



California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

April 16, 2014

To: Interested Persons

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PROPOSED EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING TO ADOPT TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2014-0059

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) will be holding an emergency board meeting to consider adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2014-0059, an *Emergency Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Management and Disposal of Disaster Related Wastes from the 2014 Wildfires in the San Diego Region* (Tentative Order). The tentative conditional waiver issued through the adoption of the Tentative Order will require the implementation of effective management measures, and structural and non-structural best management practices to address potential impacts associated with storm water run on and runoff, wastes, and wastewaters discharged to waste piles, surface impoundments, emergency landfills, and/or non-federal waters of the State. The emergency board meeting is scheduled to occur on:

May 27, 2014

9:00 a.m.

**San Diego Water Board, Board Meeting Room
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100; San Diego, California 92108**

At the emergency board meeting, staff will give an overview of the Tentative Order. The San Diego Water Board will receive verbal comments, during the emergency board meeting, prior to considering the adoption of the Tentative Order.

Background

The San Diego Water Board is required to protect the quality and beneficial uses of the waters of the State, and has developed the tentative conditional waiver contained within the Tentative Order. The Water Code provides the San Diego Water Board the authority to waive the requirements to issue waste discharge requirements provided the waiver is consistent with the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region* (Basin Plan) and is in the public interest. In addition, the Water Code provides the authority to waive waste discharge requirements where the Governor has proclaimed a state of emergency and immediate emergency work is necessary to maintain services in a disaster-stricken area.

The most recent set of conditional waivers adopted by the San Diego Water Board through Resolution No. R9-2007-0104 expired in February 2014. If adopted by the San Diego Water Board, the Tentative Order will replace the waiver for discharges of emergency/disaster related wastes adopted by the San Diego Water Board in 2007.

The devastation caused by the Bernardo, Cocos, Freeway, Highway, Poinsettia, Pulgas, River, and Tomahawk wildfires has resulted in widespread damage to private and public property in the San Diego Region. The destruction of structures and facilities by the wildfires has created an emergency need for the management and disposal of disaster related wastes in the San Diego Region. The Governor has issued a proclamation of a state of emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8558(b), in response to the numerous wildfires in the San Diego Region. The purpose of this Order is to:

1. provide general waiver conditions applicable to the discharge or discharge operations for all specific types of discharge within a discharge classification; and
2. provide specific waiver conditions for each specific type of discharge within a discharge classification, if applicable.

Document Availability

The Tentative Waiver has been available for public review since April 1, 2014, and can be accessed on the San Diego Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water_issues/programs/waivers/waivers_w.shtml

The Tentative Order is available for public review and access on the San Diego Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/press_room/announcements/firestorm/wildfires.shtml

You may also receive a copy of the Tentative Order or Tentative Waiver by contacting Mr. Roger Mitchell via telephone at (619) 521-5898, or via e-mail at Roger.Mitchell@waterboards.ca.gov.

California Environmental Quality Act Exemption

In accordance with California Code of Regulations Title (Calif. Code Regs. title) 14, section 15000 et seq., the San Diego Water Board is the lead agency for this emergency project, and the project is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).¹

Contact Information

Any questions or concerns regarding the above subject should be directed to Mr. Roger Mitchell at 619-521-5898 or by email at Roger.Mitchell@waterboards.ca.gov.

¹ Calif. Code Regs. title 14, section 15269(a).