

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND STIPULATED ORDER
META (FORMERLY KNOWN AS FACEBOOK)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Water Board) Prosecution Team and Meta (formerly known as Facebook) have entered into a proposed Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Order. The proposed Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Order impose an administrative civil liability against Meta in the amount of \$509,800 for alleged violations of the NPDES Fuels and VOCs Permit¹ (Permit). The proposed settlement includes \$252,300 to fund the San Francisco Estuary Institute's project to investigate harmful algal blooms in the San Francisco Bay.

This proposed liability is based on allegations that Meta violated the Permit by discharging approximately 391,000 gallons of insufficiently treated groundwater to Ravenswood Slough, which is tidally connected to South San Francisco Bay, waters of the State and United States. In addition, Meta submitted a late and incomplete Self-Monitoring Report, required by the Permit.

The proposed Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Order are available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/pending_enforcement.shtml. Persons may comment on the proposed Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Order by submitting written comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 29, 2023.

For additional information and updates, please contact Demir Worthington at Demir.Worthington@waterboards.ca.gov or 510-622-2437, or check the Water Board website link cited above for documents and future developments associated with this matter.

Dated: April 26, 2023

¹ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit CAG912002, Order R2-2017-0048, as amended by Order R2-2018-0050