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[TENTATIVE] WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER
R-5-2026-XXXX



ORDER INFORMATION

Order Type:	Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)
Status:	TENTATIVE
Program:	Non-15
Region 5 Office:	Redding
Discharger:	California Olive Ranch, Inc.
Facility:	California Olive Ranch, Artois Mill and Ranch
Address:	5945 County Road 35, Artois, CA 95913
County:	Glenn County
Parcel No.:	APN 021-020-027
WDID:	5A11NC00054
Prior Order:	R5-2012-0039

CERTIFICATION

I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the following is a full, true, and correct copy of the order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on XX October 2026.

PATRICK PULUPA,
Executive Officer

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FINDINGS

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) hereby finds as follows:

Introduction

1. California Olive Ranch, Inc. (Discharger) owns and operates California Olive Ranch, Artois Mill and Ranch (Facility) at 5945 County Road 35, Artois, CA 95913 which is approximately four miles west of Artois (Section 12, T20N, R4W, MDB&M). The Facility is located on Assessor Parcel Number 021-020-027 in Glenn County. The Facility location is depicted on the Facility Location Map in **Attachment A**.
2. As Facility owner and operator, the Discharger is responsible for compliance with the waste discharge requirements (WDRs) prescribed in this Order.
3. The following materials are attached and incorporated as part of this Order:

ATTACHMENT A — SITE LOCATION MAP

ATTACHMENT B — FACILITY MAP

Attachment C – Facility Production Flow Schematic

Standard Provisions & Reporting Requirements dated 1 March 1991 (SPRRs).

Monitoring and Reporting Program Order (MRP)

4. WDRs Order R5-2012-0039, adopted on 8 June 2012, prescribed requirements for the discharge to land of pomace (olive fruit material remaining after milling and pressing to extract oil) and process wastewater from the Facility, and authorized an annual discharge of up to 90,000 tons of pomace and 5.15 million gallons of wastewater. WDRs Order R5-2012-0039 was over 14 years old and no longer represented current operations at the Facility. Therefore, WDRs Order R5-2012-0039 is rescinded and replaced with this Order.
5. On 27 July 2023, the Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) that describes wastewater and other discharges from the Facility as well as composting activities completed as part of normal operations. The ROWD was deemed complete on 7 September 2023.

Existing Facility and Discharge

6. The Discharger operates an olive milling and processing plant, where olives are cleaned, milled, and pressed to extract extra virgin olive oil. Extracted olive oil is

then bottled and stored. The Facility is comprised of the processing facility, lined pomace drying ponds, a lined wastewater evaporation pond, and a composting area (see Attachment B).

7. The processing season and subsequent discharge typically lasts for approximately 60 days, from October to December. From 2022 to 2025, the Facility produced an average of 35,000 tons of pomace and 700,000 gallons of wastewater annually. Wastewater occurs in two forms: wastewater comingled with pomace, which is discharged to the pomace drying ponds, and unmingled wastewater from processing activities, which is discharged to the wastewater evaporation pond.
8. Raw olives arrive at the Facility and are placed into pit hoppers for conveyance into the building for processing. Material other than olives (MOO), including leaves, twigs, and stems, are separated and transported to the MOO composting area. Olives are pressed to produce oil and olive pomace, which consists of olive meat, pits, and skins. The pomace is conveyed via a pit conveyor into a hopper where it is loaded onto trucks for transport to the lined pomace drying ponds.
9. The three pomace drying ponds constructed in 2020 have a total surface area of approximately 10 acres. Pomace drying pond lining consists of 18 inches of lime-stabilized native material overlaid by a 6-inch-thick reinforced Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) slab. The pomace is placed in the drying ponds where it is dried through evaporation and later sold for animal feedstock. The estimated average water content of pomace is 65% by weight at time of placement into the drying ponds. Tonnages are measured at the time of sale after drying of pomace has occurred.
10. Table 1 below shows a summary of the Facility's Annual Pomace Generation from 2013 to 2025.

Table 1 –Annual Pomace Generation

Harvest Season	Tons	Cubic Yards
2013	20,018	23,277
2014	37,430	43,523
2015	73,655	85,645
2016	39,655	46,110
2017	45,852	53,316
2018	10,708	12,451
2019	45,000	52,326
2020	18,988	22,080
2021	32,983	38,352
2022	16,684	19,400
2023	33,899	39,417
2024	33,717	39,205
2025	35,558	41,346

Table Note: Cubic Yards estimated from average density of 0.86 tons per cubic yard.

11. Wash and non-domestic wastewater from the Facility (i.e., process wastewater) is pumped to the lined wastewater holding pond, where it evaporates or is used to moisture condition MOO composting. The single-lined wastewater evaporation pond was constructed in 2022 and has a surface area of approximately 1.2 acres. The wastewater evaporation pond lining consists of a 40-mil light density polyethylene (LDPE) liner underlain by approximately 1 foot of recompact native clay material. The wastewater evaporation pond was constructed to meet the lining requirements in State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order WQ 2020-0012-DWQ, General WDRs for Commercial Composting Operations (Compost General Order), with an upper soil layer hydraulic conductivity of 1.0×10^{-5} centimeters per second (cm/sec) or less and has a total storage capacity of 8.5 acre-feet (2.77 million gallons).
12. Table 2 below shows a summary of the Facility's process wastewater discharge to the wastewater evaporation pond based on the years 2022 to 2025. Process wastewater discharged to the evaporation ponds consists primarily of water

used in the cleaning of olive processing equipment, holding tanks and bottling equipment, and thus has little variation year to year even when pomace or olive oil production varies greatly. The revised flow limitation established in this Order is based on the maximum expected Facility wastewater discharge with current equipment (eight total production lines) and pond capacity.

Table 2 –Annual Wastewater Discharge to Evaporation Pond

Minimum (2022-2025)	Average (2022-2025)	Design Maximum
1.0 MG	1.25 MG	1.7 MG

Table Notes:

1. Maximum is consistent with current production equipment operated at maximum build-out.
2. MG: Million gallons
13. Composting of MOO is performed in the approximately 3.1-acre MOO composting area, which was constructed in conjunction with the lined wastewater evaporation pond in 2022. The compost area has a perimeter berm and is graded to slope toward a sump where excess winter runoff, if it occurs, is pumped into the adjacent lined wastewater evaporation pond. The composting area has a capacity to contain one million gallons (MG) of water, between 2022 and 2025 an average of 1.2 MG of wastewater was annually applied in the MOO composting process. The composting area is underlain by approximately one foot of recompacted native clay. The composting area was constructed to meet the compaction requirements prescribed in the Compost General Order, with an upper soil layer hydraulic conductivity of 1.0×10^{-5} cm/sec or less. After composting, MOO is land applied to orchards owned or under the control of the Discharger which totals approximately 5,000 acres (Land Application Area (LAA))
14. Additionally, the Facility ponds and the composting area are underlain to a depth of at least 54 feet by unsaturated native clayey materials, that have shown through laboratory testing to have a mean saturated vertical hydraulic conductivity of 4.78×10^{-7} cm/sec., ranging between 7.60×10^{-5} cm/sec and 2.98×10^{-8} cm/sec.
15. Stormwater at the site is conveyed to a sump and discharged to a stormwater evaporation and infiltration pond; process wastewater and stormwater are not

comingled. Domestic wastewater is conveyed to an onsite county permitted septic system consisting of a septic tank and leach field disposal system. Domestic wastewater is not combined with process wastewater.

16. Water is supplied by an onsite well; the Discharger samples the supply well for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and dissolved oxygen (DO) one to two times annually. From 2018 to 2023, DO ranged from 3.16-10.44 milligrams per liter (mg/L) with an average of 6.48 mg/L, and BOD was non-detect in all but the September 2019 sampling event, which was 2.5 mg/L. The attached MRP requires continued annual monitoring of the supply well.
17. The Discharger sampled process wastewater comingled with pomace during the 2019 process season with similar sampling of unmingled wastewater occurring in 2023, both sampling events tested for constituents of concern. The attached MRP requires additional monitoring of unmingled process wastewater for pH, electrical conductivity (EC), total dissolved solids (TDS), nitrate as nitrogen (N), Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN), fixed dissolved solids (FDS), and BOD during the processing season and no further testing of wastewater comingled with pomace. Table 3 shows the results of the 2019 pomace pond wastewater sampling event (average values for samples from pomace drying pond nos. 1, 2, 3) and the 11 April 2023 wastewater evaporation pond sampling event.

Table 3. Effluent Quality

Parameters	Units	Pomace Drying Pond Effluent (Average)	Wastewater Evaporation Pond Effluent	Potential Water Quality Objective (Source)
EC	µmhos/cm	-	944	900 (SMCL)
Fixed Dissolved Solids (FDS)	mg/L	-	472	--
TDS	mg/L	2,537	1,160	500-1,000 (SMCL)
pH	SU	-	5.69	--
Nitrate (NO ₃) as N	mg/L	14.3	<0.1	10 (PMCL)
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	-	5.9	--
BOD ₅	mg/L	-	1,030	--
Barium	mg/L	0.225	0.0748	1 (PMCL)

Parameters	Units	Pomace Drying Pond Effluent (Average)	Wastewater Evaporation Pond Effluent	Potential Water Quality Objective (Source)
Boron	mg/L	-	0.152	1 (PMCL)
Chloride	mg/L	65.7	78.5	250-500 (SMCL)
Total Chromium	mg/L	0.0249	0.009.7	0.05 (PMCL)
Cobalt	mg/L	0.024	0.00117	--
Copper	mg/L	0.1325	0.0479	1.3 (PMCL)
Iron	mg/L	-	0.79	0.3 (SMCL)
Manganese	mg/L	-	0.0628	0.050 SMCL
Sodium	mg/L	3.2	0.048	--
Nickel	mg/L	0.099	0.0124	0.1 PMCL
Vanadium	mg/L	0.027	0.0394	--
Zinc	mg/L	0.197	0.096	5 SMCL

Table Notes:

1. Total metal concentrations shown for Barium, Boron, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Iron, Manganese, Sodium, Nickel, Vanadium and Zinc.
2. Antimony, Arsenic, Beryllium, Cadmium, Lead, Mercury, Molybdenum, Selenium, Silver, Thallium tested with results below test method detection.
3. Bold results indicate results elevated above applicable Water Quality Objectives (WQO).
4. SMCL- Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level/Consumer Acceptance Levels (filtered).
5. PMCL- Primary Maximum Contaminant Level.

Site-Specific Conditions

Topography, Climate, and Land Use

18. The Facility and disposal areas sit at an elevation between approximately 150 to 212 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and topography is generally gently sloped with slight gradient down toward the northeast toward White Cabin Creek. Federal Emergency Management Agency maps show that the Facility and disposal areas are located within Zone A area of flood hazard.
19. The Facility is in a Mediterranean climate characterized by dry summers and wet winters; the rainy season is typically from November through April. According to the Western Regional Climate Center's online database, the nearest precipitation monitoring station is located at Orland Station 046506, and the average annual precipitation measured at that location from 1933-2016 is 19.95 inches. According to data in the 1982 *Technical Report NWS 34, Mean Monthly, Seasonal, and Annual Pan Evaporation for the United States*, published by the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the average annual pan evaporation is 72.39 inches in Orland WB Airport, Station 6638.
20. United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service soil service maps characterize surface soils. Soils beneath the Facility are characterized as Altemont-Shedd Association clay with weathered bed rock, with 3-15 percent slopes, to a depth of approximately 40-60 inches below ground surface (bgs). Although dominated by clay, the soils are considered to be well drained with moderate water storage capacity. These soils are characterized as moderate to low fertility even with irrigation. Soils on surrounding orchards vary.
21. The supply well drill log as well as other exploratory excavation and drilling logs at the site have shown that surface soils consisting of majority clay material extend to depths on average of about 54-feet bgs with the supply well encountering clay to a depth of about 72-feet bgs. These unsaturated native clayey materials have shown through laboratory testing to have a mean saturated vertical hydraulic conductivity of $4.78\text{E-}07$ cm/sec., ranging between $7.60\text{E-}05$ and $2.98\text{E-}08$ cm/sec.
22. Land use surrounding the Facility is agricultural.

Groundwater Conditions

23. According to the California Department of Water Resources [SGMA Data Viewer](https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/gicima/) (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/gicima/>), depth to groundwater is approximately 15 to 80 feet bgs and groundwater elevation is approximately 70 to 150 feet amsl.
24. Regional groundwater data was obtained on the Water Quality Portal website (<http://www.waterqualitydata.us/>) that is provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Geological Survey, and the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. Nearby groundwater quality was established by reviewing data from three wells that are within three miles of the Facility. Data from the three wells can be found in Table 4 below:

Table 4 – Groundwater Data

Well	020N03W07E002M	020N04W12F002M	021N03W32M001M
Date Sampled	2/23/2016	6/20/1990	8/21/1952
Well Depth (feet bgs)	664	172	194.46
EC (µmhos/cm)	420	323	557
Nitrate as N (mg/L)	5.2	5.04	27.4*
Chloride (mg/L)	25	3.3	34
Sulfate (mg/L)	8	7.4	27
Sodium (mg/L)	34	13	18
pH (SU)	7.6	7.7	7.2

Table Note: *Conversion of Nitrate as NO₃ (120 mg/L) data point to Nitrate as N.

Legal Authorities

25. This Order is adopted pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (a), which provides in pertinent part as follows:

The regional board, after any necessary hearing, shall prescribe requirements as to the nature of any proposed discharge, existing discharge, or material change in an existing discharge..., with relation to the conditions existing in the disposal area or receiving waters upon, or into which, the discharge is made or proposed.

Compliance with section 13263, subdivision (a), including implementation of applicable water quality control plans, is discussed in the findings below.

26. The ability to discharge waste is a privilege, not a right, and adoption of this Order shall not be construed as creating a vested right to continue discharging waste. (Wat. Code, § 13263, subd. (g).)
27. This Order and its associated MRP are also adopted pursuant to Water Code section 13267, subdivision (b)(1), which provides as follows:

[T]he regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste ... shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.

The reports required under this Order, as well as under the separately issued MRP, are necessary to verify and ensure compliance with WDRs. The burden associated with such reports is reasonable relative to the need for their submission.

Basin Plan Implementation

Beneficial Uses of Water

28. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins* (Basin Plan) designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives (WQOs), contains implementation plans and policies for protecting waters of the basin, and incorporates by reference plans and policies adopted

by the State Water Board. Pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (a), WDRs must implement the Basin Plan.

29. Local surface drainage is to Sheep Coral and White Cabin Creeks, tributaries of the Sacramento River. Beneficial uses of the Sacramento River from Shasta Dam to Colusa Basin Drain as stated in the Basin Plan (Table 2-1) include municipal and domestic supply; agricultural supply; service supply; hydropower generation; water contact recreation; non-contact water recreation; canoeing and rafting; warm and cold freshwater habitat; warm and cold migration; warm and cold spawning; wildlife habitat; and navigation.
30. The beneficial uses of underlying groundwater as set forth in the Basin Plan are municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply, industrial service supply, and industrial process supply.

Water Quality Objectives

31. The Basin Plan establishes narrative WQOs for chemical constituents, tastes and odors, and toxicity in groundwater. It also sets forth a numeric WQO for total coliform organisms.
32. The Basin Plan's numeric WQO for bacteria requires that the most probable number (MPN) of coliform organisms over any seven-day period shall be less than 2.2 per 100 mL in MUN designated groundwater.
33. The Basin Plan's narrative WQOs for chemical constituents, at a minimum, require waters designated as domestic or municipal supply to meet the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) specified in California Code of Regulations, title 22 (Title 22), sections 64431, 64444, and 64449. The Central Valley Water Board may apply limits more stringent than MCLs to ensure that water does not contain chemical constituents in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses.
34. The Basin Plan's narrative WQO for tastes and odors requires that waters shall not contain taste- or odor-producing substances in concentrations that impair beneficial uses or otherwise cause conditions of nuisance.
35. The Basin Plan's narrative WQO for toxicity requires that groundwater be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations that produce detrimental physiological responses in human, animal, plant, or aquatic life associated with designated beneficial uses.

Salt and Nitrate Control Programs

36. The Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating new programs for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting (Resolution R5-2018-0034). The Basin Plan amendments became effective on 17 January 2020 and were revised by the Central Valley Water Board in 2020 with [Resolution R5-2020-0057](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057_res.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057_res.pdf). The revisions to the Basin Plan amendments became effective on 10 November 2021.
37. For the Salt Control Program, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent salinity requirements will instead need to participate in a basin-wide effort known as the Prioritization and Optimization Study (P&O Study), which is intended to develop a long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley, and to implement efforts to control salinity through performance-based measures determined the Central Valley Water Board. The Discharger (**CV-SALTS ID 2809**) was issued a Notice to Comply with the Salt Control Program on 5 January 2021. On 15 July 2021, the Discharger paid the fee to join the P&O Study. This Order requires the Discharger to continue efforts to control salinity in its discharge and sets a performance-based salinity limit for TDS of 125 percent of the measured annual average concentration for unmingled wastewater evaporation pond effluent. (See Requirement E.1, Performance-Based Salinity Limitation.)
38. The Discharger is not currently subject to the Nitrate Control Program (NCP) because its discharge is to a non-prioritized groundwater basin 5-021.52 and the Discharger is not proposing to increase the level of nitrate discharged to groundwater. The Discharger may become subject to the NCP in the future if the Central Valley Water Board issues Notices to Comply to dischargers discharging nitrate to the receiving basin and/or authorizes an expansion of the Discharger's discharge of nitrate to the environment. This Order requires the Discharger to comply with the Basin Plan's WQO for Nitrate as Nitrogen of 10 mg/L.Antidegradation Policy
39. State Water Board Resolution 68-16, Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California (Antidegradation Policy), which is incorporated as part of the Basin Plan, prohibits the Central Valley Water Board from authorizing degradation of "high quality waters" unless it is shown that the discharge(s) causing such degradation will be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of California, will not unreasonably affect beneficial uses, and will not result in water quality worse than applicable WQOs. Any discharge to high quality waters must be subject to WDRs that will result in the best

practicable treatment or control (BPTC) necessary to ensure that pollution or nuisance will not occur and the highest water quality consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State will be maintained.

40. The Antidegradation Policy applies when an activity discharges waste to high quality waters and will result in some degradation of such high quality waters. "High quality waters" are those waters where water quality is better than established WQOs. Whether water is high quality is established on a constituent-by-constituent basis, which means that a water can be considered high quality with respect to one constituent, but not for others (see State Water Board Order WQ 91-10). If the activity will not result in the degradation of high-quality waters, the Antidegradation Policy does not apply, and the dischargers need only demonstrate that it will use "best efforts" to control the discharge of waste.
41. Determination of compliance with the Antidegradation Policy will be determined based on local area groundwater quality that can be found in Table 4.
41. Constituents of concern that have the potential to degrade groundwater include salts, organics, iron, and manganese. Table 5 below summarizes FDS, BOD, TDS, iron, and manganese sample concentrations. The average loading rate for each constituent during land application cannot be accurately calculated because the total amount of compost generated to be applied to the land application area is unknown. MOO composting application rates average about five tons per acre with 5,000 acres of land available for application. The wastewater evaporation pond is underlain with a 40-mil LDPE liner and the composting area (which receives wastewater from the wastewater evaporation pond for moisture conditioning of the MOO) is underlain by native clay soil with a relatively low hydraulic conductivity that will limit downward migration of constituents into groundwater.

Table 5 – FDS, TDS, BOD, Iron, and Manganese Concentrations

Constituent	Wastewater Evaporation Pond Effluent Concentration
FDS	472 mg/L
TDS	1,160 mg/L
BOD	1,030 mg/L
Total Iron	790 µg/L
Total Manganese	62.8 µg/L

- a. **Salinity.** The difference between the average concentration of TDS and FDS in the effluent indicates that a significant portion of salinity that is applied to the compost operation is organic and will likely degrade during composting and land application. The attached MRP requires source water and effluent monitoring for TDS and FDS in order to further evaluate the nature of salinity loading at the facility.

Olive orchards are grown in the compost application area and are harvested. It is expected that some uptake of salts by olive orchard will occur through natural processes. The actual salt uptake rate by the vegetation at the site is unknown. In regard to salinity, the Facility's discharge is not expected to impact groundwater quality across the site given the lined wastewater evaporation pond and utilizing wastewater in moisture conditioning of compost materials to be spread over a large land application area. The Discharger is participating in the P&O study to comply with Salt Control Program requirements, as discussed in Finding 37.

- b. **Organics.** The Facility discharges waste with an average BOD concentration of 1,030 mg/L to the lined wastewater evaporation pond. Excessive BOD loading can create reducing conditions in soil, which may convert certain naturally occurring metal constituents such as manganese, iron, and arsenic from relatively insoluble oxidized forms to more soluble reduced forms. A portion of wastewater is used for the MOO Composting operation. When process wastewater is applied to composting operations, the BOD concentration is expected to decrease, with additional reductions occurring as composting progresses and as the

material is subsequently applied within the compost application areas. The Facility's discharge is not expected to impact groundwater quality across the site given the lined wastewater evaporation pond utilizing wastewater in moisture conditioning of compost materials to be spread over a large land application area. Nevertheless, the attached MRP requires source water and effluent monitoring for BOD.

- c. **Iron.** Dissolved (or filtered) metals concentrations are used to determine compliance with water quality objectives (WQOs) for the protection of drinking water sources; the monitoring to date has been as total recoverable metals. Given that the available iron concentration is in the total recoverable form, no direct comparison to the applicable water quality objective can be made at this time. It is expected that metals within the effluent will oxidize prior to reaching groundwater due to the large vadose zone and depth to groundwater underlying the Facility.
 - d. **Manganese.** Dissolved (or filtered) metals concentrations are used to determine compliance with water quality objectives (WQOs) for the protection of drinking water sources; the monitoring to date has been as total recoverable metals. Given that the available manganese concentration is in the total recoverable form, no direct comparison to the applicable water quality objective can be made at this time. It is expected that metals within the effluent will oxidize prior to reaching groundwater due to the large vadose zone and depth to groundwater underlying the Facility
43. The Discharger implements, or will implement, as required by this Order, the following measures, which the Central Valley Water Board has determined constitute BPTC for the discharge and the constituents of concern described above. These measures will minimize or prevent the extent of water quality degradation resulting from the discharge authorized by this Order:
- a. Discharge of pomace material and comingled wastewater to the lined pomace drying ponds.
 - b. Discharge of process wastewater to the lined wastewater evaporation pond for use in moisture conditioning of MOO composting process and evaporation to atmosphere.
 - c. Composting of MOO at the Facility, for use on Discharger owned or controlled land, applied at agronomic rates.

- e. Compliance with an Annual Performance-Based Effluent Limit for TDS, and must maintain compliance with the Salt Control Program, including participation in the Prioritization and Optimization Study (P&O Study).
44. Groundwater underlying the Facility is considered high quality water for the constituents of concern. Based on available information regarding waste management practices and treatment/control measures, and the hydrogeologic conditions at the site, the discharge as permitted is not expected to cause degradation of groundwater or exceedances of applicable water quality objectives. Furthermore, the Facility supports the economic prosperity of Central Valley communities and associated industries through employment opportunities, business activity, and contributions to the local tax base. The Discharger employs approximately 150 full time and 100 seasonal workers, generating substantial economic benefit to the region. These economic and social benefits represent a maximum benefit to the people of the State of California. Because the permitted discharge is not anticipated to degrade high quality groundwater, and the Facility's continued operation provides demonstrable economic and social benefit, the authorization of the discharge under this Order is consistent with State Water Board Resolution 68 16.

California Environmental Quality Act

45. The issuance of this Order, which prescribes requirements and monitoring of waste discharges at an existing facility, with negligible or no expansion of its existing use, is exempt from the procedural requirements of CEQA (Pub. Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301. The discharges authorized under this Order are substantially within parameters established under prior WDRs, particularly with respect to the character and volume of previously authorized discharges.

Other Regulatory Considerations

Human Right to Water

46. Pursuant to Water Code section 106.3, subdivision (a), it is "the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." Although this Order is not subject to Water Code section 106.3, as it does not revise, adopt, or establish a policy, regulation, or grant criterion (see § 106.3, subdivision (b)), it nevertheless promotes the policy by requiring discharges to meet MCLs for drinking water (excluding salinity), which are designed to protect human health and ensure that water is safe for domestic use. For salinity, this Order requires compliance with the Salt Control Program. Although the Basin Plans' Exceptions Policy for Salinity, Nitrate,

and/or Boron allows participants in these Programs to obtain limited-term exceptions from MCLs for salinity, these Programs are consistent with the Human Right to Water Policy because their over-arching management goals and priorities include the short-term provision of providing safe drinking water to impacted users and long-term restoration of impacted groundwater basins and sub-basins where reasonable, feasible, and practicable.

Title 27 Exemption

47. This Order, which prescribes WDRs for discharges of wastewater, is exempt from the prescriptive requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 20005 et seq. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 20090, subdivision (b).)

Water Code Section 13149.2

48. These WDRs regulate a facility that may impact a disadvantaged community and include an alternative compliance path that allows the Discharger time to come into compliance with WQOs for saline constituents. In particular, the Discharger has selected the Alternative Salinity Permitting Approach for the Salt Control Program, which provides an alternative approach for compliance with salinity limits through implementation of specific requirements (i.e., support facilitation and completion of the P&O Study). The Central Valley Water Board has satisfied the outreach requirements set forth in Water Code section 189.7 by conducting outreach in affected disadvantaged and tribal communities through its notice and comment procedures. Pursuant to Water Code section 13149.2, the Central Valley Water Board reviewed readily available information and information raised by interested persons concerning anticipated water quality impacts in disadvantaged communities resulting from adoption of this Order. The Board also considered environmental justice concerns within the Board's authority previously raised by interested persons with regard to those impacts.
49. The Central Valley Water Board anticipates that the issuance of these WDRs will result in water quality impacts within the scope of the Board's authority. Specifically, these WDRs authorize the discharge of wastewater with salinity concentrations that may cause degradation or exceedances of applicable WQOs in the near term. The BPTC measures required by this Order, as described above, are intended to minimize and, in the longer term, mitigate the impacts of the Facility's discharges to nearby disadvantaged communities in Glenn County. Although this Order may result in limited increases to salinity concentrations in groundwater in the near-term, the Salt Control Program is intended to achieve long-term balance and restoration, where possible, of salt-impacted groundwater basins across the region.

Threat-Complexity Rating

50. For the purposes of California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2200, the Facility has a threat-complexity rating of 2-B.
- a. Threat Category “2” reflects waste discharges that can impair receiving water beneficial uses, cause short-term violations of water quality objectives, cause secondary drinking water standard violations, and cause nuisances.
 - b. Complexity Category “B” reflects any discharger not included in Category A with either (1) physical, chemical, or biological treatment systems (except for septic systems with subsurface disposal), or (2) any Class II or Class III waste management units.

Scope of Order

51. This Order is strictly limited in scope to those waste discharges, activities and processes described and expressly authorized herein.
52. Pursuant to Water Code section 13264, subdivision (a), the Discharger is prohibited from initiating the discharge of new wastes (i.e., other than those described herein), or making material changes to the character, volume, or timing of waste discharges authorized herein, without filing a new ROWD pursuant to Water Code section 13260. Failure to file a new ROWD before initiating material changes to the character, volume, or timing of discharges authorized herein constitutes an independent violation of these WDRs.
53. This Order is also strictly limited in applicability to those individuals and/or entities specifically designated herein as “Discharger,” subject only to the discretion to designate or substitute new parties in accordance with this Order.

Procedural Matters

54. All of the above information, was considered by the Central Valley Water Board in prescribing the WDRs set forth below.
55. The Discharger, interested agencies, and other interested persons were notified of the Central Valley Water Board’s intent to prescribe the WDRs in this Order, and provided an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations at a public hearing. (See Wat. Code, § 13167.5.)
56. At a public meeting, the Central Valley Water Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharges regulated under this Order.

57. The Central Valley Water Board will review and revise the WDRs in this Order as necessary.

REQUIREMENTS

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Water Code sections 13263 and 13267, that WDRs Order R5-2012-0039 is rescinded (except for enforcement purposes); and that the Discharger and its agents, employees and successors shall comply with the following:

A. Standard Provisions

Except as expressly provided herein, the Dischargers shall comply with the Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements dated 1 March 1991 (SPRRs), which are incorporated herein.

B. Discharge Prohibitions

1. Waste classified as “hazardous” (see Title 22, § 66261.1 et seq.) shall not be discharged at the Facility under any circumstance.
2. Waste constituents shall not be discharged or otherwise released from the Facility (including during treatment and storage activities) in a manner that results in:
 - a. Violations of the Groundwater Limitations of this Order; or
 - b. Conditions of “nuisance” or “pollution,” as defined per Water Code section 13050.
3. Discharge of wastes other than process wastewater, pomace and compost materials from the Facility at the location and in the manner described in the Findings and authorized herein is prohibited.
4. Except as provided in Section E.2 of the SPRRs, process wastewater shall not bypass any part of the storage, conveyance, or disposal systems.
5. Discharge of domestic wastewater to the process wastewater evaporation pond, pomace drying ponds or composting area is prohibited.

C. Conditional Discharge Prohibitions

1. During Phase I of the Salt Control Program, the Discharger is prohibited from discharging salts at concentrations exceeding the salinity numeric value of 700 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ (as a monthly average) unless the Discharger is implementing the Phase I requirements of the Salt Control Program Alternative Permitting Approach (i.e., full participation in the P&O Study).

D. Flow Limitation

1. Effluent discharge to the wastewater evaporation pond shall not exceed 1.7 MG annually.

E. Performance Based Salinity Limitation

1. To comply with the Salt Control Program, the Discharger has selected the Alternative Salinity Permitting Approach (i.e., participation in the P&O Study), therefore, as discussed in Finding 37, these WDRs establish a performance-based effluent limitation for TDS of **1,450 mg/L** for the annual average concentration of the wastewater discharged to the wastewater evaporation pond.

F. Discharge Specifications

1. The discharge shall remain within the permitted waste treatment containment structures.
2. The Discharger shall operate all systems and equipment to maintain compliance with these WDRs.
3. All conveyance, treatment, storage, and disposal systems shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to floods with a 100-year return frequency.

The facility exists within a FEMA mapped or designated "Flood Zone A" 100-year flood plan, as such, the Discharger shall design, construct, operate, and maintain all applicable wastewater ponds, conveyances and composting facilities such that they shall not be inundated, overtopped, or structurally compromised during a 100-year flood event. This includes protection from:

- a. Direct floodwater inundation;
- b. Erosion and/or washout;

- c. Stormwater run-on;
- d. Bank overtopping or channel avulsion.

Within 48 hours following any flood event that threatens or damages containment structures, the Discharger shall inspect all ponds, compost areas, stormwater diversions, berms, and wastewater storage areas.

The Discharger shall submit a written report to the Executive Officer within **15** days of such events that cause damage, describing:

- e. The extent and duration of flooding;
- f. Any damage to berms, pads, or containment systems;
- g. Presence or absence of contained waste(s) release;
- h. Estimated volume of released waste(s);
- i. Emergency measures taken;
- j. Proposed corrective or preventive actions.

If the Executive Officer determines that proposed or completed flood protection measures are inadequate, the Discharger shall implement additional engineering controls and or mitigations.

- 4. Objectionable odors shall not be perceivable beyond the limits of the Facility property at an intensity that creates or threatens to create nuisance conditions. As a means of ensuring compliance with this discharge specification, the Discharger shall comply with the following:
 - a. The dissolved oxygen (DO) content in the upper one foot of any wastewater treatment or storage pond/sump shall not be less than 1.0 mg/L for three consecutive sampling events. Notwithstanding the DO monitoring frequency specified in the monitoring and reporting program, if the DO in the pond(s) is below 1.0 mg/L for any single sampling event, the Discharger shall implement daily DO monitoring of that pond until the minimum DO concentration is achieved for at least three consecutive days. If the DO in the pond is below 1.0 mg/L for three consecutive days, the Discharger shall report the findings to the Central Valley Water Board in accordance with Section B.1 of the SPRRs. The written notification shall include a specific plan to resolve the low DO results within 30 days of the first date of violation.

5. The Discharger shall design, construct, operate, and maintain onsite ponds sufficiently to protect the integrity of containment dams and berms and prevent overtopping and/or structural failure. The operating freeboard of the pond shall never be less than two feet (measured vertically from the lowest possible point of overflow). As a means of management and to determine compliance with this requirement, the Discharger shall install and maintain a permanent staff gauge with calibration marks that clearly show the water level at design capacity and enable determination of available operational freeboard.
6. Wastewater treatment, storage, and disposal ponds or structures shall have sufficient capacity to accommodate allowable wastewater flow, design seasonal precipitation, and ancillary inflow and infiltration during the winter while ensuring continuous compliance with all requirements of this Order. Design seasonal precipitation shall be based on total annual precipitation using a return period of 100 years, distributed monthly in accordance with historical rainfall patterns.
7. On or about 1 October of each year, available capacity shall at least equal the volume necessary to comply with Discharge Specifications F.5 and F.6.
8. All ponds and open containment structures shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes. Specifically:
 - a. An erosion control program shall be implemented to ensure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the water surface.
 - b. Weeds shall be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, or herbicides.
 - c. Dead algae, vegetation, and debris shall not accumulate on the water surface.
 - d. The Discharger shall consult and coordinate with the local Mosquito Abatement District to minimize the potential for mosquito breeding as needed to supplement the above measures.
9. Newly constructed or rehabilitated berms or levees (excluding internal berms that separate ponds or control the flow of water within a pond) shall be designed and constructed under the supervision of a California Registered Civil Engineer.

10. Wastewater treatment, storage and disposal ponds equipped with liners (i.e. LDPE) shall be subject to integrity testing on a five-year recurrence interval, commencing one year after the adoption of this Order. At this time the Discharger shall perform integrity testing on the wastewater evaporation pond liner (and any future ponds which use a liner) and submit a report of their findings. The liner must be found to be in a serviceable condition and performing as designed otherwise the Discharger will be required to submit a plan for repair, remediation or replacement of the failing liner.
11. The Discharger shall remove accumulated solids annually in the wastewater evaporation pond and pomace drying ponds prior to the start of the processing season.

G. Groundwater Limitations

Release of waste constituents from any portion of the Facility shall not cause or contribute to groundwater containing constituent concentrations in excess of the concentrations specified below:

1. Concentrations that exceed either the Primary or Secondary MCLs established in California Code of Regulations title 22, excluding salinity.
2. Contain taste or odor-producing constituents, toxic substances, or any other constituents in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

H. Land Application Area Specifications

For the purposes of this Order, “land application areas” or “LAAs” refers to all olive orchards owned or controlled by the Discharger. Wastewater application to LAAs is no longer permitted under this Order. Wastewater from the wastewater evaporation pond is used in the moisture conditioning of compost in the MOO Composting Area, and no wastewater is land applied to any other areas. Only composted MOO materials may be applied within the designated LAA. The discharge of composted material to the LAA is subject to the following specifications.

1. Application of compost to the LAAs shall be at reasonable agronomic rates to preclude creation of a nuisance or unreasonable degradation of groundwater, considering crops, soil, climate, and irrigation management system. The annual nutritive loading of the LAAs, including nutritive value of organic and chemical fertilizers, and the compost shall not exceed the annual crop demand.

2. Compost from the Facility shall not be applied within:
 - a. 50 feet of a water supply well,
 - b. 50 feet of a surface water or surface water drainage course, or
 - c. 25 feet of a property line or public right-of-way unless the compost application is managed to prevent runoff in which case a minimum setback of 5 feet shall be maintained.
3. The resulting effect of the discharge on soil pH shall not exceed the buffering capacity of the soil profile.
4. Compost application of the LAAs shall occur only when appropriately trained personnel are on duty.
5. As required by the MRP, LAAs shall be inspected periodically to determine compliance with the requirements of this Order. If an inspection reveals noncompliance or threat of noncompliance with this Order, the Discharger shall temporarily stop land application use immediately and implement corrective actions to ensure compliance with this Order.

I. Solids Disposal Specifications

1. For the purpose of this Order, residual solids include the solid, semisolid, and liquid organic matter removed during the cleaning, sorting and processing of olives (i.e. MOO and pomace).
2. Residual solids shall be removed from screens, vaults, and ponds as needed to ensure optimal operation, prevent nuisance conditions, and maintain adequate storage capacity.
3. Any handling and storage of residual solids shall be temporary and controlled and contained in a manner that minimizes leachate formation and precludes infiltration of waste constituents into soils in a mass or concentration that will violate the groundwater limitations of this Order.
4. If removed from the site, residual solids shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Executive Officer and consistent with California Code of Regulations, title 27, division 2. Removal for reuse as animal feed, biofuel feedstock, or at land disposal (i.e., landfills, composting facilities, soil amendment sites operated in accordance with valid waste discharge requirements issued by a regional water board) will satisfy this specification.

5. Any proposed change in solids use or disposal practice shall be reported in writing to the Executive Officer at least 90 days in advance of the change.

J. Provisions

1. The following report shall be submitted pursuant to Water Code section 13267:
 - a. By **<three months following Order adoption>**, the Discharger shall establish and report the area of the land application for composted materials (LAA area), as defined in section H, and report findings to Central Valley Water Board staff. A map of these areas shall include area (in acres), APN numbers, nearby water bodies (streams or lakes), well and the current/designated land use for proposed area of land application.
2. The Discharger shall comply with the separately issued MRP R5-2026-XXXX, and any revisions thereto as ordered by the Executive Officer. The submittal dates of Discharger self-monitoring reports shall be no later than the submittal date specified in the MRP.
3. A copy of this Order, Attachments, SPRRs and the MRP shall be kept at the Facility for reference by operating personnel. Key operating personnel shall be familiar with their contents.
4. The Discharger shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs adopted in Resolution R5-2018-0034 (and revised per Resolution R5-2020-0057) to address ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley and developed as part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative.
5. In accordance with California Business and Professions Code sections 6735, 7835, and 7835.1, engineering and geologic evaluations and judgments shall be performed by or under the direction of registered professionals competent and proficient in the fields pertinent to the required activities. All technical reports specified herein that contain workplans for investigations and studies, that describe the conduct of investigations and studies, or that contain technical conclusions and recommendations concerning engineering and geology shall be prepared by or under the direction of appropriately qualified professional(s), even if not explicitly stated. Each technical report submitted by the Discharger shall bear the professional's signature and stamp.

6. The Discharger shall submit the technical reports and work plans required by this Order for consideration by the Executive Officer and incorporate comments the Executive Officer may have in a timely manner, as appropriate. Unless expressly stated otherwise in this Order, the Discharger shall proceed with all work required by the foregoing provisions by the due dates specified.
7. The Discharger shall comply with all conditions of this Order, including timely submittal of technical and monitoring reports. On or before each report due date, the Discharger shall submit the specified document to the Central Valley Water Board or, if appropriate, a written report detailing compliance or noncompliance with the specific schedule date and task. If noncompliance is being reported, then the Discharger shall state the reasons for such noncompliance and provide an estimate of the date when the Discharger will be in compliance. The Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing when it returns to compliance with the time schedule. Violations may result in enforcement action, including Central Valley Water Board or court orders requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability, or in revision or rescission of this Order.
8. The Discharger shall, at all times, properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) that are installed or used by the Discharger to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Order. Proper operation and maintenance also include adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems that are installed by the Discharger when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Order.
9. The Discharger shall use the best practicable cost-effective control technique(s), including proper operation and maintenance, to comply with this Order.
10. As described in the SPRRs, the Discharger shall report promptly to the Central Valley Water Board any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.
11. In the event of any change in control or ownership of the Facility, the Discharger must notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this Order by letter, a copy of which shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Valley Water Board.

12. To assume operation as Discharger under this Order, the succeeding owner or operator must apply in writing to the Executive Officer requesting transfer of the Order. The request must contain the requesting entity's full legal name, the state of incorporation if a corporation, the name and address and telephone number of the persons responsible for contact with the Central Valley Water Board, and a statement. The statement shall comply with the signatory paragraph of Standard Provision B.3 and state that the new owner or operator assumes full responsibility for compliance with this Order. Failure to submit the request shall be considered a discharge without requirements, a violation of the Water Code. If approved by the Executive Officer, the transfer request will be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board for its consideration of transferring the ownership of this Order at one of its regularly scheduled meetings.
13. The conditions of discharge in the Order were developed based on currently available technical information and applicable water quality laws, regulations, policies, and plans, and are intended to assure conformance with them. The Order sets limitations based on the information provided thus far. If applicable laws and regulations change, or once new information is obtained that will change the overall discharge and its potential to impact groundwater, it may be appropriate to reopen the Order.
14. The Central Valley Water Board's rescission of prior waste discharge requirements and/or monitoring and reporting orders does not extinguish any violations that may have occurred during the time those waste discharge requirements or orders were in effect. The Central Valley Water Board reserves the right to take enforcement actions to address violations of prior prohibitions, limitations, specifications, requirements, or provisions of rescinded waste discharge requirements or orders as allowed by law.
15. The Central Valley Water Board will review this Order periodically and will revise requirements when necessary.

ENFORCEMENT

If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Discharger fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may refer this matter to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement, may issue a complaint for administrative civil liability, or may take other enforcement actions. Failure to comply with this Order may result in the assessment of Administrative Civil Liability of up to \$10,000 per violation, per day, depending on the violation, pursuant to the Water Code, including sections 13268, 13350, and 13385. The Central Valley Water Board reserves its right to take any enforcement actions authorized by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Any person aggrieved by this Central Valley Water Board action may petition the State Water Board for review in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050 et seq. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day after the date of this Order; if the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of [the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) are available on the Internet (at the address below) and will be provided upon request.
(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality)

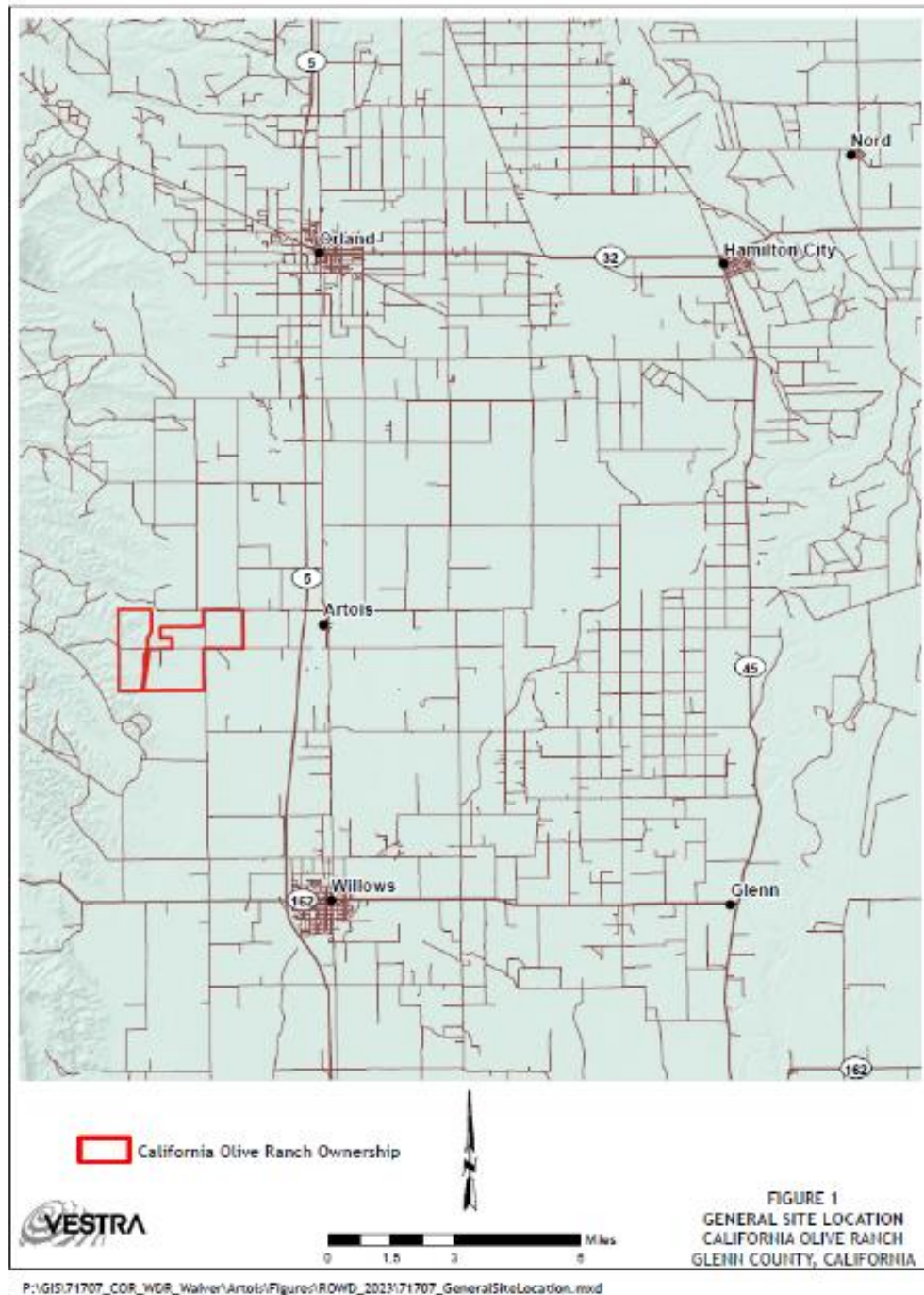
ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A — SITE LOCATION MAP

ATTACHMENT B — FACILITY MAP

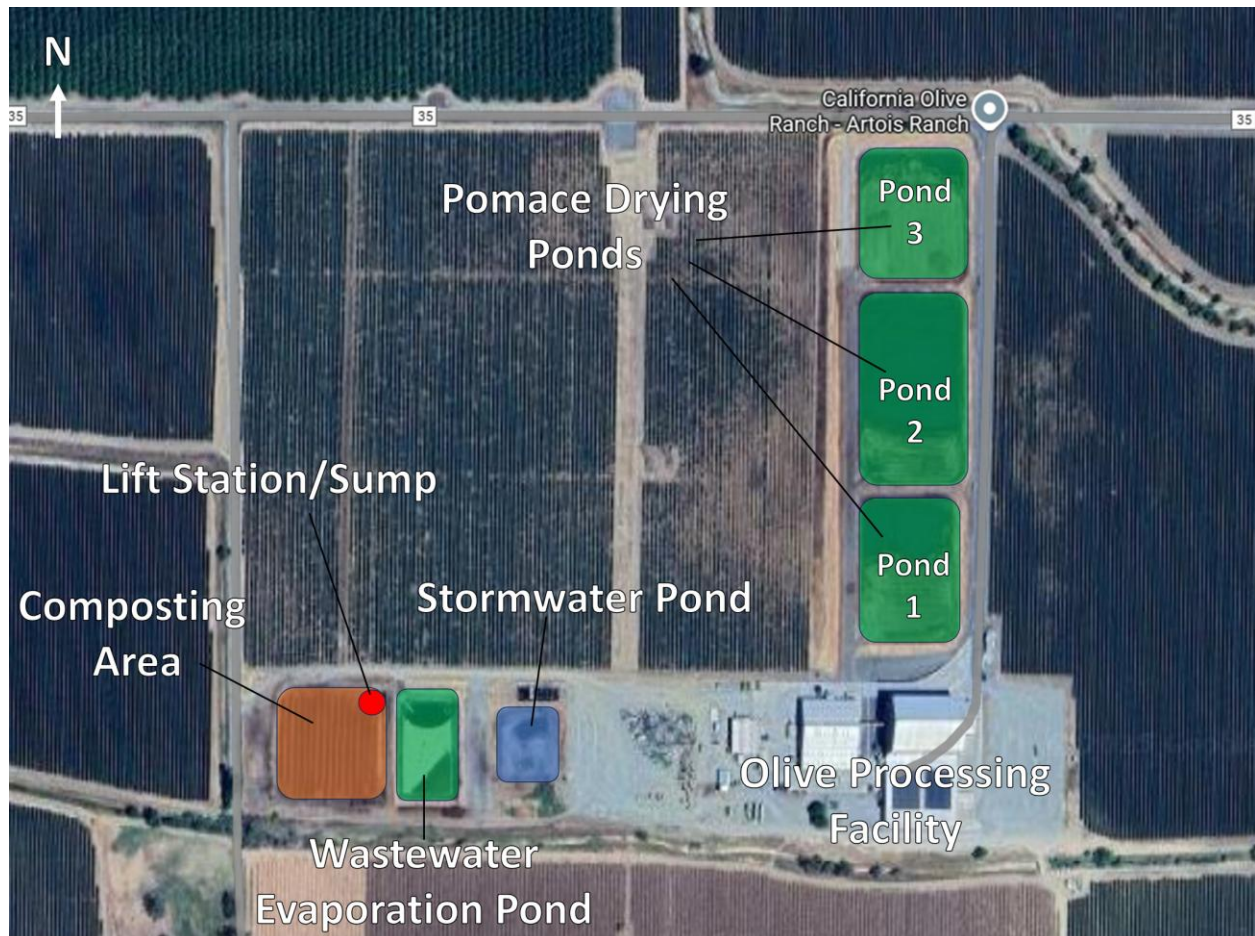
Attachment C — Facility Production Flow Schematic
Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2026-XXX
Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements

ATTACHMENT A — SITE LOCATION MAP



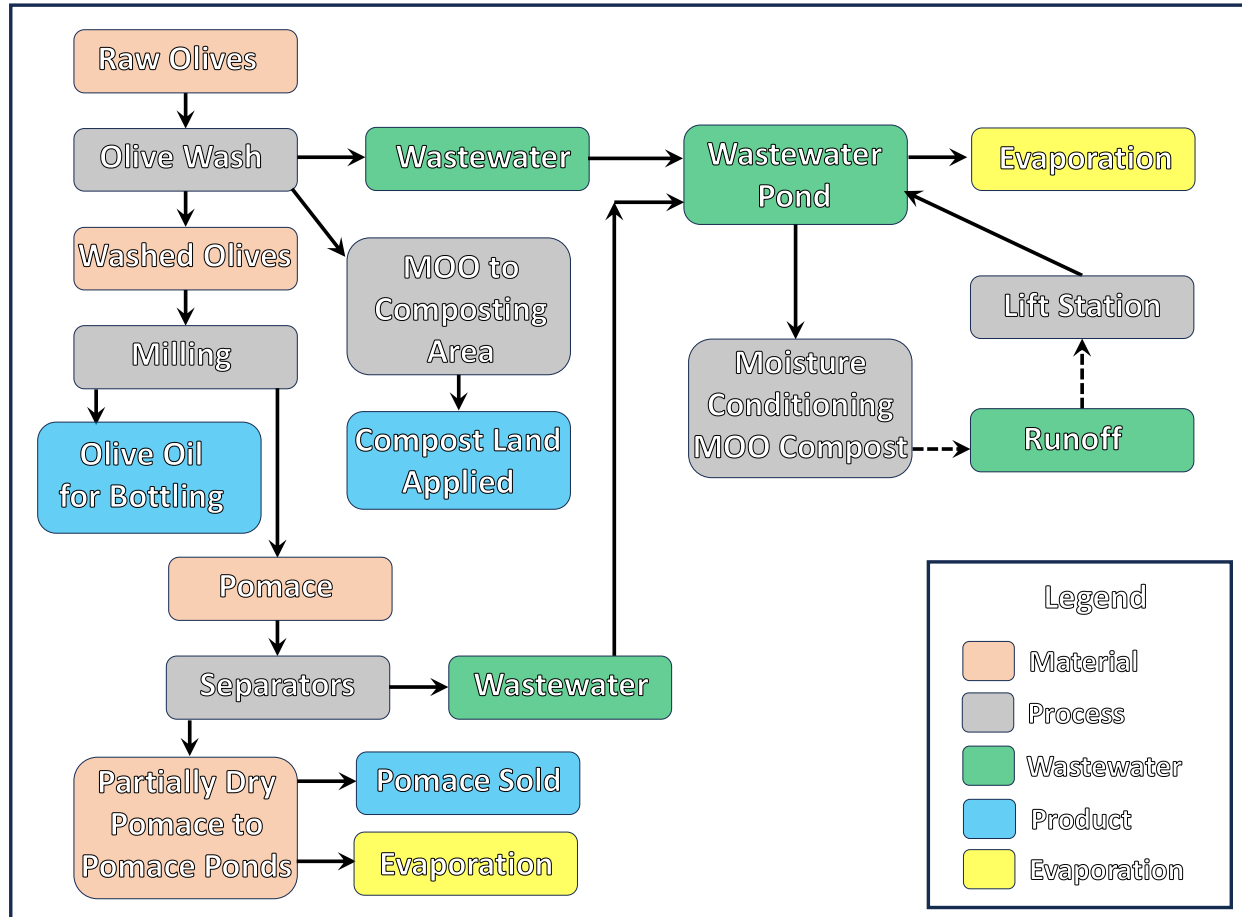
Site Location Map showing Facility relative location to highways and towns.

ATTACHMENT B — FACILITY MAP



Simplified Facility map showing layout of relevant site improvements.

ATTACHMENT C — FACILITY PRODUCTION FLOW SCHEMATIC



Simplified Facility Production Flow Schematic showing generalized flow of products and waste streams.