



State Water Resources Control Board

[Month] [Year]

State Water Board Winery Letter ID [LETTER_ID]

Attn: Wine Business Owner(s)

[STREET_ADDRESS]

[CITY], [STATE] [ZIP]

[ADDRESSEE]

REQUIRED BY JANUARY 20, 2024: Winery enrollment under the new General Waste Discharge Requirements for Winery Process Water

Dear Recipient,

This letter is to inform you that one or more existing California winery operations under the owner name(s) listed above may be required to enroll under the new General Waste Discharge Requirements for Winery Process Water (Winery Order) by **January 20, 2024**. Similar to a permit, the Winery Order is a set of requirements that protect water quality from the potential impacts of discharging winery waste to land. You are receiving this letter because our records indicate that your organization(s) may not have coverage under a State Water Resources Control Board or Regional Water Quality Control Board (collectively, Water Boards) winery waste permit. Also, you may receive multiple copies of this letter if we found multiple addresses for this organization(s). The Winery Order fee schedule, guidance information, survey, application, and Water Board contact information are provided on the following program webpage:

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/wineryorder>

REQUIRED ACTIONS

1. Complete the Winery Order Eligibility Survey

Review the eligibility survey (*) to determine if Winery Order enrollment is required. Complete the survey for each winery you believe (a) already has Water Boards winery waste permit coverage or (b) is not required to enroll in the Winery Order. The information provided in the survey responses will be reviewed by the Water Boards to determine if further outreach to your organization(s) is necessary at this time and may also be used to update facility name(s) and ownership information in our Water Boards databases.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 | www.waterboards.ca.gov

(*) The electronic survey instructions and application can be found on the program webpage or by scanning the survey Quick Response code with your mobile device:



You must provide the letter ID [LETTER_ID] in the survey. The ID recorded in the survey must match the ID on this letter. A separate survey must be completed for each California wine or grape juice manufacturing facility for your organization(s). However, the same letter ID number should be used in each survey response.

2. Enroll Required Wineries into the Winery Order

For wineries required to enroll into the Winery Order, complete the steps in the electronic enrollment instructions and application (**). The type of winery operations required to enroll are summarized in the Background and Common Questions attached to this letter. (**) The electronic enrollment instructions and application can be found on the program webpage.

To complete enrollment prior to the **January 20, 2024** deadline, we encourage you to submit your application (Report of Waste Discharge: electronic Notice of Intent application, technical report, and supporting documentation) and application fee as soon as practicable. Existing wineries can propose a schedule of up to five years for coming into compliance with the Winery Order requirements in the application package.

If Winery Order enrollment is required, we highly encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible to take advantage of Water Boards staff customer service support as needed. Water Boards staff will consider the timeliness of the application in determining whether to approve a proposed winery compliance schedule.

Water Boards staff are also dedicated to working with you and your industry associations to provide the necessary outreach and education on this Winery Order. For further information, please contact the State Water Board at DWQ-Winery@Waterboards.ca.gov

Stay informed by joining our email subscription list that can be found on the program webpage.

Sincerely,

Karen Mogus, Deputy Director
Division of Water Quality

BACKGROUND AND COMMON QUESTIONS

How is Winery Waste Defined in the Winery Order?

Winery Waste is generated during the wine making process and includes, but is not limited to, winery process water and winery process solids. Winery process water includes, but is not limited to, wine, grape juice, washwater, solids leachate (liquid from process water solids), cooling water, boiler blowdown, cleaning chemicals, brine, and stormwater directed through the process water collection, treatment, or disposal system and/or land applied.

Winery process solids include, but are not limited to, leaves, stems, pomace (grape skins, seeds, and pulp), lees (yeast and other fine particulates), bentonite, and diatomaceous earth.

What Wineries Are Required to Enroll in the Winery Order?

Wineries and other similar facilities with activities related to producing wine or grape juice that generate between 10,000 and 15,000,000 gallons of winery process water per year, where the winery waste has the potential to discharge to land for reuse or disposal.

Wineries generating different types of waste or winery waste in quantities outside this range may either be exempt from Winery Order coverage or require coverage under other Water Boards waste permits.

When Does My Winery Need to Enroll in The Winery Order?

Wineries that opened or began operations after January 20, 2021 (the adoption date of the Winery Order) are required to enroll under the Winery Order prior to discharging to land by submitting their application package at least 180 days prior to operation.

Wineries that opened or began operations prior to January 20, 2021, without a Water Boards waste permit, should enroll in the Winery Order as soon as practicable and no later than **January 20, 2024**.

If your existing winery already has a Water Boards waste permit you are expected to provide this information in the survey and continue to comply with your existing requirements until the Water Boards provides instruction for transitioning into the Winery Order, if applicable. It is recommended that the Winery Order requirements are evaluated to determine the actions that would be necessary for compliance at your winery.

Additionally, coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program or National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Industrial Stormwater permit does not cover winery waste discharges to land; Winery Order enrollment may still be required.

Why Was the Winery Order Adopted?

Winery waste is an activity subject to California Water Code Section 13050(d). Any person discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste within a region, other than to a community sewer system, that could affect the quality of the waters of the state, must file a Report of Waste Discharge to obtain coverage. Discharges of winery waste that

can affect the quality of waters of the state without waste discharge requirements or a waiver of waste discharge requirements are a violation of California Water Code section 13260(a).

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted the Winery Order on January 20, 2021 to provide consistent permitting for winery waste discharges to land statewide; the associated fee schedule was adopted on July 6, 2021 and can be found on the program webpage.