

**SECTION III**  
**NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**Project Title:** Adoption of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Bear Creek Winery

**Project Description:** The project will authorize the Bear Creek Winery to install a wastewater treatment system and to expand vineyard land application areas. The proposed project will be completed by August 2018.

Currently the Bear Creek Winery is regulated under WDRs Order 71-037, which was adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 21 August 1970. On 29 December 2014, the Bear Creek Winery submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) to apply for revised WDRs. Prior to adoption of the revised WDRs, the Board conducted a review of the project's potential environmental impacts pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.).

The Winery has been in operation since 1934. The winery currently does not have a wastewater treatment system. The winery currently discharges approximately 21.4 million gallons of wastewater per year to 9.2 acres of rapid infiltration basins and 38 acres of vineyard land application areas (LAAs) owned by the winery. The Board has reviewed the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of a new wastewater treatment system and with the expansion of the existing wastewater LAA from 38 to 185 acres. The treatment system will consist of a new main sump, two aerated lined ponds, an effluent pump and a trickling filter system. Goldstone Land Company, LLC owns and operates the Winery and LAAs at Vineyards 1, 2 and 3, and Kurt and Sandra Kautz own the proposed LAAs at Vineyards 4, 5 and 6.

**Findings:** Based on its independent judgment, the Central Valley Water Board has determined that the information contained in the Initial Study and the entire record before the Central Valley Water Board does not contain substantial evidence that a fair argument has been made that the project would have a significant effect on the environment.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, adopted a Resolution adopting this Negative Declaration on 21 April 2016.



PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION R5-2016-0030

ADOPTING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR  
GOLDSTONE LAND COMPANY, LLC  
KURT AND SANDRA KAUTZ  
BEAR CREEK WINERY  
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) proposes to adopt waste discharge requirements for the disposal of winery processing wastewater to land at the Bear Creek Winery in San Joaquin County; and

WHEREAS, the Central Valley Water Board is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) and has conducted an Initial Study in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15063 et seq., entitled *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act*; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study did not reveal any potentially-significant environmental impacts that would not be fully mitigated to less than significant levels as a result of the requirements mandated by the proposed waste discharge requirements; and

WHEREAS, copies of the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration were transmitted to or made available to all agencies and persons known to be interested in these matters and the public notice complied with the legal requirements for such notice; and

WHEREAS, the Central Valley Water Board has responded to and addressed all public comments on the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, none of the comments identified new significant impacts or suggested that impacts previously thought to be insignificant should be considered significant; and

WHEREAS, minor modifications were made to the findings in the proposed WDRs in response to comments submitted by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board; and

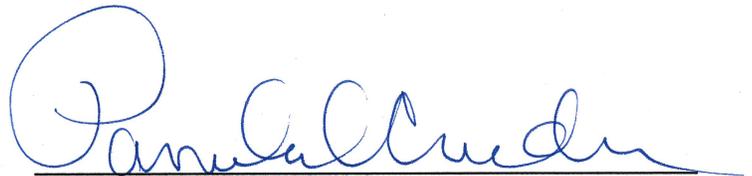
WHEREAS, minor modifications were made to the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration to correct typos and to improve clarity; and

WHEREAS, the Central Valley Water Board has considered the proposed Negative Declaration, along with all comments received during the public review period, including testimony and evidence at a public hearing held on 21 April 2016 in Fresno, California, and good cause was found to adopt a Negative Declaration for the project.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Valley Water Board finds:

1. Based on the Central Valley Water Board's independent judgment, a Negative Declaration for the Bear Creek Winery is adopted.
2. The record before the Central Valley Water Board contains no substantial evidence that a fair argument has been made that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 21 April 2016.



PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer