
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Revised Notice of Public Hearing to

Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Proposed Order No. R1-2016-0004

Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for

Nonpoint Source Discharges and Other Controllable Water Quality Factors Related to
Timber Harvesting and Associated Activities Conducted by Humboldt Redwood Company,
LLC in the Upper Elk River Watershed, Humboldt County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) is continuing a hearing that began on May 12, 2016 to June 16, 2016, 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, to consider adoption of Proposed Order No. R1-2016-0004 to Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC (HRC) in the Upper Elk River Watershed and associated Mitigated Negative Declaration. On May 12, 2016, the Regional Water Board commenced a public hearing to consider adoption of the above-referenced Order. At that hearing, the Regional Water Board heard the staff presentation and comments from HRC and interested parties. With the exception of the revisions discussed below, information pertaining the hearing for proposed Order No. R1-2016-0004 remains unchanged.

This revised notice incorporates the information and procedures provided in the prior hearing notices, which can be accessed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/timber_operations/elk_river_wdrs/

In accordance with the prior hearing notice, written public comments were due on January 18, 2016. The written comment period is closed and the Board will not accept additional written comments for this agenda item. The time limits for oral testimony or comments at the public hearing will be set by the Regional Water Board Chair and are subject to change.

Regional Water Board members requested clarification from staff regarding details of required hydrology monitoring, a comparison of riparian management zones (RMZ) proposed by HRC and the proposed Order, and harvest rates proposed by HRC. This information already exists in the record and is provided here in a readily accessible format in response to Board member's specific requests.

I. Revisions to proposed Order No. R1-2016-0004

Staff have revised the proposed Order to clarify the temporary nature of the prohibition and changed the hard cap harvest rate limit to a threshold of concern in response to a concern expressed by individual Board members. A change in finding 7 as discussed in the May hearing is also added. These changes are generally consistent with the scope of protection provided in the draft and proposed Order:

1. The temporary prohibition will expire 10 years after the date of adoption of the Order, unless the Regional Water Board takes action to extend it. The temporary prohibition does not apply to THP 1-10-110 HUM.
2. The 2% ECA 10 year average annual harvest rate will be treated as a threshold of concern rather than a hard limit.

II. Document Availability

Information on the Regional Water Board's proposed Order No. R1-2016-0004 and Mitigated Negative Declaration can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/timber_operations/elk_river_wdrs/

Both documents may be viewed during public hours in person at the Regional Water Board's office at:

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

III. Hearing Date and Location

Date and Time: June 16, 2016, 8:30 A.M.

**Location: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd. Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

IV. Public Hearing Accessibility

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact Patti Corsie, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2307, at least five days prior to the scheduled Board Meeting. The hearing location is accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

V. Contact for further Information

Questions regarding the proposed Order should be directed to Jim Burke, by phone at 707-576-2289 or email at James.Burke@waterboards.ca.gov

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer
June 2, 2016