

**22 JUNE 2023 BOARD MEETING
CONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM: 9

GICO MANAGEMENT AND STEVE GIKAS TRUST, CALIFORNIA NUGGETS, INC. AND GOLDEN GATE NUTS, INC., SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

SUBJECT:

Following is a proposed Waste Discharge Requirements Order that prohibits discharge to surface waters. 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:

The Gico Management and Steve Gikas Trust (collectively referred to as Discharger) own and operate two snack food production companies, located at 23073 South Fredrick Road in Ripon, San Joaquin County. The Facilities began operating in 2002. California Nuggets, Inc. produces corn nuts and processes approximately 1,700 tons of corn annually. Golden Gate Nuts, Inc. processes approximately 1,500 tons of almonds annually.

Wastewater is generated from processing corn year-round and processing almonds seasonally during harvest. Wastewater, consisting of nut processing rinse water, spent lime solution, blanching water, and boiler blowdown, is screened and passed through a Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) system, and an oil/water separator prior to discharging to a lined wastewater pond and 5.12 acres of land application areas (LAAs).

Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2014-0057 was issued to the Discharger for violations of WDRs Order No. R5-2014-0056. Based on an evaluation of groundwater and effluent data collected after the Discharger implemented operational changes, effluent and groundwater quality have improved.

The Discharger recently purchased 7.88 acres for use as additional LAAs. A water balance with an agronomic assessment was included in the RWD. The evaluation included all available LAA acreage, crop types, an annual flow limit of 22 MG, and 100-year rainfall estimates. The water balance showed sufficient capacity for the wastewater pond and LAAs.

Staff recommend adopting the Order based on the following:

1. The Discharger has improved wastewater quality, which has resulted in reducing impacts to groundwater.
2. No NOV's have been issued since the issuance of the CDO.

3. The limitations included in this Order were based on available analytical data, applicable Salt Control Program requirements, and professional judgement for the protection of groundwater.
4. Revised WDRs are needed to better reflect the changes to wastewater treatment system, regulate the new LAAs, update the requirements based on new performance-based evaluations, and require a groundwater monitoring network evaluation.

Comments were received from Ms. Jo Anne Kipps.

ISSUES:

Ms. Jo Anne Kipps provided various comments on the tentative WDRs and Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP). In response to the comments received, staff made revisions to the tentative WDRs and MRP. Staff’s response to comments are included in the agenda package.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the proposed Waste Discharge Requirements.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	RDB
Legal Review:	CBM

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE