



State Water Resources Control Board

March 20, 2024

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Post Office Box 944246
Sacramento, California 94244-2460

Re: Wet Areas, Meadows, and Restoration Activities, 2024, dated February 16, 2024,
Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations

Dear Members of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection,

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) supports the approval of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's (Board of Forestry) proposed rulemaking entitled "Wet Areas, Meadows, and Restoration Activities, 2024."

The State Water Board appreciates the Board of Forestry's addressing the Wet Areas issue, an item we highlighted in our October 14, 2022, letter in response to the Board of Forestry's call for regulatory review. We further appreciate having had the opportunity to provide substantial input during the review process, and working cooperatively and collaboratively with members of the Board of Forestry, their staff, staff from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Department of Fish and Game, and members of the public.

As summarized in the Initial Statement of Reasons, the issue is that the current definitions for the terms "Meadows and Wet Areas" and "Wet Meadows and Other Wet Areas" have led to confusion about protections due to an atmosphere of regulatory uncertainty. We believe the proposed rulemaking to consolidate the two definitions into a single definition for "Wet Areas" provides increased clarity and will allow for a more consistent application on the landscape.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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FULL 14(e)

Thank you for providing this opportunity for the State Water Board to comment on the proposed rule package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Crader". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Phil Crader, Assistant Deputy Director
Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board

cc:

Paul Hann, Watersheds and Wetlands Section Lead, Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board

Clint Snyder, Assistant Executive Officer, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Andrew Jensen, Environmental Program Manager, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Jonathan Warmerdam, Environmental Program Manager, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board