

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION**

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**ORDER NO. R4-2020-XXXX**

TERMINATION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
AND  
WATER RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
SAN MIGUEL PRODUCE  
File No. 04-168

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Water Board) finds:

1. San Miguel Produce, Incorporated (Discharger), located at 4444 Navalair Road in Oxnard, California (Site), is owned by Mr. Roy I. Nishimori. The San Miguel Produce wastewater treatment system (SMPWWTS), operated by the Discharger, discharges disinfected, secondary-treated wastewater originating at the Discharger's produce processing facility to groundwater via spray irrigation and water truck spray dust control.
2. The Site was developed for its current use in the mid-1980s. The Discharger processed, packed, and shipped fresh vegetables at the 27-acre Site. The Site included 13 acres of farm land, a single-story office building with a septic tank and leach field, a refrigerated warehousing and processing (washing and cutting) facility, an icehouse, vegetable vacuum cooling equipment, and miscellaneous out-buildings and equipment storage/maintenance areas. In 2003, a wastewater treatment system designed to treat 25,000 gallons per day (gpd) was installed and began operating. In 2003, the vegetable processing equipment operated 6 days per week and discharged between 10,000 and 13,000 gpd of wastewater.
3. On June 7, 2012, the Regional Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Recycling Requirements in Order No. R4-2012-0108 (WDRs/WRRs), for the SMPWWTS which included an anoxic box, an aeration bioreactor, a clarifier, a media filter, and an ultraviolet irradiation disinfection unit. The maximum treated wastewater discharge volume permitted from the SMPWWTS was 25,000 gallons per day (gpd). The WDRs/WRRs also authorized the use of treated wastewater for dust control and irrigation on inedible plants.
4. Since 2012, the volume of wastewater has regularly exceeded the capacity of the wastewater treatment system and the 25,000 gpd wastewater volume limitation specified in the WDR/WRR. Wastewater flows as high as 75,000 gpd occurred in 2012. From June 2012 through November 2019 more than 1,000 exceedances of

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Drafted May 15, 2020

effluent and groundwater limitations were documented, which resulted in the issuance of Notices of Violation (NOVs) in 2014, 2017, and 2018.

5. On August 21, 2017, in their response to the Regional Water Board's July 21, 2017 NOV, the Discharger conveyed its plans to relocate most of the wastewater generating operations to a sewer facility at 600 East Hueneme Road, Oxnard (Hueneme Road facility), which would improve operation of the SMPWWTS at the Navalair Road facility. With the exception of vegetable vacuum cooling, all operations were relocated to the Hueneme Road facility by January 31, 2019. As a result, wastewater daily flows were reduced to within the 25,000 gpd design capacity of the SMPWWTS.
6. On May 9, 2019, the Regional Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Reclamation Requirements, Order No. R4-2019-0064 (2019 WDRs/WRRs), for the change of operation and the updated treatment system and terminated Order No. R4-2012-0108.
7. At the adoption hearing, the Regional Water Board directed the Discharger to provide periodic informational updates on their progress towards compliance with the 2019 WDRs/WRRs until full compliance with the requirements was achieved. The Discharger provided progress updates on the SMPWWTS operation at Regional Board Meetings held on June 13, September 12 and December 10, 2019.
8. As part of the June 13, 2019 update, the Discharger submitted, on May 30, 2019, a summary describing the Discharger's steps for complying with final effluent and discharge volume limitations. This included relocation of all vegetable washing operations to the Hueneme Road facility, where all wash water is discharged to a sewer, and improvement of the SMPWWTS performance at the Navalair Road facility.
9. On May 1, 2020, the Discharger notified Regional Water Board staff that all vegetable washing/processing operations at the Navalair Road facility had ended and that all non-domestic wastewater discharges had ceased on March 20, 2020. Since there is no plan to resume vegetable washing or other operations involving non-domestic wastewater discharges at the Navalair Road facility in the future, the Discharger requested termination of Order No. R4-2019-0064.
10. On May 13, 2020, Regional Water Board staff conducted an inspection of the subject facility and verified that there is no operation of cooling, washing, cutting, or packing vegetables at the Navalair Road facility and no wastewater associated with vegetable processing is being produced.
11. Because vegetable washing/processing wastewater generation has stopped, waste treatment has ceased and the SMPWWTS is no longer in use, the Regional Water Board finds that Order No. R4-2019-0064 is no longer needed and may be terminated, except for purposes of enforcement.

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12. The termination of Order No. R4-2019-0064 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the termination of Waste Discharge Requirements and the termination of the discharge authorized by the Waste Discharge Requirements does not have the potential for causing a significant impact on the environment. See Title 14, Cal. Code Regs. § 15061(b)(3).

The Regional Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to consider termination of Order R4-2019-0064 and has provided them with an opportunity to submit comments. The Regional Water Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all comments and testimony pertinent to the Order.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Order No. R4-2019-0064 is terminated, except for enforcement purposes.

The Executive Officer of this Regional Water Board is authorized, and is hereby directed, to certify and submit copies of this Order to the Discharger and to such individuals and governmental agencies that request it.

I, Renee Purdy, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region on June 11, 2020.

Renee Purdy  
Executive Officer

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