

The Buckeye Conservancy
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and
Forest Landowners of California
950 Glenn Drive, Suite 150
Folsom, California 95630
February 28, 2015



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk of the State Water Board
Sacramento, California

Re: Proposed Approval of an Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to Establish a Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature and Action Plans to Address Temperature Impairments in the Mattole, Navarro, and Eel River Watersheds

Dear NCRWQB staff,

The Basin Plan Amendment regarding Temperature, as written, is dangerous to the economic viability of forest, ranch, and farm owners because the overly-general term “potential shade” can be interpreted so broadly/differently that landowners could be forced to keep a static amount of shade canopy in their landscape.

The NCRWQB is legitimately concerned that economic activities such as timber harvest, in particular, will denude streamside areas, raising water temperature. But nature is not static- there is natural regeneration of shade canopy occurring continually. Just as importantly, streamside areas are already protected as “WLPZ” (wetland protection zones) under the Forest Practice Act from degradation caused by timber harvest.

The Buckeye Conservancy and Forest Landowners of California request that the terminology “potential shade” be replaced with language which has more specificity of meaning, and thus less chance for being misconstrued by future regulatory actors. As is always the case, private sector actors such as forest/farm/ranch owners need regulatory certainty to survive – so that they can perform the stewardship of public trust resources that the State cannot afford to do. Please help provide that essential regulatory certainty by omitting the “potential shade” term from the Amendment. The agency and its regulated community mutually want water temperatures that protect aquatic life: let us work together to find a more appropriate and less vague terminology with which to achieve that.

Respectfully,

Claire McAdams, Chair, The Buckeye Conservancy &
Larry Camp, President, Forest Landowners of California