CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER R5-2026-XXXX

RESCINDING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board), finds that the Central Valley Water Board previously adopted the following Orders which are no longer applicable for the reasons shown:

A. PORTOLA MINERALS COMPANY, BLUE MOUNTAIN MINERALS; BLUE MOUNTAIN MINERALS QUARRY; WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. 99-032; TUOLUMNE COUNTY

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 99-032, adopted on 30 April 1999, prescribes requirements to Portola Minerals Company, Blue Mountain Minerals (Discharger) for the discharge of up to 1.4 million gallons of aggregate wash water per day from the Blue Mountain Minerals Quarry (Facility) to ponds.

Historically, mined aggregate material was washed and scrubbed, and the wash water was treated by Jadair clarifiers prior to discharge to a series of settling ponds for disposal or reuse in the wash process. On 15 December 2025, the Discharger submitted an updated report of waste discharge (RWD) describing upgrades to the wash water system at the Facility that allows recirculation and recycling of wash water and eliminates continuous discharge to the settling ponds. The upgrades were completed in December 2024, and discharge to one of the previous settling ponds (Pond 2) is only anticipated during emergency or planned maintenance windows. The Discharger anticipates that the future discharges to Pond 2 may occur up to four times per year; however, since the upgrades were completed, there has been no need to discharge to the ponds for maintenance or emergencies.

Based on staff's review of the December 2025 RWD, the intermittent discharge at the Facility is eligible for coverage under Central Valley Water Board Resolution R5-2023-0061, *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), Reports of Waste Discharge (RWDs), and/or Water Recycling Requirements (WRRs) for Specific Types of Discharge Within the Central Valley Region* (Low Threat Waiver). On 30 September 2026, the Central Valley Water Board issued the Discharger a Notice of Applicability that will enroll the Facility under the Low Threat Waiver upon rescission of WDRs Order No. 99-032. Therefore, it is appropriate to rescind WDRs Order No. 99-032.

B. CEASE AND DESIST ORDER R5-2017-0012 REQUIRING THE HARRIS RANCH BEEF COMPANY, SELMA BEEF PROCESSING PLANT, FRESNO

COUNTY, TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM DISCHARGING WASTE CONTRARY TO REQUIREMENTS

Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2017-0012 was adopted on 24 February 2017 and required the Harris Ranch Beef Company (Discharger) to cease discharge of wastewater from its Selma Beef Processing Plant (Facility) in violation to waste discharge requirements (WDRs). The CDO also required the Discharger to assess the vertical and horizontal extent of groundwater degradation beneath and downgradient of its land application areas (LAAs), particularly regarding salts (electrical conductivity and total dissolved solids) and nitrate. To address the CDO, the Discharger installed a new wastewater treatment system, including dissolved air floatation, an anaerobic digester, aerated activated sludge treatment, and a clarifier to improve wastewater quality. The Discharger has also constructed two double-lined ponds for long term storage of treated effluent prior to application at the LAAs and has proposed expansion of its LAAs, to reduce nutrient, salt, and organic loading.

The Discharger also conducted several groundwater investigations, including installation and ongoing sampling of onsite groundwater monitoring wells, sampling of offsite irrigation and private supply wells around the Facility and LAAs, and conducted a hydraulic push testing investigation of the area. The results of these investigations were summarized in a November 2020 Groundwater Assessment Report that concluded the degradation from its past discharges (prior to treatment and storage system upgrades) has impacted downgradient groundwater. Revised tentative WDRs scheduled for consideration at the Central Valley Water Board's December 2026 meeting include continued monitoring and evaluation of on- and offsite groundwater impacts identified by the 2020 Groundwater Assessment Report. In addition, the Discharger is actively participating in the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs, which are intended to address long term accumulation of salts and nitrate in the Central Valley.

Therefore, the Discharger has satisfied the conditions of the CDO, and it is appropriate to rescind CDO R5-2017-0012.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Order is rescinded.

I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 10 December 2026.

PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer