

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION**

[TENTATIVE] ORDER R5-2026-XXXX

RESCINDING CEASE AND DESIST ORDER R5-2017-0012

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board), finds that the Board adopted the following Order, which is no longer applicable for the following reasons:

A) CEASE AND DESIST ORDER R5-2017-0012 REQUIRING THE HARRIS RANCH BEEF COMPANY, SELMA BEEF PROCESSING PLANT, FRESNO COUNTY, TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM DISCHARGING WASTE CONTRARY TO REQUIREMENTS

Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2017-0012 was adopted on 24 February 2017 and required the Harris Ranch Beef Company (Discharger) to cease discharge of wastewater from its Selma Beef Processing Plant (Facility) in violation to waste discharge requirements (WDRs). The CDO also required the Discharger to assess the vertical and horizontal extent of groundwater degradation beneath and downgradient of its land application areas (LAAs), particularly with regard to salts (electrical conductivity and total dissolved solids) and nitrate. To address the CDO, the Discharger installed a new wastewater treatment system, including dissolved air floatation, an anaerobic digester, aerated activated sludge treatment, and a clarifier to improve wastewater quality. The Discharger has also constructed two double-lined ponds for long term storage of treated effluent prior to application at the LAAs and has proposed expansion of its LAAs, to reduce nutrient, salt, and organic loading.

The Discharger also conducted several groundwater investigations, including installation and ongoing sampling of onsite groundwater monitoring wells, sampling of offsite irrigation and private supply wells around the Facility and LAAs, and conducted a hydraulic push testing investigation of the area. The results of these investigations were summarized in a November 2020 Groundwater Assessment Report that concluded the degradation from its past discharges (prior to treatment and storage system upgrades) has impacted downgradient groundwater. Revised tentative WDRs scheduled for consideration at the Central Valley Water Board's December 2026 meeting include continued monitoring and evaluation of on- and offsite groundwater impacts identified by the 2020 Groundwater Assessment Report. In addition, the Discharger is actively participating in the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs, which are intended to address long term accumulation of salts and nitrate in the Central Valley.

Therefore, the Discharger has satisfied the conditions of the CDO, and it is appropriate to rescind CDO R5-2017-0012.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Order is rescinded.

I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region on 10/11 December 2026.

TENTATIVE

PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer