



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

6 March 2023

Rick Racca
US Agriseeds R&D Facility
12050 County Rd 97
Woodland, CA 95965

Rick Racca
Axia Vegetable Group Inc
41970 E. Main St.
Woodland, CA 95776

Certified Mail
7022 2410 0001 5093 5809

Certified Mail
7022 2410 0001 5093 5793

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

**WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL FOOD PROCESSORS, WINERIES, AND RELATED AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
ORDER R5-2020-0002-0107
AXIA VEGETABLE GROUP INC, US AGRISEEDS R&D FACILITY
YOLO COUNTY**

On 20 February 2020, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted the *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Food Processors, Wineries, and Related Agricultural Processors within the Central Valley Region, Order R5-2020-0002* (the Waiver).

We are in receipt of your Form 200 and confirmation email dated 22 November 2021, which stated that you intend to comply with the Tier 2 conditions of the Waiver. Information presented in your 14 May 2019 Notice of Applicability and 3 March 2019 Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) continues to be true and valid. A new Form 200 was submitted on 7 February 2023 to reflect new ownership and facility name. US Agriseeds R&D Facility is a seed research facility located at 12050 County Road 97, Woodland in Yolo County. The facility is owned by Axia Vegetable Group Inc and operated by US Agriseeds. Approximately 70,000 gallons of wastewater will be generated from the seed extraction process. Process wastewater is collected in a holding tank prior to discharge to approximately 4 acres (Assessor Parcel Number 055-240-001) that may be cropped with tomatoes, peppers, melons, squash, cucumbers, watermelons, eggplant, or equivalent crops. Approximately 30 tons of residual solids will be generated and evenly applied as a soil amendment to the same land application area that receives process wastewater.

Tier 2 allows land application of up to 100,000 gallons of wastewater per year for irrigation of landscaping or crops and land application of residual solids associated with that

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

volume of wastewater. If you wish to land apply more wastewater or residual solids, you must submit a new application and the applicable fee and obtain coverage under Tier 3 of the Waiver prior to increasing the discharge volume.

Based on the information provided in the RWD and our understanding that the nature of the discharge has not changed, the discharge meets the required conditions for approval under the Waiver. You are hereby assigned Order **R5-2020-0002-0107**. A copy of the Waiver is enclosed and also available at the [Central Valley Water Boards Adopted Orders: Waivers webpage](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/#waivers) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/#waivers).

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Waiver, including the Conditions of Discharge (Waiver Attachment A) and Monitoring and Reporting Program (Waiver Attachment B). Seed washing waste must be managed and discharged in accordance with the requirements contained in the Conditions of Discharge and with the information submitted in the RWD.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Attachment B of the Waiver includes specific monitoring and reporting requirements that you must comply with, including routine monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board. Please review the Monitoring and Reporting Program closely and establish the appropriate record keeping system so that you are able to complete the required Annual Monitoring Report form, which is also contained in Attachment B of the Waiver.

By **February 1 of each year**, the Annual Monitoring Report must be submitted to our office, even if there is no discharge during the reporting year. The 2023 Annual Monitoring Report is due by **1 February 2024**.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Waiver includes specific and general conditions with which you must comply and you must maintain control over the discharge and operate in accordance with the information provided in your RWD and this Notice of Applicability (NOA).

Please review this NOA carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the facility name, location, and details of the proposed discharge. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Waiver may result in enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code, which could include civil liability. Discharge of wastes not described in the Conditions of Discharge (Attachment A) of the Waiver is prohibited.

Note that the Waiver will expire on **20 February 2025**, after which you must do one of the following:

1. Submit a new NOI with a filing fee (if required) to obtain coverage under a subsequently adopted waiver,

2. Submit a NOI with a filing fee to apply for individual or general Waste Discharge Requirements, or
3. Cease the discharge.

SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS

The Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating new programs for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting. The Basin Plan Amendments were conditionally approved by the State Water Board on 16 October 2019 and the Office of Administrative Law on 15 January 2020. For the Nitrate Control Program, the facility falls within the Colusa Subbasin, a Non-Prioritized Basin, so no action is required at this time. For salinity, the Discharger has selected the Alternative Salinity Permitting Approach (participation in the Prioritization and Optimization [P&O] Study) under Pathway Option 2. The Discharger was issued **CV-SALTS ID 3031**.

As these strategies are implemented, the Central Valley Water Board may find it necessary to modify the requirements of this Order to ensure the goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are met. This order may be amended or modified to incorporate newly applicable requirements. More information regarding this regulatory planning process can be found on the Central Valley Water Board [CV-SALTS website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity). (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity)

DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov.

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Facility Name: US Agriseeds R&D Facility, Yolo County
Program: Non-15 Compliance
Order: R5-2020-0002-0107
CIWQS Place ID: 857909

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
ECM Mailroom
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Now that the NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Brendan Kenny is your new point of contact for any questions about the Waiver. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Brendan will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Brendan at (916) 464-4635 or at brendan.kenny@waterboards.ca.gov.

for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Encl:

Attachment A, Facility Map
Conditional Waiver of WDRs, Order R5-2020-0002 (Discharger Only)

Cc via email:

Debbie Anderson, Yolo County Environmental Health Department
Howard Hold, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Brendan Kenny, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Mark Tappen, US Agriseeds

ATTACHMENT A



Approximate Scale:
1 inch = 100 feet



Drawing Reference:
RWD, 2019

FACILITY MAP
Axia Vegetable Group, Inc
US Agriseeds R&D Facility
Yolo County