
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region

Order No. R1-2025-0008

Rescission of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2018-0003

for

Sonoma West Holdings, Incorporated Wastewater Treatment Facility, Plant No. 2

NPDES Permit No. CA0023655
WDID No. 1B812020SON

Sonoma County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. Sonoma West Holdings, Incorporated (Sonoma West or Permittee) owns and operates the Wastewater Treatment Facility, Plant No. 2 (Facility), a process wastewater treatment system for a multi-tenant food and beverage processing, packaging, storage, and warehousing facility. The Facility is located at 2064 Gravenstein Highway North, Sebastopol, California.
2. The Facility has historically discharged treated process wastewater under Order No. R1-2018-0003, Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0023655 (Permit), adopted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) on May 17, 2018. In accordance with conditions in this Permit, treated process wastewater may be discharged to Barlow Creek or be land applied to designated land application areas at the Facility. The regulated discharge of treated process wastewater to Barlow Creek has not occurred for more than 20 years.
3. The Permit further contains waste discharge requirements for a separate domestic wastewater treatment system that can provide treatment for a peak flow of 6,000 gallons per day of domestic wastewater that is discharged after treatment to a segregated land application area at the Facility.

HECTOR BEDOLLA, CHAIR | VALERIE QUINTO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

4. On November 15, 2021, Sonoma West submitted an application for coverage under General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Wine, Beverage and Food Processor Waste to Land in the North Coast Region, Order No. R1-2016-0002 (WBFP WDR). Concurrently, Sonoma West submitted an application for coverage under General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order No. WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (SDS General Order).
5. Enrollments under the WBFP WDR and the SDS General Order were initially denied by the Regional Water Board due to compliance issues with the Facility related to elevated total suspended solids (TSS) and total dissolved solids (TDS) in the treated effluent. The Permittee subsequently submitted a Permit Transition Proposal dated April 4, 2024, and an updated application for coverage under the WBFP WDR on August 16, 2024, that identified new treatment system management practices, source control policies, and a proposed expanded wastewater treatment process to address outstanding concerns identified by the Regional Water Board. Furthermore, Sonoma West submitted an updated ROWD for enrollment under the SDS General Order on October 10, 2024.
6. Sonoma West requested the rescission of their NPDES Permit in their Permit Transition Proposal dated April 4, 2024. The requested permit rescission is dependent on the enrollment of Sonoma West's onsite treatment facilities under alternative regulatory measures.
7. The Sonoma West Permit Transition Proposal identifies that Sonoma West's tenants no longer discharge water softener regeneration brine or boiler blowdown into the process wastewater treatment system, and that this, and an increased source control program, will allow Sonoma West to consistently meet the WBFP WDR's provisions and effluent limitations. This information, along with information provided in Sonoma West's updated application, resolved Regional Water Board staff's concerns regarding the Permittee's ability to comply with the provisions and effluent limitations of the WBFP WDR.
8. The Regional Water Board authorized the enrollment of Sonoma West for its domestic wastewater under the SDS General Order in the letter, Notice of Applicability of General Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, Sonoma West Holdings, Inc., Domestic Wastewater System, Sebastopol, Sonoma County, dated January 6, 2025. Furthermore, the Regional Water Board authorized the enrollment of Sonoma West for its industrial process wastewaters under the WBFP WDR in the letter, Notice of Coverage under General Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. R1-2016-0002, also dated January 6, 2025.

9. Sonoma West maintains coverage for storm water discharges from the Facility under the State Water Board Water Quality Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ, NPDES General Permit No. CAS000001, General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities (Industrial Storm Water General Permit).
10. The Regional Water Board has notified the Permittee and all known interested parties of its intent to rescind the Permit.
11. The Regional Water Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the proposed rescission of the Permit in a public meeting on June 12, 2025.
12. Regional Water Board action to rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2018-0003 is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15301.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2018-0003 is rescinded.

I, Valerie Quinto, 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, North Coast Region, on June 12, 2025.

Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer