**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**
**SAN DIEGO REGION**

**ORDER NO. R9-2025-0012**

# WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEMLER BROTHERS LLC, PINE HILL EGG RANCH AND PULLET FARM, RAMONA, SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The Demler Brothers, LLC, as described below, is subject to the waste discharge requirements (WDRs) set forth in this Order:

**Table 1. Discharger Information**

| | |
|---|---|
| Discharger | Demler Brothers, LLC |
| Names and Addresses of Facilities | Pine Hill Egg Ranch, 25818 Highway 78, Ramona CA 92065, San Diego County |
| | Pullet Farm, 24555 Old Julian Highway, Ramona CA 92065, San Diego County |

**Table 2. Discharge Location**

| Discharge Point | Type of Waste | Latitude of Location of Facility | Longitude of Location of Facility | Hydrologic Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pine Hill Egg Ranch | Egg wash process water and animal waste | 33.072081 N | 116.772236 W | San Dieguito (Hydrologic Subarea 905.46) |
| Pullet Farm | Animal waste | 33.050598 N | 116.802489 W | San Dieguito (Hydrologic Subarea 905.46) |

**Effective Date**
The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) adopted this Order on **October 8, 2025.** This Order became effective upon adoption.

I, David W. Gibson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that this Order with all attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of this Order adopted by the San Diego Water Board on October 8, 2025.

DavidWGibson Digitally signed by DavidWGibson Date: 2025.10.15 09:59:14 -07'00'
Water Boards

**David W. Gibson, Executive Officer**

## CONTENTS

I FINDINGS……..3
II. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS……4
III. DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS...…….…….…….....4
IV. STANDARD PROVISIONS…….....8
V. SPECIAL PROVISIONS……12
VI. NOTICES……..13

## ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A– DEFINITIONS……..A-1
ATTACHMENT B– MAPS……..…….....B-1
ATTACHMENT C– MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM……....C-1
ATTACHMENT D– FACT SHEET……..D-1

## TABLES

Table 1. Discharger Information...…….....1
Table 2. Discharge Location..…….....1

## I. FINDINGS

The San Diego Water Board, finds:

A. **Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm Information**. Demler Brothers LLC (Discharger) owns and operates the Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm (collectively called the Facilities). The Facilities are described in section II of Attachment D to this Order (Fact Sheet). Section I of the Fact Sheet includes information regarding the Discharger's permit application.

B. **Legal Authorities.** The San Diego Water Board issued this Order pursuant to section 13263 of the California Water Code (Water Code). This Order serves as WDRs for the discharge of waste in accordance with division 7, chapter 4, article 4 of the Water Code (commencing with section 13260) and the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9).*

C. **Background and Rationale for Requirements.** The San Diego Water Board developed the requirements of this Order based on information submitted by the Discharger in the *Report of Waste Discharge for Pine Hill Egg Ranch* (ROWD),[1] Nutrient Management Plans for the Facilities,[2] water quality control plans, policies, and other available information. The Fact Sheet contains background information and rationale for the requirements of this Order. The Fact Sheet and Attachments A through D are incorporated into and constitute findings for this Order.

D. **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).** The adoption of this Order for the Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm is required to comply with the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with section 21100) of Division 13 of the Public Resources Code and is a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code, section 21000 et. seq.). The San Diego Water Board is the lead agency for the purposes of complying with CEQA. The San Diego Water Board prepared and adopted a Negative Declaration pertaining to the adoption of WDRs for the Facilities. Additional details about CEQA can be found in the Fact Sheet.

E. **Notification of Interested Persons.** The San Diego Water Board notified the Discharger, local agencies, and interested persons of its intent to prescribe WDRs for the discharge of waste described in this Order and provided them with an opportunity to submit written comments. The San Diego Water Board also provided an opportunity for the Discharger, local agencies, and interested persons to provide oral comments at a public hearing. Notification details are included in section VII.A of the Fact Sheet.

---

[1] Submitted pursuant to Water Code section 13260.

[2] The NMPs were developed as required by Order WQ 2014-0057-DWQ as Amended by Order WQ 2015-0122-DWQ & Order WQ 2028-0028-DWQ, *General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities*.

F. **Consideration of Public Comment.** The San Diego Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge. Details of the public meeting are included in sections VII.B and C of the Fact Sheet.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that, to meet the provisions contained in division 7 of the Water Code (commencing with section 13000) and applicable regulations adopted thereunder, the Discharger must comply with the requirements in this Order. The Discharger is hereby authorized to discharge wastes subject to WDRs in this Order at the discharge locations described in Table 2 within the East Santa Teresa Hydrologic Subarea (HSA).

## II. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

A. The Discharger must comply with discharge prohibitions contained in chapter 4 of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9)* (Basin Plan).

B. The Discharger is prohibited from discharging:

1. Waste to land, including but not limited to egg wash process water, chicken carcasses, and animal waste,[3] which has not been specifically described in this Order or the Discharger's ROWD, and for which valid WDRs are not in force.

2. Treated or untreated solid or liquid waste directly or indirectly to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), waters of the United States, or other surface waters and drainage courses, unless authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the San Diego Water Board or the State Water Resources Control Board.

C. The Discharger is prohibited from storing, treating, or disposing of waste in a manner that creates pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by Water Code section 13050.

D. The Discharger is prohibited from using manure to construct containment structures or to repair, replace, improve, or raise containment structures.

E. The Discharger is prohibited from allowing the direct contact of confined animals with waters of the United States.

## III. DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

### A. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS (FOR PINE HILL EGG RANCH AND THE PULLET FARM)

1. The Discharger must, at all times, properly operate and maintain all facilities and waste disposal systems (and related accessories), which are installed or used by the

[3] Animal waste, as defined in Attachment A, Part 2 of this Order, includes manure, soiled bedding, urine, eggs, feathers generated from Pine Hill Egg Ranch or the Pullet Farm.

Discharger to achieve compliance with the requirements of this Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes, but is not limited to, the routine inspection, maintenance, and repair of pipes, pumps, storage tanks, conveyance structures, evaporation ponds, wastewater or runoff collection structures or equipment, and any facilities or best management practices (BMPs) used for treatment or control wastes.

2. The Discharger must properly handle, store, dispose, and manage any chemicals used at the Facilities, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

3. The Discharger must manage all wastes and wastewaters to minimize odors beyond the limits of the Facilities and prevent nuisance conditions.

4. The Discharger must implement BMPs to prevent erosion and control runoff of pollutants to waters of the state. BMPs implemented can include controls to reduce stormwater runoff quantity or velocity, and/or hold soil particles in place.

5. The Discharger must obtain and comply with any additional permits required by local, state, or federal agencies for the construction, operation, or maintenance of the Facilities. This Order does not relieve the Discharger from the responsibility to obtain necessary local, state, or federal permits to conduct activities or construct or operate structures necessary for compliance with the Order.

B. **ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS (FOR PINE HILL EGG RANCH AND THE PULLET FARM)**

1. The Discharger must prevent animal operations from directly or indirectly discharging animal waste to any surface waters of the state, which include, but are not limited to, ephemeral streams, vernal pools, and MS4 facilities.

2. The Discharger must ensure that any off-site export of manure is performed by a licensed hauler for disposal at an appropriate licensed facility.

3. The Discharger must construct heavy-duty concrete pads at manure loading areas within six months of the effective date of this Order. Heavy-duty concrete pads must be designed, constructed, and maintained to prevent damage by the operation of equipment during manure management activities (e.g., temporary stockpiling or loading of manure into trucks for off-site disposal). Each concrete pad must be swept and cleaned after loading activities at the respective location. Any spilled manure and/or dust on the pads must be disposed of in the manure hauling trucks.

4. The Discharger must ensure all confined animal areas, and feed and waste storage areas, are managed to minimize standing water within 72 hours of the last rainfall.

5. The Discharger must properly manage animal waste in accordance with the following:

    a. Animal waste must be collected and disposed of regularly (at least once a week).

    b. Animal waste must not be stored on-site for longer than one week prior to disposal. The amount of animal waste stored in a temporary storage area must not exceed the capacity of the storage area. If animal waste exceeds or threatens to exceed the capacity of the temporary storage area, the animal waste must be disposed of immediately.

6. The Discharger must properly manage temporary storage areas for animal waste, in accordance with the following:

    a. Areas adjacent to temporary storage areas must be graded to prevent inundation from stormwater and surface water flows.

    b. Temporary storage areas must consist of an impervious surface (e.g., concrete pad or plastic tarp) to prevent the infiltration of pollutants to groundwater. The temporary storage area surface must be graded to prevent stormwater runoff.

    c. Temporary storage areas must not be located closer than 100 feet to any down gradient surface waters, open tile line intake structures, sinkholes, agricultural or domestic well heads, or other conduits to surface waters or groundwater, unless (i) a 35-feet wide vegetated buffer or physical barrier is substituted for the 100-foot setback, or (ii) alternative conservation practices or site-specific conditions are demonstrated to provide pollutant reductions equivalent to better than the reductions achieved by the 100-foot setback.

    d. Temporary storage areas must be protected with a roof or cover, or at a minimum be covered with plastic sheeting if precipitation is forecast within the next 24 hours, to prevent direct contact between precipitation and animal wastes.

7. The Discharger must divert precipitation and clean surface drainage away from the production areas[4] and roofed areas.

C. **MORTALITY MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS (FOR PINE HILL EGG RANCH AND THE PULLET FARM)**

1. The Discharger must properly manage onsite animal mortalities (i.e., chicken carcasses) to prevent contact with stormwater, onsite evaporation ponds, process

[4] Production areas are defined as any part of the Pine Hil Egg Ranch or the Pullet Farm that include animal confinement structures/houses, manure storage and handling structures, raw materials storage structures, and waste temporary storage areas.

wastewater storage or treatment systems, and any other storage or treatment system not specifically designed to handle chicken carcasses.

2. The Discharger must properly manage chicken carcasses in a manner to prevent the discharge of pollutants to surface water and groundwater.

3. The Discharger must dispose of chicken carcasses in compliance with all applicable federal, State, county, and local laws and regulations.

4. The Discharger must store all chicken carcasses in a freezer, equipped with a backup power source, to ensure continuous operation during power outages. Emergency air conditioning (HVAC) support must be available in case of equipment failure. If the freezer is non-operational for an extended period, the Discharger must promptly haul the chicken carcasses to a licensed disposal facility.

D. **EGG WASH PROCESS WATER SPECIFICATIONS (FOR PINE HILL EGG RANCH)**

1. The Discharger must ensure that only egg wash process water is discharged to the evaporation ponds. The evaporation ponds must not be used for disposing other types of waste.

2. The Discharger must ensure that all egg wash process water not discharged to the onsite evaporation ponds is hauled to an off-site permitted wastewater treatment facility.

3. The Discharger must ensure the onsite evaporation ponds comply with the following:

   a. The evaporation ponds must contain egg wash process water without overflow or overtopping, taking into consideration the crest of wind driven waves.

   b. The evaporation ponds must maintain at least 9 inches of freeboard. The Discharger must maintain a staff gauge onsite which can be used to check the freeboard in the evaporation ponds. San Diego Water Board staff may request confirmation of minimum freeboard during compliance inspections.

   c. Evaporation ponds must be lined. Liners must maintain a permeability of $1x10^{-6}$ centimeters per second (cm/s) or less. Liners must be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's specification, or more frequently based on the Discharger's routine monitoring of the liners for damage, degradation, or exceedance of the permeability specified in this section. The Discharger must ensure all removed liners are disposed of at a licensed waste disposal or recycling facility.

   d. Residual solids must be regularly removed from the evaporation ponds and properly disposed of at a licensed waste disposal facility.

4. The Discharger must design, construct, and maintain the evaporation ponds to prevent conditions contributing to, causing, or threatening to cause contamination, pollution, or nuisance.

5. The Discharger must manage the evaporation ponds to prevent a water quality related nuisance condition, such as the breeding of mosquitoes and other vectors and generation of foul or nuisance odors, by implementing the following minimum requirements:

   a. Prevent pooling of water outside the evaporation ponds.

   b. Maintain water depths in the evaporation ponds that reduce stagnant water and minimize conditions favorable for vector breeding.

   c. Use aerators, diffusers, or other appropriate methods to ensure the evaporation ponds are maintained and operated to ensure adequate water circulation and minimize anaerobic conditions.

   d. Apply larvicides or other approved treatments to control vector populations as necessary.

   e. Remove floating debris and vegetation that could serve as breeding habitats for vectors.

   f. Coordinate with the local mosquito abatement or vector control district to supplement the measures described above as needed.

   g. Inspect the evaporation ponds monthly to observe vector activity and check for structural integrity issues or other maintenance concerns.

## IV. STANDARD PROVISIONS

### A. FACILITY INSPECTIONS.

1. The Discharger must allow the San Diego Water Board or an authorized representative, upon the presentation of credentials, to:

   a. Enter upon the Discharger's premises where the regulated Facilities or activities are located, conducted, or where the Discharger keeps the required records under the conditions of this Order.

   b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this Order.

c. Inspect at reasonable times the Facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations that are regulated or required under this Order. [5]

d. Sample or monitor, at reasonable times for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Order or as otherwise authorized by the Water Code, any substances or parameters at any location.

B. **NOTIFICATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE.**

1. The Discharger must comply with all conditions of this Order. Any noncompliance with this Order constitutes a violation of the Water Code and is grounds for (a) enforcement action; (b) termination and reissuance or modification of this Order; or (c) denial of an application for new or revised WDRs.

2. The Discharger must report any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment. The Discharger must verbally notify the San Diego Water Board within 24-hours by calling 619-516-1990, once (1) the Discharger has knowledge of the noncompliance, or (2) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures. A written report must be sent by email to SanDiego@waterboards.ca.gov within 5 days of the time the Discharger becomes aware of the noncompliance. The written report must contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times; if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. The San Diego Water Board may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the verbal report has been received.

3. This Order may be modified, rescinded and reissued, or terminated at any time for reasons including, but not limited to:

   a. Violation of any terms or conditions of this Order.

   b. Obtaining this Order by misrepresentation or failing to disclose fully all relevant facts.

   c. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge.

   The filing of a request by the Discharger for the modification or rescission of this Order, or notification by the Discharger of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay in any condition of this Order.

[5] Routine inspections are typically conducted during normal business/daylight hours, but the San Diego Water Board may inspect at other times if necessary to observe relevant discharge conditions or investigate an incident.

4. Upon reduction, loss, or failure of any treatment system at the Facilities, the Discharger must, to the extent necessary to maintain compliance with this Order, control all discharges, until the treatment system is restored, or until an alternative method of disposal is provided. This provision applies, for example, when the primary source of power to Pine Hill Egg Ranch fails or is reduced and backup power sources are insufficient.

C. **ON-SITE RECORD KEEPING.** The Discharger must maintain a copy of this Order at the Facilities which must always be available to operating personnel.

D. **REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE.**

1. The Discharger must submit a new or amended report of waste discharge to the San Diego Water Board for review and response, at least 120 days prior to any proposed changes to the Facilities. The report of waste discharge must be stamped and signed by a California licensed civil engineer or geologist. The following are examples of changes that require the submittal of a new or amended report of waste discharge:

    a. Addition of a new process or waste stream at the Facilities resulting in a change in the character of wastes.

    b. Significant change in the treatment or discharge method (e.g. change in the method of treatment which would significantly alter the nature of the waste).

    c. Change in the discharge area from that described in the findings of this Order.

    d. Increase in discharge flowrate beyond that specified in the Fact Sheet.

    e. Other circumstances that result in a material change in character, amount, or location of the waste discharge.

    f. Any planned change in the Facilities or activities which may result in noncompliance with this Order.

2. Should the Discharger become aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts or submitted incorrect information in the report of waste discharge or in any report to the San Diego Water Board, the Discharger must promptly submit such facts or information.

3. The Discharger must sign and certify all applications, reports, or information submitted to the San Diego Water Board as follows:

    a. A report of waste discharge must be signed as follows:

        i. The application and Form 200 for the report of waste discharge must be signed by the following:

- For a corporation – by a principal executive officer of at least the level of senior vice-president.

- For a partnership or sole proprietorship - by a general partner or the proprietor.

ii. All technical reports submitted with the report of waste discharge must be signed by a California licensed civil engineer or geologist providing engineering or geological judgments. The licensed civil engineer or geologist must sign and affix their license stamp to the report, plan, or document by direction of the person designated in paragraph "i" of this provision.

1) The authorization is made in writing by a person described in paragraph "i" of this provision.

2) The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated Facilities or activities.

b. All other reports required by this Order and other information required by the San Diego Water Board must be signed by a person designated in section IV.D.3.a.i or a duly authorized representative of that person. An individual is a duly authorized representative only if all the following are true:

i. The authorization is written by a person described in section IV.D.3.a.i.

ii. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facilities or activities.

iii. The written authorization is submitted to the San Diego Water Board.

4. Any person signing a document under this section must make the following certification:

*"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of a fine and imprisonment."*

5. The Discharger must submit reports required under this Order to the San Diego Water Board via the GeoTracker database at https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/. The San Diego Water Board may also request hard copies and/or electronic copies on a compact disc (CD), universal serial bus (USB) drive, or other appropriate media, including electronic mail (email). Report submittals must include a signed

cover/transmittal letter that includes the Facilities name, Facilities contact information, and reference code: **MIzadmehr:WDR100054770**, unless directed otherwise by the Executive Officer.

6. The Discharger must provide to the San Diego Water Board, within a reasonable time, any information which the San Diego Water Board may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, rescinding and reissuing, or terminating this Order. The Discharger must also furnish to the San Diego Water Board, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this Order.

E. **CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP.** This Order is not transferable to any person except after notice to the San Diego Water Board. The notice must be in writing and received by the San Diego Water Board at least 120 days in advance of any proposed transfer. The notice must include a written agreement between the existing and the new discharger containing a specific date for the transfer of this Order's responsibility and coverage between the existing and the new discharger. This agreement must include an acknowledgement that the existing discharger is liable for violations occurring before the transfer date and that the new discharger is liable from the transfer date and thereafter. The San Diego Water Board may require modification or revocation and reissuance of this Order to change the name of the discharger and incorporate other requirements as may be necessary.

F. **MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM.** The Discharger must comply with the monitoring and reporting program (MRP, Attachment C of this Order) and any future revisions specified by the San Diego Water Board. Monitoring results must be reported at the frequency specified in the MRP.

## V. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

A. All waste treatment, containment, and disposal systems must be protected against a 100-year frequency flood flows as defined by the San Diego County Flood Control District (FCD).

B. All waste treatment, containment, and disposal systems must be protected against erosion, overland runoff, and other impacts resulting from a 100-year, 24-hour storm event as defined by the FCD.

C. The Discharger must develop an emergency spill prevention plan (SPP) detailing measures to be taken in the case of a discharge or threatened discharge of manure, chemicals, sediment, nutrients, or pathogens to surface water or groundwater. Personnel training, first response actions, and emergency contacts must be described in the SPP. The SPP must be kept onsite and made accessible to Facilities personnel.

## VI. NOTICES

A. If any person uses, transports, or stores waste in a manner which creates, or threatens to create conditions of pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined in Water Code section 13050, the San Diego Water Board may initiate enforcement action against the

Discharger, which may result in the termination of the waste discharge.

B. This Order does not convey property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. The requirements prescribed herein do not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to persons or property, nor protect the Discharger from liability under federal, State, or local laws, nor create a vested right for the Discharger to continue the waste discharge.

C. These requirements have not been reviewed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and are not issued pursuant to Clean Water Act section 402.

D. Any person aggrieved by this action of the San Diego Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and CCR title 23, sections 2050. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this Order, except if this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or State holiday, then the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request. The provisions of this Order are severable, and if any provision of this Order, or the application of any provision of this Order to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this Order must not be affected.

# ATTACHMENT A– DEFINITIONS
# ORDER NO. R9-2023-0005

## Part 1. Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Definition |
|---|---|
| 40 CFR | Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations |
| Basin Plan | Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9) |
| CCR | California Code of Regulations |
| CEQA | California Environmental Quality Act |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| Discharger | Demler Brothers LLC. |
| ELAP | Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program |
| Facilities | Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm |
| FCD | San Diego County Flood Control District |
| HA | Hydrologic Area |
| HSA | Hydrologic Subarea |
| MBAS | Methylene blue-activated substances |
| mg/L | Milligrams per liter |
| MRP | Monitoring and Reporting Program |
| MS4 | Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| NTU | Nephelometric Turbidity Unit |
| Order | Order No. R9-2025-0012, Demler Brothers LLC, Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm, Ramona, San Diego County |
| QA | Quality Assurance |
| QC | Quality Control |
| ROWD | Discharger's Report of Waste Discharge for Pine Hill Egg Ranch |
| San Diego Water Board | California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region |
| SMR | Self-monitoring report |
| State Water Board | State Water Resources Control Board |
| TDS | Total Dissolved Solids |
| Water Code | California Water Code |
| WDRs | Waste Discharge Requirements |
| WQOs | Water Quality Objectives |

See Part 2 of Attachment A (Glossary of Common Terms) for further definitions.

## Part 2. Glossary of Common Terms

**Agricultural Supply**
Agricultural Supply is the beneficial use of water resources as defined by the Basin Plan that includes uses of water for farming, horticulture, or ranching including, but not limited to, irrigation, stock watering, or support of vegetation for range grazing.

**Animal Waste**
Animal waste includes manure, soiled bedding, urine, eggs, feathers generated from Pine Hill Egg Ranch or the Pullet Farm.

**Animal Mortalities**
Animal mortalities refer to chicken carcasses at Pine Hill Egg Ranch or the Pullet Farm.

**Annually**
Defined as a period of 12 consecutive calendar months beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31.

**California Code of Regulations**
The California Code of Regulations is the official compilation and publication of the regulations adopted, amended, or repealed by state agencies pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. Properly adopted regulations that have been filed with the Secretary of State have the force of law.

**Clean Water Act**
The Clean Water Act is legislation passed by the U.S. Congress to control water pollution, formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 or Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92-500), 33 U.S.C. 1251 et. seq., as amended by: Public Law 96-483; Public Law 97-117; Public Laws 95-217, 97-117, 97-440, and 100-04.

**Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)**
The CFR is the codification (arrangement of) the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government. The CFR is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to federal regulations. CFR, Title 40: Protection of Environment is the section of the CFR (40 CFR) that deals with United States Environmental Protection Agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment.

**Grab Sample Type**
A grab sample is an individual sample of at least 100 milliliters collected at a randomly selected time over a period not exceeding 15 minutes. The sample is taken from a waste stream on a one-time basis without consideration of the flowrate of the waste stream and without consideration of time of day.

**Facilities**
The Facilities are the Pine Hill Egg Ranch located at 25818 Highway 78, Ramona, CA 92065 and the Pullet Farm located at 24555 Old Julian Highway, Ramona CA 92065.

**Freeboard**
The vertical distance from the water surface in a pond to the crest of the pond side.

**Industrial Service Supply**
Industrial Service Supply is the beneficial use of water resources as defined by the Basin Plan for industrial activities that do not depend primarily on water quality including, but not limited to,

mining, cooling water supply, hydraulic conveyance, gravel washing, fire protection, or oil well re-pressurization.

**Municipal and Domestic Supply**
Municipal and Domestic Supply is the beneficial use of water resources as defined by the Basin Plan that includes uses of water for community, military, or individual water supply systems including, but not limited to, drinking water supply.

**Potable Water**
Water that comes from surface and ground sources and is treated to levels that meet state and federal standards for consumption as drinking water.

**Production Area(s)**
Production areas are defined as any part of Pine Hil Egg Ranch or the Pullet Farm that include animal confinement structures/houses, manure storage and handling structures, raw materials storage structures, and waste containment or storage structures.

**Semiannual**
Defined as a period of two consecutive calendar months beginning on January 1 through June 30, and July 1 through December 31.

**Total Nitrogen**
Total Nitrogen is the sum of concentrations of ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, and organic nitrogen containing compounds expressed as nitrogen.

**Waste**
“Waste” is defined in Water Code section 13050(d). With respect to the Facilities, waste includes, but is not limited to leachate, egg wash water and any water, precipitation or rainfall runoff that comes into contact with raw materials, products, animal waste, mortality waste.

**Water Quality Objectives**
WQOs are the limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics which are established for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water or the prevention of nuisance within a specific area.

**ATTACHMENT B– MAPS**
**ORDER NO. R9-2025-0012**

**Figure 1. Map Showing Location of the Pine Hil Egg Ranch Treatment System**

**Figure 2. Plan View Map of the Evaporation Ponds (Map is not to scale)**

**Figure 3. Pine Hill Egg Ranch Vicinity Map (White Rectangle Shows the Location of the Facility)**

**Figure 4. Map Showing Location of the Pullet Farm Structures and Surface Runoff Direction**

Pullet House
Back up Generators
Surface Runoff Direction
Freezer Storage Room
Proposed Replacement IGP Sampling Point
Chemical Storage
Existing IGP Sampling Point

**Figure 5. Pullet Farm Vicinity Map**

# ATTACHMENT C– MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM ORDER NO. R9-2025-0012

## I. FINDINGS

A. This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) is issued to Demler Brothers LLC (Discharger) pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13267, which authorizes the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) to require technical and monitoring reports. Additional information about the rationale for this MRP can be found in section VI of Attachment D to Order No. R9-2025-0012, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Demler Brothers LLC, Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm, Ramona, San Diego County* (Fact Sheet).

B. The Discharger's compliance with the requirements of this MRP provides the San Diego Water Board with information necessary to: 1) determine compliance with Order No. R9-2025-0012, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the Demler Brothers LLC, Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm Ramona, San Diego County* (Order); and 2) assess the quality of groundwater and protection of beneficial uses. The San Diego Water Board Executive Officer can modify this MRP as appropriate.

C. This MRP establishes requirements for the Discharger to conduct routine or episodic self-monitoring of the discharges regulated under the Order at specified monitoring locations. This MRP requires the Discharger to report the monitoring results to the San Diego Water Board with information necessary to evaluate discharge characteristics and compliance status.

## II. GENERAL MONITORING PROVISIONS

A. The Discharger must ensure samples and measurements collected as required by the Order and this MRP are representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge. All samples must be collected at the monitoring points specified in section III of this MRP and, unless otherwise specified. The Discharger must not change monitoring locations prior to notifying and receiving approval from the San Diego Water Board for the proposed change.

B. The Discharger must ensure that all sample containers must be labeled with a unique identifier (e.g., field/well number) and records maintained to show the time and date of collection as well as the person collecting the sample, the sample location, and method of sample collection and preservation.

C. The Discharger must ensure that the laboratory used to perform chemical analyses is accredited by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) for the analytical method used.[6]

[6] Information about ELAP accredited labs can be found at the following webpage https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/labs/

D. The Discharger must ensure that monitoring for all constituents is conducted according to United States Environmental Protection Agency test procedures approved in 40 Code of Federal Regulations, part 136, *Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants*, as amended, unless other test procedures are specified in this MRP.

E. The Discharger must ensure that all monitoring reports submitted to the San Diego Water Board presenting new analytical data must include the complete laboratory analytical report(s). The laboratory director must sign the laboratory analytical report and contain:

1. A complete sample analytical report,

2. A complete laboratory Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) report, and

3. A discussion of the QA/QC data.

F. If the Discharger monitors any pollutants more frequently than required by this MRP, using approved test procedures, or as specified in this MRP, the results of this monitoring must be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the Discharger's monitoring report. The Discharger must also report the increased frequency of monitoring.

G. The Discharger must retain records documenting any corrective actions taken to correct deficiencies noted as a result of the monitoring required by this MRP. Deficiencies not corrected in 30 days must be accompanied by an explanation of the factors preventing immediate correction.

H. The Discharger must retain records of the date, time, and estimated volume of any overflow or bypass of the wastewater storage or conveyance structures as well as any exceedance related to solid waste accumulation or disposal.

I. The Discharger must retain records which document that any off-site exports of manure, chicken carcasses, or egg wash process water have been hauled offsite to an appropriate licensed disposal facility. Disposal records must include information on the hauler, destination, haul dates, amount hauled, etc.; and must be maintained for a minimum of five years from the date of hauling. Disposal documentation may include, but is not limited to, manifests, invoices, receipts, or other appropriate documents. Manifests must be submitted to the San Diego Water Board upon request.

J. The Discharger must maintain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records, mortality management records, egg process wash water hauling records, all original strip chart and/or electronic recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, and copies of all records and reports required by this MRP. The Discharger must maintain records for a minimum of five years from the date of the sample, measurement, report, or application. The San Diego Water Board may extend this period during any unresolved litigation related to any discharges regulated under this Order.

The Discharger must ensure analytical records include the following:

1. The date, location, and time of sampling or measurements,
2. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements,
3. The date(s) analyses were performed,
4. The individual(s) who performed the analyses,
5. The analytical techniques or methods used, and
6. The results of such analyses.

K. The Discharger must routinely maintain and calibrate all monitoring instruments and devices used to comply with this MRP according to manufacturer guidelines.

L. The Discharger must sign and certify all applications, reports, or information submitted to the San Diego Water Board as detailed in section IV.D.3.b of the Order.

M. The Discharger must identify all missing or non-valid monitoring or sampling results in submitted monitoring reports. All instances of missing or non-valid results must include an explanation of their root cause and the steps the Discharger has or will take to prevent future instances. Missing or non-valid results may be considered violations of the MRP that could result in enforcement action depending on the frequency of such instances and efforts by the Discharger to prevent such deficiencies.

## III. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A. **Monitoring and Assessment Program (Monitoring Program).** The Discharger must establish a Monitoring Program, designed to routinely assess site conditions at the Facilities and groundwater quality underlying the Pine Hill Egg Ranch. The Discharger must initiate the Monitoring Program in accordance with the approved Monitoring Work Plan (Work Plan) unless otherwise directed by the San Diego Water Board. Elements of the Discharger's Monitoring Program must include, but may not be limited to:

1. Monitoring Frequency (Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm). The Discharger must ensure that monitoring for all sampling and inspections required by this MRP is completed within the periods described in this MRP.

2. Monitoring Locations (Pine Hill Egg Ranch Only). The Discharger must establish the monitoring locations shown in Table C-1 of this MRP to demonstrate compliance with the discharge specifications and other requirements in the Order.[7]

[7] Section VI.B of the Fact Sheet provides the rationale for these monitoring provisions.

**Table C-1. Summary of Monitoring Locations**

| Monitoring Location Name | Monitoring Location Description |
|---|---|
| EFF-001 | Effluent leaving the wet well prior to discharge to the evaporation ponds. |
| MW-1 | Monitoring or supply well located upgradient of the production areas[8] and the effluent wet well. |
| MW-2 | Monitoring or supply well located downgradient from the production areas and evaporation ponds. |
| MW-3 | Monitoring or supply well located downgradient from the production areas and evaporation ponds. |

3. Egg Wash Process Water Monitoring (Pine Hill Egg Ranch Only). The Discharger must monitor the egg wash process water at monitoring location EFF-001 as specified in Table C-2 of this MRP.

**Table C-2. Egg Wash Process Water Monitoring at Monitoring Location EFF-001**

| Parameter | Units | Sample Type | Minimum Sample Frequency[2,3] | Reporting Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) | Milligrams per liter (mg/L) | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Chloride | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Total Coliform | Most Probable Number (MPN)/100 milliliter (mL) | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Flowrate | Gallons per day (gpd) | Measured[1] | Continuous | Annually |
| Methylene Blue Active Substances (MBAS) | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Nitrate + Nitrite (as Nitrogen) | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Percent Sodium | % | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| pH | pH Units | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Sulfate | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Total Suspended Solids (TSS) | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Total Nitrogen | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Total Phosphorus | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Total Potassium | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |

[8] Production areas are defined in Attachment A to the Order.

Table Notes:

1) Flow rate may be measured using a flow meter or estimated based on potable water supply meter readings or other method approved by the San Diego Water Board.
2) The monitoring period for continuous sampling frequencies is Midnight through 11:59 pm.
3) The monitoring period for semiannual sampling frequencies is January 1 through June 30, and July 1 through December 31.

4. Groundwater Monitoring (Pine Hill Egg Ranch Only). The Discharger must:

a. Conduct groundwater monitoring from monitoring locations MW-1, MW-2, and MW-3 as described in Table C-3 of this MRP.

**Table C-3. Groundwater Monitoring at Monitoring Locations MW-1, MW-2, and MW-3.**

| Parameter | Units | Sample Type | Minimum Sample Frequency[2] | Reporting Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Depth to Groundwater[1] | 0.01 ft | Measured | Semiannually | Annually |
| Groundwater elevation | 0.01 ft | Calculated | Semiannually | Annually |
| Groundwater gradient | Ft/ft | Calculated | Semiannually | Annually |
| Groundwater flow direction | Degrees | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| pH | pH Units | Field | Semiannually | Annually |
| Ammonia (as nitrogen) | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Electrical Conductivity | µmho/cm | Field | Semiannually | Annually |
| Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Chloride | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Sulfate | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Percent Sodium | % | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Temperature | F | Field | Semiannually | Annually |
| Total Nitrogen | mg/L | Calculated | Semiannually | Annually |
| Nitrate (as nitrogen) | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Iron, dissolved | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| Manganese, dissolved | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |
| MBAS | mg/L | Grab | Semiannually | Annually |

Table Notes:

1) Measurement of the depth to groundwater from a surveyed reference point to the nearest 0.01 foot in each monitoring well.

2) The monitoring period for semiannual sampling frequencies is January 1 through June 30, and July 1 through December 31.

b. Ensure that all monitoring wells (MW-1, MW-2, and MW-3) are:

i. Constructed in a manner that maintains the integrity of the monitoring well borehole and prevents the well, including the annular space outside of the well casing, from acting as a conduit for pollutant/contaminant transport. Each monitoring well must be appropriately designed and constructed to enable collection of representative samples of the first encountered groundwater.

ii. Constructed and/or destructed in accordance with the standards contained in *Water Wells and Monitoring Wells in the California Well Standards Bulletin 74-90* (June 1991) and Bulletin 74-81 (December 1981), adopted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The Discharger must use more stringent well standards if the County of San Diego adopts more stringent standards than that adopted by DWR. More stringent practices should be implemented if needed to prevent the well from acting as a conduit for vertical migration of waste constituents.

iii. Surveyed by a registered land surveyor or other qualified professional, to determine the horizontal and vertical position of each monitoring well. The Discharger must ensure that the horizontal position of each monitoring well is measured with one-foot lateral accuracy, using the North American Datum 1983 (NAD83 datum). Additionally, the Discharger must ensure that the vertical elevation of each monitoring well is referenced to the North American Vertical Datum 1988 (NAVD88 datum) to an absolute accuracy of at least 0.5 feet and a relative accuracy between monitoring wells of 0.01 feet.

5. <u>Visual Inspections (Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm).</u> The Discharger must conduct visual inspections of the Facilities as described below and notify the San Diego Water Board of any instances of non-compliance in accordance with section IV of the Order. The Discharger must:

a. Inspect all aboveground pipes and pumps associated with the wastewater management system at the Pine Hill Egg Ranch at least once a month to identify leaks or repairs.

b. Inspect all evaporation ponds at the Pine Hill Egg Ranch, at least once a month, to:

   i. Evaluate the structural integrity of the liner and identify any issues or other maintenance concerns (i.e., signs of leaks, degradation, damage, or cracks).

   ii. Observe the presence of vector activity.

   iii. Monitor compliance with the freeboard requirements of the Order.

c. Inspect all manure storage and handling areas at the Facilities, at least once a week, to identify conditions that could result in a discharge of waste to surface waters or groundwater.

d. Include a summary of visual inspections conducted as described in Table C-4 and any corrective actions implemented during the previous calendar year as a result of the visual inspections in the annual self-monitoring reports submitted to the San Diego Water Board (see section IV.C of this MRP).

**Table C-4. Summary of Visual Inspections**

| Inspection Area | Frequency[1,2] | Reporting Frequency |
|---|---|---|
| Pipes and pumps | Monthly | Annually |
| Evaporation ponds | Monthly | Annually |
| Manure storage and handling areas | Weekly | Annually |

Table Notes:

1) Monthly is defined as the first day of calendar month through the last day of calendar month.
2) Weekly is defined as Sunday through Saturday of the same calendar week.

## IV. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. **Monitoring Work Plan (Work Plan).** The Discharger must submit a Work Plan to the San Diego Water Board within 120 days of adoption of the Order. The Discharger's Work Plan must provide a detailed description of the proposed actions, milestones, and implementation time schedule necessary to establish a monitoring and assessment

program for the Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm (collectively called the Facilities), as outlined in section III of this MRP. The Discharger may propose the use of existing supply wells or the combination of existing supply wells and new monitoring wells in its Work Plan. The Work Plan must provide sufficient technical justification for use of existing supply wells. The Work Plan must also demonstrate that the existing supply wells are located either upgradient and/or downgradient from the production areas and evaporation ponds (as described in Table C-1).

San Diego Water Board staff will review and consider the Work Plan. The Discharger must begin implementation of the Work Plan within 30 days of receiving written notification from Board staff, identifying that the Work Plan is acceptable.

B. **Monitoring Work Plan Implementation Report.** The Discharger must submit a Monitoring Work Plan Implementation Report to the San Diego Water Board, within 60 days of completing implementation of the Discharger's accepted Work Plan. The Monitoring Work Plan Implementation Report must, at a minimum, provide the following:

1. A detailed summary of field activities associated with the implementation of the Work Plan, and a description and resolution of any difficulties encountered.

2. A detailed summary of the installation of any monitoring wells, if new monitoring wells are proposed in the Work Plan. The summary must also provide a description and resolution of any difficulties encountered during well installation. The monitoring well summary must include, but may not be limited to, the following monitoring well construction, development, and survey data.

   a. <u>Monitoring Well Construction</u>

      i. The number and depths of monitoring wells installed.

      ii. The monitoring well identification (i.e., number).

      iii. The date(s) of drilling and well installation.

      iv. A description of monitoring well locations including field-implemented changes (from proposed locations) due to physical obstacles or safety hazards.

      v. A description of drilling and construction, including equipment, methods, and difficulties encountered (such as hole collapse, lost circulation, need for fishing).

      vi. The name of the drilling company, driller, and logger (site geologist to be identified).

      vii. The boring and final well construction logs.

b. Monitoring Well Development

i. Date(s) and time of development.

ii. Name of developer.

iii. Method of development.

iv. Methods used to identify completion of development.

v. Development log: volume of water purged and measurements of temperature, pH, and electrical conductivity during and after development.

vi. Disposition of development water.

vii. Field notes (such a bailing to dryness, recovery time, number of development cycles).

c. Monitoring Well Surveys

i. Identify coordinate system or reference points used.

ii. Description of measuring points (e.g., ground surface, top of casing, etc.).

iii. Horizontal and vertical coordinates of well casing with cap removed (measuring point to nearest + 0.01 foot).

iv. Name, license number, and signature of California licensed professional who conducted survey.

v. Surveyor's field notes.

vi. Tabulated survey data.

3. Topographic maps or aerial photographs showing the location of any:

a. Onsite or nearby domestic, irrigation, or municipal supply wells.

b. New or existing groundwater monitoring wells.

c. Onsite or nearby surface water bodies, drainage courses, and tributaries.

d. Other major physical and man-made features, such as animal houses.

e. Waste handling facilities, including retention ponds and manure storage areas.

4. As-built drawing for each monitoring well, that include with the following details:

    a. Monitoring well identification (i.e., number)

    b. Date(s) of drilling and well installation.

    c. Borehole total depth and diameter(s).

    d. Well casing total depth(s), diameter(s), materials, thickness, screen size and interval(s), and screen depth(s).

    e. Conduct casing material and diameter, if applicable.

    f. Filter pack depth(s), thickness(es), type(s), and size(s).

    g. Seal depth(s), thickness(es), and material type(s).

    h. Surface Completion, well cap types, and any well protections (i.e., as below-grade water-tight vaults, stovepipe, bollards, etc.)

    i. Depth to water (note any rises in water level from initial measurement) and date of measurement.

C. **Annual Self-Monitoring Reports (SMRs).** The Discharger must submit annual SMRs to the San Diego Water Board via the State Water Board's online GeoTracker database,[9] by March 1 each year. The Discharger's annual SMRs must include:

1. A cover letter that includes the signature and certification requirements in section IV.D of the Order. The information contained in the cover letter must clearly identify violations of the Order or state no violations occurred during the reporting period; discuss corrective actions taken or planned; and propose a time schedule for corrective actions, if not already implemented. For identified violations, the letter must include a description of the requirement in the Order that was violated and a description of the violation.

2. An annual assessment of the groundwater monitoring data that:

    a. Characterize natural background groundwater quality upgradient of the production areas and effluent wet well.

    b. Characterize groundwater quality downgradient of the production areas and evaporation ponds.

[9] The State Water Resources Control Board's online GeoTracker database is available at http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/.

c. Calculate the groundwater flow direction and hydraulic gradient beneath the Pine Hill Egg Ranch.

3. A tabulated summary of all egg wash process water and groundwater monitoring results to date, provided in a text-searchable portable document format (PDF).

4. An evaluation of the groundwater monitoring data collected to date, with a description of the statistical and non-statistical methods used.

5. Copies of analytical laboratory reports for data collected during the previous calendar year as required by sections III.A.3 and III.A.4 of this MRP.

6. An evaluation of the groundwater monitoring program's adequacy to assess compliance with the Order, including whether the data provided is representative of conditions upgradient and downgradient of the production areas at the Pine Hill Egg Ranch.

7. A summary of visual inspections conducted during the previous calendar year, including any corrective actions implemented as a result of the visual inspections (as required by section III.A.5 of this MRP).

8. A summary of all manure management activities, including an estimation of the total amounts of manure 1) generated and 2) hauled offsite during the previous calendar year (in cubic yards). This summary must also identify the names of persons or entities that received manure during the previous calendar year, addresses of each location manure were transported to for disposal, and an estimate of the volume (in cubic yards) delivered to each location.

9. A summary of the management of egg wash process water, including the dates and an estimation of the total volume (in gallons) of process water hauled offsite for disposal during the previous calendar year. This summary must also identify the names of persons or entities that received egg wash process water during the previous calendar year, addresses of each location egg wash process water was transported to for disposal, and an estimate of the volume (in gallons) delivered to each location. If no egg wash process water was hauled offsite for disposal during the previous calendar year, the Discharger must state in the annual report that no egg wash process water was hauled offsite for disposal.

D. **Other Reports**. The Discharger is required to submit the reports listed in Table C-5 to the San Diego Water Board.

**Table C-5. One Time Reporting Schedule**

| Report Type | Reference Section | Report Due Date |
|---|---|---|
| Work Plan | Section IV.A of this MRP | Within 120 days of adoption of the Order |

| Report Type | Reference Section | Report Due Date |
|---|---|---|
| Monitoring Work Plan Implementation Report | Section IV.B of this MRP | Within 60 days of completing the implementation of the Discharger's accepted Work Plan |
| Annual Self-Monitoring Reports | Section IV.C of this MRP | March 1 of each year |
| Emergency Spill Prevention Plan (SPP) | Section V.C of the Order | Within 180 days of adoption of the Order |
| Noncompliance Report | Section IV.B of the Order | 5 days after noncompliance |
| Report of Waste Discharge | Section IV.D of the Order | 120 days prior to any proposed major changes |
| Transfer of Ownership Notice | Section IV.E of the Order | 120 days prior to transfer of ownership |
| Updated Signatory Designation | Section IV.E.3.i of this MRP | Within 30 days of adoption of the Order |

E. **Standard Reporting Protocols.**

1. Submission Procedures. The Discharger must submit all reports required under this MRP in a text-searchable, electronic, Portable Document Format (PDF). Larger documents must be divided into separate files at logical places in the report to keep the file sizes under 150 megabytes. The Discharger must provide a paper copy of all figures larger than 8.5 inches by 14 inches to the San Diego Water Board. All correspondence and documents submitted to the San Diego Water Board must include the reference code " **MIzadmehr:WDR100054770** " in the header or subject line. If the Discharger has any questions regarding the submittal of electronic data files, contact the San Diego Water Board's Mission Support Services Unit at (619) 516-1990.

2. Use of Licensed Professionals. All technical reports and plans submitted for compliance with this Order must be prepared by a California licensed civil engineer or geologist. The technical report or plan must include a statement of qualifications and the license number of the civil engineer or geologist. The civil engineer or geologist must also sign and affix their license stamp to the technical report or plan.

3. Electronic Data Submittals. The Discharger must submit all information required by the San Diego Water Board, in compliance with this MRP, electronically via the internet into the GeoTracker database at http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/. The electronic data must be uploaded on or prior to the due dates specified in this MRP and any future addenda to the Order. To comply with CCR title 23, section 3893(b), the Discharger must upload the following information to the GeoTracker database:

a. Laboratory Analytical Data. All analytical data for all water quality samples in Electronic Deliverable File (EDF) format.

b. Location Data. The latitude and longitude of any monitoring wells for which data is reported in EDF format, accurate to within one meter and referenced to a minimum of two reference points from the California Reference System (SCRSH), if available.

c. Monitoring Well Elevation Data. The surveyed elevation relative to a geodetic datum of any monitoring well. Elevation measurements must be made at the top of the well casings for all monitoring wells.

d. Depth-to-Water Data. The depth-to-water in monitoring wells even if groundwater samples are not collected during the sampling event.

e. Topographical Maps and Aerial Photographs. A map or photographs which display discharge locations, streets bordering the Facilities, and sampling locations for water quality samples. The sample map is a stand-alone document that may be submitted in various electronic formats. An updated map may be submitted at any time.

f. Boring Logs. Boring logs, as searchable PDF documents, prepared by an appropriately licensed professional.

g. Electronic Reports. A complete, searchable PDF copy of all workplans, reports, oversized drawings, maps, signed transmittal letter, professional certifications, and all data presented in the reports.

h. Certification Statements. The person signing the transmittal letter must make the following certification:

*"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who managed the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for known violations."*

i. Signatory Designation. All documents submitted to the San Diego Water Board must be signed by a person described in section IV.D.3 or this Order. The Discharger must submit to the San Diego Water Board within 30 days of adoption of this MRP, an updated signatory designation, identifying those persons authorized to sign reports.

# ATTACHMENT D– FACT SHEET
# ORDER NO. R9-2025-0012

This Fact Sheet includes background information, legal requirements, technical rationale; and serves as the basis for the requirements of Order No. R9-2025-0012, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Demler LLC, Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm Ramona, San Diego County* (Order), and the directives in Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in Attachment C of the Order. This Fact Sheet is incorporated into and constitutes findings for the Order and MRP.

## I. ORDER INFORMATION

A. Table D-1 below summarizes the administrative information related to the Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Pullet Farm (collectively referred to as the Facilities).

**Table D-1. Facilities Information**

| | |
|---|---|
| WDID | 9 000003769 |
| Discharger | Demler Brothers LLC |
| Names of Facilities | • Pine Hill Egg Ranch<br>• Pullet Farm |
| Pine Hill Egg Ranch Address | 25818 Highway 78<br>Ramona, CA 92065 |
| Pullet Farm Address | 24555 Old Julian Highway, Ramona CA 92065 |
| Facilities Contact, Title and Phone | Anthony Demler, Owner<br>760-789-2457 |
| Authorized Person to Sign and Submit Reports | Anthony Demler, Owner |
| Mailing Address | 25818 Highway 78<br>Ramona, CA 92065 |
| Billing Address | 25818 Highway 78<br>Ramona, CA 92065 |
| Type of Facilities | Egg Ranch/Confined Animal Facility |
| Threat to Water Quality | 2 |
| Complexity | C |
| Design Flowrate of Egg Wash Treatment System | 1500 gallons per day |
| Pine Hill Egg Ranch Watershed | East Santa Teresa Hydrologic Subarea (905.46) of the Santa Maria Valley Hydrologic Area (Santa Maria Valley HA 905.40) |
| Pullet Farm Watershed | Lower Hatfield Hydrologic Subarea (905.42) of the Santa Maria Valley HA 905.40 |
| Receiving Water Type | Groundwater |

**B.** Demler Brothers LLC (Discharger) submitted, a *Report of Waste Discharge for Pine Hill Egg Ranch* (ROWD)/application for waste discharge requirements (WDRs) and Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) to the San Diego Water Board on May 22, 2024, for the Facilities. The Discharger submitted the ROWD pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13260, and submitted the Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) in accordance with Order WQ 2014-0057-DWQ as amended by Order WQ 2015-0122-DWQ & Order WQ 2018-0028-DWQ, *General Industrial Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity* (Industrial General Permit).[1] San Diego Water Board staff reviewed the Discharger's information and requested additional information to supplement the ROWD. The Discharger submitted the supplemental information to the San Diego Water Board on August 26, 2024. The Discharger also submitted updated NMPs on September 9, 2024.

## II. FACILITIES DESCRIPTION

A. **Background.** The Discharger owns and operates both the Pine Hill Egg Ranch (Ranch) and Pullet Farm (Farm).

1. Pine Hill Egg Ranch. Pine Hill Egg Ranch occupies approximately 362 acres in Ramona, at 25818 Highway 78, which is within San Diego County. Pine Hill Egg Ranch houses approximately 1.5 million chickens but has the capacity to house up to two million chickens and produce approximately 800,000 eggs per day. Based on the number of animals onsite, Pine Hill Egg Ranch qualifies as a large Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), as defined by Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), title 40, Part 122.23(b)(4). Pine Hill Egg Ranch generates approximately 2,000 gallons of wastewater per day from egg washing operations and approximately 375 tons of manure per week. Additionally, Pine Hill Egg Ranch generates other types of wastes, including broken eggs and chicken carcasses.

   Stormwater Discharges

   Currently, the San Diego Water Board regulates stormwater discharges from Pine Hill Egg Ranch through the Industrial General Permit. Stormwater from Pine Hill Egg Ranch drains to Santa Teresa Valley Creek, a tributary to Hatfield Creek.

   Groundwater

   The Discharger extracts groundwater using a 658-foot-deep onsite production well to provide potable water for the Pine Hill Egg Ranch. The Pine Hill Egg Ranch is located about 0.5 miles upgradient of four groundwater wells owned by the Rancho Santa Teresa Municipal Water Company which provides potable water to about 102 people.

2. Pullet Farm. The Pullet Farm occupies 200 acres in Ramona, at 24555 Old Julian Highway, which is within San Diego County. The developed portion of the Pullet

[1] The Industrial General Permit can be found at the following webpage: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2018/wqo2018-0028-dwq.pdf

Farm spans approximately 10 acres and consists of two covered pullet[2]-raising buildings and two detached covered general storage buildings. The Pullet Farm houses approximately 400,000 pullets. Based on the number of animals onsite, the Pullet Farm qualifies as a large CAFO. The Pullet Farm does not generate any wastewater but generates approximately 50 tons of manure per week. Additionally, the Pullet Farm generates other types of wastes, including litter and pullet carcasses.

Stormwater Discharges

Currently, the San Diego Water Board regulates stormwater discharges from the Pullet Farm through the Industrial General Permit.

B. **Egg Wash Process Water (Pine Hill Egg Ranch Only).**

1. General Information. The Discharger's egg washing operation currently uses approximately 2,000 gallons per day (gpd) of water. The operation's wastewater recycling loop helps to reduce approximately 25 percent of the wastewater volume generated and discharged to the onsite treatment system.

2. Onsite Treatment System. Approximately 1,500 gpd of wastewater from the egg washing operation is discharged to an onsite treatment system which consists of a pass-through wet well with filter, thirty-four lined evaporation ponds, and four 5,000-gallon capacity storage tanks. The onsite treatment system is designed to allow wastewater to be pumped from the wet well to either the storage tanks or directly to the evaporation ponds.

   a. Wet Well. After the egg washer, the egg wash process water flows through an existing 1,400-gallon passthrough wet well, fitted with a filter. The wet well temporarily stores egg wash process water prior to it being pumped to either the 5,000-gallon storage tanks or directly to the evaporation ponds. The filter helps reduce biochemical oxygen demand concentrations in the egg wash process water. Solids accumulated in the wet well are removed using a vacuum truck.

   b. Lined Evaporation Ponds. A total of 34 lined evaporation ponds are used and housed in four covered barns. Eight ponds are placed in each of the two northern barns (northern ponds), while 9 ponds are placed in each of the two southern barns (southern ponds). The ponds are protected from run-on and precipitation, and are underlain by a concrete slab, which serves as an additional barrier layer to protect groundwater quality.

      The evaporation ponds are not large in-ground depressions but rather are above ground ponds similar in size to children's swimming or wading pools. Each of the northern ponds are 32 feet long and 16 feet wide, while each of the southern ponds are 24 feet long and 12 feet wide. The total capacity of the 34 ponds is

[2] "Pullet" is a term used to describe a young, immature female chicken, specifically one that has not reached the point of laying eggs.

approximately 220,000 gallons. A maximum of 1,240 gallons per day of egg wash process water will be discharged to the evaporation ponds. The anticipated maximum wastewater depth in each pond is 18 inches, as determined by water balance calculations included in the ROWD, leaving at least 9 inches of freeboard. The evaporation ponds will have a double liner, with the primary liner being a 30-mil high density polyethylene (HDPE) liner and the secondary liner 60-mil HDPE. The evaporation ponds are expected to precipitate minimal solids annually.

c. Storage Tanks. There are four onsite storage tanks, each with a capacity of 5,000 gallons. Approximately 260 gpd of wastewater generated from the egg washing operation will be stored in one of these tanks. The remaining three tanks will remain empty under normal operating conditions and will serve as contingency storage in case of reduced evaporation rates.

3. Wastewater Effluent Quality. The Discharger's ROWD included laboratory results from the analysis of the wastewater generated from the egg washing operation on August 1, 2023. These laboratory results are shown in Table D-2.

**Table D-2. Pine Hill Egg Ranch Wastewater Quality Analysis**

| Parameter | Result | Unit |
|---|---|---|
| **General Minerals** | | |
| Calcium | 62 | milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| Magnesium | 23 | mg/L |
| Potassium | 27 | mg/L |
| Sodium | 610 | mg/L |
| **Metals** | | |
| Aluminum | 160 | micrograms per liter (µg/L) |
| Arsenic | 8 | µg/L |
| Barium | 39 | µg/L |
| Chromium | 9.3 | µg/L |
| Copper | 120 | µg/L |
| Nickel | 5.6 | µg/L |
| Zinc | 260 | µg/L |
| Uranium | 36 | picocuries per liter |
| **Other Parameters** | | |
| Aggressive Index | 16.07 | Non-Unit |
| Ammonia as N | >1700 | mg/L |
| Odor | 670 | Threshold Odor Number |
| pH | 11.36 | pH Units |
| Specific Conductance (EC) | 2800 | microsiemens per centimeter |

| Parameter | Result | Unit |
|---|---|---|
| Total Dissolved Solids | 2000 | mg/L |
| Total Suspended Solids | 470 | mg/L |
| Turbidity | 270 | nephelometric turbidity units |
| **Alkalinity** | | |
| Bicarbonate Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$ | 160 | mg/L |
| Carbonate Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$ | 880 | mg/L |
| Total Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$ | 1000 | mg/L |
| **Nutrients** | | |
| Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen | 210 | mg/L |
| Total Phosphorus | 40 | mg/L |
| Nitrate as N | 21 | mg/L |
| Orthophosphate | 4.6 | mg/L |
| **Chlorides & Sulfates** | | |
| Chloride | 200 | mg/L |
| Sulfate as $SO_4$ | 50 | mg/L |
| Chlorite | 13 | mg/L |
| **Microbial Indicators** | | |
| Total Coliforms | >2419.6 | most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL) |
| E. coli | 4 | MPN/100 mL |

## III. APPLICABLE PLANS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

The requirements contained in the Order are based on the requirements and authorities described in this section.

A. **Legal Authorities.** The Order is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13263 and serves as WDRs issued pursuant to article 4, chapter 4, division 7 of the Water Code.

B. **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).**

The adoption of the Order is a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.). The San Diego Water Board is the lead agency for the project and prepared Resolution No. R9-2025-0012 to adopt a Negative Declaration on October 8, 2025, pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, sections 15070–15075. The Negative Declaration concludes that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Additionally, the County of San Diego:

1. Under the Director of the Department of Planning and Land Use, adopted a Negative Declaration for Pine Hill Egg Ranch, Site Plan STP86-125; ER: 86-09-031 on February 20, 1987. The County of San Diego's Negative Declaration found the project would not have any potentially significant effects on the environment.

2. Approved Major Grading Permit Number L-15547, subject to an addendum to a previously adopted negative declaration (SCH #2012019014), for Pine Hill Egg Ranch in 2012.

3. Processed building permits for the residential and commercial structures at the Pullet Farm in 2009, 2010, and 2015, which were determined to be ministerial under CEQA.

C. **Water Quality Control Plan.** The San Diego Water Board's *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9)* (Basin Plan)[3] designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives (WQOs), and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the Basin Plan. In addition, the Basin Plan implements State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Resolution No. 88-63, which established State policy that all waters, with certain exceptions, should be considered suitable or potentially suitable for municipal or domestic supply. The Order implements the Basin Plan by prescribing requirements for the disposal of wastewater that will not adversely impact water quality, beneficial uses, human health, or the environment. Pine Hill Egg Ranch is located within the East Santa Teresa Hydrologic Subarea (HSA) of the Santa Maria Valley Hydrologic Area (HA) 905.40, while the Pullet Farm is located within the Lower Hatfield HSA of the Santa Maria Valley HA 905.40. The beneficial uses specified in the Basin Plan for groundwater within the East Santa Teresa and Lower Hatfield HSAs are municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply, and industrial service supply. WQOs specified in the Basin Plan for groundwater within the Santa Maria Valley HA 905.40 are listed in Table D-3.

**Table D-3. Basin-Specific Groundwater WQOs**

| HSA | CONSTITUENT[1] (mg/L or as noted) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (Concentrations not to be exceeded more than 10% of the time during any one-year period) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | TDS | Cl | $SO_4$ | %Na | $NO_3$ | Fe | Mn | MBAS | B | TURB (NTU) | COLOR (UNITS) | F |
| Santa Maria Valley HA 905.40 | 1,000 | 400 | 500 | 60 | 45 | 0.3 | 0.05 | 0.5 | 0.75 | 5 | 15 | 1.0 |

[3] A copy of the Basin Plan is available for review at the following webpage: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/docs/R9_Basin_Plan.pdf

[1]The constituents are as follows: total dissolved solids (TDS), chloride (Cl), sulfate ($SO_4$), percent sodium (%Na), nitrate ($NO_3$), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), methylene blue-activated substances (MBAS), boron (B), turbidity (TURB), and fluoride (F).

D. **Antidegradation Policy.** The State Water Board established California's antidegradation policy in Resolution No. 68-16, *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California* (Resolution No. 68-16).[4] Resolution No. 68-16 requires that existing quality of waters be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings. The discharge of waste regulated by the Order is consistent with the Basin Plan and Resolution No. 68-16 because the discharge of egg wash process water to lined evaporation ponds is not expected to reach groundwater and thus not anticipated to cause any degradation. In addition, this Order establishes specifications for animal waste management, mortality management, proper operation and maintenance of the evaporation ponds, and for waste hauling and disposal to prevent waste generated from adversely impacting water quality and to prevent nuisance conditions.

E. **Executive Officer Delegation of Authority.** The San Diego Water Board, by prior resolution, delegated all matters that may legally be delegated to its Executive Officer to act on its behalf pursuant to Water Code section 13223. Therefore, the Executive Officer is authorized to act on the San Diego Water Board's behalf on any matter within the Order unless such delegation is unlawful under Water Code section 13223 or as otherwise explicitly stated in the Order.

F. **Other Plans, Permits, Policies, and Regulations.** The Facilities are enrolled in the Industrial General Permit. The Discharger has developed NMPs for the Facilities as required by the Industrial General Permit.

## IV. RATIONALE FOR DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS, DESIGN AND OPERATION SPECIFICATIONS

The Order establishes requirements based on the Basin Plan, Water Code, and the ROWD.

A. **Rationale for Discharge Prohibitions.** The rationale for discharge prohibitions established in section II of the Order is as follows:

1. **Discharge Prohibition II.A.** This prohibition requires the Discharger to comply with discharge prohibitions contained in chapter 4 of the Basin Plan.

2. **Discharge Prohibition II.B.1.** The Basin Plan prohibits the discharge of waste to land, which has not been specifically described in the Order or in the ROWD, and for which valid WDRs are not in force. This prohibition ensures no discharges to land occur without appropriate WDRs.

[4] The Anti-Degradation Policy can be found at the following webpage: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/1968/rs68_016.pdf

3. **Discharge Prohibition II.B.2.** The Basin Plan prohibits discharges of treated or untreated solid or liquid waste to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, waters of the United States, or other surface waters and drainage courses unless authorized by a NPDES permit. This prohibition ensures that no discharges to waters of the United States occur without an appropriate NPDES permit and WDRs.

4. **Discharge Prohibition II.C.** The Basin Plan prohibits the treatment, storage, or disposal of waste in a manner that creates pollution, contamination, or nuisance. This prohibition ensures that the treatment, storage, or disposal of waste at the Facilities do not cause pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by Water Code section 13050.

5. **Discharge Prohibition II.D.** The Basin Plan prohibits the use of manure to construct containment structures or to repair, replace, improve, or raise containment structures. This prohibition prevents inappropriate use of manure and prevents manure from being used in a manner that can adversely affect water quality and public health.

6. **Discharge Prohibition II.E.** The Basin Plan prohibits direct contact of confined animals with waters of the United States. This prohibition prevents adverse impacts to water quality that can result from animal contact.

B. **Rationale for Discharge Specifications.** The rationale for the design and operation specifications established in section III of the Order are as follows:

1. **Discharge Specification III.A. (General Specifications).** This Order includes specifications which require the Discharger to:

   - Properly operate and maintain waste treatment, storage, and control systems or structures;
   - Properly handle, store, dispose, and manage chemicals in accordance with manufacturer's labels and instructions;
   - Manage waste to prevent nuisance odors and conditions; and
   - Implement management practices for erosion and sediment control.

   These specifications are intended to prevent adverse impacts to groundwater and surface water and to prevent nuisance conditions.

2. **Discharge Specification III.B. (Waste Management).** This Order includes specifications requiring proper storage, collection, disposal, and management of animal waste (includes manure, urine, soiled bedding, broken eggs, feathers, etc.) generated at the Facilities. These specifications are included to prevent adverse impacts to groundwater and surface water, and to prevent nuisance conditions.

3. **Discharge Specification III.C. (Mortality Management).** This Order contains specifications requiring proper handling, storage, and disposal of chicken carcasses

to prevent adverse impacts to surface water and groundwater, and to prevent nuisance conditions. For example, the Discharger is required to store chicken carcasses in a freezer prior to hauling chicken carcasses offsite for disposal and manage animal mortalities in compliance with applicable regulations.

4. **Discharge Specifications III.D. (Egg Wash Process Water).** This Order includes specifications requiring proper construction, operation, and maintenance of evaporation ponds used for disposal of egg wash water; and proper disposal of any egg wash water hauled offsite. These specifications are intended to prevent adverse impacts to groundwater and surface water and prevent nuisance conditions (such as odors and vectors).

## V. RATIONALE FOR PROVISIONS

A. **Standard Provisions.** The standard provisions contain requirements that allow the San Diego Water Board to enforce the Order. Provisions include the need for inspection, spill and emergency reporting, records maintenance, and reporting of changes. Standard provisions apply to all WDRs and are consistent with San Diego Water Board findings**.**

B. **Special Provisions.** These requirements ensure the Facilities operate properly, within design parameters. The special provisions are also to ensure the Facilities are adequately protected from storm events, ensure storm events do not cause or contribute to a condition of pollution or nuisance, and to protect beneficial uses.

C. **Notices.** Notices are included in the Order to inform the Discharger of administrative issues regarding the Order**.**

## VI. RATIONALE FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING PROVISIONS

The purpose of the MRP is to determine and ensure compliance with discharge specifications and other requirements established in the Order. The MRP helps the San Diego Water Board and the Discharger to assess treatment efficiency, characterize the egg wash process water and groundwater, ensure water quality objectives and beneficial uses of the groundwater are protected, and minimize the effects of discharges of waste on the receiving water quality. The MRP also specifies requirements concerning the proper use, maintenance, methods, and the monitoring type intervals and frequency necessary to provide data that is representative of the regulated activities and discharges.

The MRP is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13267, which authorizes the San Diego Water Board to require dischargers to submit technical and monitoring reports. The San Diego Water Board estimates the cost for implementation of ongoing monitoring and reporting requirements of the Order to range from $2,000 to $4,000 per year. Compliance with the groundwater monitoring program specified in the Order may require installation of monitoring wells. The San Diego Water Board estimates the cost associated with installation of monitoring wells to range from $xxx to $xxx. The San Diego Water Board needs the technical and monitoring reports submitted by the Discharger to determine compliance with the Order and to protect water quality and beneficial uses. Based on the

nature and possible consequences of the discharge, the burden of providing the required reports, including the costs, bears a reasonable relationship for the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.

A. **Egg Wash Process Water Monitoring.** The MRP requires periodic collection and analysis of samples of egg wash process water to determine concentrations of specific pollutants, and reporting of measurement and reporting of analysis results. The MRP also requires measurement of the volume of egg wash water discharged to the evaporation ponds. This monitoring is necessary to address the following questions:

- What is the volume of egg wash process water generated and disposed onsite?
- What are the concentrations of constituents in egg wash process water generated onsite?
- Is the concentration of constituents in egg wash process water changing over time?
- Is the Discharger properly operating and maintaining the treatment system for egg wash process water to ensure water quality and beneficial uses are protected?

B. **Groundwater Monitoring.** Groundwater monitoring is required to determine the effects of past and ongoing discharges from Pine Hill Egg Ranch on groundwater quality and beneficial uses of groundwater. As a result, the Discharger is required to develop a groundwater monitoring program intended to answer the following questions:

- What is the quality of groundwater upgradient and downgradient from the production areas?
- Did past discharges from Pine Hill Egg Ranch contribute to exceedances of water quality objectives in downgradient groundwater?
- Are current discharges from Pine Hill Egg Ranch adversely affecting groundwater quality?
- Are groundwater conditions getting better or worse over time?

The MRP does not require groundwater monitoring at the Pullet Farm because there are no egg washing operations at the Pullet Farm. The Pullet Farm also has a smaller animal population than Pine Hill Egg Ranch and as a result generates less animal waste and chicken carcasses than Pine Hill Egg Ranch. However, the Order establishes waste management and mortality management specifications at both Facilities requiring proper handling, storage, and disposal of animal waste and mortalities.

C. **Visual Inspections.** The MRP requires the Discharger to conduct periodic inspections of components of the treatment system for egg wash process water (including the evaporation ponds) and manure storage and handling areas. The MRP also requires the Discharger to include a summary of visual inspections and corrective actions in its annual self-monitoring reports. Visual inspections are required to encourage early identification and correction of deficiencies.

D. **Manure and Egg Wash Process Water Disposal.** The MRP requires the Discharger to submit information regarding manure and egg wash process water generation and disposal to enable the San Diego Water Board to verify that manure and egg wash water are being appropriately disposed.

## VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. **Notification of Interested Parties.** The San Diego Water Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to adopt the Order consistent with Water Code section 13167.5 and made the Order available on its website and board meeting agenda publication.

B. **Written Comments.** Staff determinations are tentative until the San Diego Water Board adopts the Order. The San Diego Water Board invited interested persons to submit written comments concerning the Order as provided in the public notice.

C. **Public Hearing.** The San Diego Water Board held a public hearing on the tentative Order during its regular meeting on the following date and time and at the following location:

| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | **October 8, 2025** |
| Time: | **9:00 a.m.** |
| Location: | **San Diego Water Board Meeting Room**<br>**2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100**<br>**San Diego, California, 92108**<br>**Video broadcast of meetings are available at:**<br>**https://cal-span.org/** |

The San Diego Water Board invited interested persons to attend the public hearing. The San Diego Water Board heard public testimony at the public hearing.

D. **Petitions of San Diego Water Board Actions.** Any person aggrieved by the action of the San Diego Water Board to adopt the Order may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and title 23, sections 2050 and following of the CCR. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 calendar days after the date of adoption of the Order, except that if this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or State holiday, then the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.

E. **Information and Copying.** The ROWD, Order, comments received and related documents are on file and may be inspected at the address above at any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Copying of documents may be arranged through the San Diego Water Board by calling (619) 516-1990.

F. **Register of Interested Persons.** Any person interested in being placed on the mailing list for information regarding the Order should contact Dr. Mahsa Izadmehr via phone at (619) 521-8048 or by email at Mahsa.Izadmehr@waterboards.ca.gov, reference the Facilities, and provide a name, address, phone number, and email address.

G. **Additional Information.** Requests for additional information or questions regarding this Order should be directed to Dr. Mahsa Izadmehr via phone at (619) 521-8048 or by email at Mahsa.Izadmehr@waterboards.ca.gov.