20 JUNE 2025 BOARD MEETING
UNCONTESTED AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM: 16

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) COUNTY OF YOLO DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, YOLO COUNTY CENTRAL LANDFILL, YOLO COUNTY

The County of Yolo, Department of Community Services (Discharger) owns the Facility and operates the landfill. The Discharger utilizes third-party contractors to operate certain permitted activities, including an onsite composting facility. The proposed WDRs represent a significant comprehensive update to multiple existing WDRs for the 1,048-acre Facility – including implementing the Discharger's request to combine three (3) existing WDRs relating to the Facility into one (1) Facility-wide WDRs.

Activities permitted by the proposed WDRs would include construction, operation, post-closure maintenance for at least seven (7) solid waste management units, four (4) Class II surface impoundments, two (2) composting facilities, several ancillary activities, and multiple corrective action related tasks at the Facility, including oversight of water levels in an adjacent borrow site and an onsite groundwater storage reservoir, and regulation of an onsite land application and reuse area – all related to ongoing corrective action for groundwater elevation control beneath closed unlined landfill units.

These proposed WDRs would establish a pathway for the Discharger to comply with minimum prescriptive groundwater separation requirements beneath the closed unlined landfill units by either 1.) Completing full buildout of an existing groundwater extraction system; or 2.) After performing certain tasks to the satisfaction of the Central Valley Water Board, applying for updated WDRs which consider an alternative minimum numeric groundwater separation distance that will afford at least equivalent water quality protection to the prescriptive 5' minimum groundwater separation requirement.

These WDRs would also establish a process for the Discharger to design, construct, and operate a Class II surface impoundment with the dual purpose of containing discharges from the onsite "Compost Facility #2" under normal operations, and containing leachate generated at the Facility as "emergency" needs arise. These WDRs define and establish Emergency Use and Return to Normal Operation (EURNO) procedures for the "dual purpose" Class II surface impoundment.

B) RICHLAND PLANNED COMMUNITIES, INC., TREASURE PROJECT, SACRAMENTO COUNTY

A tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order (Order) is proposed for the Richland Planned Communities, Inc. (Permittee), Treasure Project (Project) in Sacramento County. The 42-acre Project is part of the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan. Mass grading in preparation for residential construction will result in the fill of 12.38-acres of seasonal wetland and a drainage ditch to construct residential units and to satisfy regional drainage and circulation requirements for surrounding development and city infrastructure.
The proposed Laguna Ridge Specific Plan development will consist of:

- Residential lots/homes in a variety of sizes, with densities ranging from 3 lots per acre to 7 lots per acre.
- A 2.99-acre park at the southeastern corner, adjacent to an existing master-planned stormwater detention/water quality basin.

The Project will widen Bilby Road on its northern side to add curb, gutter, and a detached sidewalk along the Project frontage. Interior roads will connect to Bilby Road on the south end and to adjacent development to the north that is currently under construction.

C) SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND FOOTHILL SANITARY LANDFILL, INC., FOOTHILL SANITARY LANDFILL, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

San Joaquin County Department of Public Works (County) and Foothill Sanitary Landfill, Inc. (jointly referred to as "Discharger") respectively own and operate the Foothill Sanitary Landfill (Facility), which is located approximately 17 miles east of Stockton in San Joaquin County. The Facility is situated on an 800-acre property.

The Facility is currently regulated under WDRs R5-2015-0058. On 6 June 2023, the Dischargers submitted the Foothill Leachate Compliance Plan to address the short-term and long-term management of leachate and stay in compliance with the current WDRs. On 7 March 2024, the Dischargers submitted a Design Basis Report for a proposed Class II surface impoundment as a long-term solution for leachate management.

These amended WDRs incorporate the construction of a Class II surface impoundment. The proposed Order also requests for the Dischargers to submit final design and construction plans for approval prior to construction. The proposed Order also requests an updated amended Report of Waste Discharge Plan, Post-Closure Maintenance Plan, Operations and Maintenance Plan, Detection and Monitoring Report, and a Water Quality Protection Standard Report.

D) SHERWOOD HILLS, LLC, JAY LLC, STEIR BERTON TRUST, HOMEWOOD MOUNTAIN PARTNERS, LLC, FAMOSO HILLS RANCH, LLC, YUROSEK FARMS, LLC, AND E&B NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION, KERN COUNTY

E & B Natural Resources Management Corporation owns and operates the McVan Area Treatment Facility in the Poso Creek Oil Field. Oil Field produced wastewater (produced wastewater) from the McVan Area Treatment Facility is discharged to four unlined reservoirs (Sherwood's Reservoirs) that are operated by Sherwood Hills, LLC et al (collectively "Dischargers"). Sherwood's Reservoirs are approximately one mile east-southeast of Highway 65 and Famoso Road. Produced wastewater from Sherwood's Reservoirs is used to irrigate approximately 4,400 acres of cropland. On 5 April 2019, the Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2019-0024 (WDRs), which regulates the discharge and reuse of oil field produced wastewater.

On 17 April 2024, a Directive pursuant to section 13260 of the California Water Code (CWC) (Directive) was issued to the Dischargers. The Directive states that during the third quarter of 2021, the concentration of boron in the produced wastewater from the McVan Area Treatment Facility (e.g., Discharge 001) started to increase. Effluent Limitation B.1 of the WDRs states that Discharge 001 shall not exceed an annual average of 1.0 mg/L for boron during a calendar year. The average annual concentration of boron at Discharge 001 for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 calendar years were 0.75, 1.3, and 1.65 milligrams per liter (mg/L), respectively. The Directive requires the Dischargers to address the increasing concentration of boron by submitting an updated Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) and technical report.

In response to the increasing concentration of boron, the Dischargers initiated an investigation to identify which part of the production area sourced the elevated boron concentrations and initiated blending the produced wastewater with conventional sources. This resulted in the blended concentration in Sherwood's Reservoirs dropping below the effluent limit of 1.0 mg/L. The Dischargers concluded that there does not appear to be a specific source (e.g., well) of high boron, and the increase appears to be occurring across the entire production area. Based on these conclusions, the Dischargers submitted an updated Report of Waste Discharge that proposes permanently blending produced wastewater and groundwater, prior to being discharged to Sherwood's Reservoir No. 1. This order amends the WDRs and includes the blending of produced wastewater and requires new sampling locations. It also includes a timeline for completion of a proposed pipeline, where the blending will occur prior to surface discharge.

E) SIMPSON PAPER COMPANY, DERSCH ROAD CLASS III LANDFILL, SHASTA COUNTY

Simpson Dersch Road Class III Landfill (site) is a closed landfill owned and operated by Simpson Paper Company (the Discharger). The site occupies approximately 42 acres, with 20 acres dedicated to waste placement. The site is located five miles northeast of the City of Anderson.

Waste disposal operations at the site began in 1971. The site was a trench and fill operation and accepted dewatered sludge from the Discharger's former pulp and paper mill until 1990. The dewatered sludge comprised approximately 97 percent of the total volume deposited.

Dregs consisting of unburned carbonaceous particles, and grits consisting of un-reacted particles of calcium carbonate comprised 2 percent of the waste, with wood waste comprising approximately 1 percent. The site's seven trenches are unlined, as their construction predates the requirements set forth under Title 27, section 20080(d). The seven waste trenches are estimated to contain approximately 320,000 cubic yards of waste. The site features 10 gas sampling points located both on and offsite, and nine suction lysimeters. Final closure of the Unit was completed in the summer of 1994. The final cover was configured into two elongated mounds running north-to-south with 3% side slopes to reduce the length of storm water runoff paths to nearby drainages. The western mound covered five of the trenches, while the eastern mound covered two trenches. The swale in between the mounds conveyed storm water away from the trenches. The final cover was placed over approximately 20 acres of the site and covered both mounds and the swale in-between. The final cover consisted of, from bottom to top, a two-foot foundation layer, a one-foot-thick clay layer with a maximum permeability of 1×10^{-6} centimeters per second, and a one-foot-thick protective vegetative layer.

The site is surrounded by land zoned as rural residential and agricultural. Forty-seven active water supply wells are located within one mile of the site. The site is underlain by sediments from the Tuscan, Tehama, and Red Bluff Formations. The Tehama Formation consists of stream deposits derived from the mountains to the west, while the Tuscan Formation consists of stream and lake deposits derived from volcanic tuffs and mud flows to the east. The overlying Red Bluff Formation consists of poorly sorted alluvium. Groundwater occurs approximately 130 feet beneath the ground surface. The depth to groundwater shows very minor seasonal fluctuation, typically between one to two feet. In 1992, an active gas extraction system, consisting of extraction wells, a blower and associated building, and two condensate sumps, was installed along the perimeter of the site. Condensate is periodically pumped from the sumps to the storage tanks. Condensate is now dispersed to the surface of the site upon approval from Central Valley Water Board. A leachate collection and removal system (LCRS) does not exist at the site. Five groundwater monitoring wells monitor the site, with wells OB-2 and OB-6 serving as background wells, and downgradient wells OB-3, OB-7 and OB-9 serving as compliance wells. The site receives 37 inches of precipitation per year on average and is not within a 100-year flood plain. Surface water drainage from the site is to Dry Creek, a tributary of Bear Creek and the Sacramento River.

Downgradient groundwater monitoring points typically do not differ in mineral concentrations from upgradient points, and there have been no indications of a release from the landfill affecting groundwater quality. In the early 1990s, methane was detected in the soil at the property line above the 5% regulatory limit, prompting the installation of the active gas extraction system. Since installation, the gas extraction system has effectively controlled the migration of methane, and methane concentrations as measured at perimeter gas monitoring points have remained below 5% since the fall of 1992. Condensate collected in the sumps associated with the active gas extraction system is sampled prior to dispersal, and data typically indicates that chemical constituents in the condensate are below applicable water quality objectives.

This Order updates the WDRs for the site as part of a periodic review, to incorporate revisions to regulations and policies adopted thereunder, and for continued monitoring of the site. There are no issues associated with the requested changes. The tentative Order was

issued for a public comment period on 20 March 2025 with comments due by 21 April 2025. No comments were received. We are not aware of any unresolved issues.

F) TRIO PETROLEUM LLC AND CAWELO WATER DISTRICT, KERN COUNTY

Trio Petroleum LLC (Trio) owns and operates the Section 3 Treatment Facility in the Kern Front Oil Field. Produced wastewater from the Section 3 Treatment Facility will be discharged to an unlined reservoir (Cawelo's Reservoir). After Cawelo's Reservoir, produced wastewater will be pumped to Cawelo Water District (Cawelo) where it will be blended with freshwater and reused for irrigation and / or groundwater recharge. Cawelo owns and operates Cawelo's Reservoir and oversees the dispersing of irrigation water to its service territory consisting of approximately 45,000 acres of cropland. This service territory generally resides between Highway 99 and Highway 65, north of Bakersfield. Crops grown in this area generally consist of citrus, almonds, pistachios, apples, and vineyards.

The primary sources of irrigation water in the region are groundwater and surface water from the Kern River and State Water Project. In addition to these sources, Cawelo receives produced wastewater from Chevron USA, Inc., and California Resources Production Corporation, which are regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements Order Nos. R5-2012-0058 and R5-2012-0059, respectively. Due to the challenges facing the region related to drought and water shortages, Cawelo and other water districts have looked at other sources. New sources of water such as recycling of oil field produced wastewater (produced wastewater), where the quality of the water is suitable, may be needed to supplement water resources to support agricultural activities in this part of Kern County.

The tentative waste discharge requirements permit the reuse of good quality blended produced wastewater for irrigation of crops for human consumption. During the wet season and when irrigation demand is low, blended produced wastewater will be discharged to the Famoso Basins, which is a groundwater recharge facility operated by Cawelo. The tentative waste discharge requirements include an assessment of the produced wastewater quality and groundwater, which is summarized in the antidegradation analysis. Based on the information supplied by Trio and Cawelo in a report of waste discharge, Central Valley Water Board staff finds that there does not appear to be a significant threat to water quality from the proposed discharge. In addition, the tentative waste discharge requirements include a monitoring and reporting program. The monitoring and reporting program requires the submittal of quarterly monitoring reports to the Central Valley Water Board that include water quality analytical results of the water being used for irrigation, water used for groundwater recharge, groundwater monitoring, and facility monitoring.

G) US MINE CORPORATION, US MINE CORPORATION IONE PLANT, AMADOR

US Mine Corporation (Discharger or US Mine) owns and operates the US Mine Corporation Ione Plant about one mile south of Ione in Amador County. The Facility encompasses an approximately 3,570 -acre property of which 402 acres have been mined, constructed, or reclaimed. Mining activities are currently confined to the portion of the property located south of Ione, west of California Highway 124, and north of California Highway 88. The property is owned by the Discharger and comprised of Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 05-130-012, -033, -034, -051; 05-150-007, -008; 05-160-003, -004, -009, -010, -012, -014, -015; 05-190-021.

US Mine is mining Ione Formation and separating sand, clay, and heavy minerals into saleable products. The Facility active mining units consist of mining pits, current and future clay settling ponds, former mining pit Pond L of which a part is being repurposed for discharge of thickened clay tailings if needed, and several process water surface impoundments.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 27 (Title 27) this Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) revision of Order R5-2010-0038 includes the following changes to the Discharger's mining, processing, and waste discharge processes:

- The inclusion of the new pre-concentration plant (PCP) and heavy minerals concentration (HMC) facility to the processing circuit;
- The proposal for construction of Phase 2 of clay recovery CDB pond system (CDB 3-9); and an associated Upper Decant Pond;
- The reclassification of 50 acres of former mining pit Pond L to an active tailings pond.

The Order provides discharge requirements and specifications for these processes at the Facility and is accompanied by Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2025-XXXX.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the proposed Waste Discharge Requirements.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	
Legal Review:	

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE