ciccarelli, Paul.Ciccarelli@waterboards.ca.gov
Zane Stromberg, Zane.Stromberg@waterboards.ca.gov
Kason Grady, Kason.Grady@waterboards.ca.gov
Nathan Jacobsen, Nathan.Jacobsen@waterboards.ca.gov

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Warden Shane Embry, Shane.Embry@wildlife.ca.gov
Jonathan Hollis, Jonathan.Hollis@wildlife.ca.gov
Michael Van Hattem, Michael.VanHattem@wildlife.ca.gov

U.S. EPA Pacific Southwest Region

Kristine Karlson, Karlson.Kristine@epa.gov
Michael Weiss, Weiss.Michael@epa.gov

Facility Staff

Scotia Sawmill and Cogeneration Plant - 3 -
Transmittal of CAO
WDID No. 1 12I027974

December 8, 2023

Dean Kerstetter, Dkerstetter@mendoco.com
Krista Ranstrom, Kranstrom@hrcllc.com
Ed Conti, Facility's Consultant, Econti@ekiconsult.com