

**Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations**

**[Published July 9, 2010]**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**Operations on Saturated Soils and Stable Operating Surfaces, 2010**

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) proposes to adopt the regulations of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) described below after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action.

**Amend:**

- 14 CCR § 895.1 Definitions.
- 14 CCR § 914.7 [934.7, 954.7]. Timber Operations, Winter Period.
- 14 CCR § 915.1 [935.1, 955.1]. Use of Heavy Equipment for Site Preparation.
- 14 CCR § 916.9 (k)[936.9(k), 956.9 (k)]. Year-Round Logging Road, Landing and Tractor Road Use Limitations.
- 14 CCR § 916.9 (l) [936.9(l), 956.9 (l)]. Extended Wet Weather Period.
- 14 CCR § 923.1, [943.1, 963.1]. Planning for Roads and Landings.
- 14 CCR § 923.2 [943.2, 963.2]. Road Construction.
- 14 CCR § 923.5 [943.5, 963.5]. Landing Construction.
- 14 CCR § 1093.2. Contents of Road Management Plan.
- 14 CCR § 1104.1. Conversion Exemptions.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**The Board will hold a public hearing starting at 8:00 A.M., on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at the Resources Building Auditorium, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California.** At the hearing, any person may present statements or arguments, orally or in writing, relevant to the proposed action described in the *Informative Digest*. The Board requests, but does not require, that persons who make oral comments at the hearing also submit a summary of their statements. Additionally, pursuant to Government Code Section 11125.1, any information presented to the Board during the open hearing in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration becomes part of the public record. Such information shall be retained by the Board and shall be made available upon request.

## **WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD**

Any person, or authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to the Board. **The written comment period ends at 5:00 P.M., on Monday, August 23, 2010.** The Board will consider only written comments received at the Board office by that time (in addition to those written comments received at the public hearing). The Board requests, but does not require, that persons who submit written comments to the Board reference the title of the rulemaking proposal in their comments to facilitate review.

Written comments shall be submitted to the following address:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: Christopher Zimny  
Regulations Coordinator  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Written comments can also be hand delivered to the contact person listed in this notice at the following address:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Room 1506-14  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA

Written comments may also be sent to the Board via facsimile at the following phone number:

(916) 653-0989

Written comments may also be delivered via e-mail at the following address:

[board.public.comments@fire.ca.gov](mailto:board.public.comments@fire.ca.gov)

## **AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE**

Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 4551 and 4554.5 authorize the Board to adopt such rules and regulations as it determines are reasonably necessary to enable it to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 4512, 4513 and 4561 of the Public Resources Code. Reference: Public Resources Code sections 4513, 4551.5, 4561, 4584 and 21080.5.

## **INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW**

The proposed rule amends sections in the California Forest Practice Rules which use the terms “saturated soil conditions” and “stable operation surface”. The amendments effectively qualify these terms to allow operations on saturated soils and maintenance of a stable operating surface to the extent that operations do “not violate Water Quality Requirements” and avoid any potential discharge “that may” result in increasing turbidity to watercourses. The amendments correct an unintended defect in the FPRs adopted in 2009 under the Anadromous Salmoind Protection Rules that prohibited any operations on saturated soil conditions or on [un]stable operating surfaces.

## **SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF THE REGULATION**

The proposed amendments are designed to incorporate consistent, standard terminology for operations on saturated soils or stable operating surfaces. For subsections containing language for saturated soil conditions, each amendment incorporates language that essentially limits timber operations to situations where operations “*shall not be conducted on saturated soils conditions that may produce sediment in quantities sufficient to cause a visible increase in turbidity of downstream waters in receiving Class I, II, III or IV waters or that violate Water Quality Requirements*”. Similarly for subsection with language addressing stable operating surfaces, each amendment incorporates language that allows operations “*that maintain a stable road surface that does not produce sediment in quantities that may cause a visible increase in turbidity of downstream waters in receiving Class I, II, III or IV waters or would violate Water Quality Requirements*”.

These amendments result in operations, such as tractor yarding during winter period, site preparation, hauling, or road construction etc., being prohibited when operations “may produce” turbid discharge of water, and when operations would violate Water Quality Requirements.

## **DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The Board has determined the proposed action will have the following effects:

- Mandate on local agencies and school districts: None
- Costs or savings to any State agency: The regulation will not result in a fiscal impact to the State.
- Cost to any local agency or school district which must be reimbursed in accordance with the applicable Government Code (GC) sections commencing with GC Section 17500: None

- Other non-discretionary cost or savings imposed upon local agencies: None
- Cost or savings in federal funding to the State: None
- The Board has made an initial determination that there will be no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.
- Cost impacts on representative private person or businesses: The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.
- Significant effect on housing costs: None
- Adoption of these regulations will not: (1) create or eliminate jobs within California; (2) create new businesses or eliminate existing businesses within California; or (3) affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within California.
- Effect on small business: The Board has determined that the proposed amendments will not have an adverse affect on small business. The proposed regulations provide greater flexibility to those harvesting timber by allowing operations on saturated soil conditions when such operations will not result in certain conditions that have a significant adverse environment impact or violate water quality requirements.
- The proposed rules do not conflict with, or duplicate Federal regulations.

## **BUSINESS REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

The regulation does not require a report, which shall apply to businesses.

## **CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES**

In accordance with Government Code Section 11346.5(a) (13), the Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considers or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Board would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

## **CONTACT PERSON**

Requests for copies of the proposed text of the regulations, the *Initial Statement of Reasons*, modified text of the regulations and any questions regarding the substance of the proposed action may be directed to:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: Christopher Zimny  
Regulations Coordinator  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460  
Telephone: (916) 653-9418

The designated backup person in the event Mr. Zimny is not available is George Gentry, Executive Officer of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, at the above address and phone (916) 653-8007.

## **AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS**

The Board has prepared an *Initial Statement of Reasons* providing an explanation of the purpose, background, and justification for the proposed regulations. The statement is available from the contact person on request.

When the *Final Statement of Reasons* has been prepared, the statement will be available from the contact person on request.

A copy of the express terms of the proposed action using UNDERLINE to indicate an addition to the California Code of Regulations and ~~STRIKETHROUGH~~ to indicate a deletion, is also available from the contact person named in this notice.

The Board will have the entire rulemaking file, including all information considered as a basis for this proposed regulation, available for public inspection and copying throughout the rulemaking process at its office at the above address. All of the above referenced information is also available on the CDF web site at:

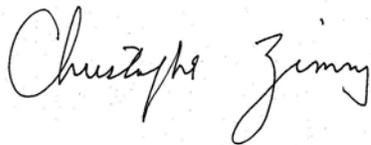
[http://www.fire.ca.gov/BOF/board/board\\_proposed\\_rule\\_packages.html](http://www.fire.ca.gov/BOF/board/board_proposed_rule_packages.html)

## AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT

After holding the hearing and considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Board may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If the Board makes modifications which are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will make the modified text—with the changes clearly indicated—available to the public for at least 15 days before the Board adopts the regulations as revised. Notice of the comment period on changed regulations, and the full text as modified, will be sent to any person who:

- a) testified at the hearings,
- b) submitted comments during the public comment period, including written and oral comments received at the public hearing, or
- c) requested notification of the availability of such changes from the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Requests for copies of the modified text of the regulations may be directed to the contact person listed in this notice. The Board will accept written comments on the modified regulations for 15 days after the date on which they are made available.



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Christopher Zimny  
Regulations Coordinator  
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection