
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region Staff Summary Report June 12-13, 2025

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Rescission Order No. R1-2025-0008 (Rescission Order) to consider Rescission of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Order No. R1-2018-0003 for Sonoma West Holdings, Incorporated (Sonoma West), Wastewater Treatment Facility, Plant No. 2 (Facility), WDID No. 1B81202OSON, NPDES NO. CA0023655 (Matthew Herman)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider the adoption of the Rescission Order No. R1-2025-0008. The Order will rescind Sonoma West's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, Order No. R1-2018-0003.

BACKGROUND: Sonoma West owns and operates the Wastewater Treatment Facility, a wastewater treatment system for a multi-tenant food and beverage processing, packaging, storage, and warehousing facility. The Facility is located at 2064 Gravenstein Highway North, Sebastopol, California.

The Facility has historically discharged treated process wastewater under Order No. R1-2018-0003, Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0023655 (Permit), adopted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) on May 17, 2018. In accordance with conditions in this Permit, treated process wastewater may be discharged to Barlow Creek or be land applied to designated land application areas at the Facility. The Permit further contains waste discharge requirements for a separate domestic wastewater treatment system that can provide treatment for a peak flow of 6,000 gallons per day of domestic wastewater that is discharged after treatment to a segregated land application area at the Facility.

DISCUSSION: The NPDES Permit is proposed to be rescinded because the Permittee has gained coverage under two general orders: the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Wine, Beverage and Food Processor Waste to Land in the North Coast Region, Order No. R1-2016-0002 (WBFP WDR) and the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems,

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Order No. WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (SDS General Order). These general orders authorize the discharge of treated process wastewater and treated domestic wastewater, respectively.

The NPDES Permit, which previously allowed the discharge of treated process wastewater to Barlow Creek, is no longer necessary because the Permittee has not discharged to Barlow Creek for more than 20 years and has no plans to do so in the future.

A copy of the Draft Rescission Order was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from February 26, 2025, through March 28, 2025, for a 30-day comment period. No comments were received.

The Rescission Order is not anticipated to be contested during the public hearing.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend adoption of the Rescission Order as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2025-0008
2. Notice of Public Hearing