

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Board Meeting – 4-5 June 2015**

**Response to Written Comments for
Paramount Farms International LLC
King Pistachio Processing Plant
and William J. Mouren Farming, Inc.
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements**

At a public hearing scheduled for 4 and 5 June 2015, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Paramount Farms international LLC (Paramount), King Pistachio Processing Plant (King Plant). This document contains responses to written comments received from interested parties regarding the tentative WDRs (TWDRs) initially circulated on 19 March 2015. Written comments from interested parties were required by public notice to be received by the Central Valley Water Board by 20 April 2015 to receive full consideration. Comments for the TWDRs were received by Paramount.

Written comments from the above interested party are summarized below, followed by the response of the Central Valley Water Board staff. Central Valley Water Board staff did make some changes to the TWDRs based on comments and to improve clarity and fix typographical errors.

PARAMOUNT FARMS INTERNATIONAL LLC (PARAMOUNT) COMMENTS

On 20 April 2015, Paramount submitted comments with an attached letter from NV5 signed and stamped by Patrick F. Dunn (Certified Hydrogeologist No. 900). The following refers to comments from both letters as comments from Paramount.

PARAMOUNT COMMENT NO. 1: Paramount comments that Effluent and Mass Loading Limitation B.3 of the TWDRs be revised to describe 27 acres of Land Application Area instead of 15 acres of Land Application Area.

RESPONSE: The requested change has been made.

PARAMOUNT COMMENT NO. 2: The main comment by Paramount has to do with parts of the TWDRs (Finding No. 46 and Provision G.16) that discuss/require the installation of a groundwater monitoring well network should Paramount's discharges exceed Effluent and Mass Loading Limitation B.3 of the TWDRs for two consecutive years. Paramount requests that language in Finding No. 46 and Provision G.16 be modified to allow the submittal of an *Ambient Conditions Report* prior to the installation of a groundwater monitoring well network. Paramount states the *Ambient Conditions Report* will serve as an investigative report that will evaluate underlying geology, soil infiltration rates at the land application area, and groundwater quality in the area to determine the effectiveness of installing a groundwater monitoring well network.

RESPONSE: Finding No. 46 and Provision G.16 have been modified. Specifically, the time schedule in Provision G.16 has been modified to require Paramount to submit an

Ambient Conditions Report for Central Valley Water Board staff review and approval by the Executive Officer should Paramount's discharges exceed the Effluent and Mass Loading Limitation B.3 of the TWDRs for two consecutive years.

The Discharge is within the Lost Hills Northwest oil field, an area where groundwater is generally thought to be of poor quality and not used. Given this and the local geology, Central Valley Water Board staff concurs that a phased investigative approach is appropriate for the site.

Language in Finding No.46 of the TWDRs has been modified to read as follows:

“Generally, the quality of the discharged wastewater is better than that of groundwater, and given the site location and geology, this is expected. This Order does not require groundwater monitoring at this time. It does require wastewater effluent monitoring and LAA loading calculations. Should constituent concentrations and loadings in one year exceed those described in Findings 12, 16, 27, and 28, this Order will require the Discharger to submit a technical report describing measures it will implement to prevent future exceedances from occurring. Should the Discharger exceed the constituent concentrations and loading rates described above for two consecutive years ~~and/or cannot reduce the constituent concentrations and loading rates, this Order will require,~~ **this Order requires the Discharger to submit an Ambient Conditions Report (Report) prior to the installation of a groundwater monitoring well network. If the Discharger does not submit the Report or the Executive Officer does not concur with the result of the Report that is submitted, this Order requires** the Discharger to submit a **plan to install** a groundwater monitoring well network ~~work plan~~ to evaluate any potential impacts from the discharge.”

Language in Provision G.16 of the TWDRs has been modified to read as follows:

The Discharger shall comply with the following schedule:

	<u>Task</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
a.	Submit a Technical Report that describes measures the Discharger will implement to prevent future effluent exceedances for constituent concentrations and loadings from those described in Findings 12, 16, 27, and 28. The Technical Report shall include a proposed implementation schedule and shall be subject to Executive Officer approval.	3 6 months from the second first exceedance of Effluent and Mass Loading Limitations B.3.
b.	Submit an <i>Ambient Conditions Report</i> that: (1) describes in detail the underlying geology at the site, (2) provides data form suitable borings of on site	3 6 months from the second exceedance of

	<p>infiltration rates (3) assesses local water well resources and quality (4) and assesses existing ambient or background groundwater conditions. The <i>Ambient Conditions Report</i> shall also include an analysis of the potential of discharges to adversely impact groundwater. Based on the result of the <i>Ambient Conditions Report</i>, the Executive Offer may determine that the requirements of Tasks c.,d. and e. of this item are unnecessary, and provide the Discharger written notice of such determination, at which point, this provision shall be considered satisfied. If Paramount chooses not to submit the <i>Ambient Conditions Report</i> as described or if the Executive Officer does not concur with the results of the <i>Ambient Conditions Report</i>, Paramount shall be submit a Work Plan for the installation of a groundwater monitoring well network, as required by Task 16.c.</p>	<p>Effluent and Mass Loading Limitations B.3.</p>
<p>c.</p>	<p>Submit Work Plan for the installation of a groundwater monitoring well network subject to Executive Officer approval. The Work Plan shall satisfy the information needs specified in the monitoring well installation section of Attachment C, <i>Standard Requirements for Monitoring Well Installation Work Plans and Monitoring Well Installation Reports</i>. All wells shall comply with appropriate standards as described in California Well Standard Bulletin 74-90 (June 1991) and Water Well Standards: State of California Bulletin 74-81 (December 1981), and any more stringent standards adopted by the State or county pursuant to CWC section 13801, apply to all monitoring wells used to monitor the impacts of wastewater storage or disposal governed by this Order.</p>	<p>6 months from the second exceedance of Effluent and Mass Loading Limitations B.3. if the report in Task b. is not submitted. or 3 three months after the Executive Officer provides written notice of non-concurrence with the report that is submitted.</p>
<p>e. d.</p>	<p>Complete well installation and commence groundwater monitoring in accordance with the Work Plan submitted pursuant to Provision G.16.a c and Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2015-XXXX.</p>	<p>3 months from the completion of Task b. c.</p>
<p>d. e.</p>	<p>Submit a groundwater monitoring well installation report that meets the requirements of Attachment C, <i>Standard Requirements for Monitoring Well Installation Work Plans and Monitoring Well Installation Reports</i>.</p>	<p>1 month from the completion of Task e. d.</p>

CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD CHANGES

In addition to corrections of typographical errors, Central Valley Water Board staff modified the "IT IS HEREBY ORDERED" section of page 17 of the Waste Discharge Requirements as follows:

"IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Waste Discharge Requirements Order 96-121, and Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program 92-121 are rescinded except for enforcement purposes. Pursuant to Water Code sections 13263 and 13267, Paramount Farms International LLC **and William J. Mouren Farming, Inc., their** its agents, successors, and assigns, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:"