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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 February 2019

WDID 5A045007001

Gary Thiara  
Thiara Brothers Farms  
PO Box 3007  
Yuba City, CA 95992

**CERTIFIED MAIL:**  
7018 1130 0001 8556 2930

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY**

**WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL FOOD PROCESSORS,  
WINERIES, AND RELATED AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS  
WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION  
ORDER R5-2015-0005-0101  
THIARA BROTHERS FARMS  
BUTTE COUNTY**

On 5 February 2015, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted the *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Food Processors, Wineries, and Related Agricultural Processors within the Central Valley Region, Order R5-2015-0005* (the Waiver).

We are in receipt of your completed Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) dated 19 November 2018, which stated that you intend to comply with the Tier 2 conditions of the Waiver. Based on the information provided in the RWD, we have determined that the discharge meets the required conditions for approval under the Waiver. You are hereby assigned Order R5-2015-0005-0101. A copy of the Waiver is enclosed and also available at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/#waivers](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/#waivers)

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Waiver, including the Conditions of Discharge (Waiver Attachment A) and Monitoring and Reporting Program (Waiver Attachment B). Small food processor waste must be managed and discharged in accordance with the requirements contained in the Conditions of Discharge and with the information submitted in the RWD.

### **DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

Thiara Brothers Farms (Facility) is located at 654 Township Road, Gridley in Butte County. The plum drying facility is owned and operated by Thiara Brothers Farms. The Facility is currently regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 98-181, adopted 11 September 1998. However, the discharge meets the conditions for enrollment into Tier 2 of the waiver which allows land application of up to 100,000 gallons of wastewater per year for irrigation of landscaping or crops and land application of residual solids associated with that volume of wastewater. Any process wastewater or residual solids generated in excess of those

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

amounts must be disposed of off-site at an appropriately permitted facility. If you wish to land apply more wastewater or residual solids, you must submit a new application to obtain coverage under Tier 3 of the Waiver prior to increasing the discharge volume.

The Facility dries approximately 4,000 tons of plums from August to September each year. Approximately 90,000 gallons of wastewater each year is generated during fruit rinsing and approximately 24,000 pounds of residual solids (leaves and sticks) is generated yearly.

Wastewater and the associated solids are generated during the rinsing process. The plums are rinsed in a dipper where rinse water collects in a sump and solids are collected in a bin. From the sump wastewater is conveyed to the adjacent orchard that is equipped with seven risers used for flood irrigation. After collection into a bin the solids are transferred to the adjacent orchard and are tilled into the soil at the end of the process season.

### **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Attachment B of the Waiver includes specific monitoring and reporting requirements that you must comply with, including routine monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board. Please review the Monitoring and Reporting Program closely and establish the appropriate record keeping system so that you are able to complete the required Annual Monitoring Report form, which is also contained in Attachment B of the Waiver.

By **February 1 of each year**, the Annual Monitoring Report must be submitted to our office, even if there is no discharge during the reporting year. The 2019 Annual Monitoring Report is due by **1 February 2020**.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

The Waiver includes specific and general conditions with which you must comply and you must maintain control over the discharge and operate in accordance with the information provided in your RWD and this Notice of Applicability (NOA).

**Please note that WDRs Order No. 98-181 is proposed to be rescinded at the 4/5 April 2019 meeting of the Central Valley Water Board.** Upon rescission of your individual WDRs, coverage for your facility under the Waiver shall become applicable subject to this Notice of Applicability.

Please review this NOA carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the facility name, location, and details of the proposed discharge. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Waiver may result in enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code, which could include civil liability. Discharge of wastes not described in the RWD is prohibited. If the method of waste disposal changes from that described in your RWD, you must submit an updated RWD to describe the new operation.

Please note that the Waiver will expire on **5 February 2020**, after which you must do one of the following:

1. Submit a new RWD to obtain coverage under a subsequently adopted waiver,
2. Submit a RWD to apply for individual or general Waste Discharge Requirements, or
3. Cease the discharge.

**DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS**

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: [centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov)

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Facility Name: Thiara Brothers Farms		
Program: Non-15 Compliance	Order: R5-2015-0005-0101	WDID: 5A045007001

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
ECM Mailroom  
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205  
Redding, CA 96002

If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, or have any additional questions you may contact Valerie Rasmussen at (530) 224-6130, by email at [valerie.rasmussen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:valerie.rasmussen@waterboards.ca.gov), or by mail at the footer address located on the first page of this Notice of Applicability.

*Original signed by Bryan Smith*

(for) Patrick Pulupa,  
Executive Officer

VMR: ch

Enclosure: Waiver R5-2015-0005