

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 8-9, 2016**  
Prepared on November 10, 2016

**ITEM NUMBER:** 7

**SUBJECT:** **Rescission of Individual Waste Discharge Requirements -  
Treana Winery, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County**

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**KEY INFORMATION**

Discharger: Treana Winery  
Location: 4220 Second Wind Way, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County  
Discharge Type: Winery waste  
Treatment: Industrial Batch Reactor  
Disposal: Irrigation  
Existing Order: Individual WDR Order No. 98-17

**This Action:** **Rescind Order No. 98-17**

**DISCUSSION**

Treana Winery has been regulated by individual Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 98-17 since 1998. Order No. 98-17 includes strict effluent limits. The original Treana treatment system consisted of seven 1,500-gallon septic tanks arranged in series with leach field disposal. Such a system had virtually no control mechanisms that could be employed to achieve compliance with effluent limits, with the exception of source control measures.

The Discharger is increasing production to approximately 100,000 cases per year, and has just completed the installation of a state-of-the-art industrial batch reactor (IBR) wastewater treatment system intended to ensure compliance with our regional general waste discharge requirements for wineries, Order No. R3-2008-0018. The IBR system treats wastewater in batches where each batch is mixed with stored activated sludge from the previous treated batch. The pH is adjusted as necessary during the fill cycle, and the system employs high-efficiency air diffusers to supply enough air to sufficiently mix and oxidize BOD in the process wastewater for a minimum of eight hours per batch. Treated wastewater will be used to irrigate a nearby alfalfa field instead of being discharged into the ground through a leach field.

Water Board staff intends to enroll Treana Winery into Order No. R3-2008-0018 immediately after the rescission of Order No. 98-17. A comparison of the monitoring requirements and effluent limits contained in Order 98-17 and the general winery order is shown in Attachment A.

When a general order was first adopted for wineries in 2002, a different approach was taken in as much as numerical limits for specific pollutants were virtually eliminated, and the primary regulatory constraint became an organic loading rate, with the limit set at 300 pounds of BOD<sub>5</sub> per acre per day. This requirement also encouraged the reuse of treated wastewater with for irrigation or dust control purposes.

The general winery order implements applicable Water Board prohibitions, discharge specifications, management practices, and provisions to protect water quality.

### **COMPLIANCE HISTORY**

Treana Winery has struggled to be in compliance with Order No. 98-17 since its adoption. Effluent limits were set at or barely above the existing water quality in a nearby well at the time Order No. 98-17 was adopted. As a consequence, the facility has recorded nearly 130 permit violations to date. The Water Board issued a notice of violation on April 29, 2015, requiring Treana Winery to submit an analysis of existing wastewater treatment facilities and to provide an aggressive plan to update the facilities so as to prevent future violations. As a result Treana Winery recently installed an advanced wastewater treatment and disposal system intended to ensure compliance with Order No. R3-2008-0018.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY**

Rescission of waste discharge requirements for existing facilities is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resource Code, Section 21100 et seq.) in accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Administrative Code.

### **COMMENTS**

In an email dated July 21, 2016, Water Board staff notified the Discharger and county permitting staff of its recommendation to rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 98-17 and enroll the Discharger in the general winery order, Order No. 2008-0018. Staff did not receive any comments.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 98-17.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Comparison of Existing Order and General WDRs Monitoring Requirements and Limits

ECM # 266323

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