

**11 AUGUST 2022 BOARD MEETING
UNCONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM: 11

SUBJECT:

Following are proposed Waste Discharge Requirements Orders that prohibit discharge to surface waters. All agencies and the dischargers concur or have offered no comments. Items indicated as updates on the summary agenda make the requirements consistent with current plans and policies of the Board.

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements

BACKGROUND:

a. CALIFIA FARMS, LLC, NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT, AND PARAMOUNT RANCH L.P.; CALIFIA FARMS BAKERSFIELD FACILITY; KERN COUNTY

Califia Farms, LLC (Califia) manufactures specialty drink products at its Bakersfield Processing Facility (Facility) located north of Bakersfield in Kern County. The Facility is located on land owned by Paramount Ranch L.P. Califia discharges the Facility's process wastewater to the adjacent Lerdo Canal where the wastewater is blended with other water sources and used for irrigation of crops with the North Kern Water Storage District (District) and groundwater recharge within the Rosedale Spreading Basins. The District encompasses a broad area of approximately 60,000 acres in Kern County (northwest of Bakersfield, east of Shafter and Wasco, and west of McFarland). The District owns and operates the Lerdo Canal. The Facility is currently regulated by WDRs Order R5-2017-0019 and list Califia and the District as Dischargers. WDRs Order R5-2017-0019 specifies a 0.150 mgd flow limitation.

On 22 April 2021, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD), prepared by GEI Consultants, Inc. (GEI), on behalf of Califia and the District, for a flow increase from 0.15 mgd to 0.5 mgd. The Discharger submitted a revised RWD on 29 July 2021.

Wastewater generated at the Facility is primarily (93%) sanitation wash water with the other waste streams coming from the Facility's water treatment system used to treat the incoming source water. Process wastewater is discharged to a lined oxidation ditch with an operational capacity of 600,000 gallons (0.6 million gallons) and then to the Lerdo Canal via pipeline.

Califia has improved the salinity of its discharge since 2017 by implementing several changes to its operations including installing a new supply well, changing the chemical cleansers and disinfectants used at the Facility, and replacing the reverse osmosis

system with a nanofiltration system. The average EC of the discharge decreased from about 2,500 µmhos/cm in 2017 to about 1,200 µmhos/cm in December 2021.

The proposed Order lists Califia, the District, and Paramount Ranch L.P. as Dischargers and specifies a maximum daily flow limitation of 0.5 mgd. For the Salt Control Program, Califia selected to participate in the Prioritization and Optimization Study. Therefore, the proposed Order includes salinity action levels. For the Nitrate Control Program, the Facility is in a Priority 2 Basin. Califia has yet to select a path for the Nitrate Control Program due to the lack of sufficient data to appropriately assess potential nitrogen impacts to groundwater. This Order contains Provision H.5, which requires the Discharger to gather sufficient data to allow them to make an informed decision on what Pathway they intend to pursue for the Nitrate Control Program.

The tentative WDRs were originally circulated for public comment on 8 April 2022 requiring comments due by 9 May 2022. The Board received final comments from Ms. JoAnne Kipps on 10 May 2022. Ms. Kipps provided comments on various aspects of the proposed WDRs. Revisions were made to address some of the comments. Full responses to comments are included in the Response to Comments in the agenda package.

In response to comments received, a substantive change was made to the tentative WDRs and MRP, specifically, Paramount Ranch Company, LP was added as a Discharger. To provide interested parties and the public with an opportunity to comment upon the updated tentative WDRs and MRP, both documents were recirculated for a second 30-day focused public comment period on 8 June 2022. No additional comments were provided during the 30-day focused public comment period.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the proposed Waste Discharge Requirements.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	
Legal Review:	

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE