

ITEM:

SUBJECT: Tsar Nicoulai Caviar, LLC, and Ralph F. Nix Revocable Trust, Wilton, Sacramento County

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of Negative Declaration and New NPDES Permit

BACKGROUND: Tsar Nicoulai Caviar, LLC is the operator of the Tsar Nicoulai Sturgeon Farm, a fish farm. The Facility is located on land owned by Tsar Nicoulai Caviar, LLC, and the Ralph Nix 1995 Revocable Trust. The Facility discharges wastewater to a Sacramento County storm drain, which discharges to an unnamed tributary of the Cosumnes River, a water of the United States. The Tsar Nicoulai Facility is a new facility that is not currently regulated by a Regional Board Order. On 19 October 2004, Tsar Nicoulai Caviar, LLC applied for a NPDES permit to discharge an average flow of 1.2 mgd of treated wastewater from the sturgeon raising operation. The wastewater discharge from the Facility contains pollutants including suspended and settleable solids, ammonia, nitrate, iron, manganese, and salt. Effluent limitations and/or best management practice requirements are included for these constituents.

An Initial Environmental Study was prepared for Tsar Nicoulai Caviar, LLC and the Ralph F. Nix Revocable Trust. These documents describe the potential environmental impacts and their significance. The conclusion of the Initial Environmental Study finds that the project should not have a significant impact on the environment if the facility is operated in accordance with permit limitations.

Minor editorial corrections were made to the tentative NPDES permit and *Finding R, Finding for no more stringent than federal law*, was added.

ISSUES There are no known issues at this time. The public review period to receive comments on the proposed Negative Declaration or Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements ends on 6 June 2005.

RECOMMENDATION Adopt Negative Declaration and NPDES Permit as proposed.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

June 23/24 2005

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova