
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

17 September 2013

Daniel Lee, Technical Services Manager
Paramount Farms International, LLC
13646 Highway 33
Lost Hills, CA 93249

NOTICE

**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
AND
TENTATIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
PARAMOUNT FARMS INTERNATIONAL, LLC
ELDORADO PISTACHIO PROCESSING FACILITY
AND PARAMOUNT FARMING COMPANY, LLC
FRESNO COUNTY**

Paramount Farms International, LLC (Paramount), owns and operates the El Dorado Pistachio Processing Plant near Coalinga in Fresno County. Wastewater from the Plant is currently discharged to approximately 80 acres of farmland adjacent to the Plant. Paramount is requesting revised Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) to increase flows and expand its land application area.

Prior to adoption of revised WDRs to regulate the discharge of pistachio processing wastewater, a review of the project's potential environmental impacts is required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) is the lead agency for CEQA and has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. The review period begins on 24 September 2013 and ends on 24 October 2013.

In order to conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, paper copies of the tentative WDRs, Initial Study, and Mitigated Negative Declaration have been sent only to the Discharger. Others are advised that the tentative WDR, Initial Study, and Mitigated Negative Declaration are available on the Central Valley Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml

under the heading, "Discharger-Specific Orders for Future Board Meetings."

Persons wishing to comment on this matter must submit their testimony, evidence, and/or comments in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **5:00 pm on 24 October 2013**. Absent a

showing of good cause and lack of prejudice to other parties, the Board Chair may exclude comments and evidence received after this deadline.

The Central Valley Water Board meeting where the above matter will be considered is scheduled for the following time and location:

Date: 5/6 December 2013
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA

Persons wishing to make non-evidentiary policy statements at the Board meeting (such statements will generally be limited to 3 minutes) are **not** required to submit written comments, but the Board appreciates receiving those comments in writing by the due date listed above so that they may be included in the packages that the Board members will receive ahead of the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this tentative Order, Initial Study, or Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, or if you do not have Internet access and wish to request paper copies, contact Katie Carpenter at (559) 445-5551 or kcarpenter@waterboards.ca.gov.

LONNIE M. WASS
Supervising Engineer

Enclosures: Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (Discharger Only)
Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (Discharger Only)
Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements, March 1991 (Discharger only)
Native American contact list (Discharger only)

cc w/o enc.: David Coupe, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC, Sacramento (via email)
Patrick Pulupa, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC, Sacramento (via email)
Gorden Innes, State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ, Sacramento (via email)
Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region IV, Fresno
Department of Water Resources, San Joaquin District, Fresno
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Fresno
Fresno County, Planning Department, Fresno
Fresno County, Department of Health and Human Services Agency, Fresno
Mike Widhalm, Paramount Farming Company, Bakersfield
Bill Jennings, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Stockton
Jo Anne Kipps (via email)
Kathy Parker, Insight Environmental Consultants, Bakersfield
Native American contact list