State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Kason Grady
April 13, 2010

Executive Officer's Summary Report
9:00 a.m., April 29, 2010
North Coast Regional Water Board
Ukiah Valley Conference Center
200 South School Street
Ukiah, California

Item: 6

Subject: Public Hearing Order No. R1-2010-0019 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements to replace Order No. R1-2003-0059 in the matter of **Sonoma West Holdings, Inc., Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility** NPDES No. CA0023655, WDID No. 1B81202OSON

DISCUSSION

Sonoma West Holdings, Inc. (hereinafter Discharger) is currently discharging under Order No. R1-2003-0059 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0023655 adopted on November 5, 2003. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge, dated June 13, 2008, and applied for an NPDES permit renewal to discharge treated wastewater from its multi-tenant food processing and wastewater treatment facility (Plant No. 2) (hereinafter Facility).

The Discharger owns the Facility, which is a domestic and industrial wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facility that currently serves twenty-seven tenants including eleven wineries, seven storage units, six food and beverage processors, two cell towers, and a transportation business office. The Facility is currently generating approximately 26,000 gallons per day (gpd) of process wastewater with a peak flow of 48,000 gpd and approximately 1,300 gpd of domestic wastewater from tenant facilities with a peak daily domestic wastewater flow of 2,204 gallons. The domestic and industrial process wastewater systems are isolated from each other. The equipment and land treatment units for the domestic and industrial systems have maximum design treatment capacities of 6,000 (gpd) and 368,000 gpd, respectively, and average monthly design treatment capacities of 2,720 gpd and 173,000 gpd, respectively.

For its industrial wastewater, the Facility utilizes solids screening and oil/water separation at all times, followed by land treatment and disposal on seven “Benches” and/or aeration in a storage pond during wet weather. If the storage pond gets too full for safe operation, the Discharger is permitted to discharge to Barlow Creek, which is tributary to Atascadero and Green Valley Creeks and the Russian River.

Domestic wastewater from the facility is collected in 4 septic tanks, where settling occurs, and then flows to a lined and aerated domestic wastewater pond. It is then filtered and disinfected with chlorine prior to application to an isolated bermed area of Bench No. 1. The bermed area of Bench No. 1 is designed to allow the domestic tailwater to percolate

and evaporate and to prevent commingling of domestic and process tailwaters. Storm water from all benches, including the bermed portion of Bench No. 1, can runoff directly to Barlow Creek during storm events, when discharge to land is not occurring and when certain other protective permit conditions are met.

This Order contains technology-based effluent limitations for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), settleable solids, temperature and chemical oxygen demand for the surface water discharge to Barlow Creek (Discharge Point 001). The Facility has not discharged process wastewater to surface waters since 2000 and therefore has not collected any new data since issuance of the last permit to support a reasonable potential analysis for any priority pollutants.

This Order contains water quality based effluent limitations for cadmium, copper, cyanide, nickel, selenium and zinc based on the previous permit to ensure that the surface water discharge meets water quality objectives established in the Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California.

For pollutants with no “reasonable potential,” routine effluent monitoring is specified for the five year term of the permit. Effluent limitations on BOD, TSS, settleable solids and pH for wastewater in storage and effluent limitations on BOD and TSS for land application of domestic wastewater have been retained from the previous permit. Monitoring for Aluminum and Manganese have been included to collect data that will support a determination of the reasonable potential of the discharge of wastewaters to impair the municipal and domestic drinking water supply (MUN) beneficial use.

A copy of the draft permit and/or information to access the draft on the Regional Water Board website was mailed to the Discharger and interested agencies. This item was opened for public comment between February 4, 2010 and March 5, 2009. The Discharger provided written comments on the draft permit in an email on March 8, 2010, requesting twenty-two minor changes to the draft Order. The proposed Order has been modified in response to the comments received. The Discharger’s comments and staff’s response are included as an attachment to this Staff Report.

PRELIMINARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2010-0019 as proposed.