

California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 576-2220

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD

for

Proposed Order No. R1-2019-0008

Short-Term Renewal of Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements

for

Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities
on Non-Federal Lands in the
North Coast Region

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board), will conduct a public meeting to consider the adoption of proposed Order No. R1-2019-0008, *Short-Term Renewal of Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region* (2014 Categorical Waiver).

A public meeting to consider comments and objections to the proposed Order is scheduled for April 17 or 18, 2019, in the Regional Water Board Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, in Santa Rosa, California.

I. Overview

The 2014 Categorical Waiver, R1-2014-0011, will expire on May 8, 2019. Adoption of the proposed Order will renew the 2014 Categorical Waiver. A short-term renewal of the 2014 Categorical Waiver is necessary and appropriate to maintain permit coverage on existing and new eligible timber harvesting projects and to allow additional time for Regional Water Board staff to update the forest activities regulatory program for the Regional Water Board's consideration.

The intent of this short-term renewal is to allow continued use of the 2014 Categorical Waiver while providing Regional Water Board staff additional time to evaluate the current eligibility criteria and specific conditions, and to consider several new and ongoing developments within the North Coast Region and statewide that may warrant modifications to the 2014 Categorical Waiver. Important recent developments include the increase in wildfires and resulting post-fire salvage projects, and the creation of new or modification of existing timber harvesting projects as a result of new statutory or regulatory requirements pursuant to Senate Bill 901.

A renewal of the 2014 Categorical Waiver retains all of its provisions, which includes terms and conditions to protect water quality. In the interim, the Regional Water Board retains all its authorities under the California Water Code to address discharges of waste to waters of the state from timber harvesting projects, including enforcement actions, requesting reports of waste discharge for individual sites, and authority to deny or terminate coverage under the 2014 Categorical Waiver, as appropriate. For these reasons, a short-term renewal of the 2014 Categorical Waiver is in the public interest and consistent with the Basin Plan.

Information on the Regional Water Board's Forest Activities Program can be found at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/forest_activities/

II. Document Availability

The proposed Order is available and can be downloaded from the Regional Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

These files can also be viewed or copied by contacting or visiting the Regional Water Board's office, 5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California, weekdays between 8:00am and 5:00pm. Appointments are recommended for document reviews and can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

III. Public Comments

Any comments regarding the proposed Order must be submitted in writing to Northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov and received by the Regional Water Board by 5:00pm on February 4, 2019.

Oral comments will be heard at the hearing to take place 8:30 A.M., Thursday, April 17, 2019, or Friday, April 18, 2019, at 5550 Skylane Blvd. Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA.

IV. Public Hearing Procedures

A public hearing to consider adoption of the Order is scheduled for April 17 or 18, 2019, at 8:30am in Santa Rosa, California, or as announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda. The meeting will be held at the Regional Water Board Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, in Santa Rosa, California. Please be aware that dates and venues may change. The current agenda and any changes in dates and locations may be found on our website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/

Time limits may be imposed on oral testimony at the public hearing and groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson. Changes to the proposed Order consistent with the general purpose of the Order may be considered by the Regional Water Board during the meeting.

V. Accessibility

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting should contact Patti Corsie at 707-576-2220 at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 800-735-2929 or voice line at 800-735-2922.

VI. Regional Water Board Staff Contact

Questions regarding the proposed Order should be directed to Devon Jorgenson, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA, 95403, by phone (707) 576-2701, or email at Devon.Jorgenson@waterboards.ca.gov.