

EMERGENCY PROJECT PERMITTING IN RESPONSE TO CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

(12/12/2017)

On October 8, 2017, several catastrophic wildfires started in Northern California that claimed numerous lives, destroyed thousands of homes, burned businesses, and scorched almost 200,000 acres of land. The scale of these fires was unprecedented and will have lasting impacts on the communities and environment for years to come. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) and its staff are committed to working closely with the affected community to recover from this catastrophe.

To facilitate emergency cleanup activities in the North Coast Region, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer, on November 3, 2017, issued Order No. R1-2017-0055, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Disaster-Related Wastes During a State of Emergency within the North Coast Region. Order No. R1-2017-0055 waives the legal requirement for persons discharging waste associated with emergency/disaster cleanup to submit a report of waste discharge and for the Regional Water Board to prescribe waste discharge requirements for discharges of wastes. The temporary waiver applies to discharges necessary to protect life or property during emergency cleanup actions following disasters such as fires (and subsequent natural events such as storms that may result in floods and landslides) in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor (Emergency Declared Disaster Area) and to discharges from emergencies not within a declared disaster area. The temporary waiver expires December 31, 2017.

To obtain coverage under Order No. R1-2017-0055 prior to January 1, 2018, entities accepting disaster-related wastes for staging or final disposal must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Regional Water Board within 30 days after initial discharge of any disaster-related waste from Declared Disaster Areas.

[\[Order No. R1-2017-0055\]](#)

[\[Updated NOI/NOT for R1-2017-0055\]](#)

To obtain coverage after December 31, 2017, for discharges from catastrophic events and their resultant debris, including but not limited to storms, floods, landslides, and other natural disasters and events for which a state of emergency has been declared by any federal, state, or local agency, entities must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Disaster-Related Wastes During a State of Emergency Within the North Coast Region, Order No. R1-2017-0056, to the Regional Water Board within 30 days after initial discharge of any disaster-related waste from Declared Disaster Areas.

[Order No. R1-2017-0056]

Completed NOIs should be emailed to northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov

Or send hard-copy by mail to our office:

North Coast RWQCB

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