

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 13-14, 2017

Prepared May 13, 2017

ITEM NUMBER 6

SUBJECT **Termination of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)/National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Joseph Gallo Farms Feed Lot, Gonzales, Monterey County**

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KEY INFORMATION

Discharger: Gallo Cattle Company
Facility Name: Joseph Gallo Farms Feed Lot
Location: 31701 Johnson Canyon Road, Gonzales, CA 93926
Type of Waste: Concentrated animal feeding operation up to 30,000 head of cattle
Design Capacity: Contain stormwater runoff up to the 25-year, 24-hour event
Present Volume: 0 gallons/day (facility decommissioned)
Disposal: Evaporation ponds and agricultural irrigation
Existing Order: WDR Order No. R3-2010-0004/National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) No. CA0050601
ECM Place ID: CW-234062

This Action: **Terminate Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2010-0004**

SUMMARY

Gallo has asked the Central Coast Water Board to terminate its WDR/NPDES permit. Over the last 18 months, Gallo has moved all the cattle to other dairy farms and has disassembled and/or demolished the feedlot infrastructure under Monterey County Environmental Health oversight. Because the NPDES permit is no longer needed, Order No. R3-2010-0004/NPDES Permit No. CA0050601 can be terminated.

DISCUSSION

In 2003, Gallo purchased the 373.2-acre property at 31701 Johnson Canyon Road in Gonzales. Since then, Gallo has used the property as a feedlot and has maintained a population of approximately 11,000 dairy heifers on 101 acres of the property. Gallo used the remaining 272 acres for dry storage, manure composting, wastewater and stormwater runoff containment, and irrigated agricultural crops. Waste disposal and runoff from the feedlot area was directed to nine holding ponds for evaporation and/or crop irrigation. The confined animal feeding operation was designed to contain runoff from the 25-year, 24-hour storm event and thereby

precluded discharges to surface water. Since 2003, the Central Coast Water Board has regulated Gallo's wastewater and stormwater discharges via several waste discharge requirements orders. In February 2010, the Central Coast Water Board adopted Order No. R3-2010-0004/NPDES Permit No. CA0050601. After Gallo submitted an application to re-issue the permit, the Central Coast Water Board administratively extended the NPDES permit on March 17, 2015.

On May 4, 2017, Gallo's consultant submitted a notice asking the Central Coast Water Board to terminate Gallo's NPDES permit. Over the last 18 months, Gallo has moved all the cattle to dairy farms in the central valley of California. Gallo has also disassembled and/or demolished the feedlot infrastructure under Monterey County Environmental Health oversight. The onsite composting operation is also in the process of being decommissioned at the property. Gallo is converting this property's use to irrigated agriculture, which may be regulated via the Central Coast Water Board's agricultural order. Because the NPDES permit is no longer needed, Order No. R3-2010-0004/NPDES Permit No. CA0050601 can be terminated.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Since 2011, Joseph Gallo Farms Feed Lot has submitted semiannual and annual electronic self-monitoring reports to the State Water Resources Control Board's California Integrated Water Quality System database. No violations to Order No. R3-2010-0004/NPDES Permit No. CA0050601 have been reported. Central Coast Water Board staff inspected the facility twice during the permit term, on September 21, 2011, and January 22, 2013. Central Coast Water Board staff did not observe permit violations during either inspection.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

Rescission of waste discharge requirements for this discharge are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21100, et. seq.) in accordance with Section 13389 of the California Water Code.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

On May 9, 2017, the Central Coast Water Board notified the Discharger and interested parties of this proposed action. The Central Coast Water Board did not receive any comments during the public comment period.

RECOMMENDATION

Terminate Order No. R3-2010-0004.

ATTACHMENT

1. Order No. R3-2010-0004, with Attachments A to F