

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

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Phone: (760) 346-7491

Public Notice 7-16-40
December 2, 2016

**REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
FOR WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
BOARD ORDER R7-2017-0001**

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, (Colorado River Basin Water Board) has prepared Tentative Board Order R7-2017-0001 for OWB Packers, LLC (Discharger), Brawly Beef Plant Biofiltro Wastewater Treatment Facility and Reclamation Areas located in Brawley, California, Imperial County. The Colorado River Basin Water Board intends to consider adopting the Tentative Board Order during a Public Hearing that will commence at the time and place indicated:

Date: January 19, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: City of Brawley
Council Chambers
383 W. Main Street
Brawley, California 92227

Background

The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) dated June 27, 2016, and applied for Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for a change in the method of wastewater treatment at the Brawley Beef Plant and discharge up to 238,000 gallons per day (gpd) of treated industrial wastewater into onsite unlined ponds for storage and from the ponds to irrigate approximately 140 acres of farmland. The Discharger proposes to grow Bermuda grass or other fodder crops for cattle feed on the 140 acres. It submitted an amended ROWD on September 16, 2016, and supplemental information, which completed the ROWD on October 12, 2016.

The beef plant has an existing onsite wastewater treatment facility (existing WWTF) that 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 suspended air flotation (SAF) unit, a polishing pond (Pond 3), and a belt filter press for dewatering solids. Pond 3 is currently divided in three sections (Ponds 3A-3C). All three ponds are unlined. The existing WWTF also includes an unlined storm water pond onsite that is not considered part of the treatment facility.

The Discharger proposes to abandon its pond-based unit treatment process, keep and use the primary screens, the DAFs, the SAF, and belt-filter press; and build and operate a BioFiltro® system as part of its new onsite wastewater treatment facility ("BioFiltro WWTF"). Under this proposal, the Discharger will abandon Pond 1, use Pond 2 for emergency temporary storage of wastewater and use Pond 3 for storage of treated wastewater. The Discharger also proposes to disinfect the BioFiltro effluent with Peracetic Acid prior to discharge to land.

The proposed reclamation area consists of: (1) 10 acres, which are within the Facility and are owned by the Discharger; and (2) 130 acres (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 047-020-015, 047-020-016, and 047-020-017), which are immediately to the east of the Facility. The Discharger proposes to irrigate them with treated wastewater from the Facility to grow Bermuda grass or other fodder crops for cattle feed.

Submission of Written Comments

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept written comments regarding this Tentative Board Order during the thirty-day public comment period, which begins **December 2, 2016** and ends **January 6, 2017**. Persons wishing to submit written comments on the Tentative Board Order are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than **January 6, 2017**. The Colorado River Basin Water Board has implemented an electronic records management system to reduce paper consumption and improve overall accessibility to records and documents. To submit comments electronically, please convert the signed original documents to Portable Document Format (PDF) and submit via email to Doug Wylie at doug.wylie@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a disk or USB and mailed to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Mailed written comments may be sent to the address above. Written comments may also be faxed to the Colorado River Basin Water Board office at (760) 341-6820.

Document Availability

Copies of the Tentative Board Order are available on the Regional Water Board's website at:

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

Interested persons requiring a hard copy of the tentative order should contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.

Hearing Procedure

Affected stakeholders and other interested persons are invited to attend and express their views on this matter at the public hearing, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. In addition, to ensure accuracy of the record, the Colorado River Basin Water Board 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.

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 presentations by Board staff, 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.

More information about the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Meeting Procedures is available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf.

Special Accommodations

Any person who is disabled and requires 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.

Additional Information

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Doug Wylie at (760) 776-8960.