

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT

JUNE 14, 2023

ITEM NO. 4

SUBJECT

Consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0005, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the Rancho Guejito Corporation, Rockwood Domestic Water System, San Diego County* (Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0005). (Brandon Bushnell)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0005.

KEY ISSUES

Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0005 (**Supporting Document 1**), if adopted, establishes waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for the Rancho Guejito Corporation (Discharger) to discharge backwash water from an ion exchange drinking water treatment system and wash water from the potable water tanks (wastewater) to a lined evaporation pond.

PRACTICAL VISION

Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0005 is consistent with the Strategize to Achieve Resilient Local Water Supply chapter of the *San Diego Water Board Practical Vision*.¹ The use of an evaporation pond for wastewater disposal generated while treating groundwater to drinking water standards will ensure no additional impacts to the groundwater further limiting it as a source of supply. Permitting the discharge of wastewater from the drinking water treatment system supports the environmentally responsible development and use of local groundwater for drinking water.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board with information to assist in its consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0005. The Discharger submitted to the San Diego Water Board the *Report of Waste Discharge for Rancho Guejito Corporation* (ROWD) that applied for WDRs on April 14, 2022. Staff reviewed the ROWD and

¹ Practical Vision:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/

requested supplemental information on November 14, 2022. Staff received and reviewed the Discharger's supplemental information on February 8, 2023.

The Discharger owns and operates the Rancho Guejito Vineyard (Vineyard) at 17224 San Pasqual Valley Road in Escondido with 40 acres of vineyards. Wine production is offsite. The Vineyard is open to the public for wine tasting and tours, as well as hosting small events.

The Discharger extracts groundwater using an on-site production well to provide potable water for the Vineyard. The State Water Resource Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) regulates the extraction and treatment of groundwater for potable supply. The Discharger will construct the Rockwood Domestic Water System (Facility) upon approval from DDW.

The Facility will treat the extracted groundwater with an ion exchange system to reduce the level of nitrates below the drinking water standard of 10 milligrams per liter expressed as nitrogen. The ion exchange system requires periodic backwashing to maintain operations. The Discharger will dispose an average of 1,620 gallons per month of wastewater from the Facility's ion exchange system and wash water from cleaning the potable water tanks to a lined evaporation pond.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Board staff notified the Discharger and known interested parties of this action on March 21, 2023 (**Supporting Document 3 and 4**). Additionally, Board staff posted Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0005 on its website on March 22, 2023. The Board did not receive any comments during the public comment period. These actions satisfy the 30-day public notification and comment period requirements of Water Code section 13167.5.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0005
2. Rancho Guejito Vineyard Vicinity and Facility Map
3. Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0005 Transmittal Letter
4. Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period