

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street Fresno, CA 93706

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
concerning
TENTATIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2026-XXXX
GOLDEN VALLEY PISTACHIO CO., LLC; NADER MALAKAN, AND
MALAKAN INVESTMENTS, LLC
GOLDEN VALLEY PISTACHIO PROCESSING FACILITY
MADERA & MERCED COUNTIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adoption of the subject Order at a public meeting scheduled for:

DATE: 3/4 JUNE 2026
TIME: To Be Determined
PLACE: Regional Water Quality Control Board, Rancho Cordova
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95760

The date, time, and location of the public meeting may change after this Notice is issued. A Final Agenda for the meeting will be made available at least 10 days before the meeting. The Final Agenda will provide the location and format of the meeting, the anticipated date that the proposed order will be considered, and the anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include staff revisions to the proposed order.

The Final Agenda, and any information concerning changes to the date, time, location, or format of the public meeting, will be posted on the Central Valley Water Board's website, [Central Valley Water Board's website](#) at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/)

and will be emailed to all persons that sign up for the [GovDelivery subscription list](#) at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.html).

The meeting will be webcast live on YouTube. A weblink for viewing will be provided in the Final Agenda. Any person who would like to participate in the meeting, but who is unable to attend in-person, may participate remotely via video or teleconference. Instructions for doing so will be provided in the Final Agenda for the meeting.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Mindy Bunn at (916) 464-4839 or Mindy.Bunn@waterboards.ca.gov at least five working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922. To request oral interpretation or sign language services, please submit

your request at least 10 business days before the meeting by calling (916) 341-5254 or e-mailing opp-languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov.

Opportunities to Comment

The Central Valley Water Board will consider oral and written comments on the proposed Order before it votes on whether to adopt the Order.

Written comments or evidence concerning the Order must be submitted by 5:00 pm on 1 May 2026. Please email any comments to Salvador.Vargas@Waterboards.ca.gov and Bryan.Rock@Waterboards.ca.gov, with the subject line, “Tentative Order – Golden Valley Pistachio Processing Facility” While email is preferred, written comments may also be mailed to the following address:

Attention: Salvador Vargas-Maravilla
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

The Board Chair may refuse to admit any comments or evidence received after the comment period unless the submitting party provides a reasonable explanation for why the submission is late and the Board Chair determines that admission of the late submission would not prejudice any other party.

Oral comments concerning the Order must be presented at the scheduled public meeting. Interested parties are generally allowed up to three minutes each to provide their comments. Certain designated parties may provide longer comments and have the right to call and examine witnesses, introduce exhibits, cross-examine opposing witnesses, impeach any witness, and to rebut the evidence against him or her. The party subject to the proposed Order is designated parties. Any other party may request recognition as a designated party by submitting a written statement of how they are directly affected by the discharge(s) to be regulated and why they would like to be considered a designated party. Such requests must be submitted to Central Valley Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on 1 May 2026. Instructions on how to provide oral comments will be included in the Final Agenda for the meeting.

Proposed Order

If adopted, the tentative Order will revise current waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for the discharge of wastewater to land from pistachio processing operations at the Golden Valley Pistachio Processing Facility (Facility), located at 16335 Avenue 24 ½ in Chowchilla. The Facility is owned and operated by Golden Valley Pistachio Co., LLC (Golden Valley Pistachio) and is currently regulated by WDRs Order 93-005, which authorizes the discharge of up to 5,000 gallons per day (gpd) of pistachio process wastewater to a 36-acre land application area (LAA).

The authorized LAA is no longer available for the discharge of wastewater from the Facility and discharges have been directed to the City of Chowchilla collection system during recent pistachio harvest seasons. Golden Valley Pistachio; Nader Malakan; and Malakan Investments, LLC (Dischargers, collectively) own almost 2,000 acres of LAA planted with pistachios, almonds, wheat, and barley in Madera and Merced counties and propose to use these lands for the discharge of wastewater from the Facility. Additionally, since adoption of WDRs Order 93-005, the Dischargers have made changes to the Facility's process system to reduce water usage during the initial hulling process. Therefore, updated WDRs are needed to accurately represent current facility operations and the discharge of wastewater to land, as well as to ensure alignment with the latest Central Valley Water Board plans and policies.

The proposed WDRs Order would authorize:

- A maximum daily flow of pistachio process wastewater up to 30,000 gpd and an annual flow limit of 2 million gallons.
- LAA expansion totaling 1,989 acres
- A performance-based effluent salinity limit of 1,750 mg/L (as total dissolved solids).
- Biochemical oxygen demand cycle average loading to the LAAs shall not exceed 10 lbs/ac/day.
- Preparation and implementation of a Wastewater and Nutrient Management Plan
- Compliance with the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs
- Source water, wastewater, and LAA monitoring

To conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, a paper copy of the proposed Order was sent only to the Discharger(s). All others may access a digital copy of the Order on the Central Valley Water Board's [Tentative Orders website](#), under the heading, "Discharger-Specific Order for Future Board Meetings," at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/).

Copies of the proposed Order and associated documents may also be obtained by visiting the office of the Central Valley Water Board at 1685 E Street, Fresno CA 93706 or by contacting the Board by phone at (916) 464-3291, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Questions concerning the proposed Order or anything in this Notice should be directed to Salvador Vargas-Maravilla at (559) 444-2488 or Salvador.Vargas@waterboards.ca.gov.

Other Information

The [Procedures Governing Central Valley Water Board Meetings](#)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/)

may be found in California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 1.5 (starting with section 647) and are available upon request.

Additional information on meeting procedures can be found on the Central Valley Water Board's [Meeting Procedures webpage](#) at

(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml).

Hearings before the Central Valley Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq.

All meeting procedure information is also available on request to any one of the Central Valley Water Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Mindy Bunn at (916) 464-4839 or Mindy.Bunn@waterboards.ca.gov.



Alexander S. Mushegan
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Engineer
Groundwater Protection Permitting
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