CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

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WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2025-0021

ORDER INFORMATION

Order Type(s):	Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)
Status:	Adopted
Program:	Non-15
Region 5 Office:	Fresno
Discharger(s):	Granite Construction Company
Facility:	Coalinga Aggregates
Address:	38940 Highway 33, Coalinga, CA 93210
County:	Fresno County
Parcel Nos.:	070-041-10S, 070-041-12S, 070-041-13S, 070-041-14S, 070-060-22S, 070-060-86S, 070-060-89S
CIWQS Place ID:	227764
Prior Order(s):	None

CERTIFICATION

I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the following is a full, true, and correct copy of the order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 25 April 2025.

Date: 2025.05.20 14:57:37 -07'00'

Water Boards

PATRICK PULUPA,
Executive Officer

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GLOSSARY

Antidegradation Policy	Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California, State Water Board Resolution 68-16
APN	Assessor Parcel Number
AGR	Agriculture Irrigation and Stock Watering
Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin
bgs	Below Ground Surface
BPTC	Best Practicable Treatment and Control
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.
COC	Constituent of Concern
CUP	Conditional Use Permit
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EC	Electrical Conductivity
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GWR	Groundwater Recharge
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene
IND	Industrial Service Supply
µg/L	Micrograms per Liter
µmhos/cm	Micromhos per Centimeter
mg/L	Milligrams per Liter
msl	Mean Sea Level
MRP	Monitoring and Reporting Program
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level per Title 22

Glossary

MUN ..... Municipal and Domestic Supply

MIGR ..... Migration of Aquatic Organisms

MND ..... Mitigated Negative Declaration

PRO ..... Industrial Process Supply

P&O Study ..... Prioritization and Optimization Study

NOAA ..... National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOD ..... Notice of Determination

OAL ..... Office of Administrative Law

RWD ..... Report of Waste Discharge

RARE ..... Rare, Threatened or Endangered

SPRRs ..... Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements

SGMA ..... Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Data Viewer

SCH ..... State Clearinghouse

SERC ..... State Emergency Response Commission

SPWN ..... Spawning, Reproduction, and/early Development

TDS ..... Total Dissolved Solids

Title 22 ..... California Code of Regulations, Title 22

Title 23 ..... California Code of Regulations, Title 23

Title 27 ..... California Code of Regulations, Title 27

WDRs ..... Waste Discharge Requirements

WILD ..... Wildlife Habitat

WQO ..... Water Quality Objective

FINDINGS

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) hereby finds as follows:

Introduction

1. Granite Construction Company (Granite) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) on 9 December 2021 for aggregate washing operations conducted at Coalinga Aggregates (Facility), an aggregate mining facility located approximately two miles north of Coalinga in Fresno County, Section 20, Township 20 South, Range 15 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The Facility is located on land owned by Granite Construction Company (Fresno County Assessor Parcel Numbers [APNs] 0707-041-10S, 070-041-12S, 070-041-13S, 070-041-14S, 070-060-22S, 070-060-86S, 070-060-89S).

2. The Facility generates wastewater during the aggregate wash process, which is then disposed in an evaporation/percolation pond; however, the Facility is not currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). WDRs are needed for this Facility to ensure the discharge meets the requirements of current water quality plans and policies. According to available records, the Facility has existed since before 1960.

3. Granite, as the owner and operator of the Facility and land, is hereby referred to as **Discharger**, and is responsible for compliance with the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) prescribed in this Order.

4. The following materials are attached and incorporated as part of this Order:

   a. ATTACHMENT A — Site Location Map

   b. ATTACHMENT B — Facility Site Map

   c. ATTACHMENT C — Process Flow Schematic

   d. Information Sheet

   e. Standard Provisions & Reporting Requirements dated 1 March 1991 (SPRRs)
   https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/std_provisions/wdr-mar1991.pdf

5. Also attached is **Monitoring and Reporting Program Order (MRP) R5-2025-0021**, which requires monitoring and reporting for discharges regulated under these WDRs. The Discharger shall comply with the MRP, and subsequent revisions thereto as ordered by the Executive Officer or adopted by the Central Valley Water Board.

Regulatory History

6. On 29 November 2017, Fresno County (County), as lead agency, adopted an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 2017091026) evaluating the proposed issuance of Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 915, which authorized continued aggregate mining operations at the Facility after the 2018 expiration of its previous CUP No. 2461R. More recently, the Discharger proposed a variance to the project that would increase acreage of the mining operations, and the County, as lead agency, prepared a July 2020 IS/MND (SCH No. 2020070123) evaluating the proposed change. On 1 September 2020, the County issued a Notice of Determination adopting the July 2020 IS/MND.

7. Central Valley Water Board staff (Staff) received a notice of public hearing for the July 2020 IS/MND on 6 July 2020. In a 6 August 2020 email, Staff notified the County that the Facility was operating without a permit and explained the need for submittal of a RWD for potential discharges of wastewater (including aggregate wash water) that could affect groundwater quality.

8. On 22 December 2021, a RWD was submitted to the Central Valley Water Board by Chang Consultants on behalf of the Discharger. The RWD was prepared and stamped by Wayne W. Chang (RCE No. 46548).

9. The Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer issued MRP R5-2022-0824 for the Facility on 22 December 2022, requiring the Discharger to monitor and characterize the Facility's discharge until the Central Valley Water Boad adopted WDRs and a revised MRP for this Facility.

10. On 30 October 2024, Staff conducted a pre-requirement inspection of the Facility. Staff observed that the Facility's process wastewater system was as described in the December 2021 RWD. To date, the Discharger has demonstrated compliance with the MRP requirements.

Facility and Discharges

Existing Facility and Discharges

11. According to the Discharger, aggregate mining at the Facility has occurred since before 1960; however, the Discharger only acquired the Facility in 1984 and has continued mining operations since then. The mining process consists of excavation, sorting, washing, and storage of aggregate material (i.e., gravels and sands). The Facility covers approximately 1,341 acres and is made up of seven parcels as shown on **Attachment B**. Aggregate washing activities occur at the Facility's wet plant, which is located on APN 070-041-10S**.** The Facility also includes an office, a shop, a freshwater storage pond, a settling pond, aggregate stockpiles, and mining areas.

12. The Facility includes a closed loop water system for the aggregate wash process, which includes two onsite source water wells, a freshwater pond, the wet plant, and a settling pond. Stormwater that accumulates within the Facility is also directed to the settling pond. Domestic wastewater needs at the Facility are served by an onsite septic system, which is permitted through the Fresno County Department of Environmental Health.

13. Source water for the wash process is obtained from two onsite source water wells that pump groundwater into the freshwater pond. The contents of the freshwater pond are a mix of source well water and decanted wash water from the settling pond. Water from the freshwater pond is pumped to the aggregate wet plant by two separate pumps and conveyed through two 14” high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes. At the wet plant, the water is pressurized through booster pumps and used in various wash process components, including wash screens, a scrubber, fine screws, and separators. Following the wash process, wash water is directed to a settling pond for disposal or reuse via an open gravity flume and then a 30” underground HDPE pipe.

14. Fines and solids settle out in the settling pond, which is a repurposed pit from previous mining operations. The current settling pond is not uniform and varies in depth between 50 and 60 feet, has a surface area of 21.91 square-acres, and has a capacity of 254 million gallons while maintaining 2 feet of freeboard. There are berms along the perimeter of the current settling pond that are 7 feet high and 34 feet wide with approximately 2:1 interior and exterior slopes. Decanted wash water within the settling pond may be pumped back into the freshwater pond for reuse in the wash process.

15. According to the RWD, the estimated average wash water flow to the settling pond is 3,500 gallons per minute (gpm). The Facility operates five days a week and eight hours a day. According to a water balance submitted by the Discharger, the Facility discharged approximately 204.7 million gallons (MG) of process wastewater to the setting pond in 2024, and the average annual discharge to the settling pond from 2020 through 2024 was about 178.4 MG.

16. Monthly flow data to the settling pond was collected during 2023 and 2024. The Discharger reports the calculated collective flow of wash water and suspended solids (i.e., fine particles, such as silts and clays, entrained in the process wastewater) discharged to the settling pond. Flow calculations consider the following:

    a. The amount of raw aggregate sent to the wet plant in tons

    b. The estimated volume of water used to wash one ton of raw aggregate (i.e. 220 gallons per ton of aggregate).

    c. A 12 percent loss of fines from the raw aggregate during the wash process

i. Weight to volume conversion for loss of fines:

$$\frac{\left(\text{Wash loss in tons} \times 2{,}000\,\frac{\text{lbs}}{\text{ton}}\right)}{11.05\,\frac{\text{lbs}}{\text{gal}}}$$

The flow estimates conservatively do not account for any water loss during the wash process. Considering the above, flow to the settling pond may be calculated for wastewater only, or wastewater plus entrained solids (i.e. the 12 percent fines loss). Reported monthly estimates of wastewater and wastewater including suspended solids during 2023 and 2024 are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Process Water Flow Monitoring

Month	2023 Wastewater + Solids (million gallons)	2023 Wastewater (million gallons)	2024 Wastewater+ Solids (million gallons)	2024 Wastewater (million gallons)
January	9.84	8.96	13.62	12.39
February	12.16	11.06	15.84	14.42
March	8.68	7.90	12.02	10.94
April	7.53	6.85	23.85	21.71
May	16.38	14.90	27.34	24.88
June	19.99	18.20	25.06	22.81
July	21.22	19.31	21.48	19.55
August	20.46	18.62	26.44	24.06
September	17.46	15.89	13.48	12.27
October	26.45	24.07	17.40	15.84
November	14.95	13.61	20.07	18.27
December	7.02	6.39	8.31	7.56
Total	**182.13**	**165.76**	**224.94**	**204.72**

17. The Discharger conducted a singular effluent quality sampling event on 18 August 2021 for development of the RWD. The Central Valley Water Board issued MRP R5-2022-0824 in December 2022 to gather further data prior to developing WDRs for the Facility. The Discharger began implementation of the MRP in January 2023, which required monitoring of source water from the supply wells and aggregate wash water discharged to the settling pond. Effluent data collected during the August 2021 sampling event are presented in Table 2 below, along with data collected as required by the MRP. Results accompanied by parentheses represent an average result, where the number in the parentheses indicates the number of samples used to calculate the average. Results presented that are not accompanied by parentheses represent single samples.

Table 2 – Effluent Quality

Parameters	Units	2021 Results (see 1 below)	2023 Results (see 1 below)	2024 Results
EC	µmhos/cm	2,300	2,221 (12)	2,106 (12)
TDS	mg/L	1,800	1,042 (4)	1,032 (4)
Total Alkalinity	mg/L	150	130	160
Bicarbonate (as $CaCO_3$)	mg/L	150	130	160
Calcium	mg/L	93	2,550 (see 2 below)	100
Chloride	mg/L	200	220	180
Iron	mg/L	9.9	225	0.091
Magnesium	mg/L	130	530	120
Manganese	mg/L	9.8	20	ND
Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	--	ND (see 3 below)	7.1
Sodium	mg/L	310	255	240
Sulfate	mg/L	1,100	1,100	850
Potassium	mg/L	8.5	27	7.1

1. The Discharger collected dual samples during sampling events in 2021 and 2023. Unless accompanied by parentheses, values are max concentrations observed from samples collected during the same sampling event.
2. This result is likely a laboratory reporting error. Calcium is a constituent included in TDS, and the TDS reported during the same month (July) was 1,049 mg/L.
3. Reporting limit for this analysis was reportedly 5 mg/L

18. The discharge is high in salts, iron, and manganese. However, groundwater quality in the area is poor with regard to these constituents, as presented in Table 4 and discussed further in Finding 51. Even so, the reported effluent quality indicates that the discharge exhibits elevated iron and manganese concentrations in comparison to groundwater and well above the respective secondary maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) of 0.3 mg/L and 0.05 mg/L. However, following discussions with the Discharger, it was surmised that the reported metals results represent total iron and manganese concentrations from the turbid discharge, and are likely not reflective of concentrations that have the potential to leach to groundwater. As such, the Discharger agreed to collect several monthly samples beginning in November 2024 until February 2025 for total and dissolved iron and manganese from the source water wells and the discharge to the settling pond. Additional samples from the settling pond were collected at the discharge point, as well as decanted water from the pond's laminar end. The purpose of these additional sampling events was to gather information on dissolved iron and manganese concentrations in the effluent that

have the potential to leach to groundwater. Table 3 summarizes the averages and ranges (bracketed) of results from the additional sampling events.

Table 3 – Metals Sampling

Parameter	Units	Turbid Wash Water	Decanted Wash Water	Well #1	Well #2
Iron	mg/L	18.7 [1.7-42]	1.35 [0.15-4.7]	0.44 [0.13-1.2]	0.4 [0.088-0.58]
Manganese	mg/L	3.35 [0.03-7.3]	0.03 [0.012-0.06]	0.13 [0.12-0.15]	0.015 [ND-0.011]
Iron (Dissolved)	mg/L	3.5 [ND-3.5]	0.052 [ND-0.052]	1.1 [ND-1.1]	0.26 [ND-0.26]
Manganese (Dissolved)	mg/L	0.01 [ND-0.012]	0.012 [ND-0.012]	0.14 [0.12-0.16]	ND

1. Additional metals sampling occurred monthly from November 2024 through February 2025.

19. Based on the additional dataset, dissolved iron and manganese concentrations in the wash water are much lower than what was previously reported. The dissolved metals concentrations observed in the effluent, specifically from samples from the laminar end of the pond, are less than source water concentrations. However, while dissolved manganese concentrations in turbid water from the discharge pipe indicate better quality than source water, turbid concentrations of dissolved iron are greater than source water. Even so, it is expected that metals within the effluent will oxidize prior to reaching groundwater due to the large vadose zone and depth to groundwater underlying the facility. Therefore, degradation with regard to metals is not anticipated to occur as a result of this Order.

Site-Specific Conditions

Topography, Climate and Land Use

20. The Facility is located just north of the City of Coalinga and is bordered by Gale Avenue to the north, Highway 33 to the east, and Los Gatos Creek to the west and south. The primary land use category in the Facility vicinity is agricultural, with some industrial and commercial uses nearby. The closest residential communities are approximately one mile south of the Facility.

21. Land surface elevations range from approximately 700 to 750 feet above mean sea level (msl). The slope of the land surface is generally towards the east and away from Los Gatos Creek.

22. The Facility is located in an arid climate characterized by dry summers and mild winters. Based on data from the nearest weather station (Coalinga), the Facility has an annual average precipitation of 7.5 inches and a mean pan evaporation of 99.03 inches per year. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) *Precipitation Frequency Atlas 14, Vol. 6* (rev. 2014), 24-hour rainfall events for 100-year and 1,000-year return periods are estimated to be 4.03 and 5.98 inches of precipitation, respectively.

23. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) *Flood Insurance Rate Map* (https://msc.fema.gov/portal), the Facility is in an area designated as "Zone X." Areas in Zone X are outside of the one percent annual chance of flood with average depth less than one foot. Part of the Facility closest to the Los Gatos Creek is within Zone A which is a special flood hazard area that is without base flood elevation.

Groundwater and Subsurface Conditions

24. Review of groundwater elevation contours, available from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Data Viewer, indicates that the regional groundwater flow direction underlying the Facility is variable; however, the Spring 2023 elevation contour data indicates that the groundwater flow direction was towards the northeast.

25. In 2003, Great West Drilling advanced a bore hole to approximately 180 feet below ground surface (bgs) in the area of the current settling pond to determine the extent of the sand and gravel reserves. The 2003 boring log was included in the RWD and indicates that soils mostly consist of sand and gravels with some clayey silt interbeds. The boring log does not indicate that groundwater was encountered during the investigation.

26. There is no groundwater monitoring well network associated with the Facility. According to the SGMA Data Viewer, depth to groundwater underlying the facility varied from 425-450 feet bgs between Spring 2022 and Fall 2023. DWR data collected from a well located just northwest of the Facility (Well No. 20S15E20D001M) indicates that the shallowest depth to groundwater measurement between 2019 and 2021 was 413.5 feet bgs, collected in March 2020. More recent data collected from this well, on 10 October 2023, indicates that the depth to groundwater was about 487 feet bgs.

27. The Facility obtains its source water from two onsite wells. According to the Discharger, these wells have been in use since they purchased the Facility in 1984 and well construction details are not available. MRP R5-2022-0824 required the Discharger to sample water quality from the onsite source water wells. Well 1 was sampled three times: once for RWD development and twice per MRP requirements. Well 2 was sampled once for the development of the RWD

and once per MRP requirements. Table 4, below, displays water quality data the Discharger has obtained from its source wells, as required by MRP R5-2022-0824, as well as 2021 data collected for development of the RWD. Results accompanied by parentheses and brackets represent an average result, where the number in the parenthesis indicates the number of samples used to calculate the average, and the bracketed values indicate the range of the results.

28. The freshwater pond is a mix of decanted wash water from the settling pond and groundwater from the source wells. Water quality samples were collected from the freshwater pond and source wells in August 2021, July 2023, and July 2024, and the corresponding sample results are also presented in Table 4. Results accompanied by parentheses and brackets represent an average result, where the number in the parenthesis indicates the number of samples used to calculate the average, and the bracketed values indicate the range of the results. Values not accompanied by parentheses or brackets represent results from single sampling events.

Table 4 – Source Water Monitoring

Parameter	Units	Well 1	Well 2	Freshwater Pond (2021)
EC	µmhos/cm	2,230 (2) [1,961-2,500]	2,161 (2) [2,100-2,223]	2,300
TDS	mg/L	1,450 (2) [1,001-1,900]	1,458(2) [1,117-1,800]	1,800
Total Alkalinity	mg/L	174 (3) [170-180]	155 (2) [140-170]	150
Calcium	mg/L	105 (3) [100-110]	314 (2) [98-530]	95
Iron	µg/L	153 (3) [110-240]	[ND-2800] (see 1 below)	ND
Chloride	mg/L	205 (3) [200-210]	183 (2) [170-200]	200
Manganese	µg/L	125 (3) [120-130]	[ND-5800] (see 1 below)	33
Magnesium	mg/L	124 (3) [120-130]	135 (2) [120-150]	130
Potassium	mg/L	8.8 (3) [8.5-9.3]	8.4 (2) [6.9-9.9]	8.3
Sodium	mg/L	280 (3) [260-290]	260 (2) [260]	275
Sulfate	mg/L	1,000 (3) [910-1100]	960 (2) [960]	1100

Parameter	Units	Well 1	Well 2	Freshwater Pond (2021)
Nitrate as N	mg/L	5.4 (2) [5-5.8]	4.4	--

1. Average results not calculated due to non-detect results. Only the range of results from samples collected in August 2021 and July 2024 are presented.

Statutory Authority

29. This Order is adopted pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (a), which provides in pertinent part as follows:

> *The regional board, after any necessary hearing, shall prescribe requirements as to the nature of any proposed discharge, existing discharge, or material change in an existing discharge…, with relation to the conditions existing in the disposal area or receiving waters upon, or into which, the discharge is made or proposed.*

30. Compliance with section 13263, subdivision (a), including implementation of applicable water quality control plans, is discussed in the findings below.

31. The ability to discharge waste is a privilege, not a right, and adoption of this Order shall not be construed as creating a vested right to continue discharging waste. (Wat. Code, § 13263, subd. (g).)

32. This Order and its associated MRP are also adopted pursuant to Water Code section 13267, subdivision (b)(1), which provides as follows:

> *[T]he regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste … shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.*

33. The reports required under this Order, as well as under the separately issued MRP, are necessary to verify and ensure compliance with WDRs. The burden associated with such reports is reasonable relative to the need for their submission.

Basin Plan Implementation

34. Pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (a), WDRs must "implement any relevant water quality control plans… and shall take into consideration the beneficial uses to be protected, the water quality objectives (WQOs) reasonably required for that purpose, other waste discharges, the need to prevent nuisance, and the provisions of Section 13241."

Beneficial Uses of Water

35. This Order implements the Central Valley Water Board's Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plan), which designates beneficial uses for surface and ground waters within the Tulare Lake Basin and establishes narrative and numerical WQOs necessary to preserve such beneficial uses. (See Water Code, § 13241 et seq.)

36. The Facility is within the Kettleman Hydrologic Area (No. 558.50) of the South Valley Floor Hydrologic Unit, as depicted on interagency hydrologic maps prepared by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and DWR, as revised in August 1986. Local drainage is to Los Gatos Creek. Per the Basin Plan, existing and potential beneficial uses of Valley Floor Waters, such as Los Gatos Creek, include agriculture irrigation and stock watering (AGR), industrial process supply (PRO), Industrial Service Supply (IND), contact and non-contact water recreations (REC-1 and REC-2), warm freshwater habitat (WARM), Wildlife Habitat (WILD), Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE), and Groundwater Recharge (GWR).

37. The Basin Plan designates the beneficial uses of underlying groundwater throughout the Central Valley (unless specifically exempted) as municipal and domestic supply (MUN), agricultural supply (AGR), industrial service supply (IND), and industrial process supply (PRO).

Water Quality Objectives

38. The Basin Plan establishes narrative WQOs for chemical constituents, tastes and odors, and toxicity in groundwater. It also sets forth a numeric objective for total coliform organisms.

39. The numeric WQO for bacteria is expressed as the most probable number (MPN) of coliform organisms per 100 mL of water. For MUN-designated groundwater, the objective is an MPN of 2.2 organisms over any seven-day period.

40. The narrative WQO for chemical constituents in groundwater generally provides that groundwater shall not contain constituents in concentrations adversely affecting beneficial uses. The Basin Plan specifies that MUN-designated waters must at a minimum, meet the primary and secondary MCLs specified in

California Code of Regulations, title 22 (Title 22).[1] (See Title 22, §§ 64431, 64444, 64449.)

41. The narrative WQO for toxicity provides that groundwater shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations producing detrimental physiological responses in human, animal, plant, or aquatic life associated with designated beneficial uses.

42. Quantifying a narrative WQO requires a site-specific evaluation of those constituents that have the potential to impact water quality and beneficial uses. The Basin Plan states that when compliance with a narrative objective is required to protect specific beneficial uses, the Central Valley Water Board will, on a case-by-case basis, adopt numerical limitations to implement the narrative objective.

Salt Control Program

43. 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 (Resolution R5-2018-0034). The Basin Plan amendments became effective on 17 January 2020 and were revised by the Central Valley Water Board in 2020 with Resolution R5-2020-0057 (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057_res.pdf). The revisions to the Basin Plan amendments became effective on 10 November 2021.

44. Under the Salt Control Program, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent salinity requirements may instead maintain compliance by meeting performance-based requirements, as determined appropriate by the Central Valley Water Board, and participating in the basin-wide effort known as the Prioritization and Optimization Study (P&O Study) to develop a long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley. The Discharger submitted a Notice of Intent on 17 September 2021 and was issued an identification number for the Salt Control Program (CVSALTS ID: 3621). The Discharger elected to participate in the P&O Study. To maintain existing salt discharges and minimize salinity impacts, this Order sets a performance-based effluent limitation monthly average of 2,600 µmhos/cm. The performance-based limit grants an approximate 20% increase in electrical conductivity levels compared to the reported 2023 monthly average effluent EC concentration.

[1] The Central Valley Water Board may apply limits more stringent than MCLs to ensure that waters do not contain chemical constituents in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses.

Nitrate Control Program

45. The Nitrate Control Program is a prioritized program, and the Board has issued Notices to Comply to dischargers in Priority 1 and 2 Basins. Dischargers may comply with the new nitrate program either individually (Pathway A) or collectively with other dischargers (Pathway B). The Facility is within Groundwater Basin 5-022.10 (San Joaquin Valley – Pleasant Valley), which is a Non-Prioritized Basin. Dischargers in these basins have not been sent Notices to Comply with the Nitrate Control Program.

46. Some sand and gravel processing facilities within the Central Valley have been determined to be exempt from the Nitrate Control Program because the typical washing processes conducted at such facilities have not been observed to increase nitrogen concentrations in resultant wastewater. Available information for the Facility indicates that its operations likewise do not increase nitrogen concentrations in wastewater. Therefore, the Facility is currently considered exempt from compliance with the Nitrate Control Program. However, the Executive Officer may issue a Notice To Comply for the Facility in the future if it is determined that the Facility's discharge could be impacting nitrogen concentrations in groundwater.

47. As these strategies are implemented, the Central Valley Water Board may find it necessary to modify the requirements of these WDRs. As such this Order may be amended or modified to incorporate any newly applicable requirements to ensure that the goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are met.

Antidegradation Policy

48. State Water Board Resolution 68-16, *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California* (Antidegradation Policy), which is incorporated as part of the Basin Plan, prohibits the Central Valley Water Board from authorizing degradation of "high quality waters" unless it is shown that the discharge(s) causing such degradation will be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of California, will not unreasonably affect beneficial uses, and will not result in water quality worse than applicable WQOs. Any discharge to high quality waters must be subject to requirements that will result in the best practicable treatment or control (BPTC) necessary to assure that pollution or nuisance will not occur and the highest water quality consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State will be maintained.

49. The Antidegradation Policy applies when an activity discharges to high quality waters and will result in some degradation of such high-quality waters. "High quality waters" are defined as those waters where water quality is more than sufficient to support beneficial uses designated in the Basin Plan. Whether a water is a high-quality water is established on a constituent-by-constituent basis,

which means that an aquifer can be considered a high-quality water with respect to one constituent, but not for others (see State Water Board Order No. WQ 91-10). If the activity will not result in the degradation of high-quality waters, the Antidegradation Policy does not apply, and the discharger need only demonstrate that it will use "best efforts" to control the discharge of waste.

50. No groundwater monitoring wells are present at the Facility. Given the limited availability of historic groundwater quality information, compliance with the Antidegradation Policy will be determined based on site-specific groundwater quality data available from 2021 through 2024, as discussed in Finding 27 and presented in Table 4.

51. Constituents of concern (COCs) that have the potential to degrade groundwater include salinity and metals (i.e., iron and manganese), as discussed below. Average concentrations of these COCs are summarized for the process wash water and source water, as compared to applicable water quality objectives, in Table 5. Unless otherwise specified, results presented in Table 5 are mg/L.

Table 5 – Constituents with Potential for Degradation

Constituent	Source Water	Effluent (see 1 below)	WQOs
Iron	0.15 (4)	78.7 (3)	0.3
Manganese	1.5 (4) (see 2 below)	10.6 (3)	0.05
TDS	1,430 (5)	1,291 (5)	500
EC (µmhos/cm)	2,183 (6)	2,209 (25)	900

1. Effluent average concentrations were calculated from samples collected in 2021 and 2023 through 2024. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of samples used to calculate average results.
2. One manganese sample from Well 2 resulted in a concentration of 5.8 mg/L (5,800 µg/L), which is several orders of magnitude greater than the three other observed values. If this sample is negated the average observed manganese concentration in source water is 0.125 mg/L.

a. **Salinity.** Based on the limited available groundwater data, regional groundwater in the area is of poor quality for EC and TDS. EC and TDS concentrations from source water wells have been observed to be above the respective WQOs, ranging from 2,100 to 2,500 µmhos/cm and 1,700 to 1,900 mg/L, respectively. Therefore, groundwater underlying the Facility is not considered high-quality water with respect to salinity and the Antidegradation Policy does not apply with respect to EC or TDS.

b. **Metals.** Regional groundwater quality is poor regarding manganese, but fair in regard to the average concentration of iron. The average

concentration of manganese in source water collected from both Well 1 and Well 2 in 2021 and 2023 through 2024 was 1.5 mg/L, which is orders of magnitude greater than the WQO of 0.05 mg/L. The average iron concentration in the source water wells was 0.15 mg/L in samples collected between 2021 and 2024, which is below the WQO of 0.3 mg/L. Thus, the receiving water is considered high quality for iron, but not for manganese. Based on effluent data collected during 2023, the aggregate wash process appears to increase the concentrations of these metals significantly; average concentrations of iron and manganese in wash water discharged to the settling pond during 2023 and 2024 were 78.7 and 10.6 mg/L, respectively. However, as discussed in Findings 18 and 19, iron and manganese sample results prior to November 2024 represent total concentrations of metals in the turbid wash water. Dissolved concentrations of these metals are more representative of the discharge that has the potential to leach to groundwater. Additional sampling conducted by the Discharger indicates that the dissolved concentrations of metals in the wash water are lower or similar to ambient groundwater conditions. As such, degradation of groundwater quality with regard to iron and manganese is not anticipated as a result of this Order.

52. Based on the foregoing, the adoption of this Order is consistent with the Antidegradation Policy because it does not authorize degradation of high quality waters.

California Environmental Quality Act

53. As described in Finding 6, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., in November 2017, Fresno County, as lead agency, adopted an IS/MND (SCH No. 2017091026) supporting its issuance a CUP authorizing continued mining operations at the Facility. Subsequently, in September 2020, Fresno County issued an NOD (SCH No. 2020070123) in support of its issuance of a revised CUP authorizing an increase in Facility mining acreage. The Central Valley Water Board, as a responsible agency under CEQA, has evaluated the lead agency's environmental documents and determined that no further CEQA review is necessary prior to the issuance of this Order.

54. To the extent that this Order authorizes any activity(s) beyond the scope of those evaluated in the lead agency's CEQA evaluations, adoption of this Order is exempt from the procedural requirements of CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, because it permits ongoing activities at an existing facility and involves negligible or no expansion of former use.

Other Regulatory Considerations

Water Code Section 13149.2

55. These WDRs regulate a facility that may impact a disadvantaged community and tribal community and include an alternative compliance path that allows the Discharger time to come into compliance with applicable WQOs (i.e., salinity). The Discharger has elected to participate in the Alternative Salinity Permitting Approach for the Salt Control Program, which provides an alternative approach for compliance with salinity limits through implementation of specific requirements (i.e., support facilitation and completion of the P&O Study). Pursuant to Water Code section 13149.2, and as discussed in the following finding, the Central Valley Water Board reviewed readily available information concerning anticipated water quality impacts in disadvantaged or tribal communities resulting from adoption of these WDRs.

56. The Central Valley Water Board anticipates that the issuance of this Order will result in water quality impacts within the scope of the Board's authority. The Facility's reported effluent quality has an average EC around 2,200 µmhos/cm and an average TDS of around 1,300 mg/L. These observed salinity effluent concentrations exceed the WQOs for EC and TDS. These WDRs require the Discharger to 1) actively participate in the P&O Study and comply with the Salt Control Program, which is intended to identify long-term salinity management and control practices and/or technologies; and 2) maintain current discharge concentrations for salt by complying with the performance-based salinity limit established herein. Although this Order may result in limited increases to concentrations of saline constituents in groundwater in the near-term, Salt Control Program requirements are intended to achieve long-term balance and restoration, where possible, of salt-impacted groundwater basins.

Human Right to Water

57. Pursuant to Water Code section 106.3, subdivision (a), it is "the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." Although this Order is not subject to Water Code section 106.3, as it does not revise, adopt, or establish a policy, regulation, or grant criterion (see § 106.3, subd. (b)), it nevertheless promotes the policy by requiring discharges to meet MCLs for drinking water (excluding salinity), which are designed to protect human health and ensure that water is safe for domestic use. For salinity, this Order requires compliance with the Salt Control Program. Although the Basin Plans' Exceptions Policy for Salinity allows participants in the Salt Control Programs to obtain limited-term exceptions from the WQOs for salinity, the Salt Control Program is consistent with the Human Right to Water Policy because its over-arching management goals and priorities include long-term restoration of

impacted groundwater basins and sub-basins where reasonable, feasible, and practicable.

Threat-Complexity Rating

58. For the purposes of California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2200, the Facility has a threat-complexity rating of **3-C**

    a. Threat Category "3" reflects waste discharges that could either degrade water quality without violating water quality objectives, or cause beneficial use impairments that are minor relative to Categories 1 and 2.

    b. Complexity Category "C" reflects any discharger for which WDRs have been prescribed per Water Code section 13263, and not included in Category A or Category B.

Title 27 Exemption

59. This Order, which prescribes WDRs for discharges of nonhazardous wastewater to land, is exempt from the prescriptive requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 27 (Title 27), section 20005 et seq. (Title 27, § 20090, subd. (b).)

Scope of Order

60. This Order is strictly limited in scope to those waste discharges, activities, and processes described and expressly authorized herein. This Order is also strictly limited in applicability to those individuals and/or entities specifically designated herein as "Discharger."

61. Pursuant to Water Code section 13264, subdivision (a), the Discharger is prohibited from initiating the discharge of new wastes (i.e., other than those described herein), or making material changes to the character, volume, and/or timing of waste discharges authorized herein, without filing a new RWD per Water Code section 13260. Failure to file a new RWD before initiating material changes to the character, volume, or timing of discharges authorized herein shall constitute an independent violation of these WDRs.

Procedural Matters

62. All of the above information, as well as the information contained in the attached Information Sheet, was considered by the Central Valley Water Board in prescribing the WDRs set forth below.

63. The Dischargers, interested agencies, and other interested persons were notified of the Central Valley Water Board's intent to prescribe the WDRs in this Order,

and provided an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations at a public hearing. (See Water Code, § 13167.5.)

64. At a public meeting, the Central Valley Water Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharges regulated under this Order.

65. The Central Valley Water Board will review and revise the WDRs in this Order as necessary.

REQUIREMENTS

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Water Code sections 13263 and 13267, that the Discharger and their agents, employees, and successors shall comply with the following.

A. Standard Provisions

Except as expressly provided herein, the Discharger shall comply with the Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements dated 1 March 1991 (SPRRs), (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/st_provisions/wdr-mar1991.pdf) which are incorporated herein.

B. Discharge Prohibitions

2. Discharge of waste to surface waters or surface water drainage courses is prohibited.

3. Waste classified as “hazardous” (per Title 22 § 66261.1 et seq.), shall not be discharged at the Facility under any circumstance.

4. Waste constituents shall not be discharged or otherwise released from the Facility (including during treatment and storage activities) in a manner that results in:

   a. Violations of the Groundwater Limitations of this Order; or

   b. Conditions of “nuisance” or “pollution,” as defined per Water Code section 13050

5. Discharge of waste at a location or in a manner different from that described in the Findings is prohibited.

6. Concrete processing of any kind is prohibited.

7. The use of any chemical additives in the aggregate wash process is prohibited.

8. Discharge of process wastewater to the domestic wastewater treatment system (septic system) is prohibited.

9. Discharge of domestic wastewater to the excavation areas or ponds is prohibited.

C. Flow Action Level

1. This Order establishes an **Annual Flow Action Level of 225 million gallons**. Should the discharge of wastewater, not including suspended solids, to the settling pond exceed this action level, the Discharger shall submit a **Flow Action Report** that includes an evaluation of operations at the Facility and a determination of whether operations are consistent with the RWD and this Order. If it is determined that operations are inconsistent with the RWD and this Order, the Discharger may: 1) propose measures to decrease Facility flows to below the Annual Flow Action Level, or 2) provide a revised water balance to demonstrate that the Facility can manage the increased flows. The Flow Action Report shall be submitted **no later than 1 March of the year following exceedance** of the Annual Flow Action Level.

D. Salinity Limitations

1. To comply with the Salt Control Program, the Discharger has selected the Alternative Salinity Permitting Approach (i.e., participation in the P&O Study). Therefore, as discussed in the above Findings, these WDRs establish a performance-based effluent limitation for EC of **2,600 µmhos/cm** (as a monthly average concentration of effluent discharged to the settling pond [monitored at PND-001 in the MRP]).

E. Discharge Specifications

1. All systems and equipment shall be operated to optimize discharge quality.

2. Effluent flows to the pond shall not result in freeboard less than two feet, as measured from the water surface to the lowest point of overflow. If this freeboard limit is expected to be exceeded, discharges must cease or be directed to an alternative pond until sufficient capacity is available to resume discharging.

3. All conveyance, treatment, storage, and disposal systems shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to floods with a 100-year return frequency.

4. The Discharger shall design, construct, operate, and maintain the pond sufficiently to protect the integrity of containment dams and berms and prevent overtopping and/or structural failure. As a means of management and

to discern compliance with this requirement, the Discharger shall install and maintain a permanent staff gauge in the settling pond with calibration marks that clearly show the water level at design capacity and enable determination of available operational freeboard.

5. Wastewater treatment, storage, and disposal ponds or structures shall have sufficient capacity to accommodate allowable wastewater flow, design seasonal precipitation, and ancillary inflow and infiltration during the winter while ensuring compliance with all requirements of this Order. Design seasonal precipitation shall be based on total annual precipitation using a return period of 100 years, distributed monthly in accordance with historical rainfall patterns.

6. On or about **1 March** of each year, available capacity shall at least equal the volume necessary to comply with Discharge Specifications E.4 and E.5.

7. All ponds and open containment structures shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes. Specifically:

   a. An erosion control program shall be implemented to ensure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the water surface.

   b. Weeds shall be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, or herbicides.

   c. Dead algae, vegetation, and debris shall not accumulate on the water surface.

   d. The Discharger shall consult and coordinate with the local Mosquito Abatement District to minimize the potential for mosquito breeding as needed to supplement the above measures.

8. Objectionable odors shall not be perceivable beyond the limits of the Facility property at an intensity that creates or threatens to create nuisance conditions.

F. Groundwater Limitations

The Facility's discharges shall not cause or contribute to groundwater containing constituent concentrations in excess of the concentrations specified below or natural background groundwater quality, whichever is greater:

1. Constituent concentrations in excess of the Primary or Secondary MCLs established in Title 22, excluding salinity, or

2. Contain taste or odor-producing constituents, toxic substances, or any other constituents in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

G. Provisions

1. The Discharger shall comply with **MRP R5-2025-0021** and any revisions thereto as ordered by the Executive Officer. The submittal dates of Discharger self-monitoring reports shall be no later than the submittal date specified in the MRP.

2. A copy of this Order, including the operative MRP, Information Sheet, Attachments, and SPRRs, shall be kept at the Facility for reference by operating personnel. Key operating personnel shall be familiar with its contents.

3. The Discharger shall comply with the Salt Control Program by maintaining good standing with the P&O Study.

4. If flows to the Facility have been increasing, or are projected to increase, the Discharger shall estimate when flows will reach hydraulic and treatment capacities of its treatment, collection, and disposal facilities. The projections shall be made in January, based on the last three years' average dry weather flows, peak wet weather flows, and total annual flows, as appropriate. When any projection shows that capacity of any part of the facilities may be exceeded in four years, the discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board by 31 January.

5. In accordance with Business and Professions Code sections 6735, 7835, and 7835.1, engineering and geologic evaluations and judgments shall be performed by or under the direction of registered professionals competent and proficient in the fields pertinent to the required activities. All technical reports specified herein that contain workplans for investigations and studies, that describe the conduct of investigations and studies, or that contain technical conclusions and recommendations concerning engineering and geology shall be prepared by or under the direction of appropriately qualified professional(s), even if not explicitly stated. Each technical report submitted by the Discharger shall bear the professional’s signature and stamp.

6. The Discharger shall submit the technical reports and work plans required by this Order for consideration and shall incorporate comments from the Central Valley Water Board may have in a timely manner, as appropriate. Unless expressly stated otherwise in this Order, the Discharger shall proceed with all work required by the foregoing provisions by the due dates specified.

7. The Discharger shall comply with all conditions of this Order, including timely submittal of technical and monitoring reports. On or before each report due date, the Discharger shall submit the specified document to the Central Valley Water Board or, if appropriate, a written report detailing compliance or noncompliance with the specific schedule date and task. If noncompliance is being reported, then the Discharger shall state the reasons for such noncompliance and provide an estimate of the date when the Discharger will be in compliance. The Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing when it returns to compliance with the time schedule. Violations may result in enforcement action, including Central Valley Water Board or court orders requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability, or in revision or rescission of this Order.

8. The Discharger shall, at all times, properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) that are installed or used by the Discharger to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems that are installed by the Discharger when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Order.

9. The Discharger shall use the best practicable cost-effective control technique(s) including proper operation and maintenance, to comply with this Order.

10. As described in the SPRRs, the Discharger shall report promptly to the Central Valley Water Board any material changes or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.

11. The Discharger shall report to the Central Valley Water Board any toxic chemical release data it reports to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) within 15 days, pursuant to section 313 of the "Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986."

12. In the event of any change in control or ownership of the Facility, the Discharger must notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this Order by letter, a copy of which shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Valley Water Board.

13. To assume operation as Discharger under this Order, the succeeding owner or operator must apply in writing to the Executive Officer requesting transfer of the Order. The request must contain the requesting entity's full legal name, the state of incorporation if a corporation, the name and

address and telephone number of the persons responsible for contact with the Central Valley Water Board, and a statement of responsibility (the statement shall comply with the signatory paragraph of SPRRs, Standard Provision B.3, and state that the new owner or operator assumes full responsibility for compliance with this Order). Failure to submit the request shall be considered a discharge without requirements, a violation of the Water Code. If approved by the Executive Officer, the transfer request will be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board for its consideration of transferring the ownership of this Order at one of its regularly scheduled meetings.

14. In order to terminate WDRs that are no longer necessary because the discharge to land permitted under this Order has ceased, the Discharger must contact the Central Valley Water Board to discuss appropriate wastewater treatment system closure requirements.

15. The Central Valley Water Board will review this Order periodically and will revise requirements when necessary.

ENFORCEMENT

If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Discharger fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may refer this matter to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement, may issue a complaint for administrative civil liability, or may take other enforcement actions. Failure to comply with this Order may result in the assessment of Administrative Civil Liability of up to $10,000 per violation, per day, depending on the violation, pursuant to Water Code sections 13268, 13350, and 13385. The Central Valley Water Board reserves its right to take any enforcement actions authorized by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Any person aggrieved by this Central Valley Water Board action may petition the State Water Board for review in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050 et seq. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day after the date of this Order; if the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions are available on the Internet (at the address below) and will be provided upon request.

(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality)

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A — Site Location Map

ATTACHMENT B — Facility Site Map

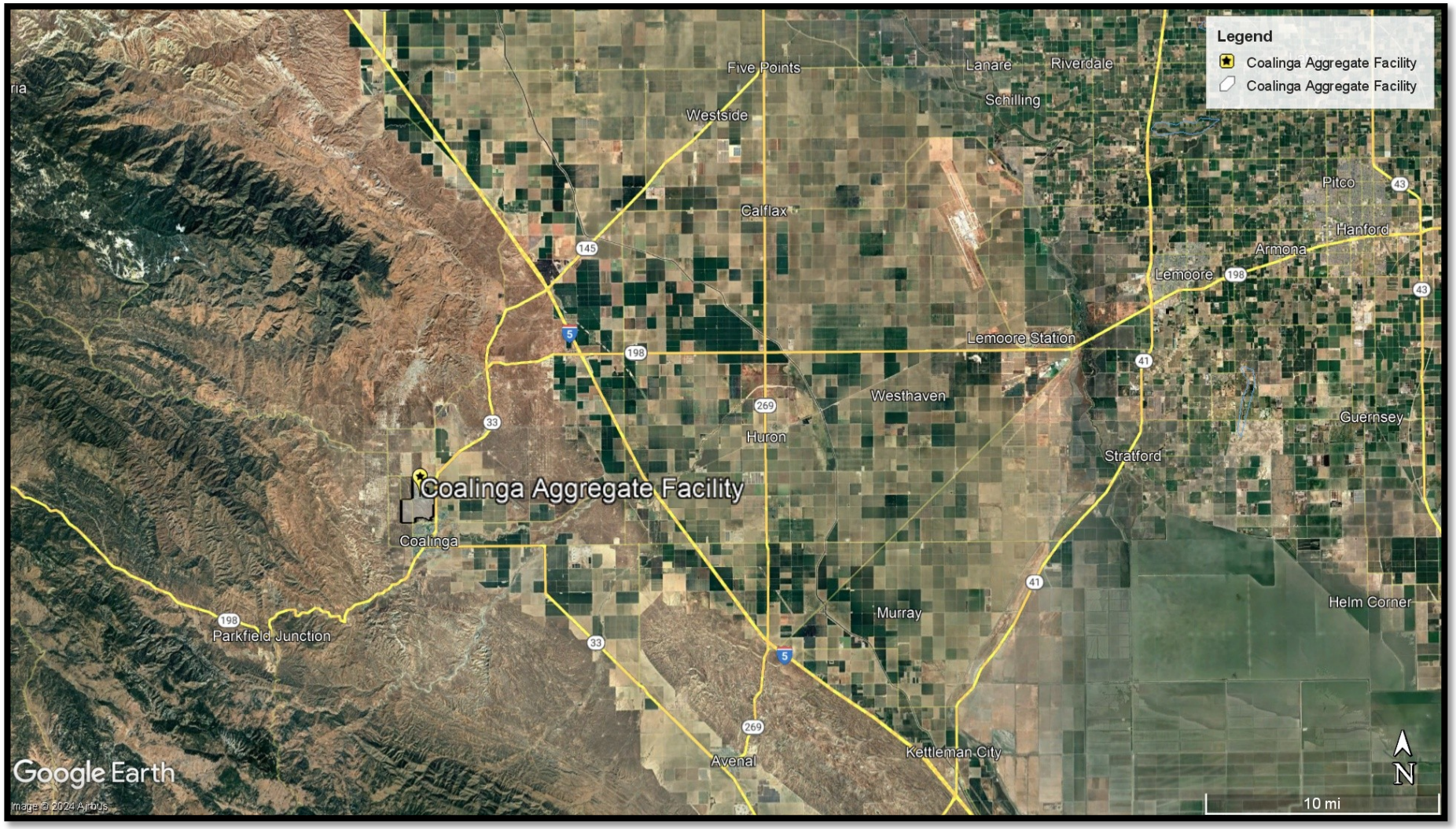
ATTACHMENT C — Process Flow Schematic

Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements

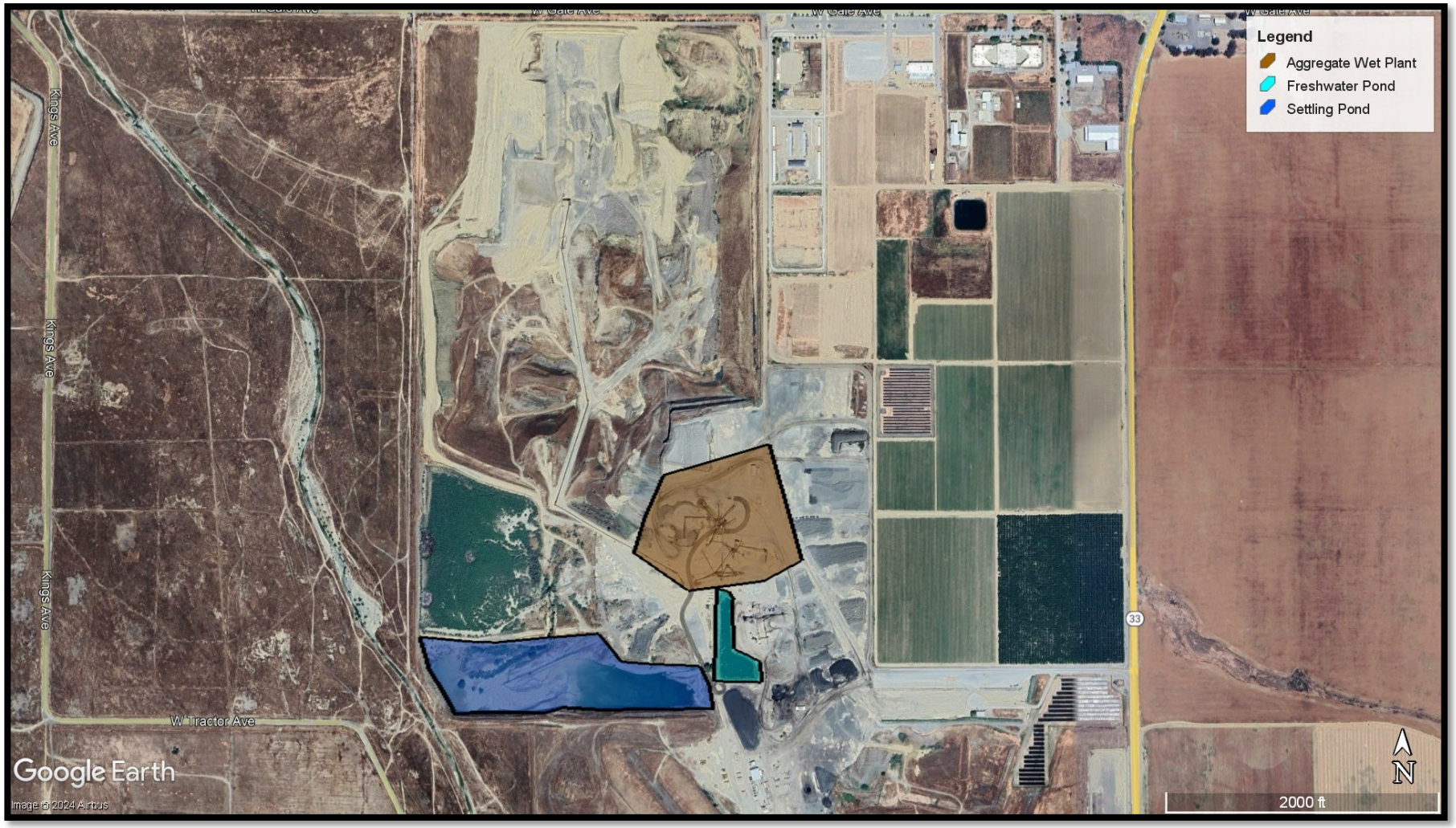
Information Sheet

Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2025-0021

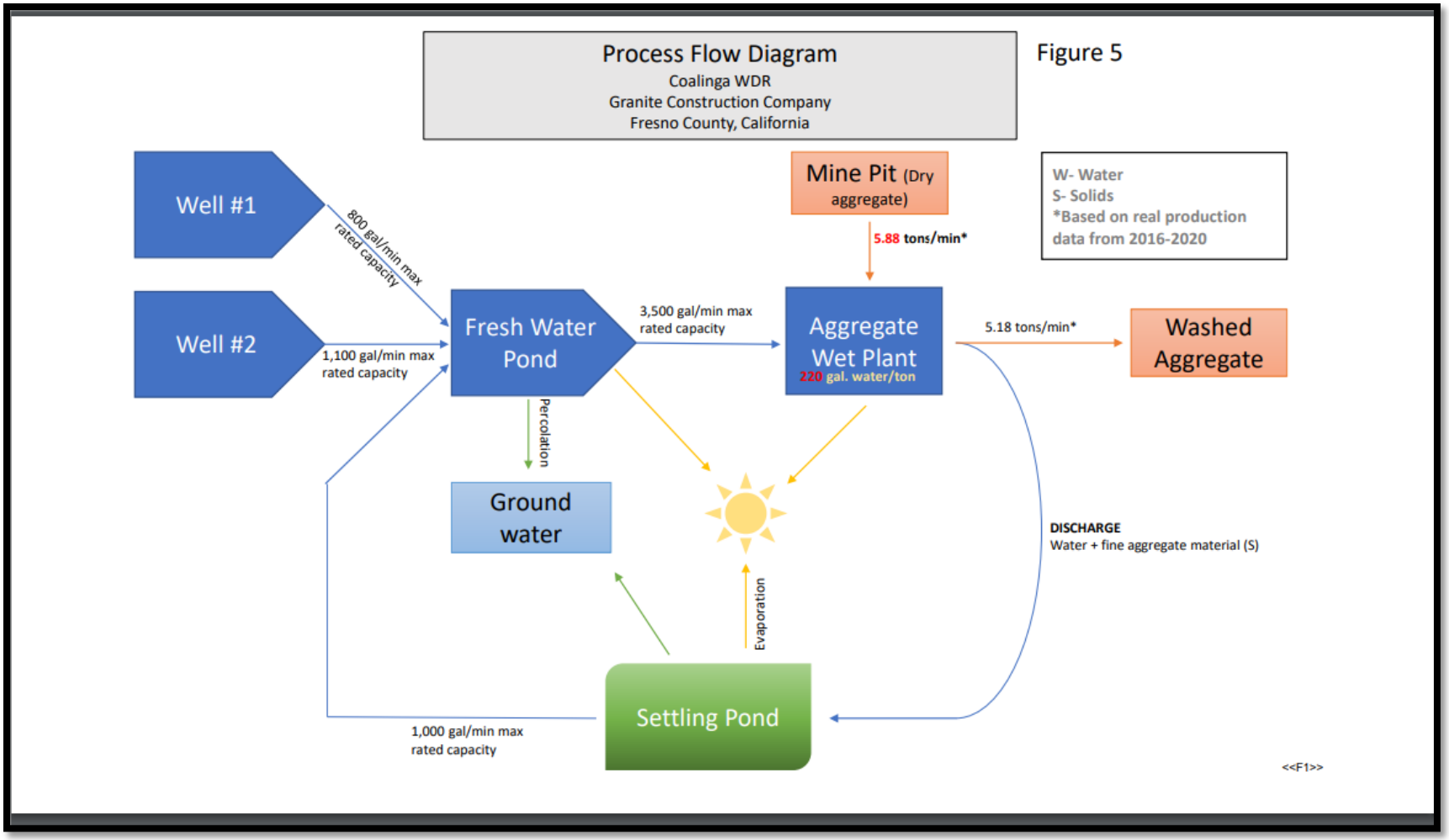
ATTACHMENT A — Site Location Map



ATTACHMENT B — Facility Site Map



ATTACHMENT C — Process Flow Schematic



CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2025-0021
for
Granite Construction Company
Coalinga Aggregates
Fresno County

INFORMATION SHEET

BACKROUND

Granite Construction Company (Granite) owns and operates Coalinga Aggregates (Facility) in Coalinga, Fresno County, which is located on land also owned by Granite Construction Company. Hereafter, Granite is referred to as Discharger. Aggregate mining at the Facility has occurred since before the 1960s. The Discharger purchased the Facility in 1984 and continued operations since then. Operations at the Facility consist of excavation, sorting, washing, storage, and transport of extracted aggregate material (sand and gravel). According to the Discharger, the Facility produced approximately 633,000 tons (annual average) of aggregate material between 2020 and 2024.

On 6 July 2020, Central Valley Water Board staff (Staff) received a notice of public hearing from Fresno County for a July 2020 Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. In a 6 August 2020 email, Staff notified the County that the Facility was operating without Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and explained the need for submittal of a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for potential discharges of wastewater (including aggregate wash water) that could affect groundwater quality.

On 22 December 2021, a RWD was submitted to the Central Valley Water Board by Chang Consultants on behalf of the Discharger. The RWD was prepared and stamped by Wayne W. Chang (RCE No. 46548). Following Staff's review of the RWD, the Executive Officer issued Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R5-2022-0824 for the Facility on 22 December 2022 requiring the Discharger to monitor and characterize the Facility's discharge until the Central Valley Water Boad adopted WDRs and a revised MRP for this Facility.

WASTEWATER GENERATION AND DISPOSAL

Aggregates mined at the Facility are washed onsite in a closed loop system. Source water for the washing operations is supplied from two onsite wells that are pumped into a freshwater pond. The freshwater pond consists of a mix of well water and decanted wash water pumped from the settling pond. The water from the freshwater pond is pumped to the aggregate wet plant by two separate pumps and conveyed through 14-inch HDPE pipes. At the wet plant, the water is pressurized through booster pumps and

used in various wash process components, including wash screens, a scrubber, fine screws, and separators. Following the wash process, wash water is directed to a settling pond via an open gravity flume and then a 30” underground HDPE pipe. The Discharger reported that 204.7 million gallons of water was discharged to settling pond in 2024.

The process wash water is then discharged at the northern shallow end of the settling pond and suspended fines and solids settle out as wash water flows to the deeper southern end of the settling pond. Fines and solids settle out in the settling pond, which is a repurposed pit from previous mining operations. Once fines and solids have filled to the elevation of the discharge pipe, the settling pond is retired, and the process wash water is discharged to a new pond. The current settling pond is not uniform and varies in depth between 50 and 60 feet, has a surface area of 21.91 square-acres, and has a capacity of 254 million gallons while maintaining 2 feet of freeboard. The 2023 Annual Monitoring Report indicated that the pond was observed to have 55-feet of free board. There are berms along the perimeter of the current settling pond that are 7-feet high and 24-feet wide with approximately 2:1 interior and exterior slopes. In addition to receiving the process wastewater, the settling pond also collects stormwater from the Facility.

Decanted water within the settling pond may be pumped back into the freshwater pond for reuse in the wash process. There is no water treatment system at this Facility and no flocculants are used in the settling process.

GROUNDWATER CONSIDERATIONS

There is no groundwater monitoring well network associated with the Facility. According to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Data Viewer, depth to groundwater from Spring 2022 to Fall 2023 varies from 425-450 feet bgs underlying the facility. Review of groundwater elevation contours available from the SGMA Data Viewer indicates that the regional groundwater flow direction near the Facility flows northeast.

According to the RWD, DWR data from a well located just northwest of the Facility (Well No. 20S15E20D001M) indicated that the shallowest depth to groundwater measurement between 2019 and 2021 was 413.5 feet bgs, collected in March 2020. More recent data collected from this well, on 10 October 2023, indicates that the depth to groundwater was about 487 feet bgs.

The Facility obtains its source water from two onsite wells (Wells 1 and 2). These wells are monitored annually per MRP R5-2022-0824 and were also sampled in 2021 in preparation of the RWD. Based on the data collected in 2021 and from 2023 to 2024 groundwater underlying the facility is of poor quality with regard to manganese, salinity, and marginal with regard to iron, as discussed in the Findings.

INFORMATION SHEET

ANTIDEGRADATION

Antidegradation analysis and conclusions are discussed in Findings 48 through 54 of the Order.

DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS, LIMITATIONS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND PROVISIONS

This Order specifies an effluent flow action level of **225 million gallons per year**. Only wash water generated from the washing of aggregate is allowed to be discharged to the settling pond onsite, any other wastewater stream is prohibited.

This Order sets an effluent Performance-Based Salinity Limit of **2,600 µmhos/cm for EC** as a monthly average. This limit is based on effluent data collected by the Discharger and reported in the 2021 RWD and self-monitoring reports required by MRP R5-2022-0824. By choosing to participate in the P&O Study, the Discharger may continue implementing reasonable, feasible, and practicable efforts to control salinity through performance-based measures.

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Section 13267 of the California Water Code authorizes the Central Valley Water Board to require monitoring and technical reports as necessary to investigate the impact of waste discharges on waters of the State. Water Code Section 13268 authorizes assessment of civil administrative liability where appropriate. The Order includes wastewater, pond, and groundwater monitoring requirements. This monitoring is necessary to characterize the discharge and evaluate any impacts to groundwater and compliance with the requirements and specifications in the Order.

SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

As part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments (Resolution R5-2018-0034) incorporating new programs for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the waters and soils of the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting. On 16 October 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted Resolution No. 2019-0057 conditionally approving the Central Valley Water Board Basin Plan amendments and directing the Central Valley Water Board to make targeted revisions to the Basin Plan amendments within one year from the approval of the Basin Plan amendments by the Office of Administrative Law. The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the Basin Plan amendments on 15 January 2020. (OAL Matter No. 2019-1203-03).

INFORMATION SHEET

For the Salt Control Program, the Discharger submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to participate in the Prioritization and Optimization Study (P&O Study) on 17 September 2021. The Discharger has been assigned **CV-SALTS ID 3621**.

The Nitrate Control Program is a prioritized program. The Facility is within Groundwater Basin 5-022.10 (San Joaquin Valley – Pleasant Valley), which is a Non-Prioritized Basin. Dischargers in these basins have not been sent Notices to Comply with the Nitrate Control Program. Nevertheless, a Notice to Comply with the Nitrate Control Program may be issued at a later date if the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer determines it is necessary to protect water quality. Under these circumstances, it may be necessary to modify this order to incorporate applicable Nitrate Control Program findings and requirements.

Some sand and gravel processing facilities within the Central Valley have been determined to be exempt from the Nitrate Control Program because the typical washing processes conducted at such facilities have not been observed to increase nitrogen concentrations in the resultant wastewater. Available information for the Facility indicates that its operations do not increase nitrogen concentrations in the wastewater. Therefore, the Facility is currently considered exempt from compliance with the Nitrate Control Program. However, the Executive Officer may issue a Notice To Comply for the Facility in the future if it is determined that the Facility's discharge could be impacting nitrogen concentrations in groundwater.

The CV-SALTS initiative will result in regulatory changes that will be implemented through conditional prohibitions and modifications to many WDRs regionwide, including the WDRs that regulate discharges from the Facility. More information regarding the CV-SALTS regulatory planning process can be found at the following link: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/

REOPENER

The conditions of discharge in the Order were developed based on currently available technical information and applicable water quality laws, regulations, policies, and plans, and are intended to assure conformance with them. The Order sets limitations based on the information provided thus far. If applicable laws and regulations change, or once new information is obtained that will change the overall discharge and its potential to impact groundwater, it may be appropriate to reopen the Order.