

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Instructions for Completion of Waiver Certification Notice for Categories 1 - 4

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board), in Order No. R5-2014-0144, renewed the “Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvesting Activities” (Waiver).

California Water Code (CWC) authorizes the Regional Water Board to either require dischargers to submit a Report of Waste Discharge to obtain Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) or to waive those requirements.

For timber harvest activities on non-federal lands that qualify for enrollment under the Waiver, the Regional Water Board waives the requirement to submit a Report of Waste Discharge and obtain WDR. Dischargers wishing to enroll their projects under the Waiver are required to submit a Certification Notice to the appropriate Regional Water Board office. There is no fee for enrollment.

NOTE: if any of the following are not provided on the Certification Notice form, the Certification Notice will be returned and timber operations must cease until a corrected version is received by the Regional Water Board.

- 1. Plan or Notice Number:** Enter the number of the Timber Harvesting Plan, Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans or Emergency or Exemption Notice, as assigned by CAL FIRE.
- 2. Landowner’s Contact Information:** The primary responsible party (i.e., “discharger”) under California water law is the property owner. Enter the Landowner’s name, mailing address and phone number, including area code. If more than one landowner, attach additional pages.
- 3. Name and Phone Number of Contact Person(s):** List the primary person(s) responsible for on-site operations. Regional Water Board staff will attempt to contact the person(s) prior to conducting on-site compliance inspections.
- 4. Waiver Category:** Check one box for the Waiver Category (as described below) under which you are seeking coverage. A Waiver Addendum form may be attached for use in enrollment under waiver categories 1, 2 and 4 (see instructions below).

Category 1: Minor Timber Harvest Activities On Non-federal Lands

To qualify for this category: (1) The discharger must comply with the 16 eligibility criteria required for Waiver Category 1 (ref: Attachment A, Part II.A.1.b.1-16, pages 4-5); and (2) The Discharger must certify that the timber harvest activities will comply with all general conditions, eligibility criteria and specific conditions for Waiver Category 1 (ref: Attachment A, Part I.B.1-8, pages 3-4, and Part II.A, pages 4-5).

Category 2: Exempt Or Emergency Timber Harvest Activities On Non-federal Lands That Do Not Qualify For Waiver Under Category 1

To qualify for this category: (1) A Notice of Exemption or Notice of Emergency must be accepted and given a number by CAL FIRE; and (2) A Registered Professional Forester must have conducted a comprehensive field review and identified any additional practices/measures required to protect water quality. A qualified scientist may be required to identify project modifications and mitigation measures to avoid impacts to listed aquatic or wetland species (ref: Attachment A, Part II.B.1.a-d, pages 6-8); and (3) The Discharger must certify that the timber harvest activities will comply with all general conditions, eligibility criteria and specific conditions for Waiver Category 2 (ref: Attachment A, Part I.B.1-8, pages 3-4, and Part II.B, pages 6-8).

For CAL FIRE-accepted notices eligible under Category 2, all identified additional management practices or water quality protective measures (beyond the requirements of the current Forest Practice Rules), and any modifications recommended by a qualified scientist must be included on the Waiver Addendum form. The Waiver Addendum form shall be submitted with the Exemption or Emergency notice and sent directly to the Regional Water Board.

Category 3: Timber Harvest Activities On Non-federal Lands That Receive Discretionary Approval From CAL FIRE And For Which Regional Board Staff Has Fully Participated In The Interdisciplinary Review Team Process

To qualify for this category: (1) A THP, NTMP, PTHP or other plan or amendment must be approved by CAL FIRE, and a copy received by the Regional Water Board; and (2) Regional Water Board staff must have participated in a pre-harvest inspection; and (3) all identified additional management practices and/or water quality protective measures must be incorporated into the plan or amendment (ref: Attachment A, Part II.C.1.a-d, page 8); and (4) The Discharger must certify that the timber harvest activities will comply with all general conditions, eligibility criteria and specific conditions for Waiver Category 3 (ref: Attachment A, Part I.B.1-8, pages 3-4, and Part II.C, pages 8-9).

For THPs, NTMPs, and other plans eligible under Category 3, all identified additional management practices or water quality protective measures resulting from Regional Water Board participation in the CAL FIRE review process must be included in the approved plan.

Category 4: Timber Harvest Activities On Non-federal Lands That Receive Discretionary Approval From CAL FIRE For Which Regional Board Staff Has Not Fully Participated In The Interdisciplinary Review Team Process And Which Are Not Eligible For A Waiver Under Category 1

To qualify for this category: (1) A THP, NTMP, PTHP or other plan or amendment must be approved by CAL FIRE, and a copy received by the Regional Water Board; and (2) A Registered Professional Forester must have conducted a comprehensive field review and incorporated any additional management practices and/or water quality protective measures within the CAL FIRE-approved plan or amendment (ref: Attachment A, Part II.D.1.a-c, pages 9-11); and (3) The Discharger must certify that the timber harvest activities will comply with all general conditions, eligibility criteria and specific conditions for Waiver Category 4 (ref: Attachment A, Part I.B.1-8, pages 3-4, and Part II.D, pages 9-11).

For THPs, NTMPs, and other plans under Category 4, all identified additional management practices or water quality protective measures (beyond the Requirements of the current Forest Practice Rules), must be included and highlighted (in a reproducible form on black and white copies) in the CAL FIRE-approved plan. Any additional signed technical reports from qualified professionals must be included as addenda to the Waiver Certification Notice.

5. Certification: the landowner or representative working for the landowner must sign and date. If more than one landowner, attach additional pages.

For timber harvest activities located in **Tehama, Shasta, Lassen, Glenn, Butte, Siskiyou, Yuba, Sierra, Modoc or Plumas** counties, the Certification Notice and any other required documents shall be submitted to the Redding office:

**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attn: Timber Harvest
364 Knollcrest Dr., Suite 205
Redding, CA 96002**

For timber harvest activities filed in **Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Lake, Alpine, Mariposa** counties, the notice shall be submitted to the Sacramento office:

**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attn: Timber Harvest
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114**

For timber harvest activities filed in **Fresno, Madera, Kern** or **Tulare** counties, the notice shall be submitted to the Fresno office:

**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attn: Timber Harvest
1685 E. Street
Fresno, CA 93706**

The adopted Order, Attachments A and B (Monitoring Conditions), Attachment C (Monitoring and Reporting Program), Certification Notice form and Instructions and Addendum form may be accessed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/timber_harvest

The following Regional Water Board staff may be contacted for questions:

Redding Office	Staff	Contact
Tehama, Yuba, Butte, Sierra, Glenn	Shane Edmunds or Cori Hutchens	(530) 224-3215 Shane.Edmunds@waterboards.ca.gov (530) 224-4849 Cori.Hutchens@waterboards.ca.gov
Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen	Debra Hallis	(530) 224-4801 Debra.Hallis@waterboards.ca.gov
Shasta	Griffin Perea or Jacqueline Matthews	(530) 224-3217 Griffin.Perea@waterboards.ca.gov (530) 224-3249 Jacqueline.Matthews@waterboards.ca.gov
Plumas	Daniel Whitley or Ben Letton	(530) 224-4203 Daniel.Whitley@waterboards.ca.gov (530) 224-4129 Ben.Letton@waterboards.ca.gov

Sacramento Office	Staff	Contact
Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Lake, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Alpine, Mariposa	René Leclerc or Tal Robinson	(916) 464-4626 Rene.Leclerc@waterboards.ca.gov (916) 464-4826 Tal.Robinson@waterboards.ca.gov
Fresno Office	Staff	Contact
Frenso, Kern, Tulare, Madera	Anthony Toto	(559) 445-6278 Anthony.Toto@waterboards.ca.gov