

## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 25, 2013

AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY PROGRAM  
ID NUMBER: **AW 0699**

Tony Alameda  
[aealameda@topflavor.com](mailto:aealameda@topflavor.com)  
Top Flavor Farms Inc. –  
Firestone/Anderson-Fowler  
P.O. Box 189  
San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

### TIER DETERMINATION LETTER

Dear Mr. Alameda:

**TIER REVIEW REQUEST DETERMINATION: TOP FLAVOR FARMS INC. –  
FIRESTONE/ANDERSON-FOWLER; 340 EL CAMINO REAL SOUTH, SALINAS, MONTEREY  
COUNTY; (AGL020002664)**

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) received an official request on October 8, 2013 to evaluate the ranch/farm tier assigned by Water Board staff under Order No. R3-2012-0011, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Agricultural Order). The request was specifically related to the below listed ranch/farm.

Name of Ranch/Farm: **TOP FLAVOR FARMS – Firestone/Anderson-Fowler**  
Current Water Board Tier Assignment: **TIER 3**  
Grower Requested Tier Assignment: **TIER 2**

According to your justification statement, the basis for your requested tier assignment change is that your farm/ranch may not have a discharge (irrigation runoff or stormwater runoff) to receiving water (Salinas River). Based on the characteristics of your farm/ranch, this information does not affect your assigned tier.

Water Board staff has reviewed your request, and has **DENIED** your Grower Requested Tier Assignment. The basis for our determination is described below:

***This ranch/farm grows crop types with a high potential to discharge nitrogen to groundwater and this ranch/farm total irrigated acreage is greater than or equal to 500 acres. This characteristic places this ranch/farm in Tier 3. Refer to the Agricultural Order, p17, #17, 3a.***

Water Board staff provides further information about requirements that apply to Tier 3 growers in the Agricultural Order. Please review the Agricultural Order (see webpage link below) to make sure you understand which requirements apply to **all** Tier 3 growers, and which apply **only** to Tier 3 growers who discharge (irrigation runoff or stormwater runoff) to receiving water (Salinas River).

**Tier 3 Individual Surface Water Discharge Monitoring Requirements**

*Be advised that Agricultural Order No. R3-2012-0011 and the related Tier 3 Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) requires Tier 3 growers that have a discharge to receiving water (irrigation runoff, stormwater runoff, or tailwater pond) to conduct individual surface water discharge monitoring and reporting. Tier 3 farms/ranches that do not have a discharge to receiving water are not required to conduct individual surface water discharge monitoring.*

*Detailed information about the individual surface water discharge monitoring requirements is available on the Water Board's website under section "Grower Workshops and Resources" at the following link:*

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/ag\\_waivers/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml)

The final tier assignment for this ranch/farm is now reflected in GeoTracker. You can login to your GeoTracker account to verify your information. If the characteristics of the ranch/farm change such that the assigned tier may no longer apply per the tiering criteria in Order R3-2012-0011, the grower must notify the Water Board by submitting an updated Tier Review Request.

If you have questions regarding this determination, please contact the Water Board staff assigned to your watershed area: **Hector Hernandez at (805) 542-4641 or [hhernandez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:hhernandez@waterboards.ca.gov)**

Sincerely,

for

Kenneth A. Harris, Jr.  
Executive Officer

cc:

**Operation Contact**

Mike Di Marco  
[mdimarco@topflavor.com](mailto:mdimarco@topflavor.com)

**Landowner(s)**

Firestone Business Park  
340 El Camino Real South  
Salinas, CA 93901  
(APN: 177-132-027, 028, 038, 039; 139-101-013)

Anderson Ranch Limited Partners  
1041 Featherstone Way  
Felton, CA 95018  
(APN: 177-132-041, 177-132-043)

**TOP FLAVOR FARMS INC. (AW0699)  
Firestone/Anderson-Fowler Ranches  
(AGL020002664)**

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**NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

Roy W. Fowler & Barbara J. Daggett  
P.O. Box 1131  
Orangevale, CA 95662  
(APN: 177-132-025, 177-132-026)