

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
concerning

**TENTATIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
RATTO BROTHERS, INC.,
STANISLAUS COUNTY**

TO ALL CONCERNED PARTIES AND AGENCIES

Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and a Tentative Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) are being issued to Ratto Brothers, Inc. as the owner and operator, also known as the Discharger, for Ratto Brothers located at 6312 Beckwith Road, Modesto in Stanislaus County. The Facility generates wastewater from washing and cooling vegetables, equipment cleaning, and container washing. The Facility processes and chops fresh vegetables, including leafy greens, collard greens, leeks, celery, and beets. The wastewater treatment system consists of a collection system (piping, floor drains, and flow meters), screens, trench system, settling ponds, and land application areas (LAAs). The proposed flow limit is 120,000 gallons per day. The WDRs were updated to ensure the discharge is consistent with water quality plans and policies and to incorporate the Salt Control Program.

A Public Hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) meeting scheduled for:

DATE: 11/12 December 2024
TIME: To be determined
PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Office
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(Physical Meeting Location with Remote Meeting Option)

This public meeting may take place either in-person or via video and teleconference, and/or any combination of the two, but the format may be changed in the future. Any person wishing to obtain information about changes to the date, time, location, or format of the meeting should visit the [Central Valley Water Boards Meeting Calendar webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings). Also, please visit our website for information on [How To Participate In Online Meetings](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/remote_meeting/#join_remotely) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/remote_meeting/#join_remotely).

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The designated party for this hearing is Ratto Brothers, Inc.

Designated parties, but not interest parties, will have these rights: to call and examine witnesses; to introduce exhibits; to cross-examine opposing witnesses; to impeach any witness; and to rebut the evidence against him or her. Central Valley Water Board staff will prepare the administrative record, and may present evidence, make an oral presentation and cross-examine opposing witnesses.

Interested persons may not cross-examine witnesses and will not be subject to cross examination. Interested persons may submit evidence (e.g., photographs, eye-witness testimony, monitoring data) if the evidence is submitted in accordance with the deadlines for submitting evidence described below. Interested persons who present evidence may be subject to cross-examination. Interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Central Valley Water Board by **5:00 p.m. on 10 November 2024**. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is affected by the discharge.

The tentative Waste Discharge Requirements were issued on 11 October 2024. Persons wishing to comment on this item must submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **5:00 p.m. on 10 November 2024**. Written materials submitted after 5:00 p.m. on the above date will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record absent a ruling by the Central Valley Water Board Chair. A party requesting to submit late materials must demonstrate good cause for the late submission, and the Central Valley Water Board Chair must find that the late submission would not prejudice the Central Valley Water Board or any designated party.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Central Valley Water Board meeting and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross examination will be limited in time by the Central Valley Water Board Chair. Both designated parties and interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from Central Valley Water Board members, counsel staff or others, at the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board.

Anyone having questions regarding the Tentative WDRs or Tentative MRP, please contact Jesse Milliken-Callan at (916) 464-4622 or jesse.milliken-callan@waterboards.ca.gov. Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board office at:

11020 Sun Center Drive, # 200
Rancho Cordova, California, 95670
weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The final meeting agenda will be available on the [Central Valley Water Boards Agenda Calendar webpage](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/) at least **10 days** before the meeting. The agenda will provide the location and format of the meeting, the

anticipated date the hearing will be held for this item, and the anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include staff revisions to the proposed order.

The [Procedures Governing Central Valley Water Board Meetings](#)

(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Central Valley Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. [Information on Meeting and Hearing Procedures](#)

(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml) is available on the Central Valley Water Board's website or by contacting any one of the Central Valley Water Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Mindy Maxwell at (916) 464-4839.

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

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

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Mindy Maxwell at (916) 464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

John T. Murphy, PG #9524, C.HG #1092
Supervising Engineering Geologist
Permitting-Title 27 Program Manager