

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: General Waste Discharge Requirements for Winery Process Water

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board

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Project Location: Statewide - see included figure 1

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The State Water Board has prepared draft General Waste Discharge Requirements for Winery Process Water (General Order) available statewide to regulate the discharges the land application of winery process water with a potential threat to water quality. The General Order will cover discharges of winery process water to land starting at 10,000 gallons per year and can cover larger discharges (e.g., 100,000,000 gallons per year). The General Order includes minimum treatment levels, monitoring, and management practices based on the number of gallons of winery process water discharged per year. The General Order also requires compliance with regional water quality control board water quality control plans (Basin Plans), applicable statewide water quality plans or policies, mitigation measures required by this General Order, and future site-specific CEQA evaluations. The General Order will be used by the regional water quality control boards to streamline permitting of wineries discharging process water to land and increase water quality protection from these discharges statewide.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

New or expanding wineries conducting excavation may impact Tribal Cultural Resources if not mitigated. New or expanding wineries with General Order coverage are required to comply with the General Order mitigation measures and project-specific California Environmental Quality Act requirements for winery activities which may disturb ground leading to inadvertent discoveries of Tribal Cultural Resources. A winery conducting excavation work is required to a) notify the Native American Heritage Commission and affected tribes upon an inadvertent discovery of a Tribal Cultural Resource, b) comply with Health and Safety Codes section 7050.5 and Public Resource Code section 5097.98 in the discovery of human remains, c) implement general mitigation measures to avoid impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources during excavation (e.g. fence of sensitive areas, worker training), and d) compliance with related provisions in the California Environmental Quality Act. Tribal Cultural Resource is defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Wine making is a large component of the California economy, however, wine making also generates process water with the potential to degrade groundwater quality depending on winery-specific activities, size, and treatment processes. The primary winery process water constituents of concern for groundwater quality are nitrogen, salinity, and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD). The General Order will apply statewide and includes requirements to ensure winery operations will not adversely impact water quality.

This General Order has been developed to streamline statewide permitting of winery process water discharges to land, to achieve statewide consistency, and to allow regional water quality control boards to focus their resources on compliance instead of individual or regional order development. The General Order provides protection of groundwater quality while considering the compliance impact to industry by providing wineries flexibility in selecting compliance methods that best fit their site-specific situation and tiers the compliance requirements to the winery size and associated threat to water quality.

There are an estimated 3,600 bonded wineries in California and an estimated 2,100 of these will be subject to the General Order. Currently, there are only about 540 wineries or 15 percent currently permitted by the Water Boards. Staff estimates that many of the unpermitted wineries will have an upfront cost to update treatment systems and commence monitoring to comply with the General Order.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Air Resources Board
Coastal Commission
Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly Fish and Game) - all
Department of Food and Agriculture
Department of Public Health
Native American Heritage Commission
Regional water quality control boards - all
State Lands Commission
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Department of Water Resources
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)