

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN**

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Public Notice No. 7-15-45
December 9, 2015

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR
TIME SCHEDULE ORDER R7-2016-0008
FOR
ONE WORLD BEEF, LLC, OWNER/OPERATOR
BRAWLEY SLAUGHTERHOUSE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
Brawley– Imperial County**

One World Beef, LLC (OWB), submitted an application and Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) for Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), dated November 25, 2016, for proposed on-site discharges of wastes from a wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) that provides services to a beef slaughterhouse and processing facility (Facility). The Facility is located at 57 Shank Road, Brawley, CA 92227, in Imperial County. The Discharger has entered into a Purchase and Sales Agreement (Agreement) to buy the Facility from National Beef California, LP (NBC). NBC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Beef Packing Company, LLC (headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri), which in turn is a subsidiary of Leucadia National Corporation. The Facility is expected to be sold presently to the Discharger pursuant to the Agreement.

The WWTF consists of primary screens, two Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) units, an anaerobic digester (Pond 1), an intermediate dissolved air flotation unit, an aerobic activated sludge pond (Pond 2), a clarifier, a polishing pond (Pond 3), which consists of a clarifier (Ponds 3A/B) and diversion pond (Pond 3C), a suspended air flotation (SAF) unit, and a belt filter press for dewatering solids. All three ponds are unlined. The WWTF also includes an unlined storm water pond onsite that is not considered part of the WWTF. The Discharger proposes to resume operations at the Facility in February 2016 and discharge wastewater at two locations: (1) to areal groundwater through the three unlined ponds and (2) from the WWTF into the city of Brawley municipal wastewater collection system for further treatment and disposal at the city of Brawley Wastewater Treatment Plant (Brawley WWTP).

The Discharger has also applied for a permit to resume Facility operations in February 2016. If the Facility is sold to OWB as planned, the Discharger proposes to implement a phased approach to ramp up operations at the Facility. During the start-up phase, it proposes to process 100 to 200 head of cattle per day. Ultimately, the Discharger expects to process up to 1,600 head of cattle per day. To address water quality concerns and ensure compliance with the Brawley Pretreatment Program, the Discharger also proposes to make improvements to the WWTF before and after starting operations. The table below shows the proposed improvement program, time schedule for implementation, and projected amount of wastewater to be generated by each phase:

Table 2: OWB's Proposed WWTF Discharges and Improvements			
Phase	Proposed WWTF Improvements	Month/Year	Wastewater ¹ Flow Rate (gpd)
Phase 1	Replace rotary drum screens, replace wastewater pumps, overhaul DAF units, replace aeration system in Pond 2. Implement biological denitrification via baffle system, mixing and recirculation, and pH and dissolved oxygen monitoring.	Dec 2015-Jun 2016	200,000
Phase 2	Increase aeration requirements for Pond system	Jul 2016-Jun 2017	400,000
Phase 3	Overhaul biogas utilization system; bypass pumping for denitrification slip stream.	Jul 2017-Jun 2018	750,000
Phase 4	Replace sheet pile clarifier and SAF with new optimized clarifier.	Jul 2018-Jun 2021	1,000,000
Phase 5	Clean close Pond 1, Engineering Alternative, refurbish Pond 1, or construct new anaerobic lagoon with internal mixing and sludge withdrawal system. Reuse or separate lined evaporation. Segregation of wastewater.	Jul 2018-Jun 2021	1,300,000
¹ Discharge of wastes is expected to start in February 2016.			

The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Colorado River Basin Water Board) staff has drafted a permit (see Board Public Notice No. 7-15-44) so the Discharger can resume operations at the Facility in February 2016. However, the Discharger needs time to implement improvements at the Facility and to achieve full compliance with the proposed draft permit. Consequently, the Colorado River Basin Water Board staff has also drafted a proposed Time Schedule Order (TSO) for consideration of adoption by the Colorado River Basin Water Board. If adopted as drafted by staff, the TSO provides three directive alternatives to address water quality and nuisance concerns:

- 1. Alternative 1 (Compliance with prescriptive Standards of Title 27)**—The Discharger must submit **by February 28, 2017**, a technical report providing information pursuant to Title 27, CCR, sections 21710 through 21760, for a Class II surface impoundment and a time schedule for implementation to bring Pond 1 into full compliance with all of the applicable requirements of Title 27, CCR, Section 20005 et seq. The report must also include provisions for monitoring Ponds 2 and 3 for purposes of detecting, characterizing, and responding to releases.

2. **Alternative 2 (Engineered Alternative to Prescriptive Title 27 Standards)**—In lieu of compliance with Item 1, above, the Discharger may submit **by February 28, 2017**, a technical report with proposed design plans, specifications, and a time schedule for implementation of a proposed Engineered Alternative pursuant to Title 27.
3. **Alternative 3 (Material Change in the Character of the Quality or Quantity of the Wastewater or Waste Treatment or Discharged)**—If there is a material change in the quality and/or quantity of the wastewater treated or discharged to the unlined ponds such that the wastewater does not need to be managed as a “designated waste” pursuant to Title 27, the Discharger may apply for revised waste discharge requirements.

Pursuant to California Water Code Sections 13267 and 13300, tentative Time Schedule Order R7-2016-0008 is proposed to be adopted by the Colorado River Basin Water Board to require the Discharger to prepare technical reports, and to prevent potential impacts to groundwater caused by the discharges from the three ponds.

A public hearing on this matter will be held as follows:

Date:	January 14, 2016
Time:	9:00 a.m.
Location:	California Regional Water Quality Control Board Colorado River Basin Region Board Room 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100 Palm Desert, CA 92260

Interested persons are invited to attend and express their views orally on this matter at the public hearing. The Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that those persons wishing to speak at the hearing provide a copy of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing to assure accuracy of the record.

Persons wishing to file written comments on, or objections to, the tentative TSO are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than January 8, 2016, so that they may be given sufficient consideration. Comments should be mailed to the attention of Jose Angel, Interim Executive Officer, at the address shown below or faxed to the office at (760) 341-6820.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
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Affected stakeholders and other interested persons are invited to attend and express their views on this matter at the public hearing. Those who wish to speak at the hearing will be asked to fill out a speaker request card and provide it to Colorado River Basin Water Board staff. In order to have adequate time for the presentation by Board staff, however, comments from the public will be limited to three (3) minutes per person. If the presentation may take longer, please let Board staff know before speaking so that the presentation can be appropriately scheduled at the hearing. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive. To ensure accuracy of the record, the Board

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requests that any speakers who have prepared written statements for oral presentation at the hearing submit those statements to Board staff before or during the hearing.

Copies of tentative TSO R7-2016-0008 are available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/

Interested persons requiring a hard copy of the tentative TSO should contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 346-7491 or via e-mail at: hvasquez@waterboards.ca.gov.

If you are disabled and require special accommodations to participate in this public hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.