

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

30 September 2026

Daniel Kristofic
Blue Mountain Materials
24599 Marble Quarry Road
Colombia, CA 95310

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD RESOLUTION R5-2023-0061; WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS, REPORTS OF WASTE DISCHARGE, AND/OR WATER RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF DISCHARGE WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION; PORTOLA MINERALS COMPANY, BLUE MOUNTAIN MINERALS; BLUE MOUNTAIN MINERALS QUARRY TUOLUMNE COUNTY

On 15 December 2025, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Regional Water Boards) received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) from Portola Minerals Company, Blue Mountain Minerals (Discharger) requesting coverage under Resolution R5-2023-0061, *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), Reports of Waste Discharge (RWDs), and/or Water Recycling Requirements (WRRs) for Specific Types of Discharge Within the Central Valley Region* (Low Threat Waiver). The RWD describes the proposed intermittent discharge of aggregate wash water to an onsite pond during emergencies or maintenance windows at the Blue Mountain Mineral Quarry (Facility). The RWD was prepared, signed, and stamped by Luke Castle, a California professional geologist (PG 9945) with Condor Earth, on behalf of the Discharger. The Facility is currently regulated by WDRs Order 99-032, which authorizes the year-round discharge of aggregate wash water to a series of five ponds for disposal via evaporation/percolation.

Based on the information provided in the RWD, the discharge meets the conditions of the Low Threat Waiver and is hereby assigned enrollee number **R5-2023-0061-0052**. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge. A [copy of the Low Threat Waiver](#) is enclosed and available on the Central Valley Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2023-0061.pdf

Please note that coverage under the Low Threat Waiver will become effective upon rescission of WDRs Order 99-032 (tentatively scheduled for the December 2026 Central Valley Water Board meeting).

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Low Threat Waiver, including the Conditions of Discharge. The discharge must be managed in accordance with the requirements contained in the Conditions of Discharge (Low Threat Waiver, Attachment A, Table 1, Category 12 – Small Short-Term Sand and gravel Operations), and with the information submitted in RWD, and this Notice of Applicability (NOA).

Note that The Low Threat Waiver will expire on **14 December 2028**. After which you will need to cease the discharge or submit a new RWD and application fee to seek coverage under a renewed waiver, general order, or individual waste discharge requirements.

LOCATION

The Facility is located at 24599 Marble Quarry Road in the community of Colombia in Tuolumne County (Latitude 38.0681°, Longitude -120.4197°). Tuolumne County is within the San Joaquin Hydrologic Basin. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River Basin* (Basin Plan) designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve water quality objectives for all waters of the Basin.

DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGE

The Facility is a limestone and dolomite mining quarry that has been in operation since 1985. Facility operations consist of mining, crushing, and then washing limestone aggregate prior to sale for use in commercial, industrial, and agricultural products. According to WDRs 99-032, scrubbing and washing operations at the Facility could produce approximately 1.4 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater. The Discharger uses an onsite well and a spring as makeup water supply for the wash process. Historically, the wastewater from the wash process was sent to four Jadair clarifiers, from which solids were discharged to settling ponds and the clarified process water was sent to two recycled ponds for reuse in the wash water and/or disposal. Solids are removed from the settling ponds annually and are stockpiled for future reclamation purposes.

Upgrades were made to the Facility in December 2024 to convert the aggregate wash system to a closed circuit “Tailings Management System” (TMS) to reduce the amount of water used in the wash process and eliminate the need to continuously discharge to land. The new TMS includes an approximate 3,000-cubic foot auger style clarifier, a filter press, and a 30,000-gallon holding tank to store wash water for reuse in the wash process. Wash water is first directed to the clarifier, from which clarified water is sent to the holding tank for reuse in the wash process. Slurry from the clarifier is sent to a filter press to remove the majority of liquid from the process water slurry, which is then pumped into the holding tank for reuse in the wash plant. Solids from the filter press, in the form of filter cake, are transported via stacking conveyors to a temporary stockpile where the solids will be used for future mine reclamation activities.

While upgrades at the Facility have eliminated the need for continuous discharge to land, discharge to one of the previous settling ponds (Pond 2), which has a total storage capacity of 9.16 millions gallons, may occur via a bypass line between the clarifier and filter press. The Discharger may bypass the TMS periodically in case of emergency or system maintenance. Since the TMS came online in December 2024, no discharge to Pond 2 has occurred, but the Discharger estimates that discharge may occur up to four times per year. During these limited repair/maintenance windows that necessitate bypass, wash water will still be treated via the clarifier, then sent to the settling pond where decant water will be reused in the wash process. Settled solids will be dredged and stockpiled for later reclamation activities.

Water quality samples from the new TMS and the Facility source water were collected from several locations within the system on 26 January 2026, and the associated sample results are presented below in Table 1.

Table 1 – TMS Samples

Sample Location	pH	EC (µmhos/cm)	TDS (mg/L)	Arsenic (µg/L)	Iron (µg/L)	Manganese (µg/L)
Source Water	8.22	838	500	<2.0	<100	257
Clarifier	8.27	796	450	<2.0	<100	24
Filter Press	8.14	981	520	<2.0	271	106
Holding Tank	8.23	794	370	<2.0	186	52

While sampling results from the filter press and holding tank are above the water quality objective for manganese (50 µg/L), decant from the clarifier will be discharged to Pond 2 in emergency or maintenance windows. Furthermore, manganese in the source water appears to be above the applicable water quality objective. Metals and salt concentrations in the clarified effluent are below applicable WQOs and is of similar or better quality than source water. Therefore, the proposed emergency and maintenance discharge of aggregate wash water at the Facility complies with the terms and conditions of the Low Threat Waiver.

FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Low Threat Waiver and this NOA covers the discharge of aggregate wastewater from the Facility. The Discharger shall comply with the requirements specified in the Low Threat Waiver and the facility-specific requirements listed below.

1. The discharge shall be conducted as described in the RWD and in accordance with the requirements contained in the Low Threat Waiver.
2. The discharge of aggregate wash water at a location or in a manner different from that described in this NOA is prohibited.
3. The Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board at least one week before planned maintenance and bypass of the TMS, and within 48 hours of

emergency bypass. The notification shall include the reason for bypass, and the anticipated length and volume of discharge to the settling pond.

4. Runoff or discharge of aggregate wash water to a wetland, surface water (other than those storage basins specified above), surface water drainage course, or biologically or culturally sensitive area is prohibited.
5. Failure to comply with the requirements of this NOA, and the Low Threat Waiver, could result in enforcement actions as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.
6. The Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board of any change in agreement or proposed use of the discharge of backwash water as described in the RWD and this NOA.

All notifications and other correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov.

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Program: Groundwater Quality Protection
Place ID: 209813
Facility Name: Blue Mountain Minerals Quarry
Order: R5-2023-0061-0052

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board - Fresno Office
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

All documents, including responses to inspections and written notifications, submitted to comply with this Waiver shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the Compliance and Enforcement Unit, attention to Omar Mostafa. Mr. Mostafa can be reached at (559) 445-5197 or Omar.Mostafa@waterboards.ca.gov. Questions regarding the permitting aspects of the Waiver, and notification for termination of coverage under the Waiver, shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the WDR Permitting Unit, attention Salvador Vargas-Maravilla. Salvador Vargas-Maravilla can be reached by phone at (559) 444-2488 or by email at Salvador.Vargas@waterboards.ca.gov.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Resources Control Board must receive the petition by

5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Resources Control Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at [Copies of the laws and regulations applicable to filing petitions](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality/) or will be provided upon request.

Digitally signed by Alex S. Mushegan
For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Site Map
- Attachment B – Process Flow Diagram

Enclosures:

- Low Threat Waiver Resolution R5-2023-0061 (Discharger only)

cc's:

- Kennedy Knight, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC, Sacramento (via email)
- Stephanie Torres, State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ, Sacramento (via email)
- Ofelia Romero-Maraccini, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (via email)
- Omar Mostafa, Central Valley Water Board, Fresno (via email)
- Tuolumne County Public Works Department, Sonora, CA
- Tuolumne County Environmental Health Department, Sonora, CA
- Luke Castle, Condor Earth, Sonora, CA (via email)

ATTACHMENT A – SITE PLAN



ATTACHMENT B – PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM

