Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/11/2022 12:00:00 PM
First name: Misty
Last name: Pontes
Organization: Central Valley Water Board
Title: Environmental Scientist
Comments: The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) received the invitation for comments letter dated 11 April 2022, for the Region 5 Post-Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project as proposed by the United States Forest Service (USFS), Pacific Southwest Region. We wish to take this opportunity to notify you of permitting requirements under the Central Valley Water Board[rsquo]s Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Discharges Related to Timberland Management Activities for Non-Federal and Federal Lands, Order No. R5-2017-0061 (General Order). Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13260, any person that discharges waste or threatens to discharge waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the state must submit a Report of Waste Discharge outlining the proposed discharges. After review of the proposal, Central Valley Water Board staff have determined that your project may be eligible for enrollment under the General Order. Please carefully review the General Order to ensure that all requirements are fulfilled prior to submitting the Notice of Intent (NOI) to our office. This will ensure timely processing by the Central Valley Water Board and prevent any project implementation delays. Enrollment in the General Order may require monitoring of the project area and to submit an annual monitoring report each year after operations begin and until a Notice of Termination has been accepted by the Central Valley Water Board. Forms and associated documents for General Order enrollment is available at the following web address: (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/forest_activities/). USFS Pacific Southwest Region - 2 - 11 May 2022 Region 5 Post-Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Scoping Comments After reviewing the project proposal and list of Best Management Practices provided, specifically as it relates to water quality, Central Valley Water Board staff would like to provide the following comments regarding this proposed project: [bull] Differing Regional Water Quality Control Board boundaries and permitting requirements can vary throughout each National Forest and within designated zones in this assessment. Central Valley Water Board staff recommend that USFS staff involved with this project become aware of regional board boundaries, and the permitting requirements in the area they may be working in. [bull] Managers of projects occurring in the Central Valley Region should contact Central Valley Water Board staff prior to project implementation regarding requirements of the General Order. [bull] If pesticides, other than what is listed in the proposal, are to be used in the future please note that additional requirements may be necessary under the General Order. [bull] In addition to routine road maintenance activities, the establishment of upgraded drainage facilities such as inboard ditches and cross drains (waterbars, rolling dips, over-the-side drains, ditch relief culverts, etc.) should be prioritized to ensure all road and/or trail drainage systems do not directly discharge to surface waters. [bull] The General Order requires that dischargers must submit a complete NOI and Erosion Site Table within 30 days of the startup of operations for Category 5A projects, or 15 days prior to operations for Category 5B projects, which will include site specific information identifying Significant Existing or Potential Erosion Sites (SEPES), priority road improvement locations, and their proposed treatments to improve or protect water quality