

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 13-14, 2017**  
Prepared on June 15, 2017

**ITEM NUMBER:** 8

**SUBJECT:** Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 95-53 for Nature Quality Company Cold Storage and Vegetable Processing, Santa Clara County, WDID No. 3 432002001

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**KEY INFORMATION**

Discharger: Nature Quality Company Cold Storage and Vegetable Processing  
Location: 13805 Llagas Avenue, San Martin, Santa Clara County  
Type of Discharge: Vegetable and Fruit Process Wastewater  
Permitted Flow: Up to 0.79 million gallons per day (MGD)  
Average Flow: 0.40 MGD during the growing season  
Solid Wastes: Not applicable  
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 95-53  
ECM Place ID: CW-243961

**This Action:** Rescind WDRs Order No. 95-053

**DISCUSSION**

Nature Quality Company owned and operated the cold storage and vegetable processing facility located at 13805 Llagas Avenue, in the community of San Martin, Santa Clara County.

The facility processed primarily peppers and occasionally celery, carrots and apples. Water was used to flume the vegetables and wash equipment. The vegetables were washed, blanched, cut, packaged, quick frozen, and stored in a cold storage facility before shipment to customers. The process wastewater was screened to remove vegetable particles before it was discharged to evaporation/percolation ponds.

Water Board staff received a letter on February 2, 2017, from Nature Quality Foods informing us that as of November 2016 all washing and production of fresh vegetables have ceased at the San Martin location. The company is in the process of selling the San Martin property to the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Nature Quality Foods constructed a new facility in 2015 in Hollister, California, which operates under the name of George Chiala Farms. Nature Quality has transferred all its operations to the Hollister facility, which is regulated under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Fruit and Vegetable Processing Waste. The Nature Quality Foods facility in San Martin no longer operates nor has a discharge of process wastewater; therefore, Water Board staff proposes to rescind individual WDR Order No. 95-053.

**VIOLATIONS**

Nature Quality Company violated Order No. 95-053 in 2000, 2002, 2003, and 2005 for incomplete or failing to submit semiannual reports and for elevated pH levels in the ponds in December 2015. All violations were addressed when they occurred. The George Chiala Farms facility in Hollister has not incurred violations since start-up in 2015.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

On June 7, 2017, the Central Coast Water Board notified Nature Quality Foods and other interested parties that the Central Coast Water Board will consider rescinding WDR Order 95-053 at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 13-14, 2017, in Watsonville.

No comments had been received at the time this staff report was prepared.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Rescind WDR Order No. 95-053

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. WDR Order No. 95-053

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