23 January 2026

Lisa Waskom
Glenn Springs Holdings, Inc.
5 Greenway Plaza, Suite 110
Houston, TX 77046

sent via email only to lisa_waskom@oxy.com

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY - ORDER NO. R5-2015-0012-086, TREATED WATER INJECTION, FORMER J.R. SIMPLOT FACILITY, 6245 WINTON WAY, WINTON, MERCED COUNTY, GEOTRACKER ID SL205503019

On 13 February 2025, Trihydro Corporation (Trihydro) submitted the *Notice of Intent Application* (NOI) on behalf of Miller Springs Remediation Management, Inc. (MSRMI) and Glenn Springs Holdings, Inc. (GSH) for the Former J.R. Simplot (Simplot) facility at 6245 Winton Way in Winton (Site), a former agricultural chemical distribution facility. MSRMI, GSH, and Simplot are collectively referred to as Discharger. The Discharger is requesting coverage under Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) Order No. R5-2015-0012, *Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for In-Situ Groundwater Remediation and Discharge of Treated Groundwater to Land* (General Order) for the proposed injection of treated groundwater into the vadose zone underlying the Site. Based upon review of the documents submitted by the Discharger, Central Valley Water Board staff have concluded that the proposed project to re-inject treated groundwater to the on-site vadose zone meets the required conditions specified in the General Order and that all the requirements contained in the General Order apply to this project. Therefore, the project is assigned Order Number **R5-2015-0012-0086**.

A. Project Location

1. The project is in Merced County, Township 6S, Range 12E, Section 26, Mount Diablo Baseline & Meridian, on Assessor's Parcel No. 147-180-041; Latitude 37°22'40.3"N; Longitude 120°36'54.4"W. The nearest surface water bodies are the Middle Lateral Canal, approximately 1300 feet (ft) west of the Site, and the Livingston Canal, approximately 2600 ft west and 3000 ft south of the Site.

2. The Site, shown on Attachment A Figure 1, consists of an approximately 4.3-acre lot that currently has commercial activity related to farm equipment, semi-truck and trailer storage, and a non-profit business on approximately 40%

of the Site, with the majority of the area remaining unpaved and dedicated to remediation activities. There is minimal vegetation on the Site, which is bounded to the west by agricultural fields, to the south by commercial and industrial buildings and paved areas, to the north by a residential area. To the east, across Winton Way, is a residence surrounded by agricultural fields.

B. Project Description

1. The Discharger operates an on-site hydraulic control system which performs groundwater extraction and treatment (GET) to capture and remove groundwater containing contaminants of concern (COCs) including nitrate as nitrogen (nitrate N) and 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP). Implemented in 2017, the GET system (GETS) treats extracted groundwater by sending it through granulated activated carbon and ion exchange treatment processes prior to discharging to Middle Lateral Canal. Groundwater extraction rates vary over the course of the year due to the nature of regional pumping practices and the need to contain the contaminant plume.

2. Currently, the GETS discharges to the Middle Lateral Canal, and is regulated by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit CAG995002. Monitoring of the groundwater to assess contaminant plumes and GETS effectiveness is performed under Central Valley Water Board Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) Order No. R5-2024-0802.

3. Concentrations of the COCs in on-site and near-site monitoring wells generally show higher concentrations during winter months, corresponding to seasonally high-water levels. This may indicate the existence of residual source mass in the currently unsaturated (vadose) zone. The project proposes to remediate the residual source mass under the requirements of the General Order through the physical treatment process of reinjection of a portion of the treated groundwater from the existing GETS into the vadose zone underlying the Site to flush residual contaminant mass in the contamination source area to the extraction wells at the Site which include two shallower wells, EW-S1 and EW-S2, and two deeper wells, EW-D1 and EW-D2. The treated groundwater may be dosed with a small volume of sodium bromide tracer to aid in interpretation of concentrations of 1,2,3-TCP and nitrate in the study area, particularly in the extraction wells.

4. The re-injection rate will be less than the overall extraction rate such that net removal of groundwater continues in a manner that maintains hydraulic capture. The net removal rate of groundwater from the Site will remain consistent with the removal rate over the seven-year life of the GETS to date. For example, the groundwater extraction rate has been 80 gallons per minute (gpm) in the summertime and all of that water has been treated in the GETS then discharged to the nearby Middle Lateral Canal. The project may increase the groundwater extraction rate in the summer, with the total amount, as

always, being sent to the GETS for treatment, then approximately 65% of the treated flow will be discharged to the Middle Lateral Canal and approximately 35% of the treated flow returned for reinjection into the vadose zone, assuming the shallow wells can accept that amount of injectate, with a net extraction rate remaining constant at approximately 80 gpm.

5. As described in NOI Attachment B, the 12 August 2024 *Work Plan for Source Control System Optimization*, the project will start the re-injection at a low flow rate. If there is no surfacing or evidence of unwanted lateral groundwater movement, the project will gradually increase injection flow rate to the appropriate rate that can be accepted by the injection wells, with a projected maximum of 40 gpm total. If an injection well cannot accept the injectate volume, as evidenced by backpressure on the pump system, surfacing of treated groundwater, or lateral movement different than anticipated, the extraction and injection rates will be adjusted accordingly and one or more contingency injection well will be used instead of the well(s) with injection difficulties. Once the project is completed, the Discharger will file for termination of coverage under the General Order.

6. The Discharger has identified 14 potential shallow zone (A-zone) former monitoring wells to use for re-injection that are within or upgradient of the extraction wells' zone of influence, which contain the highest last-measured concentrations of 1,2,3-TCP and or nitrate N, which are constructed with longer screen lengths and larger diameters, are screened at appropriate depth for more favorable re-injection conditions, and which are in logistically practical locations. Former monitoring wells RW-1, RW-2, W-1, W-6, W-12, and W-17A are the primary re-injection wells. Former monitoring wells RW-2B, RW-3, RW-4, RW-4A, RW-7, W-1A, W-6A, and W-12B are identified as secondary re-injection wells, to be used in the event of limited effectiveness of one or more of the primary injection wells. Extraction, re-injection, and monitoring wells for this project are shown on Attachment A Figure 2.

7. The re-injected treated water with entrained mobilized COC mass may move slowly downward toward the deeper monitoring wells within the treatment zone as it is pulled toward the extraction wells. The General Order acknowledges that remediation processes can result in exceedances of water quality objectives (WQOs) that are generally limited in duration and/or in a relatively small portion of the aquifer. These exceedances of WQOs are allowed to occur while the re-injections are taking place and for a period of time following completion of re-injection activities, but only within the treatment zone. As described in Finding 17 of the General Order, the temporary localized groundwater degradation allowed by the General Order is consistent with State Water Board Resolution 68-16 because the purpose of the re-injected treated water is to accelerate and enhance remediation of groundwater pollution; the re-injection facilitates a project to evaluate the effectiveness of cleanup technology in accord with State Water Board Resolution No. 92-49; the

groundwater quality degradation due to the re-injected treated water is limited in scope and duration; best practicable treatment and control, including adequate monitoring and a contingency plan to assure protection of water quality are required; and the discharge will not cause WQOs to be exceeded beyond the transition zone and it is reasonably expected that increases in concentrations above WQOs caused by the treatment will be reduced over time.

8. To effectively evaluate changes in COC concentrations beyond the treatment zone due to the reinjections, the General Order requires the determination of upgradient COC concentrations prior to the start of the remediation project. For this project, the background concentrations for 1,2,3-TCP and for Nitrate N are based on recent maximum concentrations detected in the project-designated background wells, MLW-1C, MLW-7C, and W-3A over the five most recent sampling events as of the date of this NOA.

9. The Discharger will not inject any amendments as a part of the treated groundwater re-injection program and no breakdown products are anticipated. Further, groundwater at the Site is aerobic and there are few opportunities for extracted groundwater to contact atmospheric oxygen prior to re-injection. Based on these considerations the reduction-oxidation (redox) state of groundwater is not anticipated to change as the result of the proposed re-injection. In consideration of the lack of amendments, minimal anticipated change in redox conditions in the subsurface, and the fact that the proposed optimization is a relatively minor change to a groundwater extraction system that has already moved hundreds of millions of gallons of groundwater, this project proposes to use the previously existing local background concentrations for 1,2,3-TCP and nitrate N as listed below.

Table B1. Background concentration

Well ID	1,2,3-TCP (µg/L)	Nitrate N (mg/L)
MLW-1C	0.3	10
MLW-7C	0.4	10
W-3A	0.05	11

C. Contingency Plan

1. The contingency plan identifies the Site COCs which, if present in Compliance Zone monitoring wells at concentrations exceeding the background concentrations listed in Table B1, above, could indicate adverse impacts from reinjection through the spread of water in the vadose zone beyond the target injection area and potential resultant mobilization of the contingency analytes beyond the extraction wells' radius of capture. Due to the nature of the re-injection treatment, whose goal is to mobilize Site COCs in the normally dry

vadose zone, there may be instances of temporary localized concentration increases of the Site COCs. The Discharger shall implement the contingency plan if the concentration of one or more of the COCs exceeds the background concentration for nitrate N or for 1,2,3-TCP in any one of the Compliance Wells listed in Table 1 of MRP R5-2015-0012-086 and revisions thereto for two consecutive monitoring events when compared against observed concentration increases in background wells over the time period of the two consecutive monitoring events.

2. Should the Contingency Plan be triggered, the Discharger shall notify Central Valley Water Board staff as soon as practicable with monitoring point location(s) information and the nature and concentration of the exceedance, and will resample the well(s) that had the exceedance within 10 days of the second exceedance detection.

3. Should the resampling event confirm the initial exceedances, the Discharger will evaluate the risk and hazard that the exceedance poses to potential receptors and will do the following:

    1) Sample the well(s) for at least three consecutive quarters to evaluate the trend; and

    2) Review the exceedance finding(s) to verify whether there is validated evidence of a treatment system or pipeline release or process upset that may have caused elevated concentration of contingency analytes in the monitoring well(s).

4. If corrective action is needed to restore a COC concentration to acceptable levels, the Discharger will, at a minimum, cease reinjection in the vicinity of the affected compliance monitoring well(s) while continuing to operate extraction well(s) in the vicinity of the impacted monitoring well(s).

5. If the Discharger finds evidence of a release or process upset, they will submit an amended report of waste discharge (RWD) to Central Valley Water Board staff within 90 days of such a finding, to establish an evaluation of the re-injection monitoring program. The amended RWD will include:

    1) Maximum concentration of each of the COCs at each monitoring point as determined during the most recent three regular sampling events;

    2) A detailed description of the measures to be taken to assess the nature and extent of the release; and

    3) Proposed changes to water quality monitoring systems, including but not limited to proposed additions or changes to the monitoring frequency, sampling procedures, analytical methods, and or statistical methods.

D. General Information

1. The project will be operated in accordance with the requirements in General Order R5-2015-0012 and in accordance with the information submitted in the 13 February 2025 NOI.

2. The required annual fee as specified in the annual billing the Discharger will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board shall be submitted until this Notice of Applicability is officially revoked.

3. Injection of materials other than the approved treated groundwater and sodium bromide tracer into the subsurface is prohibited.

4. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

5. The Discharger shall comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2015-0012-0086, and any revisions thereto as ordered by the Executive Officer

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact Maxine Cottrell by telephone at (916) 464-4623 or by email at Maxine.Cottrell@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Digitally signed by John J. Baum on
Date: 2026.01.23 13:36:42 -08'00'

for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachments: Attachment A: Figures

Enclosures: Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2015-0012-086

cc via email: Kyle Free, J.R. Simplot Company
Fritz Krembs, Trihydro Corporation

Figure 1. Site location at 6245 N Winton Way, Winton

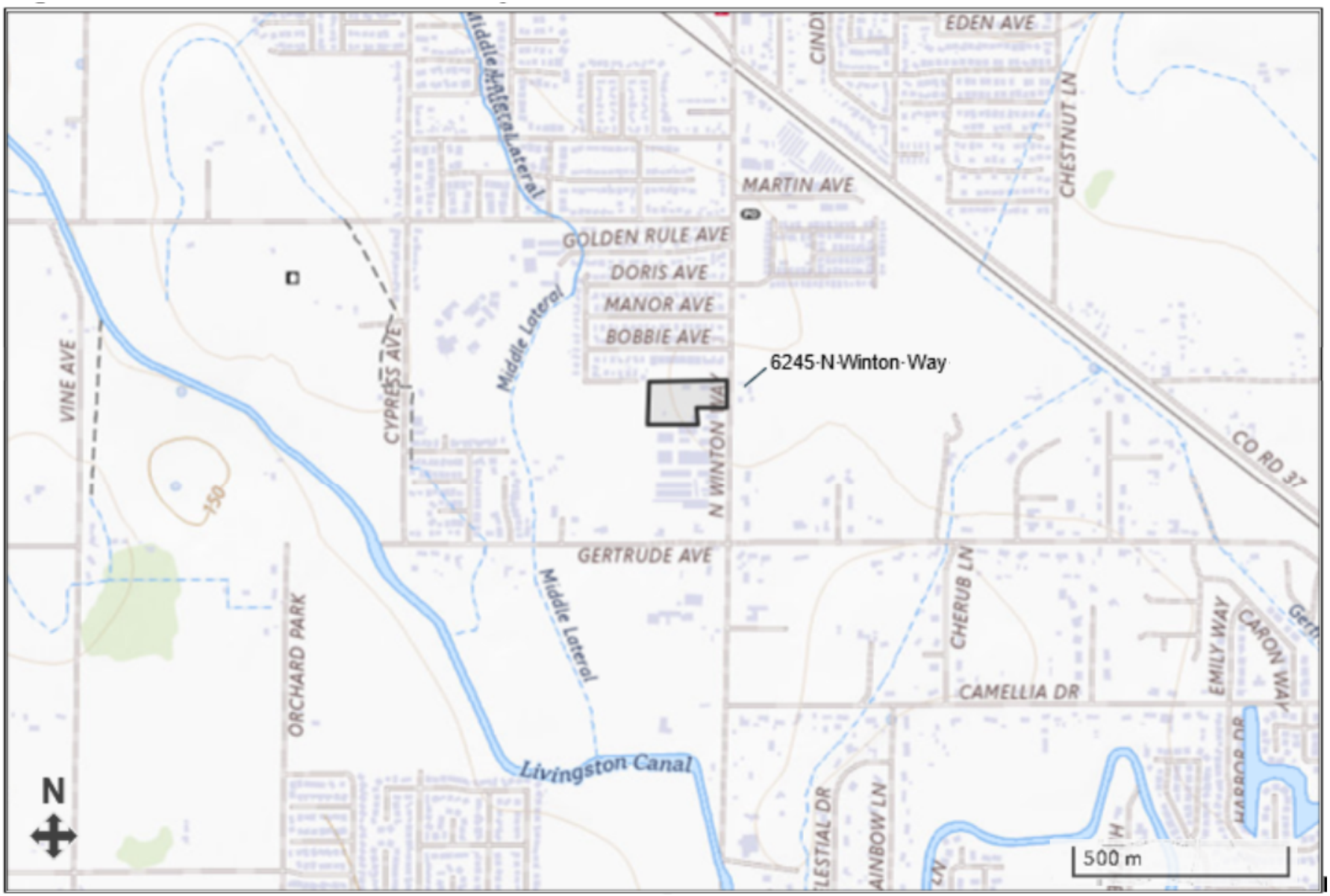

Figure 2. Site, plan view, with monitoring wells and sites of injections at the former wood preserving area.