Webinar Materials and Comment Submittal

- Presentation and Draft Guidance are posted at: http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/meetings/meetings.htm

- Written comments may be viewed at: https://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm2/bccommmllog.php?listname=forestprotocol15-ws

- During the webinar, we will accept questions via the phone by raised hand or via chat
On June 25, 2015, the Air Resources Board approved an updated version of the U.S. Forest Protocol. As part of the approval, the Board directed ARB staff to develop guidance on the implementation of the new protocol. On July 27, 2015, ARB staff held a workshop to solicit stakeholder comment to assist with development of draft guidance.
Guidance Development

- Stakeholder comments focused broadly on three main areas:
  - Minimum baseline/logical management unit
  - Even-aged management limits and verification
  - Common Practice values

- Based on these comments and those provided during the rulemaking process, ARB staff developed draft guidance
Guidance

- Describes and clarifies regulatory requirements in a reader-friendly format
- Is not intended to and cannot establish new mandatory requirements beyond those that are already in the Cap-and-Trade Regulation (Regulation)
- Cannot supplant, replace, or amend any of the legal requirements of the regulation
- Does not have the force of law
Regulatory Amendments

- Require a full regulatory development process
- Require Board approval
- Require review by the Office of Administrative Law
- Quantification methodologies identified in the protocol require a public review and Board adoption to make changes because of CEQA requirements
Basis for Guidance

- As directed by the Board, wherever possible, guidance is based on the California Forest Practice Rules
  - The protocol does not alter the CFPR and this webinar is not a forum for discussing changes to the CFPR

- Staff experience implementing the program for the past five years

- Comments from and conversations with stakeholders
Steps to Finalize Guidance

- Workshop on updated protocol July 27, 2015
- ARB staff will develop and share draft guidance document
- ARB webinar to discuss draft guidance with another informal comment period
- Release second draft of guidance with informal comment period
- Finalize guidance and post on ARB website
Questions & Comments

- What additional clarification to the topics addressed in the draft guidance would be helpful?
- Are there additional topics that are not included in the draft that would be helpful to include?
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