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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 5, 2020

WDID:1\_12CC420469

FINMARK FARMS, LLC  
ATTN: MARK FINLEY  
2142 ISLAND MOUNTAIN ROAD  
NEW HARRIS, CA 95542

Subject: Notice of Applicability - Waste Discharge Requirements Water Quality Order WQ 2019-0001-DWQ

The attached Notice of Applicability provides notice that the requirements of the State Water Board *Cannabis Cultivation Policy- Principles and Guidelines for Cannabis Cultivation* (Policy), and the *General Waste Discharge Requirements and Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste Associated with Cannabis Cultivation Activities*, Order WQ 2019-0001-DWQ (General Order – previously WQ 2017-0023-DWQ, with updates and revisions effective April 16, 2019) are applicable to the site as described below. Based on the information provided, the Discharger self-certifies the cannabis cultivation activities are consistent with the requirements of the State Water Board Policy and General Order.

Please direct all submittals, discharge notifications, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Cannabis Program at (707) 576-2676 or [northcoast.cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:northcoast.cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer  
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS, WATER QUALITY ORDER WQ 2019-0001-DWQ, FINMARK FARMS, LLC, HUMBOLDT COUNTY APN(s) 218-051-008, 218-081-002, 218-081-006 and 218-091-004**

FinMark Farms, LLC (hereafter “Discharger”) submitted information through the State Water Resources Control Board’s (State Water Board’s) online portal on July 26, 2019, for discharges of waste associated with cannabis cultivation related activities. Based on the information provided, the Discharger self-certifies the cannabis cultivation activities are consistent with the requirements of the Policy and General Order. This letter provides notice that the Policy and General Order are applicable to the site as described below. You are hereby assigned waste discharge identification (WDID) number **1\_12CC420469**. The original WDID assigned by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board was 1B16945CHUM. You have successfully transferred your enrollment from Order No. R1-2015-0023 to the General Order and your regulatory coverage has been continuous. The effective date of this Notice of Applicability for your enrollment under the General Order is July 1, 2019.

The Discharger is responsible for all the applicable requirements in the Policy, General Order, and this Notice of Applicability (NOA). This includes making any necessary changes to the enrollment, and the Discharger is the sole person or entity with legal authority to make those changes. The Discharger will be held liable for any noncompliance with the Policy, General Order, and the NOA.

**1. FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

All dischargers enrolled under the North Coast Regional Water Board’s Order (R1-2015-0023) or the Central Valley Regional Water Board’s Order (R5-2015-0113) as of October 17, 2017, (the adoption date of the General Order) may retain the reduced setbacks applicable under the appropriate Regional Water Board order unless the Executive Officer for the appropriate Regional Board determines that the reduced setbacks applicable under their regional order are not protective of water quality. However, sites that expand their cannabis cultivation area or other cannabis related activities must comply with the riparian setbacks in the General Order.

The information submitted by the Discharger states the disturbed area is equal to or greater than 1 acre (43,560 square feet) no portion of the disturbed area is within the setback requirements, no portion of the disturbed area is located on a slope greater than 30 percent, and the cannabis cultivation area is greater than 1 acre.

Based on the information submitted by the Discharger, the cannabis cultivation activities are classified as Tier 2 Low Risk.

## 2. SITE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Policy and General Order are available on the Internet at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cannabis/cannabis\\_water\\_quality.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cannabis/cannabis_water_quality.html)

The Discharger shall ensure that all site operating personnel know, understand, and comply with the requirements contained in the Policy, General Order, this NOA, and the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP, Attachment B of the General Order). Note that the General Order contains standard provisions, general requirements, and prohibitions that apply to all cannabis cultivation activities.

The application requires the Discharger to self-certify that all applicable Best Practicable Treatment or Control (BPTC) measures are being implemented, or will be implemented by the onset of the winter period (November 15 - April 1), following the enrollment date. Landowners of the cultivation site in the North Coast Region are required to submit and implement Site Management Plans that describes how BPTC measures are implemented property-wide, including BPTC measures implemented to address discharges from legacy activities (e.g. former timber harvest, road building, mining, etc.) at the site per Provision C.1.a. of the General Order. Dischargers that cannot implement all applicable BPTC measures by the onset of the winter period, following their enrollment date, shall submit to the appropriate Regional Water Board a *Site Management Plan* that includes a time schedule and scope of work for use by the Regional Water Board in developing a compliance schedule as described in Attachment A of the General Order.

The Policy and General Order require that, prior to conducting any work in streams or wetlands, the Discharger obtain water quality certification from the Water Boards and other required permits from other agencies (e.g. a Clean Water Act section 404 permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other local permits). Enrollment in the General Order requires that the Discharger obtain water quality certification for any such work, but this NOA does not provide the necessary certification. If the Discharger proposes or requires work in streams or wetlands, they must apply for water quality certification separately by filling out and submitting a separate application for that work. The application is available for download at the following Regional Water Board website:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/cannabis/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/cannabis/)

Currently, the direct link to that application is as follows:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/cannabis/pdf/200204/RB1\\_Cannabis\\_WQC\\_401\\_App.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/cannabis/pdf/200204/RB1_Cannabis_WQC_401_App.pdf)

Note: Water Quality Certifications require separate application and monitoring fees. A fee calculator and additional information are available at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_certification/#401\\_calc](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/water_quality_certification/#401_calc)

During reasonable hours, the Discharger shall allow the State Water Board or Regional Water Board (collectively Water Boards), California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CAL FIRE, and any other authorized representatives of the Water Boards upon presentation of a badge, employee identification card, or similar credentials, to:

- i. enter premises and facilities where cannabis is cultivated; where water is diverted, stored, or used; where wastes are treated, stored, or disposed; or in which any records are kept;
- i. access and copy, any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of the Policy and General Order;
- ii. inspect, photograph, and record audio and video, any cannabis cultivation sites, and associated premises, facilities, monitoring equipment or device, practices, or operations regulated or required by the Policy and General Order; and
- iii. sample, monitor, photograph, and record audio and video of site conditions, any discharge, waste material substances, or water quality parameters at any location for the purpose of assuring compliance with the Policy and General Order.

### **3. TECHNICAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS**

The following technical report(s) shall be submitted by the Discharger as described below:

A Site Management Plan, by October 23, 2019, consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision C.1.a., and Attachment A, Section 5. Attachment D of the General Order provides guidance on the contents of the Site Management Plan.

A Nitrogen Management Plan must be submitted by October 23, 2019, consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision C.1.d., and Attachment A, Section 5. Attachment D of the General Order provides guidance on the contents of the Nitrogen Management Plan.

*A Site Closure Report* must be submitted 90 days prior to permanently ending cannabis cultivation activities and seeking to rescind coverage under the General Order. The *Site Closure Report* must be consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision C.1.e., and Attachment A, Section 5. Attachment D of the General Order provides guidance on the contents of the *Site Closure Report*.

### **4. MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

The Discharger shall comply with all provisions of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), which appears as Attachment B to the General Order. The Discharger shall also comply with all provisions of the *North Coast Regional Supplement to Annual Monitoring and Reporting Requirements for Statewide Cannabis General Order WQ 2017-0023-DWQ* (Regional Supplement), which independently appears as Investigative Order No. R1-2019-0023, issued by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer on March 22, 2019. Annual reports for both sets of requirements shall be submitted to the

Regional Water Board in a combined report by March 1 following the year being monitored through the online portal (<https://public2.waterboards.ca.gov/cgo>). The Discharger shall not implement any changes to the MRP or to the Regional Supplement unless and until a revised MRP or Regional Supplement is issued by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer or the State Water Board Division of Water Quality Deputy Director, or the State Water Board Chief Deputy Director.

A copy of Attachment B to the General Order can be obtained online at the following location, or by contacting staff at the phone number and email address listed below. [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2019/wq2019\\_0001\\_dwq.pdf#page=32](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2019/wq2019_0001_dwq.pdf#page=32).

A copy of the Regional Supplement can be obtained online at the following location, or by contacting staff at the phone number and email address listed below. [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/pdf/2019/19\\_0023\\_Regional%20Supplement%2013267%20Order.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/pdf/2019/19_0023_Regional%20Supplement%2013267%20Order.pdf).

## **5. ANNUAL FEE**

According to the information submitted, the discharge is classified as Tier 2 Low Risk. The 2018-2019 annual fee for that tier and risk level was set at \$1,000, but please note that the Fee Schedule is updated annually and future fees may be invoiced at different rates. Invoices are sent by the State Water Board at the beginning of each calendar year (generally in February). Do not submit payments without receiving an invoice. If you have questions or concerns about your fees please contact the Fee Branch at [FeeBranch@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:FeeBranch@waterboards.ca.gov) or (916) 341-5247. The fee is due and payable on an annual basis until coverage under this General Order is formally rescinded. To rescind coverage, the Discharger must submit a Request for Termination in writing through the online portal (available at: <https://public2.waterboards.ca.gov/cgo>), including a Site Closure Report at least 90 days prior to termination of activities and include a final MRP report.

## **6. TERMINATION OF COVERAGE UNDER THE GENERAL ORDER & REGIONAL WATER BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION**

Enrollees that propose to terminate coverage under the General Order must submit a Request for Termination in writing through the online portal (<https://public2.waterboards.ca.gov/cgo>). The Request for Termination consists of a formal statement regarding the reason for requesting termination (i.e. cultivation is no longer occurring, the property is being sold, etc.), documentation that the site is in compliance with the General Order, including dated photographs and a written discussion. If the site is not meeting the requirements of the General Order, then the enrollment cannot be terminated. Regional Water Board staff will review the Request for Termination for completeness before determining if a property inspection, enrollment termination, or a request for additional information is appropriate.

If the Discharger cannot comply with the General Order, or will be unable to implement an applicable BPTC measure contained in Attachment A by the onset of the winter period each year, the Discharger shall notify the North Coast Regional Cannabis Unit

staff at (707) 576-2676 or [northcoast.cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:northcoast.cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov) so that a site-specific compliance schedule can be developed.

Cc: Kevin Porzio, State Water Resources Control Board,  
dwq.cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov  
Cheri Sanville, California Department of Fish and Wildlife,  
cheri.sanville@wildlife.ca.gov  
Cliff Johnson, Humboldt County Planning and Building,  
cjohnson@co.humboldt.ca.us