

Response to Comments
on
Draft Order No. R1-2020-0007

Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvesting and Related Land Management Activities Conducted by Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC, in the Stitz Creek Watershed, Humboldt County

Prepared by:
Staff of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
April 16, 2020

Procedure

On January 13, 2020, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board or RWB) issued a Notice of Public Hearing for draft Order No. R1-2020-0007, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvesting and Related Land Management Activities Conducted by Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC, in the Stitz Creek Watershed, Humboldt County* (draft Order). The purpose of the draft Order is to issue waste discharge requirements for Humboldt Redwood Company's (HRC) forest management activities conducted in the Stitz Creek Watershed.

The Public Notice stated that the Regional Water Board would conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the proposed Order on April 16 or 17, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., at the Regional Water Board's office in Sonoma County, or as announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda and on its website at the following URL:

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/>.

The Public Notice stated that the comment period would end on February 12, 2020. The Public Notice was posted on the Regional Water Board's website, published in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat and Eureka Times-Standard newspapers, and emailed directly to known stakeholders. One comment was received during the public comment period, from Richard Gienger, a member of the public. Following the public comment period, no substantive revisions have been made to the January 13, 2020 draft Order.

Response to Comment

1. **Comment:** Mr. Gienger writes, "Oh, my gosh, I can't believe it, the 5th most 'zombie' of the significantly and individually and cumulatively adversely impacted watersheds as officially pronounced in 1997 by a multi-agency team comes alive! Oh, please do full bore documentation from the earliest logging/impact history right up to current high-quality LiDAR! And with quality ease of public access and review!"

Response: The Report of Waste Discharge for the Stitz Creek Watershed and Appendices prepared by HRC include analysis of current conditions based on land use

histories, sediment source analyses, and inventories prepared utilizing, in part, on-the-ground reconnaissance, aerial photography, and recent LIDAR data. The management framework that will be established by the proposed Order addresses cumulative impacts from past forest management while providing for ongoing management by Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC.

References

Report of Waste Discharge, Stitz Creek Watershed. Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC, March 7, 2019.