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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

13 April 2021

Precision Hulling  
Chris Van Groningen  
9839 Hutchinson Road  
Manteca, CA 95337

**Certified Mail**  
7020-0640-0000-7627-1767

### **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  
PRECISION HULLING AND RIVER OAK ORCHARDS, GROVAN INC. DBA  
PRECISION HULLING, SAN JOAQUIN 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 Notice of Intent (NOI), dated 17 February 2021, which stated that you intend to comply with Tier 3 conditions of the Waiver. Based on the information provided in the NOI, we have determined that the discharge meets the required conditions for approval under the Waiver. You are hereby assigned Order R5-2020-0002-0075. A copy of the Waiver is enclosed and also available at the State Water Boards 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). 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.

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KARL E. LONGLEY SCD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley)

## **Discharge Description**

Precision Hulling (Facility) is located at 9839 Hutchinson Road, Manteca in San Joaquin County (APNs 254-24-048 and 254-24-049). The Facility is owned by GroVan Inc., dba Precision Hulling. The Facility has been in operation since 2007. Tier 3 allows land application of up to 1,000,000 gallons of wastewater per year for irrigation of landscaping or crops and land application of residual solids (pomace and lees) associated with that volume of wastewater. A minimum of one acre of land application area per 100,000 gallons of discharged wastewater and associated residual solids is required. Any process wastewater or residual solids generated in excess of those amounts must be disposed of off-site at an appropriately permitted facility.

The Facility processes approximately 6,000 tons of walnuts during the processing season (generally September and October). Wastewater is generated during walnut hulling and washing. The estimated annual volume of wastewater is 500,000 gallons. There are no chemicals used at the Facility that would impact wastewater quality.

Wastewater and site-storm water are collected in floor drains and gravity fed into an unlined wastewater pond. The pond has a capacity of approximately 250,000 gallons and is surrounded by an earthen berm and fence. Wastewater in the pond is completely drained by 31 December each year.

Residual solids consist of walnut hulls which are sent off site for use as soil amendment. Approximately 2,230 tons of wet waste solids are generated annually and are temporarily stored on a large concrete slab. The solids are sent off site as soon as possible after the processing season.

Wastewater in the pond is used to irrigate approximately 15 acres of walnut orchards using sprinkler irrigation. Supplemental irrigation water is used to meet crop demand and is pumped into the irrigation system as needed.

## **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 also 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 2021 Monitoring Report is due by **1 February 2022**.

## 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 the Notice of Applicability.

Please review this Notice of Applicability carefully to ensure 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. Discharges of wastes not described in the Conditions of Discharge (Attachment A) of the Waiver is prohibited.

Please 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 correspondences should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents less than 50 MB should be emailed to:

[centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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.

<b>Facility Name: Precision Hulling and River Oak Orchards, San Joaquin County</b>		
Program: Non-15 Compliance	Order: R5-2020-0002-0075	CIWQS Place ID: 872925

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 NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Brendan Kenny is your new point of contact for any questions about the Waiver. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Brendan will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Brendan at (916) 464-4635 or at [bkenny@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:bkenny@waterboards.ca.gov).



for Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

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

cc w/o encl: San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department, Stockton  
Brendan Kenny, Central Valley Water Board, Rancho Cordova