



Media Release

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast>

North Coast Water Board Adopts New Forest Management Plan to Improve Regional Water Quality

**For immediate release:
October 4, 2012**

**Contact: Matthias St. John
(707) 570-3762**

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) approved a forest management waste discharge requirement for Green Diamond Resource Company on October 4 that promises to change the way the board manages water quality impacts from large forestry operations. The plan will also improve water quality in the streams and rivers surrounding logging operations.

In the past, the regional water board has approved permits for discharging waste into area waters, called Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), for forestry firms on a parcel by parcel and topic by topic basis. A WDR might address the log harvest for a particular parcel of land, for instance. The Green Diamond Forest Management WDR marks a new, comprehensive approach that includes the majority of Green Diamond's property comprised of 384,400 acres across multiple watersheds.

"We appreciate the proactive coordination and management of Green Diamond's ownership into one comprehensive plan," said North Coast Regional Board Chair David Noren.

"It allows us to take a more comprehensive look at all the management going on, on a watershed scale as opposed to one plan at a time," said Regional Water Board Executive Officer Matthias St. John. "This incorporates in-stream water enhancement, and a strong monitoring component that we didn't have before. We will be getting information on the health of the watershed."

The forest management WDR addresses a wide variety of activities, including timber product harvest; tree cultivation methods; timber stand regeneration and improvement; harvest of other forest products like evergreen foliage and bark; in-stream and riparian restoration; road construction and reconstruction, and general road use.



The Green Diamond land covered in the WDR includes property on the west slopes of the Klamath Mountains and the Coast Range in Del Norte and Humboldt counties. Affected watersheds include the Smith River, Lower Klamath River, Redwood Creek, Maple Creek, Little River, Mad River, Jacoby Creek, Freshwater Creek, Elk River, Salmon Creek, Van Duzen River and the Lower Eel River.

The comprehensive approach also simplifies the permitting process for the timber company, noted Kaete King, environmental scientist with the Regional Water Board. Instead of applying for permits on a parcel by parcel basis, logging companies know what the regulatory requirements are from the start.

The forest management WDR will result in greater consistency across multiple state and federal agencies, and will streamline paperwork requirements.

“It gives the company regulatory certainty,” King said. “It’s a good model for large landowners.”

The increased water quality monitoring will allow the Regional Water Board to assure that impaired streams are improving. If the monitoring data shows they are not, adjustments in the requirements are mandated.

“We believe over time it will recover the impaired watersheds,” St. John said.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board’s mission is to preserve, enhance and restore California’s water resources and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

For more information, visit:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/10_2012/

Join Us On Twitter! <https://twitter.com/#!/H2OBoardsNews>