

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

**AGENDA ITEM 10**

**THOMAS ALEXANDER, CALIFORNIA CONCENTRATE COMPANY, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY**

**SUBJECT:**

Following is a proposed Waste Discharge Requirements Order that regulates the discharge of wastewater to land. 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 Order for California Concentrate Company.

**BACKGROUND:**

California Concentrate Company is an industrial food processor that produces juice and barley concentrates and balsamic vinegar. Waste discharge to land from the facility is currently regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 98-136. The Facility was established in 1935 and is located at 18678 North Highway 99 in Acampo in San Joaquin County. Wastewater from the Facility consists of storm water runoff and a combination of process wastewater, including facility cleaning, tank cleaning, and process/product waste streams. Waste from vinegar production operations, which occurs in a separate building is currently disposed offsite at a permitted Facility.

The wastewater treatment system consists of screens, a collection system, pH adjustment meters, unlined wastewater treatment ponds, and percolation ponds. All solids are removed from the site and are not land applied.

The Discharger has received numerous Notice of Violations (NOVs), mostly related to odor issues, the prior discharge of vinegar waste into the treatment system, and violations of effluent limits. In 2019, the Discharger was issued Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R5-2019-0700, adopted on 20 February 2019, which required the Discharger to modify the wastewater treatment system to better treat the wastewater and to mitigate odor issues.

In response to the CAO, the Discharger modified the treatment system to include (but not limited to) the capture and segregation of vinegar waste for off-site disposal; screens on floor drains; an automated pH adjustment system, aerators were installed in the treatment ponds, a reduction in chemical usage, and better management of the percolation ponds. These changes have resulted in improvements in effluent quality, some improvements in groundwater quality, and no odor issues in the last three years.

Staff recommend adopting the Order based on the following:

1. The Discharger has made numerous changes to improve wastewater management, which has resulted in improved wastewater quality and reduced impacts to groundwater.

2. Odor complaints have not been received in the last three years.
3. The Discharger has shown a willingness to communicate and cooperate with the Central Valley Water Board and the neighboring Mokelumne Beach RV Resort. In an email dated 13 October 2022 to Central Valley Water Board staff, the Resort stated that they cannot speak highly enough of the effort the Discharger has made working and keeping the Resort up to date on changes.
4. 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.
5. Revised WDRs are needed to better reflect the changes to wastewater treatment system and to update the requirements based on new performance-based evaluations.

Additional time is needed to determine if the Facility changes reduce impacts to groundwater. Provision I.1.a requires the Discharger to submit a *Groundwater Compliance Assessment Report*. If it is determined that an unreasonable level of groundwater degradation is occurring as a result of the on-going discharge, the report shall also include a *Groundwater Compliance Work Plan* that describes additional actions the Discharger shall implement to reduce groundwater degradation. This Order may be reopened or reevaluated at that time to determine if additional actions or an enforcement Order is necessary. 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 revised Waste Discharge Requirements.

**REVIEWS:**

Management Review:	RDB
Legal Review:	CBM 6/1/23

**BOARD MEETING LOCATION:**

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

**AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE**