

REVIEW TEAM FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

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Board of Forestry regulations require that provisions be made for the Department of Fish and Game, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Water Resources Control Board or regional water quality control boards, county government when county government so requests, and other agencies as appropriate, to assist the Director in reviewing THPs. When appropriate, the Director may request other state agencies to assist in this review. The department is the lead agency in reviewing THPs, and all other agencies function in an advisory role.

Each region chief is responsible for establishing and scheduling the meetings of each review team within his/her region to perform the necessary review of THPs submitted to the department. When feasible, the meetings may be scheduled at locations in the counties where the timber operations are proposed, and more than one team may be assigned to a region if workload warrants. Each review team member shall be given two or more days notice of the dates on which the team will meet. In no case should a meeting be held until each team member has been notified.

Review team meetings are not hearings and are not subject to hearing procedures. The department has special THP hearing procedures for those counties for which the board has adopted special rules, and these should not be confused with the requirements for the review team. Review team meetings should be open to the public insofar as is possible without disrupting the review team's work. When the public attends, the review team chairperson should explain the function of the review team before starting to review plans. The public may be allowed to participate in the discussions unless such participation seriously disrupts the review process.

Although interested persons usually should be allowed to attend review team meetings, there may be occasions when space or other considerations will require some limitations on attendance. Under such circumstances, the review team chairperson should make every effort to allow at least one representative for each of the various agencies, organizations, or special interest groups to attend the meeting.

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