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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 6, 2025

Jason Duval  
Sonoma West Holdings  
2064 Gravenstein Highway North  
Sebastopol, CA 95472  
[jason@sonomawestholdings.com](mailto:jason@sonomawestholdings.com)

Dear Mr. Duval:

**Subject:** Notice of Applicability of General Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, Sonoma West Holdings, Inc., Domestic Wastewater System, Sebastopol, Sonoma County

**File:** Sonoma West Holdings, Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facility, 2064 Gravenstein Highway North, Sebastopol, WDID No. 1B81202OSON; CIWQS Place ID. 897866

This letter serves as Notice of Applicability (NOA) from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) that General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order) is applicable to the subject domestic wastewater treatment and disposal system and that the system is henceforth regulated under the General Order as described below. This letter also provides transmittal of Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) Order No. R1-2025-0004 for the subject domestic wastewater system, Attachment 2 to this NOA.

Sonoma West Holdings, Inc. (Permittee) submitted a report of waste discharge (ROWD) on November 15, 2021, to enroll the Sonoma West Holdings (Facility) domestic wastewater treatment facility under the Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order No, WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order). Enrollment under the General Order was initially denied by the Regional Water Board due to compliance issues with the Facility. The Permittee subsequently submitted a Permit Transition Proposal, dated April 4, 2024, and an updated ROWD on October 10, 2024, to address outstanding concerns identified by the Regional Water Board. Based on the information presented in the Permit Transition Proposal and updated ROWD, Regional Water Board staff (Staff) determined this application to be complete in October 2024 and that the domestic wastewater treatment and disposal system and discharge are consistent with the requirements of the General Order.

The Facility is currently authorized to discharge treated domestic wastewaters to land under Waste Discharge Requirements included within National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0023655, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2018-0003. The NPDES Permit also covers industrial process wastewater discharges. The Permittee is no longer discharging industrial process wastewater to surface waters. Because discharges subject to NPDES permitting have ceased, the Permittee is requesting termination of their NPDES Permit and enrollment under the General Order for its domestic wastewater discharges to land, and the Regional Water Board's Winery Beverage and Food Processor General Waste Discharge Requirements (Order No. R1-2016-0002, "WBFP WDR") for its industrial process wastewater discharges to land. Regional Water Board Staff concurs that coverage of the domestic wastewater discharge to land under the General Order, and industrial process wastewater discharges to land under the WBFP General WDR renders the NPDES Permit unnecessary. Accordingly, after public notice and opportunity for comment, Order No. R1-2018-0003 will be proposed for termination at an upcoming Regional Water Board meeting.

A ROWD application fee of \$4,216, that serves as the first annual fee, was received on December 30, 2024. The application fee reflects a Threat to Water Quality and Complexity rating of 3B and a 50 percent fee discount because the authorized discharge is a domestic waste discharge of less than 50,000 gallons per day (gpd).

The General Order contains requirements that apply to all types of domestic wastewater systems and requirements that apply only to specific types of treatment and/or disposal systems. Attachment 1 summarizes the operational requirements and the effluent limitations specific to the Sonoma West Holdings domestic wastewater system. The General Order contains additional requirements not summarized in Attachment 1. Additionally, the General Order requires compliance with Regional Water Board Basin Plan water quality objectives. The MRP, Attachment 2, contains the necessary site-specific monitoring and reporting requirements. The Permittee is responsible for all applicable requirements in the General Order, this NOA, and the MRP.

The General Order is available on the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) website at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2014/wqo2014\\_0153\\_dwq.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf)

The Regional Water Board Basin Plan, Chapter 3, Water Quality Objectives, is available on the Regional Water Board website at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/180710/BPChapter3WaterQualityObjectives.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/180710/BPChapter3WaterQualityObjectives.pdf)

## **Facility and Discharge Description**

The Facility's domestic wastewater treatment system is designed to provide treatment for a peak flow of 6,000 gpd and an average flow of 2,720 gpd, equivalent to a peak employee day of 400 full time employees and an average employee day of 182 employees. Domestic wastewater is collected in four 1,500-gallon septic tanks where settling and anaerobic treatment occurs, and then flows to a lined and aerated domestic wastewater pond. Domestic wastewater is filtered in a sand-media filter and then disinfected with sodium hypochlorite in a chlorine contact tank prior to being applied to Bench No. 1, an approximately 1.8-acre spray field. Domestic tailwater from Bench No. 1 is retained by a constructed berm, which prevents the commingling of domestic and process tailwaters, and is allowed to percolate and evaporate. Commingling of treated domestic wastewater and treated process wastewater is prohibited.

## **California Environmental Quality Act**

As an existing facility, the site is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, (ongoing or existing projects), section 15302 (replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems), and section 15303 (new construction or conversion of small structures).

## **ANNUAL FEES**

The discharge authorized by this NOA is subject to payment of annual fees under the State Water Resources Control Board's annual fee schedule for regulated waste discharges. Annual fees are based in part on ratings for threat to water quality and complexity, and the treatment technology employed, as defined in the fee schedule listed in California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 9, Waste Discharge Reports and Requirements, Article 1, Fees, Section 2200, Annual Fee Schedules and also available on the [State Water Resources Control Board website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality/#wdr) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water\\_quality/#wdr](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality/#wdr)).

The Fee Schedule is subject to change, and the fee for this Facility may change accordingly. Annual fees are due and payable as invoiced annually to the Permittee by the State Water Board. For more information on fees and answers to frequently asked questions please visit the following website, [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water\\_quality/#wdr](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality/#wdr)

Questions or concerns about this NOA letter, or related matters, should be directed to Rachel Prat at (707) 576-2542 or [Rachel.Prat@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Rachel.Prat@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Valerie Quinto  
Executive Officer

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Attachments:

1. Summary of WWTS Specific General Order Requirements
2. Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. R1-2025-0004

cc: Julian Kayne, Sr. Associate Engineer, Kennedy Jenks,  
[juliankayne@kennedyjenks.com](mailto:juliankayne@kennedyjenks.com)