



## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

13 November 2023

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7021 1970 0001 5446 5624**

Nathan Olson, City Manager  
City of Lemoore  
711 West Cinnamon Drive  
Lemoore, CA 93245

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7021 1970 0001 5446 5631**

Tim Hutcheson, Regional Director  
Leprino Foods Company  
1830 West 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Denver, CO 80211

**NOTICE OF INTENT**  
**DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION**  
**FOR**  
**CITY OF LEMOORE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**  
**AND LEPRINO FOODS COMPANY**  
**RIVER RANCH RECYCLED WATER PROJECT**  
**KINGS COUNTY**

### TO ALL CONCERNED PERSONS AND AGENCIES

Enclosed is a draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the City of Lemoore Wastewater Treatment Facility and Leprino Foods Company's River Ranch Recycled Water Project (Project). The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (or Central Valley Water Board) will consider approving the Negative Declaration at its 15/16 February 2024 Board Meeting.

**Project Description:** The Project will expand the use of recycled water by allowing an increase in the discharge of combined effluent from 5.0 to 7.0 million gallons per day (mgd) for irrigation of crops in place of existing water resources. The combined effluent consists of treated effluent from the City of Lemoore's Wastewater Treatment Facility (Lemoore WWTF) and cheese production water from the Leprino Foods Company (Leprino's) two cheese processing plants. Recycled water will be treated to meet Title 22 requirements for disinfected secondary-23. In addition, the Project will expand the land application area at River Ranch (owned by Leprino) from 1,900 to approximately 2,400 acres. Crops grown on the land application area will include animal fodder and cotton crops as well as tomatoes (for tomato paste). Recycled water will be transported to River Ranch via an existing recycled water pipeline.

**Location:** River Ranch is in northwestern Kings County, approximately four miles west of Lemoore (Latitude 36°19' 11.44" N, Longitude 119° 53' 34.98" W) just east of the Lemoore Naval Air Station and adjacent to the Crescent Bypass and South Fork of the Kings River

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

as shown in **Attachment 1**. River Ranch is comprised of approximately 2,400 acres of existing farmland (previously known as the Stone Ranch and Nederend Properties).

**Review:** The 30-day public comment period for the IS/ND begins on 15 November 2023 and ends on 15 December 2023. Any written comments or evidence you may have concerning these items must be submitted to this office by **5:00 pm on 15 December 2023**. Absent a showing of good cause and lack of prejudice to other parties, the Board Chair may exclude comments and evidence received after this deadline.

To conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, a paper copy of these items has been sent only to the Dischargers. Others are advised that copies of the IS/ND will be available within the next couple of days on the Central Valley Water Board's [Tentative Orders website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) under the heading, "Discharger-Specific Order for Future Board Meetings" ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/)).

These documents may also be reviewed at the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno Office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706 or at the City of Lemoore's Office at 711 W. Cinnamon Drive, Lemoore, CA 93245.

The Central Valley Water Board meeting where the above matter will be considered is scheduled for the following time and location:

Date: 15/16 February 2024  
Time: To Be Determined  
Place: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The public meeting is currently scheduled to take place in person and via video teleconference, but the format may change. Any person wishing to obtain information about changes to the date, time, location, or format of the meeting should visit the [Board's website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_info/meetings/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/)).

The final meeting agenda will be available on the Board's website 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 these items, 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 tentative items.

Persons wishing to make non-evidentiary policy statements at the Board Meeting (such statements will generally be limited to 3 minutes) are not required to submit written comments, but the Board appreciates receiving such comments in writing by the due date listed above so that they may be included in the packages that the Board members will receive ahead of the meeting.

Please email any comments on the tentative WDRs or the IS/ND to [centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov) and copy [Katie.Carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Katie.Carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov)

and [Alexander.Mushegan@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Alexander.Mushegan@waterboards.ca.gov). In the subject line of the email please include "**Lemoore/Leprino, IS/ND Comments**" and address the email to Katie Carpenter.

If you have any questions regarding the tentative WDRs or the IS/ND, or if you do not have internet access and wish to request a paper copy, please contact Katie Carpenter at (559) 445-5551 or by email at [Katie.Carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Katie.Carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original Signed by:*  
Alexander S. Mushegan  
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

Attachments: Attachment 1 - Site Map  
Native American Heritage Commission Native American Contact List  
(Kings County)

Enclosures: Initial Study/Negative Declaration for the City of Lemoore and Leprino  
Foods Company River Ranch Recycled Water Project (Dischargers only)

(see next page for cc's)

cc's w/o enc:

- Native American Contacts List  
(see attached Native American Heritage Commission Native American Contacts List for Kings County)
- Chris Moskal, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC, Sacramento  
(via email)
- Kennedy Knight, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC, Sacramento  
(via email)
- Laurel Warddrip, Senior Scientist, State Water Resources Control Board,  
Division of Water Quality, Sacramento (via email)
- Adam Forbes, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water,  
Fresno (via email)
- Adriana Ross, CVRWQCB, Community Engagement Coordinator and Tribal  
Coordinator (via email)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fresno
- Department of Water Resources, San Joaquin District, Fresno
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Fresno
- Kings County Environmental Health Department, Hanford
- Stuart Childs, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants (via email)
- Margaret Wild, Kennedy Jenks Consultants (via email)
- Juan Lopez, Lemoore WWTF Operator (via email)
- Hanna Brandish, Leprino Foods Company (via email)
- Richard Csillag, Leprino Wastewater Treatment Operator (via email)
- Stephanie Breeden, Environmental Science Associates (via email)
- Tom Barns, Environmental Science Associates (via email)
- Michael Curry, Environmental Director Lemoore NAS, Lemoore
- Sandridge Partners, LP, Los Altos
- Edward and Susan Coelho, Lemoore
- Michael and Shelly Woolf Childrens Trust, Fresno
- Jo Anne Kipps (via email)
- Miguel Alatorre, Green Action for Health and Environmental Justice (via email)
- Veronica Aguirre, Central California Environmental Justice Network (via email)
- Debbie Webster, CVCWA (via email)

### ATTACHMENT 1 – SITE MAP

