

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

30 June 2025

Brady Whitlow
Cortopassi Partners, L.P.
Corto Olive Mill
11292 N. Alpine Road
Stockton, CA 95212

Certified Mail
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL FOOD PROCESSORS, WINERIES, AND RELATED AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER R5-2025-0002

CORTO OLIVE MILL, CORTOPASSI PARTNERS, L.P., SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

On 21 February 2025, 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 R5-2025-0002 (the Waiver).

We are in receipt of your Notice of Intent (NOI), dated 29 May 2025, which stated that you intend to comply with Tier 3 conditions of the Waiver. Based on information provided in the NOI, we have determined that the discharge meets the required conditions for approval under the Waiver. You are hereby assigned

Order R5-2025-0002-0006. A copy of the Waiver is enclosed and also available on the [Water Board's adopted orders web page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2025-0002_res.pdf).

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2025-0002_res.pdf)

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). Wine waste must be managed and discharged in accordance with the requirements contained in the Conditions of Discharge and with the information submitted in the NOI.

DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

Corto Olive Mill is located at 10201 E. Live Oak Road, Stockton in San Joaquin County. The olive mill is owned and operated by Cortopassi Partners, L.P. Tier 3 allows land application of up to 1,000,000 gallons of wastewater per year for irrigation of

landscaping or crops and land application of residual solids (pomace and lees) associated with that volume of wastewater. A minimum of one acre of land application area per 100,000 gallons of discharged wastewater and associated residual solids is required. Any process wastewater or residual solids generated in excess of those amounts must be disposed of off-site at an appropriately permitted facility.

The olive mill processes approximately 30,000 tons of olives per year. Wastewater is generated during olive fruit washing and facility washdown and cleaning (approximately 400,000 gallons per year [gpy]). Flow volumes may increase over the years to approximately 900,000 gpy. Approximately 8,500 gpy of boiler blowdown and water softener regenerate are generated, collected in an above-ground tote, and trucked off-site for disposal at the Easy Bay MUD Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Process wastewater is collected in floor drains and directed to two 2,000-gallon underground storage tanks (Attachment A). Transfer pumps convey the water to four 10,000-gallon above ground storage tanks connected in series. Wastewater is then sent through screens and a flow meter to the irrigation manifold. Supplemental irrigation water from an agricultural well is blended with the wastewater at the manifold.

Wastewater is used to irrigate 10 acres, cropped with triticale. This volume meets the requirements of the Waiver as 900,000 gallons of wastewater requires a minimum of 9 acres of LAAs to be available. The fields are sprinkler irrigated and bermed to keep wastewater on-site.

Approximately 25,000 tons of solids generated at the facility and include olive pomace, leaves, and stems. Solids can be land applied, but are generally transported off-site for use as animal feed. Based on the Discharger's annual monitoring reports, in 2023 and 2024, 100% of solids generated were transported off-site and no solids were land applied. Approximately 161 acres are available for land application if it occurs (see Table 1).

Table 1. Land Application Areas

Acres	APN	Crop Type
119 acres	063-100-32	Triticale (approximately 10 acres for the application of wastewater) Olive Trees (approximately 109 acres for the application of solids)
52 acres	063-100-33	Olive Trees (solids application)

Salt and Nitrate Control Programs

In May 2018, 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 Central Valley (i.e., Salt and Nitrate Control Programs). The Basin Plan Amendments were revised by the Central Valley Water Board in 2020 with Resolution R5-2020-0057 and became effective on 17 January 2020.

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5_2020_0057_res.pdf).

For the Salt Control Program, the Discharger submitted a Notice to Intent and elected to participate in the Prioritization and Optimization (P&O) Study under the Alternative Salinity Permitting Approach (**CV-SALTS ID: 2933 for Corto Olive Mill**).

For the Nitrate Control Program, the Winery and related disposal areas are within a Priority 2 basin. The Discharger has elected to enroll in Pathway 2 (Management Zone Permitting Approach) and has joined the Valley Water Collaboration. More information on the Nitrate Control Program can be found at the [CV-SALTS Nitrate](https://www.cvsalinity.org/nitrate-program/) website (<https://www.cvsalinity.org/nitrate-program/>).

As these strategies are implemented, the Central Valley Water Board may find it necessary to modify the requirements of this NOA to ensure the goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are met. 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).

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.

Quarterly Monitoring Reports must be submitted to our office even if there is no discharge during the reporting year. Quarterly Monitoring Reports are due the first day of the second month after the quarter ends (e.g., the January-March Quarterly Report is due by 1 May).

When solids are land applied, the Discharger has voluntarily agreed to include in the Fourth Quarter Monitoring Reports the approximate volume of solids discharged to land for that monitoring year, the approximate number of acres that received solids, and an approximate percentage of moisture of the applied solids.

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 NOI and the Notice of Applicability.

Please review this Notice of Applicability carefully to ensure 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. Discharges of wastes not described in the Conditions of Discharge (Attachment A) of the Waiver is prohibited.

Please note that the Waiver will expire on **21 February 2030**, 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.

DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS

All monitoring reports and other correspondences should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents 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: Corto Olive Mill, San Joaquin County		
Program: Non-15 Compliance	Order: R5-2025-0002-0006	CIWQS Place ID: 807559

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 bkenny@waterboards.ca.gov.

for Patrick Pulupa,
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Conditional Waiver of WDRs, Order R5-2025-0002
cc w/o encl: San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department, Stockton
cc w/ encl: David Garci-Aguirra, Corto Olive Mill, Stockton

