

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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REGIONAL WATER BOARD GETS OK TO HOLD HEARINGS ON WATERSHED PERMITS FOR PALCO

SANTA ROSA--The Humboldt Superior Court Monday gave the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board a victory in litigation over timber harvesting activities.

Judge John Letton rejected PALCO's (Pacific Lumber Co.) request to limit regulatory actions by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and ended restrictions imposed by the judge formerly assigned to the case.

"We feel vindicated, and will continue forward with a process that is fair and unbiased," said Catherine Kuhlman Executive Officer of the North Coast Water Board.

The Regional Water Board had sought to issue permits to PALCO to limit the amount of sediment pollution they discharge to Elk River and Freshwater Creek. In September, claiming that the Board was moving too quickly, the company sought, and was granted a temporary restraining order stopping the Regional Water Board from considering new regulatory restrictions.

On Monday that order was lifted and the judge cleared the way for the Water Board to "proceed with its administrative processes forthwith."

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