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Acting Secretary for
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State Water Resources Control Board

Executive Office

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

REVISED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND REVISED NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT

Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Draft Statewide Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Nonpoint Source Discharges Related to Certain Activities on National Forest System Lands in California

EXTENDED DEADLINE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS AND NOTICE OF BOARD WORKSHOP AND ADOPTION MEETING DATES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), as the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has extended the public review for the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), including the Initial Study, and the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Conditional Waiver) for Nonpoint Source Discharges Related to Certain Activities on National Forest Service (NFS) Lands in California. **The end of the public review and comment period for the MND and Conditional Waiver is hereby extended from July 25, 2011, to August 24, 2011.**

The State Water Board will also be considering adoption of the MND and the Conditional Waiver. **A Board workshop is scheduled for September 20, 2011.** A quorum of Board members may be present; however, no Board action will be taken. **The Board will consider adoption of the MND and Conditional Waiver at a Board meeting on October 18, 2011.** The workshop and the adoption meeting will be held at the following times and location:

Board Workshop: Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Adoption Meeting: Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Background

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) manages the following national forests within California: Mendocino, Six Rivers, Klamath, Shasta/Trinity, Modoc, Plumas, Lassen, Tahoe, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Eldorado, Stanislaus, Sierra, Sequoia, Inyo, Cleveland, San Bernardino, Angeles, Los Padres, Rogue River-Siskiyou, and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests. The State Water Board is proposing adoption of a Conditional Waiver for the following activities on NFS lands statewide that could generate nonpoint source discharges: timber management, road management, range management, recreation (including off-highway vehicles), vegetation manipulation, fire suppression and fuels management, and watershed restoration.

California Environmental Protection Agency

In August 2009, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution 2009-0064](#) directing its staff to work with USFS and Regional Water Boards to establish a single statewide regulatory mechanism in lieu of the several Regional Water Board waivers that partially regulated activities on NFS lands. The State Water Board and USFS staff conducted a workshop to solicit public comment on November 30, 2009, and established and met several times with a multi-interest stakeholders' group. That process has resulted in the development of the Conditional Waiver and the very substantial strengthening of the USFS Water Quality Management Plan, which will be adopted as the USFS Water Quality Management Handbook (WQMH).

The Conditional Waiver covers the listed activities only to the extent that potential impacts can be reduced to less than significant through a combination of management practices specified in the WQMH, additional USFS guidance (e.g., the Watershed Improvement Program, the travel management rule, the Northwest Forest Plan, and the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendments), and the conditions of the Waiver. The dominant purpose of the State Water Board action is to better maintain, protect and restore the quality and beneficial uses of water, and to clarify and facilitate USFS' compliance with water quality requirements.

Determination

The MND describes and evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with the Conditional Waiver. The MND establishes that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the State Water Board, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, with incorporated mitigation measures to avoid or mitigate potential significant impacts. All of the mitigation measures needed to avoid or minimize potentially significant impacts are set out in the MND and incorporated into the Conditional Waiver's conditions.

Document Availability

Electronic copies of the MND, Conditional Waiver, and USFS WQMH can be downloaded from the State Water Board website:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/wqmp_forests.shtml.

Hard copies of these documents may be requested from the State Water Board or may be viewed at the State Water Board offices at the address listed in the next section below. Please contact Gaylon Lee at (916) 341-5478 to make arrangements. A map and directions are available at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>.

Submission of Comments

Interested persons may submit their comments, evidence, and other material by email, fax, or hard copy. In order to be fully considered, written materials must be received by **12:00 noon on August 24, 2011**. **Email comments are encouraged**, but must be less than 15 MB total size.

All comment letters, regardless of the method of delivery, must have the following subject: **"Comment re: USFS Waiver"**.

Emails should be addressed to: ForestPlan_Comments@waterboards.ca.gov
Faxes should be sent to: (916) 341-5808.



Written comments may be mailed or hand-delivered to the following address:

Gaylon Lee
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

All written comments will be posted online at:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/wqmp_forests.shtml

Parking and Accessibility

For directions to the Joe Serna, Jr./Cal/EPA Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board website: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm>.

The Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5880 at least 5 working days prior to the workshop/meeting. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. An audio broadcast of the workshop/meeting will be available via the internet and can be accessed at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast>.

All visitors to the Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main (10th Street) entrance. Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

Future Notices

For future notices about the project, including any changes to the dates of the Board workshop and Board adoption meeting and any other updates, interested parties must subscribe to the "Forested Lands Water Quality Plan" email list serve located at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml. An interested party that does not have access to e-mail must contact the staff member listed below to request paper copies of future notices.

Contact Information

Please direct questions to Gaylon Lee at (916) 341-5478 or email him at: ForestPlan_Questions@waterboards.ca.gov.

Updates and additional information are also available at the project website at: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/wqmp_forests.shtml.

July 18, 2011

Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board

California Environmental Protection Agency

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