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GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
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North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board



March 16, 2018

WDID: 1B16977CHUM

Neva Peterson
600 F Street Suite 3 #1004
Arcata, CA 95521

Notice of Applicability, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2015-0023 for Humboldt County APN(s) 522-025-006-000

This letter serves as notification of enrollment under Order No. R1-2015-0023 *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for Discharges of Waste Resulting from Cannabis Cultivation and Associated Activities or Operations with Similar Environmental Effects in the North Coast Region* (Order). The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has received your initial fee required to enroll for coverage as a Tier 2 site under the Order. Your enrollment is effective as of July 15, 2016 (Effective Date). We have entered the information from your enrollment documents into the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS), which is available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/. You have been assigned an identification number associated with your enrollment, WDID No. 1B16977CHUM. You must retain a copy of the Order, Notice of Intent (NOI), Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) and associated monitoring documentation at the enrolled site, and make them available to Regional Water Board staff on request.

You must complete and submit the reporting form portion of the MRP (Annual Report) to the Regional Water Board by March 31st of each year. The 2017 Annual Report is due by March 31, 2018. Effective January 26, 2018, the submission process for Annual Reports is now completely electronic. For those otherwise in compliance with the Order, submittal of the Annual Report within 30 days of the deadline (i.e. received by April 30, 2018) will not be considered an enforcement priority. We have created a fillable PDF form to streamline the annual reporting process. The form has been reduced to two pages and additional clarification has been added in sections that appeared to have caused confusion in previous versions. You must download and complete the fillable PDF form using Adobe Reader from the NCRWQCB website at:
<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/CannabisAnnualReport.html>.

If your enrollment Effective Date was prior to July 1, 2017, you should have already received an invoice from the State Water Resources Control Board regarding your annual fee due. If this is the case and you have not yet received an invoice, you should contact staff in the Regional Water Board Cannabis Unit at (707) 576-2676 or NorthCoast.Cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov. If your enrollment Effective Date is after June 30, 2017, you will not receive an invoice for an annual fee until Spring of 2019. Fees should only be submitted in response to an invoice and must be submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board. Any fee payments submitted directly to the Regional Water Board will be returned to the sender listed on the incoming envelope.

Per the Tier 2 requirements described in the Order you are required to have developed and begun implementing a water resource protection plan by January 11, 2017, 180 days after your Effective Date. You are responsible for ensuring compliance with the water resource protection plan and the Order. The water resource protection plan must include a monitoring element that provides for periodic inspection of the site and completion of a site-specific checklist to confirm placement and effectiveness of management measures, and to document progress on any plan elements subject to a time schedule.

If you anticipate restoration, remediation, or existing infrastructure upgrades in streams or wetlands identified on your property, you will need to submit a Surface Water Correction Workplan at least 60 days prior to the proposed work (Appendix D of the Order available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/cannabis/). No work shall be performed in streams or wetlands without prior authorization from the Regional Water Board. Please note, if you conduct activities in streams or wetlands on your property, you may need to obtain permits for your proposed work from additional federal, state, or local entities. For example, you may need to obtain a Clean Water Act section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for dredge and fill activities or a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for stream-related work. It is your responsibility to consult with the appropriate agencies and obtain all necessary permits prior to beginning any work.

Enrollees that propose to terminate coverage under the Order must submit a Notice of Termination (NOT) in writing (preferably via email to NorthCoast.Cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov). The NOT 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 Standard Conditions of the Order, including dated photographs and a written discussion. If the site is not meeting the Standard Conditions of the Order then the enrollment cannot be terminated. Regional Water Board staff will review the NOT for completeness before determining if a property inspection, enrollment termination, or a request for additional information is appropriate. The Regional Water Board maintains its enforcement discretion after approval of a notice of termination.

All dischargers enrolled under Regional Water Board Order No. R1-2015-0023 as of October 17, 2017, (the adoption date of the Statewide Cannabis General Order No. WQ

2017-0023-DWQ) must apply for coverage under the Statewide Cannabis General Order by July 1, 2019, through the online enrollment portal (available at: <https://public2.waterboards.ca.gov/cgo>). Dischargers enrolled under the Regional Water Board Order may retain the reduced setbacks applicable under the Order for existing cultivation areas unless the Regional Water Board Executive Officer determines that the reduced setbacks are not protective of water quality. However, any new development or expansion to cannabis cultivation areas or other cannabis related activities must comply with the riparian setbacks in the Statewide General Order.

If there is a change in ownership or operation of the site, you must immediately notify the Regional Water Board and transfer into the Statewide Cannabis General Order. Notification of a change in ownership or operation of the site may be submitted to: NorthCoast.Cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov. In the notification please include the contact information for the new owner or operator, and provide documentation showing that the new owner or operator has been given notice of the existence of this Order.

Finally, be aware that enrollment under this or any other Water Board order does not in any way authorize, endorse, sanction, permit, or approve the cultivation, possession, use, sale, or other activities associated with cannabis. Enrollment under this Order does not preclude the need for permits that may be required by other governmental agencies, nor does it supersede any requirements, ordinances, or regulations of any other regulatory agency.

All monitoring report submissions and questions regarding compliance and enforcement should be directed to NorthCoast.Cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov or 707-576-2676.

Sincerely,


FOR: 
Water Boards

2018.03.16 15:02:32 PDT

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer