

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Thursday, September 6, 2018
Regional Water Board Office
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: Update on Post Fire Debris Management in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties

BOARD ACTION: This is an information item only. No action will be taken by the Regional Water Board.

BACKGROUND: At the Regional Water Board meeting on December 13, 2017, the Regional Water Board adopted *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Disaster-related Wastes During a State of Emergency within the North Coast Region* (Order No. R1-2017-0056). Order No. R1-2017-0056 was prepared in accordance with the October 9, 2017, Governor's emergency proclamation directing state agencies to take actions to facilitate quick cleanup of fire-related debris from the October 2017 wildfires that occurred in Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Yuba Counties. Order No. R1-2017-0056 replaced a temporary emergency waiver that was issued by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer on November 3, 2018 to authorize debris management activities that were expected to occur immediately after final containment of the wildfires. In its presentation to the Board, staff presented information pertaining to the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, the Regional Water Board's conditional waivers, the federal debris management structure, local and state partners in the debris management effort, and debris management activities that were in progress at the time, 60 days after the start of the wildfires. At the conclusion of the information item, the Regional Water Board Chair requested that staff return at a later date and provide an update to the Board.

Recently, at the request of the U.S. EPA and the State Water Board's Land Disposal Program Unit, Regional Water Board staff provided its experiences and "lessons learned" from the 2017 wildfires as a contribution to U.S. EPA's update to its 2008 guidance document, *Planning for Natural Disaster Debris and Related Guidance*. Regional Water Board staff's comments on this document are included as supporting materials for this item.

DISCUSSION: Charles Reed, supervisor of the Regional Water Board's Land Disposal and Groundwater Permitting Unit, will provide an update on local agency coordination on post-fire response to the 2017 wildfires in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties, current enrollments under the Conditional Waiver (Order No. R1-2017-0056), and an update on the new wildfires affecting the North Coast Region.

Trish Pisenti, Interim Deputy Director of Transportation and Public Works for Sonoma County, will provide an overview of the County's role in fire-debris removal efforts. Ms. Pisenti's presentation will discuss the formation, responsibilities, and accomplishments of the Sonoma County Debris Task Force along with the current status of ongoing activities and challenges ahead.

Peter Pouwels, Operations Manager for Republic Services of Sonoma County, Inc., will discuss fire waste management at the Sonoma County Central Landfill and the critical role that Republic Services and the Central Landfill played during the Sonoma County Wildfire Cleanup response.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- A. Conditional Waiver, Order No. R1-2017-0056

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/pdf/2017/17_0056_Conditional_Waiver_Emergency_Disposal.pdf

- B. Staff Memorandum: Fire Debris Management “Lessons Learned” and Comments on *US EPA Guidance Document Planning for Natural Disaster Debris and Related Guidance*