

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION R5-2013-XXXX

ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
AND  
APPROVING AN INITIAL STUDY  
FOR  
PARAMOUNT FARMS INTERNATIONAL, LLC  
EL DORADO PISTACHIO PROCESSING PLANT EXPANSION  
AND  
PARAMOUNT FARMING COMPANY, LLC  
FRESNO COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) finds:

1. The Central Valley Water Board proposes to prescribe Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the discharge/reuse of pistachio processing wastewater by Paramount Farms International, LLC (hereafter Paramount) from its El Dorado Pistachio Processing Plant (Plant) at 39840 El Dorado Avenue near Coalinga in Fresno County to approximately 600 acres of farmland. The farmland is owned by Paramount's sister company Paramount Farming Company, LLC.
2. Prescribing WDRs is a discretionary action that has the potential to cause direct or indirect effects on the physical environment. Since no other discretionary governmental approvals are needed for this project, the Central Valley Water Board has assumed the role of lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.).
3. The Central Valley Water Board has conducted an Initial Study in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15063. Based on the results of the Initial Study, the Board prepared a **Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration**, which concludes that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation measures are incorporated into the WDRs.
4. Copies of the Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration were transmitted to or made available to all agencies and persons known to be interested in these matters.
5. In a public hearing, the Central Valley Water Board considered all public comments submitted and all oral comments received regarding the Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration.
6. Minor changes were made to the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration based on public comments received, and an addendum to the Initial Study was prepared to clarify points raised during the comment period. Modifications and additions to the mitigation measures are equivalent or more effective in mitigating or avoiding potential significant effects, and these mitigation measures themselves will not cause any potentially significant effects on the environment.
7. Based on the whole record before the Central Valley Water Board, there is no evidence that the issuance of WDRs for the Plant will have a significant effect on the environment, due to the incorporation of enforceable mitigation measures in the waste discharge requirements. Paramount has agreed to the incorporation of these mitigation measures.
8. Along with the WDRs, the Board will issue a Monitoring and Reporting Program that will ensure that the project will not create significant effects to the environment and that all of the mitigation

measures incorporated into the WDRs will be implemented. The Monitoring and Reporting Program will therefore satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code section 21081.6(a)(1).

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, pursuant to California Public Resources Code section 21080, et seq., of the, the Central Valley Water Board, after considering the entire record, including written comments and oral testimony at the hearing:

1. Approves the Initial Study and adopts a Mitigated Negative Declaration in connection with prescribing WDRs and a Monitoring and Reporting Program for the discharge/reuse of pistachio processing wastewater by Paramount Farms International, LLC and Paramount Farming Company, LLC to the approximately 600-acre land application area.
2. Finds the record before the Central Valley Water Board contains no substantial evidence that a fair argument has been made that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region on XX December 2013.

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PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer