

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 15, 2015

WDID No. 6B159301002

**PROPOSED RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR GARDNER RANCH-ARCIERO RANCHES, KERN COUNTY**

Enclosed is the proposed Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for the above subject. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board requests that you review the enclosed documents and provide us with your written comments no later than **June 1, 2015**. Please send your comments to the Water Board's email address at RB6-Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov and include your WDID No. in the subject line. Comments received after that date cannot be given full consideration in preparation of the recommended Board Order to be presented to the Regional Board for adoption at the meeting scheduled for **June 10 and 11, 2015**.

You can review the agenda 10 days before the meeting on our web site at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan and click on agenda. If you need further information regarding this meeting, please contact Cephas Hurr at (760) 241-3408.

Sincerely,



Robin Coale
Office Technician

cc: mailing list

Enclosures (2): Proposed Board Order
Comment form

Notice
Submittal of Written Material for Regional Board Consideration

In order to ensure that the State of California Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board has the opportunity to fully study and consider written material, it is necessary to submit it at least ten (10) days before the Regional Board Meeting. Pursuant to Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 648.2, the Regional Board may refuse to admit written testimony into evidence unless the proponent can demonstrate why he or she was unable to submit the material on time or that compliance with the deadline would otherwise create a hardship. If any other party demonstrates prejudice resulting from admission of the written testimony, the Regional Board may refuse to admit it.

COMPLETE FORM AND RETURN

To: CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region
14440 Civic Drive, Suite 200
Victorville, CA 92392
ATTN: Cephas Hurr

**PROPOSED RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR GARDNER RANCH-ARCIERO RANCHES, KERN COUNTY**

_____ We concur with proposed requirements

_____ We concur; comments attached

_____ We do not concur; comments attached

_____ (Sign)

_____ (Type or print name)

_____ (Organization)

_____ (Address)

_____ (City and State)

_____ (Telephone)

**Gardner Ranches – Arciero Ranches – WDID No. 6B159301002
Proposed Mailing List**

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**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

**BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2015-(PROPOSED)
WDID NO. 6B159301002**

**RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
BOARD ORDER NO. 6-95-69**

FOR

GARDNER RANCH – ARCIERO RANCHES

Kern County

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

1. Discharger: Board Order No 6-95-69 was adopted on June 8, 1995 establishing waste discharge requirements for the discharge of digested sewage biosolids (sludge) for use as a soil amendment at three locations known as the Arciero Ranches (Facility); Randsburg Ranch, Brothers Ranch, and Sons Ranch. The Arciero Ranches Partnership (landowner) and Mr. Slick Gardner (operator) are referred to as Dischargers. The Dischargers cannot be located. The Order is no longer necessary and should be rescinded.
2. Reason for Action: The Order is no longer necessary and should be rescinded because the Dischargers stopped applying biosolids in 2005 and the Facility no longer poses a threat to water quality. Biosolids were applied to the ground in rows, spread with a scraper and incorporated into the soil by disking to eliminate odors for use as a soil amendment to irrigated farmland. The Dischargers went out of business in about 2005 and stopped submitting self-monitoring reports and annual fees.
3. Current Facility Conditions: On February 4, 2015, staff inspected the Facility and determined no biosolids application is occurring and no irrigated farming occurs at the Facility. Staff accessed the United States Geological Survey database and determined the depth to groundwater in the vicinity of the three ranch areas ranged from about 80 to 250 feet below ground surface¹. The Facility is now primarily owned by Solar Environmental Conservancy, Inc². and a few individual property owners, which have no plans to continue applying biosolids. This action is being taken to rescind Board Order No. 6-95-69 because the site no longer poses a threat to water quality, no further biosolids application will occur and property ownership has changed.

¹ <http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/gwlevels>

² <https://pqweb.parcelquest.com/#login>

4. CEQA: This action is being taken to rescind Board Order No. 6-95-69. Orders to revoke or rescind WDRs are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15321(a)(2).
5. Notification: The Discharger cannot be located. The Water Board has notified the current landowner and interested persons and agencies of its intent to rescind the above WDRs.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Board Order No. 6-95-69, be rescinded.

I, Patty Z. Kouyoumdijan, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region on June 10, 2015.

PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDIJAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER