

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Executive Officer Considers Approval of Limited Timber Harvest in Elk River and Freshwater Creek Watersheds

SANTA ROSA-- The North Coast Regional Water Board Executive Officer today announced she will approve enrollment of a limited number of additional Pacific Lumber Company timber harvest plans in the Elk River and Freshwater Creek watersheds.

“At this point I am prepared to approve timber harvest plans that will allow Pacific Lumber Company to harvest up to 50 percent of the annual harvest limit set by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for these watersheds,” said Catherine Kuhlman, the North Coast Regional Water Board’s Executive Officer. “Staff inspections this week have assured me that excess sediment will not run off from those operations.”

At Wednesday’s public meeting residents described how the Freshwater and Elk watersheds have been hit by increased flooding which has trapped them in their homes, ruined their water supplies, and damaged their septic systems.

Since September 1, 2004, the North Coast Regional Water Board has approved enrollment of 51 timber harvest plans for Pacific Lumber Company lands.

The Regional Water Board will hear Pacific Lumber Company’s request for more THP approvals at its March 16 meeting in Santa Rosa.