

**ATTACHMENT B
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION
ADDENDUM TO INITIAL STUDY AND
NEGATIVE DECLARATION (SCH NO. 2002101068)**

**PROPOSED ORDER NO. R3-2023-0044
AMENDING ORDER NO. R3-2019-0089
GENERAL WAIVER
FOR
SPECIFIC TYPES OF DISCHARGES**

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INTRODUCTION

This environmental document is an Addendum to the Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) (State Clearing House Number 2002101068) adopted by the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) in Resolution R3-2002-0015 (2002 General Waiver). The 2002 General Waiver has since been revised and readopted in 2008, 2014, and most recently in 2019 with Order No. R3-2019-0089 (General Waiver). Order R3-2023-0044 (Amending Order) amends Order No. R3-2019-0089 to conditionally waive waste discharge requirements for discharges of residual wastewater from reverse osmosis (RO) drinking water supply treatment systems for small water systems and private domestic wells where the water provided exceeds the primary maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate or is under threat of not meeting the MCL for nitrate. This document addresses the potential environmental impacts due to the addition of this waste category to the General Waiver.

Since the adoption of the IS/ND, minor changes to the General Waiver have been made in subsequent renewals (2008, 2014 and 2019) and this Amending Order in 2023. The Central Coast Water Board, as lead agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), adopted an addendum to the IS/ND in 2019 and has considered the Amending Order's proposed changes to the General Waiver. The Central Coast Water Board concludes that the changes will not result in any new significant environmental impacts. As such, the IS/ND continues to serve as the appropriate document addressing the environmental impacts from the General Waiver under CEQA, and a subsequent negative declaration and/or subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) does not need to be prepared.

BACKGROUND

The Amending Order's Proposed Revisions to the General Waiver

The Amending Order's proposed changes to the General Order provides conditions for the discharge of residual wastewater (RO concentrate) from RO drinking water supply treatment systems for small water systems and private domestic wells where the water provided exceeds the primary maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate or is under threat of not meeting the MCL for nitrate. RO concentrate from RO drinking water treatment systems that are designed to remove or decrease nitrate concentrations may be discharged into an existing onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) where the design flow is limited to a daily maximum of 10,000 gallons of combined domestic wastewater and RO concentrate flow.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS FROM REVISED PROJECT

This addendum has been prepared pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines at title 14, California Code of Regulations, sections 15162 and 15164 to provide the Central Coast Water Board with the factual basis for determining whether any changes in the project, in the circumstances, or any new information since the IS/ND

were certified require additional environmental review or preparation of subsequent CEQA documentation. The environmental analysis provided in the IS/ND remains current and applicable to the proposed project in all areas listed below:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Services Systems
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

Because there are no changes to the level of impact associated with the proposed amendment, the analysis in the IS/ND remains applicable. The General Waiver remains a regulatory tool for low-threat discharges and as such, only discharges with minimal risk to the environment are authorized by this General Waiver. The conditions imposed on the new discharge category ensure that there is no environmental impact due to the discharge. Refer to Amending Order, Finding 5 for additional information.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information provided above, the revisions to the regulatory program would not result in a measurable increase in new environmental impacts. No new significant impacts have been identified, nor is the severity of newly identified impacts substantially greater than the conclusions of the IS/ND.

Based on the evidence included in the above analysis, the proposed project as described in this document would not result in a substantial change in the conclusions and analysis included in the IS/ND. The Central Coast Water Board finds that the previous environmental document, the 2019 Addendum, and this Addendum fulfill the environmental review requirements of the revised project. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15164, preparation of this Addendum is appropriate.

This Addendum will be appended to the IS/ND (SCH No. 2002101068). A Notice of Determination will be filed at the State Clearinghouse within five days of adoption of the 2023 Amending Order No. R3-2023-0044.

This Addendum and the previously adopted 2019 Addendum and IS/ND now constitute the Final IS/ND for this project.