

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Notice of Public Hearing and Notice of Intent
to
Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration
and
Draft Order No. R1-2020-0007

Waste Discharge Requirements
For
Discharges Related to Timber Harvesting and Related Land Management Activities
Conducted by Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC
In the
Stitz Creek Watershed, Humboldt County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the above-referenced draft Order and Mitigated Negative Declaration on April 16, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in Humboldt County at the location to be announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda and on its website: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/>.

The purpose of draft Order R1-2020-0007 is to provide a water quality regulatory structure to prevent and minimize discharges of waste and other controllable water quality factors associated with timber harvest activities in the Stitz Creek watershed. At the hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the draft Order and Mitigated Negative Declaration, or take other action.

Project Description

On May 2, 2018, pursuant to Water Code section 13260(a), Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC), LLC, submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) for its timber harvesting and related management activities on lands in the Stitz Creek watershed in Humboldt County. HRC manages its Stitz Creek timber holdings for growing conifer and hardwood trees for the production of saw and chip logs and other renewable forest products such as bio-fuel, split products, firewood, and burls.

The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration have been developed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze potential impacts from the draft Order. The draft Order establishes specific requirements based largely on HRC's ROWD, with additional measures as warranted, to meet applicable water quality requirements. Both the ROWD and the draft Order incorporate and include the following components:

- Measures to Prevent Sediment Discharge;
 - Forest Management;
 - Riparian Zone Protection;
 - Road Management;
 - Landslide Prevention; and,
- Inventory and Treatment of Existing Controllable Sediment Sources.

Draft Order and Mitigated Negative Declaration are Available for Review and Comment

Comments must be submitted by February 12, 2020, to Maggie.Robinson@waterboards.ca.gov, or at the following address:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Attn: Maggie Robinson

Document Availability

Information on the Regional Water Board's draft Order and Mitigated Negative Declaration can be found at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/ or may be viewed during public hours in person at the Regional Water Board's office listed above.

Public Hearing Procedures

The procedures governing North Coast Water Board meetings may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. The Discharger and interested persons must submit to the Regional Water Board office written copies of all legal argument, technical reports, testimony, and other evidentiary material concerning this issue by the deadline listed above.

Written material received after February 12, 2020, will not be accepted except at the discretion of the Regional Water Board Chair. Untimely written material will not be accepted or incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice the Dischargers or the Regional Water Board staff. The Chair may choose to modify this rule upon a showing of severe hardship (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 648.1 & 648.4).

During the pendency of this proceeding, there shall be no ex parte communications between Regional Water Board members and participants. This includes communications on substantive or controversial procedural matters. (Gov. Code, §§ 11430.10-11430.80.)

The time limits for oral testimony or comments at the public hearing will be set by the Regional Water Board Chair and are subject to change. All speakers are expected to honor these time limits. A timer may be used and speakers are expected to honor the time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive.

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.

Staff Contact

Questions regarding the workshop or the draft Order and Mitigated Negative Declaration should be directed to Maggie Robinson, by phone at 707-576-2292 or email at Maggie.Robinson@waterboards.ca.gov.