# New Water Quality and Coastal Streamlining for CalVTP Program EIR Users

Two new regulatory tools were recently approved to substantially streamline Clean Water Act and California Coastal Act compliance for vegetation treatment projects using the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

## Clean Water Act Streamlining

The California State Water Resources Control Board approved the final Vegetation Treatment General Order on July 6, 2021. This new General Order aims to protect water quality while facilitating the State’s goals to increase pace and scale of vegetation treatment to reduce wildfire risk. The General Order streamlines regulations for discharges into Waters of the State from qualifying vegetation treatment activities.

Who can use this General Order?

* Any local or state agency proposing projects that are within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR and have completed a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) or PSA/Addendum to the Program EIR.

What does the General Order require?

* It requires implementation of the applicable standard project requirements (SPRs) and mitigation measures from the CalVTP Program EIR.
* An individual report of waste discharge, additional costs, or new measures are not required for vegetation treatment activities found to be within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR.

How does my agency enroll to use the General Order?

* Agencies are automatically enrolled through the CalVTP notification process for PSAs.

## California Coastal Act Streamlining

On July 8, 2021, the California Coastal Commission unanimously approved Forest Health and Fire Prevention Public Works Plans (PWPs) for San Mateo County and Santa Cruz County as well as the Camp Butano Vegetation Treatment Project, which is the first CalVTP PSA prepared using a PWP for Coastal Act compliance. These 10-year PWPs will serve as programmatic Coastal Act authorizations for treatment projects undertaken pursuant to the CalVTP Program EIR in the Coastal Zone. PWPs are an alternative to project-by-project review for vegetation treatment, which would otherwise require obtaining a coastal development permit for each qualifying project.

Who can use a Public Works Plan?

* Any state or local agency proposing a treatment project in the PWP Program Areas and preparing a PSA using the CalVTP Program EIR, in coordination with the San Mateo County or Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District and Coastal Commission staff.
* Any public agency with jurisdiction within the Coastal Zone could prepare a PWP for vegetation treatment.

What does a Public Works Plan require?

* Use of a PWP requires implementation of applicable standard project requirements (SPRs) and mitigation measures from the CalVTP Program EIR.
* Additional Coastal-specific Vegetation Treatment Standards (Coastal VTS) are also required.

How does my agency use a Public Works Plan?

* Submit individual projects as Notice of Impending Developments (NOIDs), which must demonstrate projects are consistent with the PWP.
* Detailed instruction on process is provided in the PWP.

Heather Blair, CalVTP Program EIR Project Manager, Ascent Environmental

heather.blair@ascentenvironmental.com

Lara Rachowicz, CalVTP Program EIR Senior Biologist, Ascent Environmental

lara.rachowicz@ascentenvironmental.com

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