

**24/25 APRIL 2025 BOARD MEETING
UNCONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM: 11

SUBJECT:

The following are proposed Waste Discharge Requirements Orders that regulate discharges to waters of the state. 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) COUNTY OF MADERA, FAIRMEAD LANDFILL, MADERA COUNTY

The County of Madera (Discharger) owns and operates the Fairmead Landfill (Facility), which is located approximately five miles southeast of the City of Chowchilla in Madera County. The Facility consists of one unlined waste management unit (WMU) covering 45.4 acres (WMU 1), two composite-lined WMUs (WMUs 2 and 3) covering 53 acres, a planned WMU (WMU 4) covering 23.9 acres, and a planned surface impoundment covering one acre. The surface impoundment is for the management of leachate generated at the Facility. The Facility is currently regulated by existing Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2022-0012.

The tentative WDRs Order would update the existing Order to allow for the construction and operation of a Class II surface impoundment, as well as assorted updates relating to construction, monitoring, corrective action, and operation. No comments were received from the Discharger or other interested parties.

**B) DRY RANCHO, LLC, G&G ANDREW FARMS TENANTS IN COMMON,
CREEKSIDE FARMS, LP TENANTS IN COMMON, ALKALI HOLLOW FARMS,
INC., AND ATB RANCH, LP, DRY RANCH PISTACHIO PROCESSING FACILITY,
MADERA COUNTY**

Dry Ranch, LLC; G&G Andrew Farms Tenants in Common; Creekside Farms, LP Tenants in Common; Alkali Hollow Farms, Inc.; and ATB Ranch, LP, Inc. (collectively referred to as Discharger) own and operate the Dry Ranch Pistachio Processing Facility (Facility) at 13559 Firebaugh Blvd, Madera, CA, and the adjacent land application areas (LAAs). The Discharger processes pistachios at the Facility, which includes hulling, drying, finishing, packaging, warehousing, and storage of pistachios. Process wastewater is generated from hulling operations, plant and equipment washdown, and boiler blowdown. The main processing season is from August through October. The Facility currently conducts monitoring per Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R5-2021-0811.

The proposed WDRs would regulate the discharge of process wastewater to over 1,500 acres of LAAs owned by the Discharger. The LAAs are cropped mostly in pistachios but also consist of about 300 acres that may be planted in sorghum, grass, or grain. The proposed WDRs would establish a monthly average flow limit of 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD), a maximum daily flow limit of 2.5 MGD, an annual flow limit of 45 million gallons, and a Performance-Based Salinity Limit of 900 mg/L for fixed dissolved solids (calculated as a flow-weighted annual average). The proposed WDRs would require compliance with the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs, via participation in the Prioritization and Optimization Study and the local Nitrate Management Zone, respectively. Additionally, the proposed WDRs would require the Discharger to prepare and implement a Wastewater and Nutrient Management Plan and store all process wastewater in/on engineered lined surfaces prior to application at the LAAs.

Comments were received by the Discharger and some revisions were made to the tentative WDRs in response to the comments received. Other revisions include minor edits to improve clarity and correct redundancies.

C) GRANITE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, COALINGA AGGREGATES, FRESNO COUNTY

The Discharger has been mining aggregate at the Facility since 1984; however, available records indicate that mining operations have occurred at the Facility without waste discharge requirements (WDRs) since prior to the 1960s. Operations at the Facility include aggregate mining, washing, sorting, and storage prior to sale. Wastewater is generated from the aggregate wash process and is ultimately disposed in a settling pond via vaporation/percolation. Source water for the wash process is obtained from two onsite wells that pump groundwater into a freshwater pond. The contents of the freshwater pond is a mix of source well water and decanted wash water pumped from the settling pond. Water from the freshwater pond is pumped to the aggregate wet plant and used in various wash process components, including wash screens, a scrubber, fine screws, and separators. Following the wash process, wash water is directed to a settling pond for disposal or reuse.

The Discharger is seeking to obtain WDRs and was issued Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2022-0824 (MRP) for the Facility on 14 December 2022. The MRP was issued, in part, to monitor and characterize the water quality of the Facility's discharge to inform development of WDRs for this Facility.

The proposed WDRs will regulate the discharge of the aggregate wash water to the settling pond. The proposed WDRs would establish an effluent flow action level of 225 million gallons per year and require compliance with the Salt Control Program and a performance-based effluent limitation of 2,600 micromhos per centimeter for electrical conductivity.

D) JAMESTOWN TRUST II, COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE, WHISKEY LAKE LP, JAMESTOWN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT LLC, DAVID AND SUSAN KASLIN, JOHN AND AMY CURTIN, MIKE AND AMBER DOESCHER, JOSHUA AND MISTY WILSON, JAMESTOWN MINE, TUOLUMNE COUNTY

The revised Order regulates monitoring and post-closure maintenance of the Jamestown Mine, an inactive gold mine approximately one mile southwest of Jamestown in Tuolumne County. Active mining took place from 1986 to 1994. The County of Tuolumne, Whiskey

Lake LP, Jamestown Property Development LLC, David and Susan Kaslin, John and Amy Curtin, Mike and Amber Doescher, and Joshua and Misty Wilson (Landowners) currently own the Jamestown Mine.

The Jamestown Trust II through its Trustee holds the remaining monies from a litigation settlement to fund and manage closure, post-closure operations and maintenance, and remedial activities. However, at the Completion Date defined in the 2006 Settlement Documents between Landowners and the Central Valley Water Board, the responsibility for operation and maintenance of the Facility transfers from the Trust to Landowners, but only to the extent similar to that predating the settlement (Landowner O&M). The Completion Date is the earlier of (a) twenty (20) years from the Effective Date (7 June 2026); or, (b) the Regional Water Board and the County mutually agreeing to transfer O&M responsibility from the Trust to the County; or, (c) the Trust II is terminated due to depletion of assets; or, (d) a written determination by the Regional Water Board that the remediation of the Jamestown Mine Site is complete and that the purposes of the Trusts have been fully satisfied.

After the Completion and before the Termination Date, Trust II shall continue to manage remedial activities not included in Landowner O&M such as Harvard Pit water level management. The Termination Date is defined as: the earlier depletion of assets held by Trust II; or (ii) a written determination by the Central Valley Water Board that the remediation of the Jamestown Mine Site is complete and that the purposes of the Trust have been fully satisfied; or (iii) the transfer of assets to a successor trust.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the proposed Waste Discharge Requirements.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	
Legal Review:	

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE