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**Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board**

June 15, 2015

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**WDID NO. 6B159301002**

**ADOPTED RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS, GARDNER RANCH – ARCIERO RANCHES, KERN COUNTY**

Enclosed is the Adopted Order No. R6V-2015-0032 which was adopted at the Regional Water Quality Control Board Meeting held in Bishop, California on June 10, 2015.

Sincerely,



Robin Coale  
Office Technician

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION**

**BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2015-0032  
WDID NO. 6B159301002**

**RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
BOARD ORDER NO. 6-95-69**

**FOR**

**GARDNER RANCH – ARCIERO RANCHES**

Kern County

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The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) finds:

1. Discharger: Board Order No 6-95-69 was adopted on June 8, 1995 establishing waste discharge requirements for the discharge of digested sewage biosolids (sludge) for use as a soil amendment at three locations known as the Arciero Ranches (Facility); Randsburg Ranch, Brothers Ranch, and Sons Ranch. The Arciero Ranches Partnership (landowner) and Mr. Slick Gardner (operator) are referred to as Dischargers. The Dischargers cannot be located. The Order is no longer necessary and should be rescinded.
2. Reason for Action: The Order is no longer necessary and should be rescinded because the Dischargers stopped applying biosolids in 2005 and the Facility no longer poses a threat to water quality. Biosolids were applied to the ground in rows, spread with a scraper and incorporated into the soil by disking to eliminate odors for use as a soil amendment to irrigated farmland. The Dischargers went out of business in about 2005 and stopped submitting self-monitoring reports and annual fees.
3. Current Facility Conditions: On February 4, 2015, staff inspected the Facility and determined no biosolids application is occurring and no irrigated farming occurs at the Facility. Staff accessed the United States Geological Survey database and determined the depth to groundwater in the vicinity of the three ranch areas ranged from about 80 to 250 feet below ground surface<sup>1</sup>. The Facility is now primarily owned by Solar Environmental Conservancy, Inc<sup>2</sup>. and a few individual property owners, which have no plans to continue applying biosolids. This action is being taken to rescind Board Order No. 6-95-69 because the site no longer poses a threat to water quality, no further biosolids application will occur and property ownership has changed.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/gwlevels>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pqweb.parcelquest.com/#login>

4. CEQA: This action is being taken to rescind Board Order No. 6-95-69. Orders to revoke or rescind WDRs are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15321(a)(2).
5. Notification: The Discharger cannot be located. The Water Board has notified the current landowner and interested persons and agencies of its intent to rescind the above WDRs.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Board Order No. 6-95-69, be rescinded.

I, Patty Z. Kouyoumdijan, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region on June 10, 2015.



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PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDIJAN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER