

**22 April 2021 BOARD MEETING  
UNCONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM: 15**

**SUBJECT:**

Following are proposed Waste Discharge Requirements Orders that prohibit discharge to surface waters. All agencies and the dischargers concur or have offered no comments. Items indicated as updates on the summary agenda make the requirements consistent with current plans and policies of the Board.

**BOARD ACTION:**

Consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements Orders.

**BACKGROUND:**

**a. City of Corcoran, Corcoran Wastewater Treatment Facility, Kings County – Consideration of Revisions to Order 91-138**

The City of Corcoran (City or Discharger) owns and operates the Corcoran Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) in Corcoran, CA. The City owns about 232 acres of use areas that are leased to farmers (City Use Area). The California Department of Corrections (Department of Corrections) owns and operates the Corcoran State Prison (Corcoran Prison) WWTF and 331 acres of Use Area (Prison Use Area). In 1989, the City entered into an agreement with the Department of Corrections for the disposal of wastewater generated by the City's WWTF to the Prison Use Area.

WDRs Order R5-2016-0027, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 21 April 2016, regulates the discharge from the Corcoran Prison WWTF to the Prison Use Area. Order R5-2016-0027 includes the Land Application Area Specifications (Water Recycling Specifications) for the City's WWTF discharge to the Prison Use Area. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 91-138, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 28 June 1991, regulates the Corcoran WWTF and authorizes a discharge of 1.45 million gallons per day (mgd), as a monthly average, of undisinfected secondary wastewater to the City Use Area and authorizes an additional 0.30 mgd of wastewater (for a total monthly average flow of 1.75 mgd) to the Prison Use Area. WDRs Order

91-138 for the City's WWTF is being updated to ensure the discharge is consistent with water quality plans and policies.

The tentative WDRs include a monthly average dry weather flow of 1.75 mgd and sets an effluent limit for 5-day biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids of 40 mg/L as a monthly average and 80 mg/L as a daily maximum. The tentative WDRs prescribes a five-year time schedule for the Discharger to meet the effluent limits for BOD and TSS. The tentative WDRs also include a 12-month rolling average electrical conductivity limitation of source water plus 500  $\mu$ mhos/cm. The tentative WDRs also prescribe groundwater limitations that ensure the discharge does not affect present and anticipated beneficial uses of groundwater.

The tentative WDRs require the Discharger to monitor influent, effluent, pond, source water, groundwater, use areas, and sludge/biosolids, submit quarterly monitoring reports, and comply with the Basin Plan amendments adopted in Resolution R5-2018-0034 incorporating the new Salt and Nitrate Control Programs for addressing the ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley developed as part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative.

The tentative WDRs were circulated for public comment on 19 February 2021. No comments were received regarding the tentative WDRs.

**b. City of Los Banos, Los Banos Wastewater Treatment Facility, Merced County – Consideration of Revisions to Order 92-014**

The City of Los Banos (City or Discharger) owns and operates the Los Banos Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), which serves an estimated population of about 40,000 residents. The WWTF receives wastewater from residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial sources. The WWTF is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 92-014, which initially authorized a discharge of up to 2.5 million gallons per day (mgd) and an increase to 4.9 mgd upon completion of an expansion of the WWTF.

The WWTF consists of an influent pump station, headworks, four large facultative treatment ponds (Ponds 1, 2, 5, and 6), three effluent storage/disposal ponds (Ponds 3, 4, and 7), a recirculating pump station, two irrigation pump stations, and two tailwater return stations. Effluent is recirculated between the treatment and storage/disposal ponds to

enhance treatment, including organic and nitrogen removal. The effluent is applied as irrigation water on approximately 397 acres of pasture owned by the City, which is used for livestock grazing of non-milking animals. The land application areas (LAAs) are surrounded by 12-inch berms with a tailwater return system to collect excess runoff and return it to the WWTF.

The proposed WDRs maintains the existing flow limit of 4.9 mgd and sets an effluent limit for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) of 90 mg/L. To address the high salinity in the discharge, the proposed WDRs requires the Discharger to prepare and implement a Salinity Reduction Study Workplan and sets a performance-based maximum 12-month rolling average EC limit of 2,380 µmhos/cm on the influent and comply with the new Salt and Nitrate Control Programs. Comments were received from Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., on behalf of the Discharger, on 8 March 2021 and were addressed.

**c. County of Kern, Bakersfield Metropolitan (Bena) Sanitary Landfill, Kern County – Consideration of Revisions to Orders R5-2013-0110, R5-2012-0065, and R5-2007-0092**

The County of Kern, hereinafter referred to “Discharger”, owns and operates the Bakersfield Metropolitan (Bena) Sanitary Landfill (Facility). The Facility is located approximately 17 miles east of Bakersfield in Kern County. On 22 June 2007, the Central Valley Water Boards adopted WDRs Order R5-2007-0092, which incorporated the applicable provisions of Title 27 and the California Water Code. This Order continues such classifications. This Order updates the WDRs for the Facility, as part of an administrative policy of periodic review, to incorporate revisions to regulations and policies adopted thereunder, for continued operation, construction, and post-closure maintenance.

The Facility is situated on a 2,370-acre property comprised of Assessor’s Parcel Numbers (APNs) 179-010-16-00-3, 17-00-6; 179-020-02-00-5, 03-00-8, 04-00-1, 05-00-4, 38-00-0, 58-00-8, 61-00-6; 397-050-10-00-7, 11-00-0, 12-00-3, 14-00-9, 25-00-1, 26-00-4, 27-00-7 and 397-060-07-00-2. The Facility consists of one closed, lined Waste Management Unit (WMU) covering 54 acres and one active, lined WMU covering 175 acres. Both WMUs have a leachate collection and removal system.

**d. FC Tracy Holdings, Tracy Holdings Facility, San Joaquin County – Consideration of New Order**

The Tracy Holdings Facility is a corn and watermelon processing facility that has been constructed but has not yet operated. Wastewater will be generated from corn processing, equipment cleaning, and defrost condensate. Wastewater, including storm water, will be collected in drains which discharge to a sump. The sump will discharge to a lined and aerated wastewater pond for treatment and storage. The wastewater will be used to irrigate 25 acres of land application areas cropped with forage crop. All solids will be hauled offsite.

Groundwater beneath the Facility was determined to be of poor quality with respect to metals (iron and manganese) and salinity, including TDS, EC, sulfate, sodium, and chloride. Concentrations of these constituents exceed Water Quality Objectives. The discharge of wastewater to land from this Facility is not expected to impact groundwater beyond existing conditions. For the protection of groundwater, effluent limitations, loading limits, and groundwater limitations have been established in this Order.

There are no outstanding issues.

**e. Grimmway Enterprises, Inc. and Minter Field Airport District; Shafter Carrot Packing Plant, Kern County – Consideration of Revisions to Orders R5-2015-0057 and 86-159**

Grimmway Enterprises, Inc. (Grimmway) owns and operates the Shafter Carrot Packing Plant (Facility) in Shafter, CA. The Shafter Airport Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) ponds and land application area (LAA) are owned by the Minter Field Airport District (Airport District), but operated by Grimmway. Hereafter, these two entities (Grimmway and Airport District) are collectively referred to as the Discharger.

WDRs Order R5-2015-0057, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 17 April 2015, prescribed waste discharge requirements for the Facility to discharge process wastewater to the North Kern Water Storage District's Rosedale groundwater recharge area spreading basins and land application area. Order R5-2015-0057 authorized a monthly average discharge of 0.700 mgd and a total annual discharge of 182 million. The discharge to the Kern Spreading Basin land application area never occurred due to the agreement falling through. Instead,

Grimmway continued to discharge to ponds at the Shafter Airport WWTF as was previously authorized by the rescinded WDRs Order 5-01-140 for the Grimmway Facility.

WDRs Order 86-159, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 8 August 1986, regulates the discharge of combined domestic and industrial wastewater to the Shafter Airport WWTF. In 2015 the Airport District ceased the discharge of sanitary wastewater to its WWTF and began discharging its domestic wastewater to the North of River WWTF (regulated by WDRs Order R5-2009-0088). The tentative WDRs do not authorize the discharge of domestic wastewater to the Shafter Airport WWTF. Therefore, it is appropriate to rescind WDRs Order 86-159.

On 20 August 2019, the Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for operations at its Facility and a change in discharge location for its flow of 0.700 mgd (182 million gallons per year) to five of the Shafter Airport WWTF ponds and a 291.9-acre land LAA owned by the Airport District. The WDRs for the Facility are being updated to ensure the discharge is consistent with water quality plans and policies and to reflect changes to the discharge location.

The tentative WDRs include an annual flow limitation of 182 million gallons and a monthly average daily flow limitation of 0.7 million gallons. The tentative WDRs also include a 12-month rolling average electrical conductivity limitation of 700  $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$  plus source water (12-month flow-weighted average). The tentative WDRs require the Discharger to sample and monitor the quantity and quality of its carrot packing wastewater, submit quarterly monitoring reports, and comply with the Basin Plan amendments adopted in Resolution R5-2018-0034 incorporating the new Salt and Nitrate Control Programs for addressing the ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley developed as part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative. WDRs Orders R5-2015-0057 and 86-159 will be rescinded and replaced with this Order.

On 22 February 2021, comments on the tentative WDRs were received from Grimmway and Ms. Jo Anne Kipps. Grimmway commented on the tentative Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) monitoring requirements for the settling pond influent and supplemental irrigation

water. Ms. Kipps commented on various items on the tentative WDRs, including the following:

- Various editorial corrections and modifications to the map attachments.
- Characterization of the Facility's discharge to the initial pond (settling pond influent) and possibly requiring the Discharger to line the Facility's settling ponds.
- Characterization of the Facility's solids.
- Google Earth images of liquid present in the emergency pond and to the area directly east of the emergency pond.
- Removal of a provision that typically is only applicable to municipal WWTFs.
- Removal of the use of "cost-effective" in Provision H.10 (now Provision H.9), which requires the Discharger to implement best practicable control techniques.

In response to the received comments, staff included additional information in the tentative WDRs and made modifications to the tentative MRP.

**f. Menefee River Ranch & Synagro West, LLC, El Nido Composting Facility, Merced County – Consideration of Revisions to Order R5-2003-0180**

Menefee River Ranch and Synagro West, LLC, hereinafter referred to "Dischargers", own and operate the El Nido Composting Facility (Facility), located at 13757 S. Harmon Road in El Nido, CA. The facility is approximately 35 acres in size and is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2003-0180, which prescribes requirements for operating a biosolids composting facility in accordance with Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 20005 et seq (Title 27).

This Order modifies Order No. R5-2003-0180 as a result of a minor modification to the facility's Conditional Use Permit CUP01-007 issued by Merced County on 26 January 2021, to include the seasonal storage of an additional 10,000 wet tons at any one time of Class A and B biosolids awaiting agricultural use. Order No. R5-2003-0180 remains intact and applicable in all other aspects.

The proposed revisions would allow for the onsite, interim storage of up to 10,000 wet tons at any one time of Class A and/or Class B biosolids between January 1 and June 30 annually. Stored biosolids would be removed from the facility and applied to already permitted land application areas in accordance with the General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Biosolids to Land for Use as a Soil Amendment in Agricultural, Silvicultural, Horticultural, and Land Reclamation Activities (State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2004–0012–DWQ).

**g. R&G Schatz Farms Inc., Peltier Winery, San Joaquin County –  
Consideration of Revisions to Order R5-2004-0035**

Peltier Winery (formerly Mokelumne Rim Vineyards) is a winery located at 22150 N. Kennefick Road, Acampo in San Joaquin County. The winery began operating in 2002 and has been regulated under Order R5-2004-0035, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 19 March 2004.

Wastewater is generated from processing grapes into finished wines and juices, bottling finished products, and cleaning and sanitizing activities. Wastewater is collected in drains and directed to a sump where it is pumped to a recently installed BIDA® pre-treatment system and lined treatment pond. Wastewater combined with storm water is used to irrigate 28 acres of land application areas cropped with wine grapes and grasses.

The BIDA® pre-treatment system, installed in December 2017, utilizes both physical and passive organic filtration processes to improve wastewater quality. Wastewater filters through layers of earthworms, wood shavings, cobble, through a series of internal drainage basins. The system has resulted in significant improvement in wastewater quality by reducing BOD and TSS concentrations. The system can treat approximately 10,000 gpd with a short-term peak of 12,000 gpd. Flows exceeding that volume are discharged to the aerated treatment pond. If effluent concentrations in wastewater samples collected from the pond exceed effluent limitations, wastewater from the pond will be sent back through the BIDA® system for additional treatment. Wastewater will not be discharged from the pond to the LAAs until effluent limitations have been achieved.

Groundwater has been monitored at the site since 2006. Data indicate that discharges to land have not impacted groundwater beyond existing

conditions. For the continued protection of groundwater, this Order requires continued monitoring of groundwater, sets groundwater and effluent limitations, and loading limits for BOD and nitrogen.

There are no outstanding issues.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the Waste Discharge Requirements

**REVIEWS:**

Management Review:	Various
Legal Review:	Various

**BOARD MEETING LOCATION:**

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting  
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

***Internet Zoom Meeting***