

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Thursday, October 19, 2017
Weed City Council Chambers
Weed, California

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2017-0013 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Recycling Requirements for Virginia Dare Winery Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B830170SON (*Rachel Prat*)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Recycling Requirements Order No. R1-2017-0013 (Proposed Order).

BACKGROUND: The Virginia Dare Winery (hereinafter Discharger) is currently discharging pursuant to Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 96-056 (Order No. 96-056), adopted by the Regional Water Board on August 22, 1996. On January 29, 2016, the Regional Water Board received a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) from the Discharger. The ROWD was submitted for the purpose of revising Order No. 96-056 to reflect the new ownership, new winery name and construction of a new restaurant at the winery complex. The Proposed Order will revise and replace Order No. 96-056.

The Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) is owned and operated by the Discharger and serves the Virginia Dare Winery complex located at 22281 Chianti Road in Geyserville, Sonoma County. The Virginia Dare Winery complex includes a winery, tasting room, restaurant, vineyards, pastureland and the Facility. Domestic sewage and winery industrial process wastewater generated at the complex are separately collected and conveyed to the Facility for treatment.

Domestic wastewater is treated via extended aeration, filtration and chlorine disinfection. The disinfected wastewater is combined with screened winery process wastewater and pumped to two aeration treatment ponds for additional treatment. Treated aeration pond effluent is applied as recycled wastewater to a designated Land Application Area (LAA). Recycled water will primarily be used for vineyard irrigation. Other potential uses include pasture and landscape irrigation and frost protection. The Title 22 Engineering Report for the recycled water use at the Virginia Dare Winery complex was approved by the California Division of Drinking Water on August 29, 2017.

Pomace generated during the winemaking process is composted on-site for reuse as a soil amendment. Sludge removed from the process wastewater treatment ponds may be applied to land as a soil amendment in the LAA. Solid waste removed from domestic wastewater will be disposed of in accordance with applicable federal and State regulations.

The Proposed Order identifies the Discharger as the current owner and operator of the winery complex, recognizes the addition of a new restaurant, and brings the water recycling requirements for the Facility into compliance with current regulations. The Proposed Order authorizes the discharge and reuse of treated domestic and process wastewater, process solids and process treatment pond sludge from the Facility.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A draft of this Order was available for public comment from July 12, 2017, to August 14, 2017. Comments were received from Essential Engineering, on behalf of Virginia Dare Winery, who requested changes to the Draft Order. The requested changes included: removal of the reference to a septic tank when identifying the domestic waste solids separation tank; removal of Nitrate monitoring; and a reduction of the minimum pond free board requirement. Regional Water Board staff made the following changes to the Proposed Order in response to the comments: the subject tank is now referred to as the solids separation tank; and the minimum pond freeboard was changed from 2 feet to 1 foot. A detailed response to the written comments is presented in the attached Response to Comments document.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2017-0013, as proposed.

**SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:**

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2017-0013
2. Comments Received
3. Staff Response to Comments
4. Public Notice