STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Keith Roberson)
MEETING DATE: December 13, 2017

**ITEM:** **5B**

**SUBJECT:** **Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Disaster-Related Wastes in the San Francisco Bay Area** – Adoption of Conditional Waiver

**CHRONOLOGY:** The Board has not considered this item before.

**DISCUSSION**: The recent catastrophic wildfires in Napa, Sonoma, and Solano counties created an enormous volume of fire debris and wastes that pose acute threats to water quality, air quality, and human and ecological health. Accordingly, these wastes require prompt cleanup and disposal. A coalition of State and federal agencies is overseeing the cleanup of the declared disaster areas, but the Regional Water Boards (San Francisco Bay, North Coast, and Central Valley) are responsible for identifying and recommending permanent waste disposal sites for the disaster-related wastes. Water Board action is needed because the existing waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for active landfills in our Region generally prohibit the immediate discharge of waste materials that are likely to be poorly characterized and may not meet the definition of typical municipal solid waste.

The attached Tentative Resolution (Appendix A) facilitates prompt disposal of wastes from disasters, such as fires, floods, and earthquakes, in Governor-declared disaster areas by temporarily and conditionally waiving various conditions of the active landfills' WDRs, such as the requirement for representative sampling and characterization of waste materials. While this waiver does increase the potential of hazardous materials being disposed in disposal sites not designed for that purpose, it significantly reduces threats to human health and the environment currently posed by these materials while exposed at the surface in burn or other disaster areas. The waiver's conditions are intended to ensure water quality protection both at the disposal sites and at sites undergoing post-disaster cleanup.

No comments were received on the Tentative Resolution during the public comment period. We anticipate it will remain uncontested.

**RECOMMEN-DATION:** Adoption of the Tentative Resolution

**APPENDIX A:** Tentative Resolution

# APPENDIX A
# TENTATIVE RESOLUTION