

**4 JUNE 2026 BOARD MEETING  
CONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM: 11**

**SUBJECT:**

The following are proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). Items indicated as updates on the summary agenda make the requirements consistent with current plans and policies of the Board.

**BOARD ACTION:**

Consideration of revised Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs).

**BACKGROUND:**

Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, Inc. (Setton) and Porterville Citrus, Inc. (Porterville Citrus) own and/or operate food processing facilities (Facilities) located at 9370 Road 234 in Terra Bella. Setton processes pistachios at its Pistachio Facility from about late August to mid-October, while Porterville Citrus processes citrus at its Citrus Facility from October through July. Each of the Facilities produce wastewater during their respective processing seasons, which is discharged to land application areas (LAA) owned by Setton and its various subsidiaries.

Discharge from the Pistachio Facility is currently authorized by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 92-191, which authorizes a discharge up to 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd) of pistachio processing wastewater to an unlined storage pond and application to 153 acres of alfalfa. Discharge from the Citrus Facility is currently authorized by WDRs Order No. 94-302, which authorizes the discharge of up to 0.08 mgd of citrus processing wastewater to an evaporation/percolation pond and a 6.4-acre orchard cropped with oranges. WDRs Orders 92-191 and 94-302 are outdated and neither reflect the current discharge and disposal practices for either processing operation. Revised WDRs are necessary to reflect existing operations at the Facilities and ensure the discharge meets the requirements of current water quality plans and policies.

The proposed WDRs Order would revise and updated current requirements to reflect consolidation of the wastewater conveyance systems for the Facilities, changes to the pistachio wastewater treatment system, and a 961-acre LAA expansion. The proposed WDRs Order would also authorize maximum daily and total annual discharges of pistachio process wastewater of 3.0 mgd and 80 million gallons, respectively, and a maximum daily discharge of citrus process wastewater up to 0.08 mgd.

Additionally, the proposed WDRs include the following requirements:

- Performance-Based Salinity Limits of 1,700 and 3,300 mg/L (as fixed dissolved solids) for the citrus and pistachio wastewater discharges, respectively.
- Biochemical oxygen demand cycle average loading limit of 100 lbs/ac/day

- Two-hour wastewater retention limit in ponds to mitigate potential nuisance odors
- Preparation and implementation of an updated Operations and Maintenance Plan, a Wastewater and Nutrient Management Plan, and a Metals Evaluation and Minimization Work Plan
- Compliance with the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs
- Wastewater, pond, source water, irrigation water, LAA, soil, and perimeter monitoring for nuisance conditions.

On the evening of 24 March 2026, Central Valley Water Board staff held a public engagement event in Terra Bella to share information on the proposed WDRs and answer questions from the community.

**ISSUES**

Comments were received from Setton on 6 April 2026, and California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. and Ms. Jo Anne Kipps on 8 April 2026. A Response to Comments document is included in the agenda package that summarizes the written comments followed by responses from Central Valley Water Board staff. Revisions were made to the tentative WDRs based on the comments received, and other minor edits to improve clarity.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the proposed Waste Discharge Requirements.

**REVIEWS:**

Management Review:	ASM 5/7/26
Legal Review:	CM 5.8.26

**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***