

DFG Comments: Class II-L Identification Methods Amendments, 2012

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[45-day Notice Published July 6, 2012]

Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR):

Amend:

§§ 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](c)(4) Protection and Restoration in Watersheds with Threatened or Impaired Values.

§§ 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](g) Class II Watercourses

Amend 14 CCR § 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] (c)(4):

(3) ***** an additional sediment filter on steeper slopes with high or moderate erosion hazard rating when tractor operations are proposed.

(4) **Class II large watercourses (Class II-L):** The primary objective is to maintain, protect or restore the values and functions of Class II-L type watercourses described below. Class II-L type watercourses: (i) can supply water and nutrients to a Class I watercourse during the month of July during a year of average precipitation and runoff as derived from long-term average precipitation data sets available from CAL FIRE, U.S. Geological Survey, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), (ii) can supply coarse and fine sediment to the Class I channel, and (iii) may be able to supply wood of a size that would function as large wood for the Class I

watercourse. Large wood in Class II- L type watercourses and the WLPZ is also critical because large wood reduces sediment delivery to watercourses; increases sediment, nutrient, and water storage in Class II channels; and meters sediment, nutrient, and water transport to fish-bearing Class I watercourses. Recruitment of large wood must be ensured to maintain conditions where they are currently good, and to restore conditions where they have been diminished. Sediment and water storage in Class II channels can

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1 [lower water temperature flowing to downstream Class I waters. In addition to their role](#)
2 [in providing for downstream Class I values, Class II-S watercourses have important](#)
3 [intrinsic habitat values.](#) Other objectives stated in 14 CCR § 916.9 [936.9, 956.9]
4 subsections (c)(1) and (2) above for the Core Zone and Inner Zone are also desired
5 objectives for Class II-L type watercourses.

6 (5) A primary objective for all WLPZs is to implement practices to maintain****

7 (f) **Class I** watercourses – *****which delimb harvested trees on pathway over which heavy
8 equipment would travel.

9
10 **Amend 14 CCR § 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] (g)**

11 **(g) Class II watercourses –**

12 The following are the minimum requirements for Class II WLPZ delineation and timber
13 operations. Differing rules are specified for watersheds in the coastal anadromy zone, the
14 Southern Subdistrict of the Coast Forest District, and areas outside the coastal anadromy zone.
15 WLPZ width ranges from 50 to 100 feet slope distance, depending on side slope steepness in
16 the WLPZ and the watercourse type.

17 **(1) Determine the Class II Watercourse Type:** Class II watercourses are

18 composed of two types - Class II-S (standard) watercourses and Class II-L (large)
19 watercourses. A Class II-L watercourse is defined as a Class II watercourse that: (i) can supply
20 water and nutrients to a Class I watercourse during the month of July during an average
21 hydrologic year, [inclusive of sub-surface flow](#); (ii) can supply coarse and fine sediment to the
22 Class I channel; and (iii) may be able to supply wood of a size that would function as large wood
23 for the Class I watercourse. Identification of Class II-L watercourse types shall be based on one
24 or more of the office methods specified under 14 CCR § 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] subsection
25 (g)(1)(A) and the field [methods](#) specified under 14 CCR § 916.9 [936.9, 956.9], subsection

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1 (g)(1)(B). Class II-S watercourses are those classified as Class II watercourses pursuant to 14
2 CCR § 916.5 [936.5, 956.5], but do not meet the definition of a Class II-L watercourse.

3 (A) Office-based approaches ~~methods~~ to assign preliminary Class II-L or Class II-S
4 designations to watercourses:

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5 1. **Stream order:** After classifying the watercourses in an area
6 pursuant to 14 CCR § 916.5 [936.5, 956.5], map all Class II watercourses, then determine
7 stream order following the stream order method in 14 CCR § 895.1. First and second order
8 Class II watercourses are potentially Class II-S, while second order and larger Class II
9 watercourses are potentially Class II-L watercourses.

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10 2. **“Blue Line” streams:** Watercourses mapped with a blue or
11 black line on current 1:24,000 scale U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps that are not
12 Class I are potentially Class II-L watercourses. All other watercourses are potentially Class II-
13 S.

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14 3. **Drainage area:** A drainage area determined to flow during
15 July of a year with average precipitation based on continuous streamflow monitoring data, past
16 local experience and knowledge can indicate potential Class II-L watercourses.
17 Long-term average precipitation data sets are available from CAL FIRE, U.S. Geological
18 Survey, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This method may be
19 applied to a vicinity wherein geologic, climatic, and hydrologic conditions are similar. Streams
20 draining smaller areas are potential Class II-S.

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1. Significant contribute

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21 (B) ~~Field-based approaches to identify potential Class II-L:~~ Determination of
22 Class II-L and II-S watercourses shall be verified in the field by direct ~~channel~~ observations or
23 site-specific documentation. Class II-L watercourses contribute flow to a Class I watercourse at
24 least through approximately July 15th following a water year with at least average precipitation,
25 inclusive of subsurface flows. The presence of springs or seeps or riparian associated species

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1 indicate a Class II-L watercourse. Class II-S do not contribute flow to a Class I watercourse
2 during July.

3 (C) Based on (A) and (B) above, make a determination if the portion of the Class II
4 watercourse being evaluated meets the definition of a Class II-L watercourse in 14 CCR § 916.9
5 [936.9, 956.9], subsection (c)(4).

6 (D) Include documentation in the plan explaining how the Class II-S determination(s)
7 were made for Class II segments within 1000 feet of the Class I confluence. Photographs,
8 detailed analysis of potential stream temperature effects on receiving Class I waters, and/or
9 other documentation depicting Class II flow regime and/or channel characteristics may be
10 submitted by the RPF to support determination.

11 (E) All Class II-L watercourses designated above shall incorporate requirements stated
12 in 14 CCR § 916.9 [936.9, 956.9], (g)(2) for a maximum distance of one-thousand (1000) feet,
13 or total length of Class II-L, which ever is less, measured from the confluence with a Class I
14 watercourse.

15
16 (2) **Class II WLPZ widths and operational requirements:** All Class II WLPZs shall be
17 composed*****
18 ###

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2. Observe channel characteristics such as channel width at bankfull stage, channel depth at bankfull stage, channel slope, mean entrenchment ratio, the presence of springs or seeps, and the presence of aquatic animal and plant life that require mid-summer flow. Channel substrate that includes coarse sediment, and evidence of a flow regime capable of transporting coarse sediment (gravel and small cobble one to five (1-5) inches in diameter or greater) to a Class I watercourse during peak flows. ¶

3. Use continuous streamflow monitoring data from headwater watercourses to determine the watershed drainage area necessary to initiate mid-summer streamflow for a given ecoregion and extrapolate this data to other headwater basins in that ecoregion. Sufficient channel width and depth at bankfull stage to allow transport of large wood, defined as >12 inches in diameter and six (6) feet in length, to receiving Class I waters, during peak flows.

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