

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

RESOLUTION R7-2016-0042

**ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE ISSUANCE OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
AGRICULTURAL BENEFICIAL USE OF TREATED INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER
AT ONE WORLD BEEF PLANT, BRAWLEY, IMPERIAL COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) finds that:

1. On September 16, 2016, One World Beef Packers, LLC (OWB) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to apply for new Waste Discharge Requirements for a proposal to: (1) upgrade its pond-based onsite wastewater pre-treatment facility to Biofiltration wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) at its beef processing plant in Brawley, Imperial County, California; and (2) use treated wastewater from the new WWTF to irrigate approximately 140 acres of farmland to grow Bermuda grass for cattle feed.
2. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, section 21000 et seq.), the construction of the Biofiltration WWTF, related treated wastewater irrigation system, and the issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements for the use of reclaimed wastewater for agricultural irrigation are defined as the Project. The Project Area includes 12 acres of Biofiltration treatment units, 10 acres of onsite agricultural land, and 130 acres of offsite agricultural land on an adjacent parcel.
3. The Colorado River Basin Water Board is the lead agency for the OWB Project under CEQA. OWB hired Environmental Resources Management, Walnut Creek, CA to assist the Colorado River Basin Water Board conduct an Initial Study in accordance with the requirements specified in Section 15063 of the "State CEQA Guidelines" (California Code of Regulation (CCR), title 14, section 15000 et seq.) to evaluate whether the OWB Project Area could have a significant effect on the environment.
4. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1, on October 12, 2016, the Colorado River Basin Water Board provided written notification about the project to the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the opportunity for consultation. No Tribes requested consultation on the project.
5. The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) titled "*Issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Agricultural Beneficial Use of Treated Industrial Wastewater*" concludes that although the proposed Project could have significant effects on the environment, there will not be significant effects with mitigation incorporated.
6. On October 13, 2016, the Regional Water Board provided Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2016101034) for the project (CCR, title 14, section 15072.) On November 17, 2016, the Colorado River Basin Water Board, in a public hearing, considered all comments concerning the Project and the proposed MND.

7. The MND reflects the Colorado River Basin Water Board's independent judgment and analysis. The Colorado River Basin Water Board finds, on the basis of the whole record before it, which includes the Initial Study, the work plan for the proposed upgrade to the wastewater treatment system, the use reclaimed water for irrigation, public comments received, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff's responses to public comments, and Colorado River Basin Water Board staff's preliminary environmental impact determination, that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed Project will have a significant effect on the environment with mitigation measures incorporated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Colorado River Basin Water Board:

1. Adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Project.
2. Generally approves the plan submitted in compliance with the ROWD.
3. Directs that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the State Water Resources Control Board.
4. Directs that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to all interested persons.
5. Directs the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination within five days from the issuance of this order.

CERTIFICATION

I, Jose L. Angel, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on November 17, 2017.



JOSE L. ANGEL, P.E.
Executive Officer