

**21 FEBRUARY 2025 BOARD MEETING  
UNCONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM: 13**

**SUBJECT:**

The following are proposed Waste Discharge Requirements Orders that regulate discharges to waters of the state. All agencies and the dischargers concur or have offered no comments. Items indicated as updates on the summary agenda make the requirements consistent with current plans and policies of the Board.

**BOARD ACTION:**

Consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements.

**BACKGROUND:**

**A) CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, 06-0W920 GRAPEVINE  
REHABILITATION PROJECT, KERN COUNTY**

The 06-0W920 Grapevine Rehabilitation Project consists of the replacement and resurfacing of the existing roadway and rehabilitation of fourteen culverts on Interstate 5. Project activities in waters of the state include culvert replacements, culvert linings and the installation of new culvert systems. The Project is needed to preserve and extend the existing pavement and improve ride quality on Interstate 5. The tentative Order would regulate the discharge of fill to waters of the state associated with the culvert work and require compensatory mitigation for the permanent impacts to the waters.

The tentative Order was circulated for a public comment period on 12 December 2024 with comments due by 13 January 2025.

**B) WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL FOOD  
PROCESSORS AND RELATED AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS WITHIN THE  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION, REGION WIDE**

Water Code section 13269 authorizes the Central Valley Water Board to conditionally waive the requirements to submit Reports of Waste Discharge (RWDs) and to issue Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), as set forth in Water Code sections 13260, 13263, and 13264, for specific discharges or types of discharges of waste.

On 26 March 1982, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Resolution 82-036, which waived WDRs for 23 categories of discharges, including “food processing wastes spread on land.” In adopting this Waiver, the Central Valley Water Board acted as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.) and adopted a Negative Declaration, dated 23 December 1981, determining that the adoption of Resolution 82-036 would not result in a significant environmental impact.

In 1999, California Senate Bill (SB) 390 amended Water Code section 13269, causing all existing waivers to automatically expire on 1 January 2003, and new waivers could not exceed a term of five years but may be renewed. On 11 July 2003, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Resolution R5-2003-0106, *Waiver of WDRs for Small Food Processors, Including Wineries, Within the Central Valley Region*, which waived WDRs for certain small food processors and wineries. The Waiver has been renewed three times since 2003, via Resolutions R5-2009-0097, R5-2015-0005, and R5-2020-0002.

The Central Valley Water Board has reviewed the Waiver previously issued under Resolution R5-2020-0002 and has determined that a waiver of WDRs for discharges from small food processors and regulated agricultural processors poses a low threat to the quality of waters of the state and is consistent with all applicable state or regional water quality control plans; therefore, the waiver of WDRs for these activities should be renewed.

**C) CITY OF CHICO PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, HUMBOLDT ROAD BURN DUMP OPERATIONAL UNIT AND HUMBOLDT ROAD PRIVATE PROPERTIES OPERATIONAL UNIT, BUTTE COUNTY**

City of Chico Public Works Department (Discharger) owns the Humboldt Road Burn Dump Operational Unit (Burn Unit) and Humboldt Road Private Properties Operational Unit (Private Unit), located along the northeastern perimeter of Chico in Butte County. The Burn Unit covers approximately 9 acres, while the Private Unit covers approximately 8 acres. A review of the Department of Water Resources records indicates four domestic, industrial, and agricultural supply wells within one mile of the Facility.

The Burn Unit contains approximately 310,000 cubic yards of compacted waste placed within the Burn Unit, and waste from adjacent land consolidated within the Burn Unit. From June to September 2005, approximately 65,000 cubic yards of identified burn ash and waste debris were removed from adjacent properties, transported, and then consolidated with existing waste at the Burn Unit. The compacted waste was covered with 12 inches of sand, a 40-mil double-sided textured linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE) synthetic liner, and a one-foot thick vegetative layer. A passive gas extraction system, leachate collection and removal system (LCRS), and temporary storm water diversion structures were installed to prevent potential water quality impacts. The Private Unit contains approximately 100,000 cubic yards of compacted Burn Unit waste, and waste from adjacent land consolidated within the Private Unit. Between July 2004 and May 2005, approximately 176,000 loose cubic yards of identified burn ash and waste debris were removed from adjacent properties, transported, and consolidated with the existing waste in the Private Unit. The compacted waste was covered with a two-foot foundation layer, a 60-mil textured high-density polyethylene (HDPE) liner, and a one-foot thick vegetative layer. The Burn Unit and the Private Unit are unlined.

The Units are located along the westernmost slope of the Sierra Nevada foothills and are underlain by highly cemented deposits of an unnamed fanglomerate present throughout a wide area along the foothills east of Chico. Groundwater underneath the Facility is first encountered between approximately 8 and 44 feet below ground surface (bgs). Three monitoring wells (MW-1, MW-2 and MW-4) monitor the Burn Unit, while an additional three monitoring wells (MW-5, MW-6 and MW-7) serve the Private Unit. Monitoring wells MW-4, MW-6 and MW-7 consistently produce no groundwater. The Burn Unit has an LCRS sump near the northwestern toe of the unit, while the Private Unit has a leachate toe drain equipped

with an outlet pipe, which is closed with a valve. The Private Unit has not produced leachate in 12 years, while the Burn Unit produces leachate consistently that is sent to the Chico Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The Burn Unit has three passive gas vents along its final cover, while the Private Unit has a single vent. No vadose zone sampling is performed at the landfills. Wastes within the landfills include broken glass, bottles, rusted metal, concrete rubble, rocks, soil, and burn ash with elevated concentrations of heavy metals. Lead, antimony, and arsenic are the predominant waste constituents of concern. Laboratory analysis of samples collected from waste indicates that some heavy metal concentrations exceed hazardous waste criteria. However, extraction tests show that the waste in the landfills is not soluble to the extent that they pose a threat to groundwater.

This Order updates the WDRs for the Facility as part of a periodic review, to incorporate revisions to regulations and policies adopted thereunder, and for continued monitoring of the Facility. There are no issues associated with the requested changes. The tentative Order was issued for a public comment period on 1 November 2024 with comments due by 2 December 2024.

#### **D) CITY OF SACRAMENTO, 28TH STREET LANDFILL, SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

The City of Sacramento (Discharger) owns and operates the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Landfill (Facility), which is located in the City of Sacramento in Sacramento County. The Facility is situated on a 172-acre property.

The Facility consists of two classified landfill units covering 107 acres east of 28th Street (WMUs A and B), and two older, unclassified, and unlined fill areas west (22.5 acres) and north (16 acres) of 28th Street. The west and north areas combined are also known as the West Site area. WMU A is a 79.5-acre unlined unit in the northern part of the site and WMU B is a 27.5-acre clay-lined expansion unit immediately south of WMU A.

An additional 6.5 acres associated with Cannon and Scollan Properties (CSP) acquired by the City in 2016-2017 will be added to the Facility at the time of adoption of these WDRs. The 6.5-acre CSP consists of two existing unlined WMUs totaling 4.5 acres that will be classified as a Class III WMU.

The Discharger's 2020 Joint Technical Document (JTD) included a final closure cover design for the CSP that was not initially protective of water quality. Following several iterations, the Discharger proposed a final closure cover over CSP that is protective of water quality.

These revised WDRs incorporate the CSP into the 28th Street Landfill WDRs and approve the proposed final closure cover over the CSP. The revised WDRs include post closure maintenance, receiving water quality monitoring, and corrective action measures to protect and restore waters of the state.

#### **E) COUNTY OF KERN, TAFT RECYCLING & SANITARY LANDFILL, KERN COUNTY**

The County of Kern (Discharger) owns and operates the Taft Recycling & Sanitary Landfill (Facility), which is located approximately three miles north of the City of Taft in Kern County.

The Facility contains one inactive, unlined Class III WMUs (Module 1) covering a total of approximately 34 acres, two active composite-lined Class III WMUs (Modules 2 and 3) covering 11 and 9 acres, and one planned Class III WMU (Module 4) covering 17 acres.

The Facility is currently regulated by existing Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2012-0066 (Order). The tentative WDRs propose updates to the existing Order as part of a policy of administrative review. The proposed order would update the existing Order for construction, monitoring, operation, and corrective action.

Comments were received from the Discharger and the tentative WDRs were revised. The comments and staff responses are included in the Response to Comments document.

**F) GONZAGA RIDGE WIND FARM, LLC, GONZAGA RIDGE WIND FARM REPOWERING PROJECT, MERCED COUNTY**

The Gonzaga Ridge Wind Farm Repowering Project is a renewable wind energy generation development to be constructed and operated in Pacheco State Park in Merced County by Gonzaga Ridge Wind Farm, LLC. The Project will replace existing older model turbines and upgrade an existing wind energy facility with substantially fewer and more efficient wind turbines and associated facilities within Pacheco State Park. It is the second phase for the Gonzaga Ridge Site.

Temporary fill, grading, excavation, and/or ground-disturbance impacts to several surface waters would occur because of new or improved construction access for new infrastructure, decommissioning, underground collection (fiber optic cabling) installation, site preparation, and installation of best management practices. The tentative Order would regulate the discharge of fill associated with the aforementioned activities to waters of the state.

The tentative Order was circulated for a public comment period on 13 December 2024 with comments due by 13 January 2025.

**G) JEN CALIFORNIA 26, LLC, STONE BEETLAND PROJECT, SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

A tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order (Order) is proposed for the Jen California 26, LLC (Permittee), Stone Beetland Project (Project) in Sacramento County. The 122-acre project will construct approximately 1,163 residential units. Construction of the Project will result in the placement of fill material into 0.32 acres/2,598 linear feet of waters of the state.

The tentative Order was circulated for a public comment period on 12 December 2024 with comments due by 13 January 2025.

**H) MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, BILLY WRIGHT SOLID WASTE LANDFILL, MERCED COUNTY**

Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority (Discharger) owns and operates the Billy Wright Solid Waste Landfill (Facility), which is located approximately eight miles west of the City of Los Banos in Merced County. The Facility consists of one unlined waste management unit (WMU) covering 39.8 acres (Phase 1) and three composite-lined WMUs

(Phase 2A, 2B, and 2C). All of Phase 2 covers 24.8 acres. Phase 3 is planned for future expansion and will cover 37.2 acres. Surface Impoundment 1 is planned to manage leachate generated at the Facility and will cover 1.6 acres. The facility is currently regulated by existing Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2023-0011.

The tentative WDRs Order would update the existing Order to allow for the construction and operation of a Class II surface impoundment, as well as assorted updates relating to construction, monitoring, corrective action, and operation.

Comments were received from the Discharger and the tentative WDRs were revised. The comments and staff responses are included in the Response to Comments document.

**I) MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY,  
HIGHWAY 59 SOLID WASTE LANDFILL, MERCED COUNTY**

Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority (Discharger) owns and operates the Highway 59 Solid Waste Landfill (Facility), which is located approximately six miles north of the City of Merced in Merced County. The Facility contains four closed, unlined Class III WMUs (Phases 1-4) covering a total of approximately 89 acres, one inactive single-composite lined Class III WMU (Phase 5) covering 25 acres, one active single-composite lined Class III WMU (Phase 6) covering 140 acres, two Class II Surface Impoundments, and three storm water retention basins.

The Facility is currently regulated by existing Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2014-0139 and Revised MRP Order R5-2014-0139-01. The tentative WDRs would update the existing WDRs Order as part of a policy of administrative review and to allow for acceptance of the additional proposed materials. The proposed order updates the existing WDRs for construction, monitoring, operation, corrective action, and post-closure maintenance

Comments were received from the Discharger and the tentative WDRs were revised. The comments and staff responses are included in the Response to Comments document.

**J) PACIFIC COAST PRODUCERS, INC., OROVILLE PROCESSING FACILITY AND  
PALERMO LAND APPLICATION AREA, BUTTE COUNTY**

Pacific Coast Producers, Inc., (Discharger) owns and operates a fruit processing facility (Facility) located in Oroville that generates process wastewater that is conveyed and discharged to a land application area (LAA) owned by the Discharger located approximately 6.5-miles south of the Facility, south of Palermo. The discharge is currently regulated pursuant to Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2017-0023.

The Facility produces canned fruit, including peaches, pears, and fruit cocktail (mixed fruit in single serve plastic bowls, with fruit and syrup or fruit and gel combinations). Process wastewater is generated during fruit washing, equipment sanitation, and product transfers. Process wastewater and some of the storm water from the Facility are transported from the Facility to the LAA in a 6 ½-mile pipeline. For final disposal, the process wastewater and storm water are applied to an approximately 409-acre LAA, which currently consists of 11 fields and three un-lined ponds. The Discharger is proposing to add an additional 84 acres to the LAA.

During the last five years the Facility has discharged an average of approximately 164.14 million gallons per year.

Comments were received from Jo Anne Kipps, an interested person.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the proposed Waste Discharge Requirements.

**REVIEWS:**

Management Review:	
Legal Review:	

**BOARD MEETING LOCATION:**

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

***AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE***