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In Memoriam:
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W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.

Augusts 14, 2017

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Attn: Eric Hedge
Regulations Coordinator
By electronic mail at publiccomments@BOF.ca.gov
from vhelliwell@mcn.org

Re: Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist, Technical Rule Addendum No. 2 and Appendix Amendments, 2017 Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR), Division 1.5, Chapter 4:Subchapter 4, 5, & 6, Article 2 Amend: § 912.9, 932.9, 952.9

Dear Mr. Hedge,

Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) and Institute for Fisheries Resources (IFR) request that the cumulative impacts analysis amendments be enforceable, which is not the case when the word "may" is substituted for "must," "shall" or "should." "Guidance level" rules in their present proposed form are not a functional equivalent of CEQA because they are not enforceable and must prevent "take."

We need a robust and accelerated program of recovery for state and federal ESA-listed salmonids in California in order to 1) reverse their decades-long decline toward extinction and 2) restore the beneficial uses, including cold-water fisheries. The rules need enforceable time schedules and margins of safety analysis. A valid, proper, enforceable, definition of "significance" is necessary for the Cumulative Impacts Rule, including independent monitoring and evaluation with error analysis to make sure the rules are being enforced and that they are effective. Additionally, repeated selective cut may not maintain enough canopy to protect the soil from erosion and sedimentation of streams.

Please keep in mind as you review these comments the intent language as expressed in the Forward by Jerry Partain, Director, Department of Forestry, in the 1985 Edition of the Forest Practice Rules:

“The goal of modern forestry is to manage the resource so that its benefits will continue undiminished for all future generations....The Forest Practice Rules have attempted to bring together the concerns of workers in forestry and of laypersons and professionals in other resource areas to assure a continuous supply of forest products without damaging the resource base. This requires the consideration not only of forestry in the traditional sense, but also of fisheries and wildlife, watershed protection, esthetics and recreation potentials.”

Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations is the largest trade association of commercial fishing families on the West Coast. For more than forty years, PCFFA has led the commercial fishing industry in assuring the rights of individual fishing men and women, and in fighting for the long-term survival of commercial fishing as a productive livelihood and way of life. Our members coast-wide rely on healthy salmon fisheries from California’s rivers. Not only do we rely on these rivers and the forests that support them to restore endangered salmon runs so we can someday fish again on the “harvestable surplus,” but many other coastal fishing support businesses rely on fishing to bring income to the area. Money earned from salmon fishing is spent locally as well. Commercial boats from up and down the coast brought millions of dollars worth of salmon to market in Eureka in recent decades.

PCFFA’s sister organization, the Institute for Fisheries Resources (IFR), is dedicated to the protection and restoration of fish resources and the human economies that depend on them. A critical component of both organizations’ missions is robust protections for water quality in surface waters that support salmon fisheries.

Please tighten up these rules for maximum salmonid protection as per our suggestions. Thank you for considering our comments.



Noah Oppenheim
Executive Director, PCFFA and IFR

Vivian Helliwell
Watershed Conservation Director, PCFFA and IFR

Cc: Congressman Jared Huffman
State Senator Mike McGuire
Assemblyman Jim Wood