
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

31 July 2020

Benjamin Steele
Steele Ventures, Inc.
P.O. Box 2959
Ceres, CA 95307

Certified Mail
7019-2280-0001-9243-5586

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL FOOD PROCESSORS, WINERIES, AND RELATED AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER R5-2020-0002-0039

BENJAMIN STEELE, BENJAMIN J. STEELE REVOCABLE TRUST, AND STEELE VENTURES, INC. DBA PACIFIC COAST COMMODITIES STANISLAUS COUNTY

On 20 February 2020, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted the *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Food Processors, Wineries, and Related Agricultural Processors within the Central Valley Region*, Order R5-2020-0002 (the Waiver).

We are in receipt of your Form 200 and Notice of intent (NOI) dated 07 July 2020, which state that you intend to comply with the Tier 1 conditions of the Waiver. Steele Ventures, Inc. (Facility) is located at 7224 Faith Home Road, Ceres, in Stanislaus County. The Facility is owned by Benjamin Steele and operated by Steele Ventures, Inc. dba Pacific Coast Commodities. It is located on land owned by Benjamin Steele Revocable Trust. Tier 1 allows land application of up to 10,000 gallons of wastewater per year for irrigation of landscaping or crops and land application of residual solids (e.g., dry nut hulls, with the exception of pistachio nut hulls) associated with that volume of wastewater. Any process wastewater or residual solids generated in excess of those amounts must be disposed of off-site at an appropriately permitted facility. If you wish to land apply more wastewater or residual solids, you must submit a new application and the applicable fee and obtain coverage under Tier 2 or 3 of the Waiver prior to increasing the discharge volume.

Based on the information provided in the NOI and supporting documents, we have determined that the discharge meets the required conditions for approval under the Waiver. You are hereby assigned Order R5-2020-0002-0039. A copy of the Waiver is enclosed and also available under the heading "Waivers for Small Food Processors and

Small Wineries” on the State Water Board’s [Adopted Orders: Waivers webpage](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/#waivers) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/#waivers).

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Waiver, including the Conditions of Discharge (Waiver Attachment A) and Monitoring and Reporting Program (Waiver Attachment B). Facility wastewater must be managed and discharged in accordance with the requirements contained in the Conditions of Discharge and with the information submitted in the NOI.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Attachment B of the Waiver includes specific monitoring and reporting requirements that you must comply with, including routine monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board. Please review the Monitoring and Reporting Program closely and establish the appropriate record keeping system so that you are able to complete the required Annual Monitoring Report form, which is contained in Attachment B of the Waiver.

By **February 1 of each year**, the Annual Monitoring Report must be submitted to our office, even if there is no discharge during the reporting year. The 2020 Annual Monitoring Report is due by **1 February 2021**.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Waiver includes specific and general conditions with which you must comply, and you must maintain control over the discharge and operate in accordance with the information provided in your NOI and this Notice of Applicability.

Please review this Notice of Applicability carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the facility name, location, and details of the proposed discharge. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Waiver may result in enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code, which could include civil liability. Discharge of wastes not described in the Conditions of Discharge (Attachment A) of the Waiver is prohibited.

Note that the Waiver will expire on **20 February 2025**, after which you must do one of the following:

1. Submit a new NOI with a filing fee (if required) to obtain coverage under a subsequently adopted waiver,
2. Submit a NOI with a filing fee to apply for individual or general Waste Discharge Requirements, or
3. Cease the discharge.

DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov.

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Facility Name: Steele Ventures, Inc., Stanislaus County
Program: Non-15 Compliance
Order: R5-2020-0002-0039
CIWQS Place ID: 868171

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
ECM Mailroom
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Now that the Notice of Applicability has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Guy Childs is your point of contact for any questions about the Waiver. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Guy will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Guy at (916) 464-4648 or at guy.childs@waterboards.ca.gov.

for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

enclosure: Conditional Waiver of WDRs, Order R5-2020-0002

cc w/o enc: Stanislaus County Environmental Health Department, Modesto