

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 9, 2004

Prepared on July 2, 2004

ITEM: 25

Supplemental Sheet – Comments – Estrada II NTMP

This supplemental sheet addresses comments received after the close of the comment period. The comments are paraphrased and the comment letter is attached.

Cassady Bill Vaughn, Forester for the Estrada NTMP, submitted comments on the proposed Monitoring & Reporting Program on June 17, 2004. Most of the changes are minor in nature and help clarify how monitoring will occur for this NTMP. Significant changes include:

1. **Sediment Release Reporting:** Reporting of one cubic yard of naturally caused sediment release is considered excessive by Mr. Vaughan and most local foresters. Mr. Vaughan agrees that one cubic yard of sediment released due to timber harvest infrastructure is reasonable. Also, turbidity monitoring is only required to be performed visually, so the wording of this requirement has been clarified. Staff has modified Section 3.b. of the MRP as follows:

SEDIMENT RELEASE REPORTING: Whenever at least one cubic yard of soil associated with timber harvest infrastructure or ten cubic yards from any source is released to a waterway due to natural or anthropogenic causes, or when turbidity is significantly ~~over 100%~~ greater downstream compared to upstream (of a crossing or the Plan), then this event shall be reported to the Board within 24 hours.

2. Minor Changes and Clarifications of the MRP: The following changes are proposed to clarify and improve the MRP. Staff has also added wording to require spot checks of watercourses during active timber harvest operations to evaluate if any of these activities cause noticeable changes in turbidity.

SECTION 1.a.:

VISUAL MONITORING POINTS – The RPF or his designated representative shall monitor Visual monitoring of all roads, watercourse crossings, landings, skid trails, and, if possible, all Class I and II watercourse confluences and known landslides on the timber harvest plan., the +/-1200' of Wilson Creek that separates the north and south halves of the harvest area, the initial 500' of the watercourse that lies south of Landing a, and the landslide features near Crossings X40 and X41. If feral pig activity or trespassing is causing erosion that could adversely impact water quality, these locations shall be mapped, photographed, and recorded in the logbook as described in 3(a) below. During active timber harvest (i.e., tree felling, log yarding and log hauling), the Forester or Licensed Timber Operator shall perform spot checks (i.e., at the start of each activity) of nearby watercourses to evaluate if the particular activity is causing a noticeable increase in turbidity in the water column.

SECTION 1.b.:

PHOTO-POINT MONITORING POINTS – Photo-point monitoring points shall include ~~the top and bottom of each landslide, up and down stream of each watercourse crossing,~~ **three temporary Humboldt Crossings (X23, X25, and X34), the series of landslides near Crossings X40 and X41,** and Class I and II watercourse confluences. ~~If feral pig activity, trespassing, or other potential sources of erosion are known or discovered, these locations shall be included as photo points. Flagging, rebar or another method of establishing the photo point site locations shall be utilized. The document entitled “Standard Operation Procedure 5.2.3 - Photo Documentation Procedure” shall be utilized as the protocol for all photo-point monitoring. The photo-points will be established using ¾” white PVC pipe, on which will be recorded the photo point number and the direction the photo was taken. All photo-point locations shall be maintained until this Monitoring & Reporting Program is rescinded.~~

SECTION 2.d.:

PHOTO-POINT MONITORING: All photo-point monitoring points shall be monitored following:

- The first significant storm event (First Storm) during, and following completion of timber harvest activities, and
- Following any significant storm event during the month of April (April Storm).

Photo-point monitoring shall occur within seven days of the First Storm and April Storm events. If no significant storm event occurs in the month of April, photo-point monitoring shall be completed by April 30 of the same year. Starting in the second year following completion of timber harvest operations, the First Storm photo-point monitoring

may be discontinued (i.e., only the April Storm photo-point monitoring is required). A significant storm event shall be any storm of two or more inches of rain in a 24-hour period. **In addition, all temporary (including X16, X23, X25, X28, X34, X39, X41 and X42) shall be photographed before installation and after removal. All permanent crossings requiring work (including X27, X33, X36, X37, X38) shall be photographed before and after improvements are installed.**

SECTION 2.e. (moved to Section 1.a.)

~~**FERAL PIG ACTIVITY:** During any inspection, all evidence of feral pig activity shall be documented in the logbook (see 3.a. below) and via photographs.~~

SECTION 3.e.

ANNUAL REPORT: By August 15 of each year, an Annual Report shall be submitted to the Regional Board that addresses the following:

- i. A summary of timber harvest activities that occurred the previous year and are planned for the following year.
- ii. A summary of all wet weather problems observed,
- iii. A summary of all erosion control practices implemented,
- iv. Recommendations for wet weather preparation for the next year,
- v. Summary of the water quality monitoring performed during the previous year,
- vi. Recommendations for improving the monitoring and reporting program, and
- vii. **A summary of corrective action that was taken over the winter to protect water quality, and any repairs that may need to occur before the next rainy season.**

The Ocean Conservancy (signed by Sarah Newkirk, Kevin Collins and Jodi Frediani)
has submitted comments dated June 23, 2004.

3. Past Comments: Our concerns regarding all waivers on the July agenda are substantially identical to the concerns we expressed in prior comments. Dated January 30, 2004, and April 27, 2004. Consequently, we hereby incorporate our January 30 and April 27 comments by reference.

STAFF RESPONSE: Comment noted.

ATTACHMENTS

- June 23, 2004 letter by the Ocean Conservancy
- June 17, 2004 letter (fax) from Mr. Vaughan

S:\NPS\Timber Harvest\July 04 Board Meeting\Estrada II NTMP\Estrada II Supplemental Sheet - Comments.doc