



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

26 June 2026

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Jose Valencia, Technical Manager
Synagro West, LLC
3110 Gold Canal Drive, Suite E
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

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Kent Hirdes, Owner
Kent Hirdes Ranch
20751 Fowler Avenue
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TERMINATION OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD WATER QUALITY ORDER 2004-0012-DWQ-0029; SYNAGRO WEST, LLC AND KENT HIRDES; SYNAGRO-KENT HIRDES RANCH BIOSOLIDS; MERCED COUNTY

On 30 October 2020, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) to Synagro West, LLC and Kent Hirdes granting coverage under State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order 2004-0012-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Biosolids to Land for use as a Soil Amendment in Agricultural, Silvicultural, Horticultural, and Land Reclamation Activities* (Biosolids General Order) for land application of Class B Biosolids to approximately 418 acres of farmland owned by Kent Hirdes. Both Synagro West, LLC and Kent Hirdes are collectively referred to as Discharger in the NOA and were issued enrollee number 2004-0012-DWQ-0029. The application areas authorized by the NOA include Merced County assessor's parcels numbers (APNs) 038-080-003 and 038-100-001.

On 1 May 2026, the Discharger submitted a Notice of Termination requesting to terminate coverage under the Biosolids General Order. Based on the information provided with the Notice of Termination and annual self-monitoring reports, no biosolids have been applied to the authorized application areas since 2022 (at least 41 months). This letter serves as formal notice that coverage under Biosolids General Order and NOA 2004-0012-0029 is hereby terminated. In the future, prior to initiating any new discharge of biosolids to land, the Discharger will need to complete a new Notice of Intent in order to obtain coverage under the Biosolids General Order.

SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS

At its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting the Central Valley Water Board, as part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative, adopted Basin Plan amendments (Resolution R5-2018-0034) incorporating new

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

programs to address ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley. These amendments were conditionally approved by the State Water Resources Control Board and Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and became effective on 17 January 2020. The Basin Plan amendments were revised in 2020 to make targeted revisions requested by the State Water Resources Control Board with [Resolution R5-2020-0057](#), these revisions became effective 10 November 2021.

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057_res.pdf).

On 14 July 2021 the Discharger (**CV-SALTS ID 3558**) elected to join the Prioritization and Optimization (P&O) Study as part of its compliance with the Salt Control Program. For the Nitrate Control Program (NCP) the discharge occurs within a Priority 1 Basin (San Joaquin Valley-Turlock Groundwater Basin 5-022.03). On August 19, 2022, the Discharger chose the management zone compliance approach (Path B) for the Nitrate Control Program (NCP) and joined the Valley Water Collaborative to participate in the Turlock Management Zone.

With the termination of coverage under the Biosolids General Order, the Discharger is no longer required to comply with the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs for the biosolids applications previously authorized by NOA 2004-0012-DWQ-0029.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, contact Katie Carpenter at (559) 445-5551 or by email at Katie.Carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov.

Digitally signed by Alex S. Mushegan
For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc's:

- Omar Mostafa, Central Valley Wate Board (via email)
- Beatriz Hernandez-Vilchis, Merced County Environmental Health (via email)
- Rachel Gray, Central Valley Salinity Coalition (via email)
- Jose Valencia, Synagro West, LLC (via email)
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