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7 CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING
8 PROTECTION ALLIANCE

9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING
12 PROTECTION ALLIANCE, a non-profit
13 corporation,
14 Plaintiff,
15 vs.
16 OLAM WEST COAST, INC.,
17 Defendant.

Case No.

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND
CIVIL PENALTIES**

(Federal Water Pollution Control Act,
33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 to 1387)

19 CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE (“CSPA”), by and
20 through its counsel, hereby alleges:

21 **I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

22 1. This is a civil suit brought under the citizen suit enforcement provisions of the
23 Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. Section 1251, *et seq.* (the “Clean Water Act”
24 or “the Act”) against OLAM WEST COAST, INC. (hereafter “Defendant”). This Court has
25 subject matter jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action pursuant to
26 Section 505(a)(1)(A) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a)(1)(A), and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (an action
27 arising under the laws of the United States). The relief requested is authorized pursuant to
28 28 U.S.C. § 2201-02 (power to issue declaratory relief in case of actual controversy and

1 further necessary relief based on such a declaration), 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(b), 1365(a)
2 (injunctive relief), and 33 U.S.C. § 1319(d), 1365(a) (civil penalties).

3 2. On or about April 24, 2014, Plaintiff provided notice of Defendant's violations
4 of the Act ("CWA Notice Letter"), and of its intention to file suit against Defendant, to the
5 Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"); the
6 Administrator of EPA Region IX; the Executive Director of the State Water Resources
7 Control Board ("State Board"); the Executive Officer of the Regional Water Quality Control
8 Board, Central Valley Region ("Regional Board"); and to Defendant, as required by the Act,
9 33 U.S.C. § 1365(b)(1)(A). A true and correct copy of CSPA's CWA Notice Letter is
10 attached hereto as Exhibit A, and is incorporated by reference.

11 3. More than sixty days have passed since this CWA Notice Letter was served on
12 Defendant and the State and federal agencies. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and
13 thereupon alleges, that neither the EPA nor the State of California has commenced nor is
14 diligently prosecuting a court action to redress the violations alleged in this Complaint. This
15 action's claim for civil penalties is not barred by any prior administrative penalty under
16 Section 309(g) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g).

17 4. Venue is proper in the Northern District of California pursuant to Section
18 505(c)(1) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(c)(1), because the sources of the violations are
19 located within this judicial district. Pursuant to Local Rule 3-2(e), intra-district venue is
20 proper in San Jose, California because the sources of the violations are located within Santa
21 Clara County.

22 **II. INTRODUCTION**

23 5. This Complaint seeks relief for Defendant's discharges of pollutants from an
24 approximately 41-acre manufacturing and wholesale garlic and onion processing and
25 distribution facility owned and operated by Defendant (the "Facility"). The Facility is
26 located at 1350 Pacheco Pass Highway in Gilroy, California. Defendant discharges
27 pollutant-contaminated storm water from the Facility into Llagas Creek, the Pajaro River and
28 ultimately into Monterey Bay.

1 6. Defendant's discharge of pollutant-contaminated storm water from the
2 Facility is in violation of the Act and the State of California's General Industrial Permit for
3 storm water discharges, State Water Resources Control Board ("State Board") Water Quality
4 Order No. 91-13-DWQ, as amended by Water Quality Order No. 92-12-DWQ and Water
5 Quality Order No. 97-03-DWQ, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
6 ("NPDES") General Permit No. CAS000001 (hereinafter "General Permit" or "Permit").
7 Defendant's violations of the filing, monitoring, reporting, discharge and management
8 practice requirements, and other procedural and substantive requirements of the General
9 Permit and the Act are ongoing and continuous.

10 7. The failure on the part of industrial facility operators such as Defendant to
11 comply with the General Permit is recognized as a significant cause of the continuing decline
12 in water quality of these receiving waters. The general consensus among regulatory agencies
13 and water quality specialists is that storm water pollution amounts to more than half the total
14 pollution entering the marine environment each year. With every rainfall event, hundreds of
15 thousands of gallons of polluted storm water originating from industrial facilities discharge
16 to Llagas Creek, the Pajaro River and Monterey Bay.

17 **III. PARTIES**

18 8. Plaintiff CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE
19 ("CSPA") is a non-profit public benefit corporation organized under the laws of the State of
20 California with its main office in Stockton, California. CSPA has approximately 2,000
21 members who live, recreate and work in and around waters of the State of California,
22 including Llagas Creek, the Pajaro River and Monterey Bay. CSPA is dedicated to the
23 preservation, protection, and defense of the environment, and the wildlife and the natural
24 resources of all waters of California. To further these goals, CSPA actively seeks federal
25 and state agency implementation of the Act and other laws and, where necessary, directly
26 initiates enforcement actions on behalf of itself and its members.

27 9. Members of CSPA reside in California and use and enjoy California's
28 numerous rivers for recreation and other activities. Members of CSPA use and enjoy the

1 waters of Llagas Creek, the Pajaro River and/or Monterey Bay, into which Defendant has
2 caused, is causing, and will continue to cause, pollutants to be discharged. Members of
3 CSPA use these areas to fish, sail, boat, kayak, swim, birdwatch, view wildlife and engage in
4 scientific study, including monitoring activities, among other things. Defendant's discharges
5 of pollutants threaten or impair each of those uses or contribute to such threats and
6 impairments. Thus, the interests of CSPA's members have been, are being, and will
7 continue to be adversely affected by Defendant's ongoing failure to comply with the Clean
8 Water Act. The relief sought herein will redress the harms to Plaintiff caused by Defendant's
9 activities.

10 10. Continuing commission of the acts and omissions alleged above will
11 irreparably harm Plaintiff and the citizens of the State of California, for which harm they have
12 no plain, speedy or adequate remedy at law.

13 11. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that Defendant is a
14 corporation organized under the laws of the State of California, and that Defendant owns and
15 operates the Facility.

16 **IV. STATUTORY BACKGROUND**

17 12. Section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge of any
18 pollutant into waters of the United States, unless such discharge is in compliance with
19 various enumerated sections of the Act. Among other things, Section 301(a) prohibits
20 discharges not authorized by, or in violation of, the terms of an NPDES permit issued
21 pursuant to Section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

22 13. Section 402(p) of the Act establishes a framework for regulating municipal
23 and industrial storm water discharges under the NPDES program. 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p).
24 States with approved NPDES permit programs are authorized by Section 402(p) to regulate
25 industrial storm water discharges through individual permits issued to dischargers and/or
26 through the issuance of a single, statewide general permit applicable to all industrial storm
27 water dischargers. 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

28 14. Pursuant to Section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, the Administrator of

1 the U.S. EPA has authorized California's State Board to issue NPDES permits including
2 general NPDES permits in California.

3 15. The State Board elected to issue a statewide general permit for industrial
4 discharges. The State Board issued the General Permit on or about November 19, 1991,
5 modified the General Permit on or about September 17, 1992, and reissued the General
6 Permit on or about April 17, 1997, pursuant to Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act, 33
7 U.S.C. § 1342(p).

8 16. The General Permit contains certain absolute prohibitions. Discharge
9 Prohibition A(1) of the General Permit prohibits the direct or indirect discharge of materials
10 other than storm water ("non-storm water discharges"), which are not otherwise regulated by
11 an NPDES permit, to the waters of the United States. Discharge Prohibition A(2) of the
12 General Permit prohibits storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges
13 that cause or threaten to cause pollution, contamination or nuisance. Receiving Water
14 Limitation C(1) of the General Permit prohibits storm water discharges to any surface or
15 ground water that adversely impact human health or the environment. Receiving Water
16 Limitation C(2) of the General Permit prohibits storm water discharges that cause or
17 contribute to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards contained in a
18 Statewide Water Quality Control Plan or the applicable Regional Board's Basin Plan.

19 17. In addition to absolute prohibitions, the General Permit contains a variety of
20 substantive and procedural requirements that dischargers must meet. Facilities discharging,
21 or having the potential to discharge, storm water associated with industrial activity that have
22 not obtained an individual NPDES permit must apply for coverage under the State's General
23 Permit by filing a Notice of Intent ("NOI"). The General Permit requires existing
24 dischargers to file their NOIs before March 30, 1992.

25 18. Effluent Limitation B(3) of the General Permit requires dischargers to reduce
26 or prevent pollutants in its storm water discharges through implementation of the Best
27 Available Technology Economically Achievable ("BAT") for toxic and nonconventional
28 pollutants and the Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology ("BCT") for

1 conventional pollutants. BAT and BCT include both nonstructural and structural measures.
2 General Permit, Section A(8).

3 19. EPA has established Benchmark Levels as guidelines for determining
4 whether a facility discharging industrial storm water has implemented the requisite BAT and
5 BCT standards. 65 Fed. Reg. 64746, 64767 (Oct. 30, 2000). The following benchmarks
6 have been established for pollutants discharged by Defendant: total suspended solids (100
7 mg/L); chemical oxygen demand (120 mg/L); biological oxygen demand (30 mg/L); oil &
8 grease (15 mg/L). The State Water Quality Control Board has proposed adding a benchmark
9 level for specific conductance of 200 μ mhos/cm.

10 20. Dischargers must develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution
11 Prevention Plan ("SWPPP") before October 1, 1992. The SWPPP must comply with the
12 BAT and BCT standards. (Section B(3)). The SWPPP must include, among other elements:
13 (1) a narrative description and summary of all industrial activity, potential sources of
14 pollutants and potential pollutants; (2) a site map showing facility boundaries, the storm
15 water conveyance system, associated points of discharge, direction of flow, areas of
16 industrial activities, and areas of actual and potential pollutant contact; (3) a description of
17 storm water management practices, best management practices ("BMPs") and preventive
18 maintenance undertaken to avoid storm water contamination that achieve BAT and BCT; (4)
19 the location where Significant Materials are being shipped, stored, received and handled, as
20 well as the typical quantities of such materials and the frequency with which they are
21 handled; (5) a description of potential pollutant sources including industrial processes,
22 material handling and storage areas, dust and particulate generating activities; (6) a summary
23 of storm water sampling points; (7) a description of individuals and their responsibilities for
24 developing and implementing the SWPPP (Permit, Section A(3)); (8) a description of
25 potential pollutant sources including industrial processes, material handling and storage
26 areas, and dust and particulate generating activities; (9) a description of significant spills and
27 leaks; (10) a list of all non-storm water discharges and their sources, and (11) a description
28 of locations where soil erosion may occur (Section A(6)). The SWPPP must also include an

1 assessment of potential pollutant sources at the Facility and a description of the BMPs to be
2 implemented at the Facility that will reduce or prevent pollutants in storm water discharges
3 and authorized non-storm water discharges, including structural BMPs where non-structural
4 BMPs are not effective (Section A(7), (8)).

5 21. The SWPPP must be re-evaluated annually to ensure effectiveness and must
6 be revised where necessary (Section A(9),(10)). Section C(3) of the General Permit requires
7 a discharger to prepare and submit a report to the Regional Board describing changes it will
8 make to its current BMPs in order to prevent or reduce any pollutant in its storm water
9 discharges that is causing or contributing to an exceedance of water quality standards. Once
10 approved by the Regional Board, the additional BMPs must be incorporated into the
11 Facility's SWPPP. The report must be submitted to the Regional Board no later than 60 days
12 from the date the discharger first learns that its discharge is causing or contributing to an
13 exceedance of an applicable water quality standard. Section C(4)(a). Section C(11)(d) of
14 the General Permit's Standard Provisions also requires dischargers to report any
15 noncompliance. *See also* Section E(6). Lastly, Section A(9) of the General Permit requires
16 an annual evaluation of storm water controls including the preparation of an evaluation
17 report and implementation of any additional measures in the SWPPP to respond to the
18 monitoring results and other inspection activities.

19 22. The General Permit requires dischargers to eliminate all non-storm water
20 discharges to storm water conveyance systems other than those specifically set forth in
21 Special Condition D(1)(a) of the General Permit and meeting each of the conditions set forth
22 in Special Condition D(1)(b).

23 23. The General Permit requires dischargers commencing industrial activities
24 before October 1, 1992 to develop and implement an adequate written Monitoring and
25 Reporting Program no later than October 1, 1992. Existing facilities covered under the
26 General Permit must implement all necessary revisions to their monitoring programs no later
27 than August 1, 1997.

28 24. The General Permit also requires dischargers to submit yearly "Annual

1 Reports” to the Regional Board. As part of their monitoring program, dischargers must
2 identify all storm water discharge locations that produce a significant storm water discharge,
3 evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs in reducing pollutant loading, and evaluate whether
4 pollution control measures set out in the SWPPP are adequate and properly implemented.
5 Dischargers must then conduct visual observations of these discharge locations for at least
6 one storm per month during the wet season (October through May) and record their findings
7 in their Annual Report. Dischargers must also collect and analyze storm water samples from
8 at least two storms per year. Section B requires dischargers to sample and analyze during the
9 wet season for basic parameters such as pH, total suspended solids (“TSS”), specific
10 conductance (“SC”), and total organic carbon (“TOC”) or oil and grease (“O&G”), certain
11 industry-specific parameters, and toxic chemicals and other pollutants likely to be in the
12 storm water discharged from the facility. Dischargers must also conduct dry season visual
13 observations to identify sources of non-storm water pollution. The monitoring and reporting
14 program requires dischargers to certify, based upon the annual site inspections, that the
15 facility is in compliance with the General Permit and report any non-compliance, and
16 contains additional requirements as well.

17 25. In order to discharge storm water lawfully in California, industrial
18 dischargers must comply with the terms of the General Permit or have obtained and
19 complied with an individual NPDES permit.

20 26. The term “discharge of pollutants” means “any addition of any pollutant to
21 navigable waters from any point source.” 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12). Pollutants are defined to
22 include, among other examples, industrial waste, chemical wastes, biological materials, heat,
23 rock, and sand discharged into water. 33 U.S.C. § 1362(6).

24 27. A point source is defined as “any discernible, confined and discrete
25 conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, [or] conduit . . .
26 from which pollutants are or may be discharged.” 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14).

27 28. “Navigable waters” means “the waters of the United States.” 33 U.S.C.
28 § 1362(7). Waters of the United States include tributaries to waters that are navigable in

1 fact. Waters of the United States include man-made water bodies that are tributary to waters
2 that are navigable in fact. Waters of the United States include ephemeral waters that are
3 tributary to waters that are navigable in fact.

4 29. Section 505(a)(1) and Section 505(f) of the Act provide for citizen
5 enforcement actions against any “person,” including individuals, corporations, or
6 partnerships, for violations of NPDES permit requirements and for unpermitted discharges of
7 pollutants. 33 U.S.C. §§1365(a)(1) and (f), § 1362(5). An action for injunctive relief under
8 the Act is authorized by 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a). Violators of the Act are also subject to an
9 assessment of civil penalties of up to \$37,500 per day for violations occurring after January 12,
10 2009, pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d), 1365 and 40
11 C.F.R. §§ 19.1 - 19.4.

12 30. The Regional Board has established water quality standards for Llagas
13 Creek, the Pajaro River and Monterey Bay in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central
14 Coast Basin, generally referred to as the “Basin Plan.”

15 31. The Basin Plan includes a toxicity standard which states that “[a]ll waters
16 shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations which are toxic to or which
17 produce detrimental physiological responses in, human, plant, animal, or aquatic life.”

18 32. The Basin Plan provides that “[w]aters shall not contain concentrations of
19 chemical constituents known to be deleterious to fish or wildlife.”

20 33. The Basin Plan provides that “[a]t a minimum, water designated for use as
21 domestic or municipal supply (MUN) shall not contain concentrations of chemical
22 constituents in excess of the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).”

23 **V. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

24 34. The Facility is classified as conforming to Standard Industrial Classification
25 (“SIC”) Codes 2034 (“Food Dehydration”). Industrial activities occur throughout the
26 Facility.

27 35. Defendant has reported in publicly available documents that industrial
28 activities at the 41-acre Facility include manufacturing and wholesale distribution of onion,

1 and garlic products. The Facility contains indoor and outdoor storage areas, loading docks,
2 maintenance areas, aboveground storage tanks, a hazardous materials storage area, chemical
3 storage areas, scrap storage areas, and production, laboratory, warehouse, and office
4 buildings. Most of these activities occur outside in areas that are exposed to storm water
5 and storm flows due to the lack of overhead coverage, functional berms and other storm
6 water controls. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant's storm water controls, to
7 the extent any exist, fail to achieve BAT and BCT standards.

8 36. The management practices at the Facility are wholly inadequate to prevent
9 the sources of contamination described above from causing the discharge of pollutants to
10 waters of the United States and fail to meet BAT and BCT standards. The Facility lacks
11 essential structural controls such as grading, berming and roofing to prevent rainfall and
12 storm water flows from coming into contact with these and other sources of contaminants,
13 thereby allowing storm water to flow over and across these materials and become
14 contaminated prior to leaving the Facility. In addition, the Facility lacks structural controls
15 to prevent the discharge of water once contaminated. The Facility also lacks an adequate
16 filtration system to treat water once it is contaminated.

17 37. Vehicle traffic at the Facility tracks dust and particulate matter, increasing
18 the discharges of polluted water and mud into waters of the United States.

19 38. During rain events storm water laden with pollutants discharges from the
20 Facility to Llagas Creek, the Pajaro River and ultimately into Monterey Bay.

21 39. Information available to Plaintiff indicates that as a result of these practices,
22 storm water containing pollutants harmful to fish, plant and bird life, and human health are
23 being discharged from the Facility directly to these waters during significant rain events.

24 40. Information available to Plaintiff indicates that Defendant has not fulfilled
25 the requirements set forth in the General Permit for discharges from the Facility due to the
26 continued discharge of contaminated storm water.

27 41. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that Defendant has
28 failed to develop and implement an adequate Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan at the

1 Facility.

2 42. Information available to Plaintiff indicates the continued existence of
3 unlawful storm water discharges at the Facility.

4 43. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that Defendant has
5 failed to develop and implement adequate storm water monitoring, reporting and sampling
6 programs at the Facility. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that
7 Defendant has not sampled with adequate frequency, has not conducted visual monitoring,
8 and has not analyzed the storm water samples collected at the Facility for the required
9 pollutant parameters.

10 44. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that all of the
11 violations alleged in this Complaint are ongoing and continuing.

12 **V. CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

13 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **Discharges of Contaminated Storm Water From The Facility**
15 **in Violation of Permit Conditions and the Act**
16 **(Violations of 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a), 1342)**

17 45. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as
18 though fully set forth herein.

19 46. Discharge Prohibition A(2) of the General Permit requires that storm water
20 discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges shall not cause or threaten to cause
21 pollution, contamination, or nuisance. Receiving Water Limitations C(1) and C(2) of the
22 General Permit require that storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges
23 shall not adversely impact human health or the environment, and shall not cause or contribute
24 to a violation of any water quality standards contained in a Statewide Water Quality Control
25 Plan or the applicable Regional Board's Basin Plan.

26 47. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that since at least
27 October 1, 1992, Defendant has been discharging polluted storm water from the Facility into
28 Llagas Creek, the Pajaro River and Monterey Bay in violation of the General Permit.

48. During every significant rain event, storm water flowing over and through

1 materials at the Facility becomes contaminated with pollutants, flowing untreated from the
2 Facility to Llagas Creek, the Pajaro River and Monterey Bay.

3 49. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that these discharges
4 of contaminated storm water are causing pollution and contamination of waters of the United
5 States in violation of Discharge Prohibition A(2) of the General Permit.

6 50. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that these
7 discharges of contaminated storm water are adversely affecting human health and the
8 environment in violation of Receiving Water Limitation C(1) of the General Permit.

9 51. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that these discharges
10 of contaminated storm water are contributing to the violation of the applicable water quality
11 standards in the Statewide Water Quality Control Plan and/or the applicable Regional Board's
12 Basin Plan in violation of Receiving Water Limitation C(2) of the General Permit.

13 52. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that every day since
14 March 30, 1992, Defendant has discharged and continues to discharge polluted storm water
15 from the Facility in violation of the General Permit. Every day Defendant has discharged and
16 continues to discharge polluted storm water from the Facility in violation of the General
17 Permit is a separate and distinct violation of Section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).
18 These violations are ongoing and continuous.

19 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as hereinafter set forth.

20 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
21 **Failure to Develop and Implement an Adequate**
22 **Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan For the Facility**
23 **(Violations of Permit Conditions and the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311, 1342)**

24 53. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as
25 though fully set forth herein.

26 54. Section A and Provision E of the General Permit require dischargers of storm
27 water associated with industrial activity to develop and implement an adequate Storm Water
28 Pollution Prevention Plan (“SWPPP”) no later than October 1, 1992.

55. Defendant has failed to develop and implement an adequate SWPPP for the

1 Facility. Defendant’s ongoing failure to develop and implement an adequate SWPPP for the
2 Facility is evidenced by, *inter alia*, Defendant’s outdoor storage of industrial materials without
3 appropriate best management practices; the continued exposure of significant quantities of
4 industrial material to storm water flows; the failure to either treat storm water prior to
5 discharge or to implement effective containment practices; and the continued discharge of
6 storm water pollutants from the Facility at levels in excess of EPA benchmark values and other
7 applicable water quality standards.

8 56. Defendant has further failed to update the Facility’s SWPPP in response to the
9 analytical results of the Facility’s storm water monitoring as required by the General Permit.

10 57. Each day since October 1, 1992 that Defendant has failed to develop and
11 implement an adequate SWPPP for the Facility in violation of the General Permit is a separate
12 and distinct violation of Section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).

13 58. Defendant has been in violation of the SWPPP requirement every day since
14 October 1, 1992. Defendant continues to be in violation of the Act each day that they fail to
15 develop and fully implement an adequate SWPPP for the Facility.

16 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as hereinafter set forth.

17 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 **Failure to Develop and Implement the Best Available
19 And Best Conventional Treatment Technologies At The Facility
(Violations of Permit Conditions and the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311, 1342)**

20 59. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as
21 though fully set forth herein.

22 60. The General Permit’s SWPPP requirements and Effluent Limitation B(3)
23 require dischargers to reduce or prevent pollutants in their storm water discharges through
24 implementation of BAT for toxic and nonconventional pollutants and BCT for conventional
25 pollutants.

26 61. Defendant has failed to implement BAT and BCT at the Facility for their
27 discharges of total suspended solids, oil & grease, specific conductance, and other
28 unmonitored pollutants in violation of Effluent Limitation B(3) of the General Permit.

1 General Permit is a separate and distinct violation of Section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C.
2 § 1311(a). These violations are ongoing and continuous.

3 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as hereinafter set forth.

4 **VI. RELIEF REQUESTED**

5 Wherefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court grant the following relief:

- 6 a. Declare Defendant to have violated and to be in violation of the Act, as
7 alleged herein;
- 8 b. Enjoin Defendant from discharging pollutants from the Facility and to the
9 surface waters surrounding and downstream from the Facility;
- 10 c. Enjoin Defendant from further violating the substantive and procedural
11 requirements of the General Permit;
- 12 d. Order Defendant to pay civil penalties of \$37,500 per day per violation for
13 all violations occurring after January 12, 2009, for each violation of the Act pursuant to
14 Sections 309(d) and 505(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d) and 1365(a) and 40 C.F.R. §§
15 19.1 - 19.4 (pp. 200-202) (Dec. 31, 1996);
- 16 e. Order Defendant to take appropriate actions to restore the quality of
17 navigable waters impaired by their activities;
- 18 f. Award Plaintiff's costs (including reasonable attorney, witness, and
19 consultant fees) as authorized by the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d); and,
- 20 g. Award any such other and further relief as this Court may deem appropriate.

21 Dated: June 23, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

22 LAW OFFICES OF ANDREW L. PACKARD

23 By: /s/ Andrew L. Packard _____

24 Andrew L. Packard
25 Attorneys for Plaintiff
26 CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING
27 PROTECTION ALLIANCE
28

EXHIBIT A



April 24, 2014

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Olam West Coast, Inc.
1350 Pacheco Pass Hwy
Gilroy, CA 95020

Rick Harker
Olam West Coast, Inc.
205 E. River Park Circle, Suite 310
Fresno, CA 93720

Patrick Nuck, Plant Manager
Olam West Coast, Inc.
205 E. River Park Circle, Suite 310
Fresno, CA 93720

Olam West Coast, Inc.
CSC – Lawyers Incorporation Service
Agent For Service of Process
2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150 N
Sacramento, CA 95833

Olam West Coast, Inc.
7060 N. Marks Ave
Fresno, CA 93721

Matt Nymeyer
Olam West Coast, Inc.
205 E. River Park Circle, Suite 310
Fresno, CA 93720

**Re: Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit Under the Federal Water
Pollution Control Act**

Dear Messrs. Harker, Nuck and Nymeyer:

I am writing on behalf of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (“CSPA”) in regard to violations of the Clean Water Act (“the Act”) occurring at Olam West Coast, Inc.’s (“Olam”) bottling facility located at 1350 Pacheco Pass Hwy, in Gilroy, California (“the Facility”). The WDID number for the Facility is 3 43I022766. CSPA is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to the preservation, protection and defense of the environment, wildlife and natural resources of California waters, including Llagas Creek, the Pajaro River, and the Monterey Bay. This letter is being sent to you as the responsible owner, officer, or operator of the Facility. Unless otherwise noted, Rick Harker, Patrick Nuck, Matt Nymeyer and Olam West Coast, Inc. shall hereinafter be collectively referred to as “Olam.”

Notice of Violation and Intent To File Suit

April 24, 2014

Page 2 of 15

This letter addresses Olam's unlawful discharges of pollutants from the Facility to Llagas Creek, which then conveys that storm water into the Pajaro River, which ultimately flows into Monterey Bay. This letter addresses the ongoing violations of the substantive and procedural requirements of the Clean Water Act and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") General Permit No. CAS000001, State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 91-13-DWQ, as amended by Order No. 97-03-DWQ ("General Permit" or "General Industrial Storm Water Permit").

Section 505(b) of the Clean Water Act provides that sixty (60) days prior to the initiation of a civil action under Section 505(a) of the Act (33 U.S.C. § 1365(a)), a citizen must give notice of intent to file suit. Notice must be given to the alleged violator, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the State in which the violations occur.

As required by the Clean Water Act, this Notice of Violation and Intent to File Suit provides notice of the violations that have occurred, and continue to occur, at the Facility. Consequently, Rick Harker, Patrick Nuck, Matt Nymeyer and Olam West Coast, Inc. are hereby placed on formal notice by CSPA that, after the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date of this Notice of Violation and Intent to File Suit, CSPA intends to file suit in federal court against Rick Harker, Patrick Nuck, Matt Nymeyer, and Olam West Coast, Inc. under Section 505(a) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1365(a)), for violations of the Clean Water Act and the General Permit. These violations are described more fully below.

I. Background.

The Facility is located at 1350 Pacheco Pass Hwy in the city of Gilroy. The Facility falls under Standard Industrial Classification ("SIC") Code 2034 ("Food Dehydration"). CSPA notes that Olam has reported in publicly available documents that industrial activities at the 46-acre Facility include manufacturing and wholesale distribution of onion, and garlic products. The facility contains indoor and outdoor storage areas, loading docks, maintenance areas, aboveground storage tanks, a hazardous materials storage are, chemical storage areas, scrap storage areas, and production, laboratory, warehouse, and office buildings. Olam collects and discharges storm water from the Facility through at least four (4) discharge points into Llagas Creek, which then conveys that storm water into the Pajaro River, which ultimately flows into Monterey Bay. Llagas Creek, the Pajaro River and Monterey Bay are waters of the United States within the meaning of the Clean Water Act.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Regional Board") has established water quality standards for Llagas Creek, the Pajaro River, and Monterey Bay in the "Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin" ("Basin Plan"). The Basin Plan incorporates in its entirety the State Board's "Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California" ("Ocean Plan"). The Ocean Plan "sets forth limits or levels of water quality characteristics for ocean waters to ensure the reasonable protection of

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beneficial uses and the prevention of nuisance. The discharge of waste shall not cause violation of these objectives.” *Id.* at 4. The Ocean Plan limits the concentration of organic materials in marine sediment to levels that would not degrade marine life. *Id.* at 6. The Basin Plan establishes ocean water quality objectives, including that dissolved oxygen is not to be less than 7.0 mg/l and pH must be between 7.0 - 8.5 s.u. *Id.* at III-2. It also establishes that toxic metal concentrations in marine habitats shall not exceed: Cu – 0.01 mg/L; Pb – 0.01 mg/L; Hg – 0.0001 mg/L; Ni – 0.002 mg/L; and, Zn – 0.02 mg/L. *Id.* at III-12.

The Basin Plan provides maximum contaminant levels (“MCLs”) for organic concentrations and inorganic and fluoride concentrations, not to be exceeded in domestic or municipal supply. *Id.* at III-6 - III-7. It requires that water designated for use as domestic or municipal supply shall not exceed the following maximum contaminant levels: aluminum – 1.0 mg/L; arsenic - 0.05 mg/L; lead - 0.05 mg/L; and mercury - 0.002 mg/L. *Id.* at III-7. The EPA has also issued recommended water quality criterion MCLs, or Treatment Techniques, for mercury - 0.002 mg/L; lead – 0.015 mg/L; chromium – 0.1 mg/L; and, copper – 1.3 mg/L. The EPA has also issued a recommended water quality criterion for aluminum for freshwater aquatic life protection of 0.087 mg/L. In addition, the EPA has established a secondary MCL, consumer acceptance limit for aluminum - 0.05 mg/L to 0.2 mg/L, and for zinc - 5.0 mg/L. *See* <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html>. Finally, the California Department of Health Services has established the following MCL, consumer acceptance levels: aluminum – 1 mg/L (primary) and 0.2 mg/L (secondary); chromium – 0.5 mg/L (primary); copper – 1.0 mg/L (secondary); iron – 0.3 mg/L; and zinc – 5.0 mg/L. *See* California Code of Regulations, title 22, §§ 64431, 64449.

The California Toxics Rule (“CTR”), issued by the EPA in 2000, establishes numeric receiving water limits for certain toxic pollutants in California surface waters. 40 C.F.R. § 131.38. The CTR establishes the following numeric limits for freshwater surface waters: arsenic – 0.34 mg/L (maximum concentration) and 0.150 mg/L (continuous concentration); chromium (III) – 0.550 mg/L (maximum concentration) and 0.180 mg/L (continuous concentration); copper – 0.013 mg/L (maximum concentration) and 0.009 mg/L (continuous concentration); lead – 0.065 mg/L (maximum concentration) and 0.0025 mg/L (continuous concentration).

The Regional Board has identified waters of the Central Coast as failing to meet water quality standards for pollutant/stressors such as unknown toxicity, numerous pesticides, and mercury.¹ Discharges of listed pollutants into an impaired surface water may be deemed a “contribution” to an exceedance of the CTR, a water quality standard, and may indicate a failure on the part of a discharger to implement adequate storm water pollution control measures. *See Waterkeepers Northern Cal. v. Ag Indus. Mfg., Inc.*, 375 F.3d 913, 918 (9th Cir. 2004); *see also Waterkeepers Northern Cal. v. Ag Indus. Mfg.*,

¹ *See*

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/2010state_ir_reports/category5_report.shtml.

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Inc., 2005 WL 2001037 at *3, 5 (E.D. Cal., Aug. 19, 2005) (finding that a discharger covered by the General Industrial Storm Water Permit was “subject to effluent limitations as to certain pollutants, including zinc, lead, copper, aluminum and lead” under the CTR).

The General Permit incorporates benchmark levels established by EPA as guidelines for determining whether a facility discharging industrial storm water has implemented the requisite best available technology economically achievable (“BAT”) and best conventional pollutant control technology (“BCT”). The following benchmarks have been established for pollutants discharged by Olam: oil & grease – 15 mg/L; and total suspended solids – 100.0 mg/L. The State Water Quality Control Board has also proposed adding a benchmark level for specific conductance of 200 µmhos/cm. Additional EPA benchmark levels have been established for other parameters that CSPA believes are being discharged from the Facility, including but not limited to: pH – 6.0 – 9.0 s.u.; total organic carbon – 110 mg/L.

II. Olam Is Violating the Act by Discharging Pollutants From the Facility to Waters of the United States.

Under the Act, it is unlawful to discharge pollutants from a “point source” to navigable waters without obtaining and complying with a permit governing the quantity and quality of discharges. *Trustees for Alaska v. EPA*, 749 F.2d 549, 553 (9th Cir. 1984). Section 301(a) of the Clean Water Act prohibits “the discharge of any pollutants by any person . . .” except as in compliance with, among other sections of the Act, Section 402, the NPDES permitting requirements. 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a). The duty to apply for a permit extends to “[a]ny person who discharges or proposes to discharge pollutants. . . .” 40 C.F.R. § 122.30(a).

The term “discharge of pollutants” means “any addition of any pollutant to navigable waters from any point source.” 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12). Pollutants are defined to include, among other examples, a variety of metals, chemical wastes, biological materials, heat, rock, and sand discharged into water. 33 U.S.C. § 1362(6). A point source is defined as “any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, [or] conduit . . . from which pollutants are or may be discharged.” 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14). An industrial facility that discharges pollutants into a navigable water is subject to regulation as a “point source” under the Clean Water Act. *Comm. to Save Mokelumne River v. East Bay Mun. Util. Dist.*, 13 F.3d 305, 308 (9th Cir. 1993). “Navigable waters” means “the waters of the United States.” 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7). Navigable waters under the Act include man-made waterbodies and any tributaries or waters adjacent to other waters of the United States. *See Headwaters, Inc. v Talent Irrigation Dist.*, 243 F.3d 526, 533 (9th Cir. 2001).

Llagas Creek, the Pajaro River, and Monterey Bay are waters of the United States. Accordingly, Olam’s discharges of storm water containing pollutants from the Facility are discharges to waters of the United States.

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CSPA is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that Olam has discharged, and continues to discharge, pollutants from the Facility to waters of the United States every day that there has been or will be any measurable discharge of storm water from the Facility since May 12, 1997. Each discharge on each separate day is a separate violation of Section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a). These unlawful discharges are ongoing. Consistent with the five-year statute of limitations applicable to citizen enforcement actions brought pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, Olam is subject to penalties for violations of the Act since April 24, 2009.

III. Pollutant Discharges in Violation of the NPDES Permit.

Olam has violated and continues to violate the terms and conditions of the General Permit. Section 402(p) of the Act prohibits the discharge of storm water associated with industrial activities, except as permitted under an NPDES permit such as the General Permit. 33 U.S.C. § 1342. The General Permit prohibits any discharges of storm water associated with industrial activities that have not been subjected to BAT or BCT. Effluent Limitation B(3) of the General Permit requires dischargers to reduce or prevent pollutants in their storm water discharges through implementation of BAT for toxic and nonconventional pollutants and BCT for conventional pollutants. BAT and BCT include both nonstructural and structural measures. General Permit, Section A(8). Conventional pollutants are TSS, Oil & Grease (“O&G”), pH, biochemical oxygen demand (“BOD”), and fecal coliform. 40 C.F.R. § 401.16. All other pollutants are either toxic or nonconventional. *Id.*; 40 C.F.R. § 401.15.

Further, Discharge Prohibition A(1) of the General Permit provides: “Except as allowed in Special Conditions (D.1.) of this General Permit, materials other than storm water (non-storm water discharges) that discharge either directly or indirectly to waters of the United States are prohibited. Prohibited non-storm water discharges must be either eliminated or permitted by a separate NPDES permit.” Special Conditions D(1) of the General Permit sets forth the conditions that must be met for any discharge of non-storm water to constitute an authorized non-storm water discharge.

Receiving Water Limitation C(1) of the General Permit prohibits storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges to surface or groundwater that adversely impact human health or the environment. Receiving Water Limitation C(2) of the General Permit also prohibits storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges that cause or contribute to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards contained in a Statewide Water Quality Control Plan or the applicable Regional Board’s Basin Plan.

Based on its review of available public documents, CSPA is informed and believes: (1) that Olam continues to discharge pollutants in excess of benchmarks and (2) that Olam has failed to implement BMPs adequate to bring its discharge of these and other pollutants in compliance with the General Permit. Olam’s ongoing violations are discussed further below.

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A. Olam Has Discharged Storm Water Containing Pollutants in Violation of the Permit.

Olam has discharged and continues to discharge storm water with unacceptable levels of Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Oil and Grease (O&G) and Specific Conductance (SC) in violation of the General Permit. These high pollutant levels have been documented during significant rain events, including the rain events indicated in the table of rain data attached hereto as Attachment A. Olam's Annual Reports and Sampling and Analysis Results confirm discharges of materials other than storm water and specific pollutants in violation of the Permit provisions listed above. Self-monitoring reports under the Permit are deemed "conclusive evidence of an exceedance of a permit limitation." *Sierra Club v. Union Oil*, 813 F.2d 1480, 1493 (9th Cir. 1988).

The following discharges of pollutants from the Facility have violated Discharge Prohibitions A(1) and A(2) and Receiving Water Limitations C(1) and C(2) of the General Industrial Storm Water Permit:

1. Discharge of Storm Water Containing Oil & Grease (O&G) at Concentration in Excess of Applicable EPA Benchmark Value.

Date	Discharge Point	Parameter	Concentration in Discharge	Benchmark Value
11/5/2011	Discharge Point 4	O&G	33.3 mg/l	15 mg/l
11/5/2012	West Plant	O&G	33.3	15 mg/l

2. Discharge of Storm Water Containing Total Suspended Solids (TSS) at Concentration in Excess of Applicable EPA Benchmark Value.

Date	Discharge Point	Parameter	Concentration in Discharge	Benchmark Value
11/22/2010	Discharge 2	TSS	1400 mg/l	100 mg/l
11/5/2011	Discharge 4	TSS	372 mg/l	100 mg/l
2/6/20012	Discharge 1	TSS	103 mg/l	100 mg/l
2/6/2012	Discharge 2	TSS	157 mg/l	100 mg/l
10/10/2012	East Plant	TSS	274 mg/l	100 mg/l

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10/10/2012	South Plant	TSS	350 mg/l	100 mg/l
10/10/2012	West Plant	TSS	192 mg/l	100 mg/l
11/5/2012	West Plant	TSS	372 mg/l	100 mg/l

3. Discharge of Storm Water Containing Specific Conductance (SC) at Concentration in Excess of Proposed Benchmark.

Date	Discharge Point	Parameter	Concentration in Discharge	Benchmark Value
1/22/2010	Discharge Point 1	SC	240 μ mhos/cm	200 μ mhos/cm
10/10/2012	South Plant	SC	204 μ mhos/cm	200 μ mhos/cm

CSPA's investigation, including its review of Olam's analytical results documenting pollutant levels in the Facility's storm water discharges well in excess of EPA's benchmark values and the State Board's proposed benchmark levels for specific conductivity, indicates that Olam has not implemented BAT and BCT at the Facility for its discharges of Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Oil and Grease, and Specific Conductance (SC), in violation of Effluent Limitation B(3) of the General Permit. Olam was required to have implemented BAT and BCT by no later than October 1, 1992 or the start of its operations. Thus, Olam is discharging polluted storm water associated with its industrial operations without having implemented BAT and BCT.

CSPA is informed and believes that Olam has known that its storm water contains pollutants at levels exceeding EPA Benchmarks and other water quality criteria since at least April 24, 2009. CSPA alleges that such violations also have occurred and will occur on other rain dates, including during every single significant rain event that has occurred since April 24, 2009, and that will occur at the Facility subsequent to the date of this Notice of Violation and Intent to File Suit. Attachment A, attached hereto, sets forth each of the specific rain dates on which CSPA alleges that Olam has discharged storm water containing impermissible levels of Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and Oil and Grease (O&G) and Specific Conductance (SC) in violation of Discharge Prohibitions A(1) and A(2) and Receiving Water Limitations C(1) and C(2) of the General Permit.

These unlawful discharges from the Facility are ongoing. Each discharge of storm water containing any pollutants from the Facility without the implementation of BAT/BCT constitutes a separate violation of the General Permit and the Act. Consistent with the five-year statute of limitations applicable to citizen enforcement actions brought

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pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, Olam is subject to penalties for violations of the General Permit and the Act since April 24, 2009.

B. Olam Has Failed to Implement an Adequate Monitoring & Reporting Plan.

Section B of the General Industrial Storm Water Permit requires that dischargers develop and implement an adequate Monitoring and Reporting Plan by no later than October 1, 1992 or the start of operations. Sections B(3), B(4) and B(7) require that dischargers conduct regularly scheduled visual observations of non-storm water and storm water discharges from the Facility and to record and report such observations to the Regional Board. Section B(5)(a) of the General Permit requires that dischargers “shall collect storm water samples during the first hour of discharge from (1) the first storm event of the wet season, and (2) at least one other storm event in the wet season. All storm water discharge locations shall be sampled.” Section B(5)(c)(i) further requires that the samples shall be analyzed for total suspended solids, pH, specific conductance, and total organic carbon. Oil and grease may be substituted for total organic carbon. Section B(5)(c)(ii) of the General Permit further requires dischargers to analyze samples for all “[t]oxic chemicals and other pollutants that are likely to be present in storm water discharges in significant quantities.” Section B(10) of the General Permit provides that “Facility operators shall explain how the Facility’s monitoring program will satisfy the monitoring program objectives of [General Permit] Section B.2.”

Based on its investigation, CSPA is informed and believes that Olam has failed to develop and implement an adequate Monitoring & Reporting Plan. First, based on its review of publicly available documents, CSPA is informed and believes that Olam has failed to collect storm water samples during at least two qualifying storms events, as defined by the General Permit, during at the past three Wet Seasons. Second, based on its review of publicly available documents, CSPA is informed and believes that Olam has failed to conduct the monthly visual monitoring of storm water discharges and the quarterly visual observations of unauthorized non-storm water discharges required under the General Permit during the past three Wet Seasons. Third, based on its review of publicly available documents, CSPA is informed and believes that for the past three Wet Seasons, Olam has failed to analyze samples for other pollutants that are likely to be present in significant quantities in the storm water discharged from the Facility, including lead. Lastly, while Olam reports that the Facility has four (4) discharge points, it appears the Facility has consistently failed to report sampling results for all such discharge points.

Each of these failures constitutes a separate and ongoing violation of the General Permit and the Act. Consistent with the five-year statute of limitations applicable to citizen enforcement actions brought pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, Olam is subject to penalties for violations of the General Permit and the Act since April 24, 2009. These violations are set forth in greater detail below:

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1. Olam Has Failed to Collect Qualifying Storm Water Samples During at Least Two Rain Events In Each of the Last Three Wet Seasons.

Based on its review of publicly available documents, CSPA is informed and believes that Olam has failed to collect storm water samples from all discharge points during at least two qualifying rain events at the Facility during each of the past three Wet Seasons, as required by the General Permit. For example, CSPA notes that the Annual Report filed by Olam for the Facility for the 2010-2011 Wet Season reported that Olam analyzed samples of storm water discharged during two qualifying storm events that season. However, upon closer scrutiny it turns out that both samples were not taken during a qualifying storm event within the meaning of the General Permit (discussed further below). Similarly, in the 2011-2012 Annual Report, Olam sampled from two storm events that were not qualifying storm events. Furthermore, in the 2012-2013 Annual Report, Olam failed to sample from two qualifying storm events for that season, as required by the General Permit.

Olam reported in its Annual Reports for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 Wet Seasons that the Facility sampled the first qualifying storm event of the season, when in fact it did not sample the first such event during those two Wet Seasons. For example, Olam reported in its 2011-2012 Annual Report that it sampled the first qualifying storm event of the Wet Season, but Olam's first sample is from November 5, 2011. Based upon its review of publicly available rainfall data, CSPA is informed and believes that the first qualifying storm event of the 2011-2012 Wet Season occurred as early as Monday, October 5, 2011, when 0.6" of rain fell on the Facility. This failure to adequately monitor storm water discharges constitutes separate and ongoing violations of the General Permit and the Act.

These failures to adequately monitor storm water discharges constitute separate and ongoing violations of the General Permit and the Act.

2. Olam Has Failed to Conduct the Monthly Wet Season Observations of Storm Water Discharges Required by the General Permit.

The General Permit requires dischargers to "visually observe storm water discharges from one storm event per month during the Wet Season (October 1 – May 30)." General Permit, Section B(4)(a). As evidenced by the entries on Form 4 Monthly Visual Observations contained in Olam's annual reports for four of the last five Wet Seasons, CSPA is informed and believes that Olam has failed to comply with this requirement of the General Permit.

Specifically, Olam failed to conduct monthly visual observations of discharges from qualifying storm events for most months during the past three Wet Seasons. Instead, Olam either completely failed to document visual observations at all or

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documented its visual observations of storm water that discharged during non-qualifying storm events, for most months during the entire past three Wet Seasons (discussed further below). However, based on publicly available rainfall data, CSPA is informed and believes that there were many qualifying storm events during each of these Wet Seasons that Olam could have observed.

For example, Olam reported in its 2010-2011 Annual Report that it observed a qualifying storm event on Monday, October 29, 2010. However, CSPA is informed and believes that this could not possibly be true because only 0.02 inches of rain fell on the Facility on that day. Further, Olam reported in its 2010-2011 Annual Report that it failed to conduct observations for the first two months of the Wet Season. Olam's failure to conduct this required monthly Wet Season visual monitoring extends back to at least April 24, 2009. Olam's failure to conduct this required monthly Wet Season visual monitoring has caused and continues to cause multiple, separate and ongoing violations of the General Permit and the Act.

3. Olam Is Subject to Penalties for Its Failure to Implement an Adequate Monitoring & Reporting Plan Since April 1, 2009.

CSPA is informed and believes that publicly available documents demonstrate Olam's consistent and ongoing failure to implement an adequate Monitoring Reporting Plan in violation of Section B of the General Permit. For example, while in its 2010-2011 Annual Report Olam reported having collected samples of storm water discharged during two qualifying storm events, neither of the two storm events sampled was a qualifying storm event within the meaning of the General Permit. Based on its review of publicly available rainfall data, CSPA is informed and believes that the storm that occurred at the Facility on November 22, 2010 was not a qualifying storm event. Specifically, Olam sampled a rain event on November 22, 2010, when the prior day had seen 0.11" fall at the Facility. Thus, the November 21, 2010 storm event rendered any storm occurring for three days afterwards non-qualifying. Similarly, Olam sampled a rain event on December 20, 2010 that produced .04" of rainfall on the Facility. However, 1.89" of rain fell on the facility on December 18, 2010. Thus, the December 18th storm event rendered any storm occurring for three days afterwards non-qualifying. Therefore, Olam failed to implement an adequate Monitoring Reporting Plan.

Consistent with the five-year statute of limitations applicable to citizen enforcement actions brought pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, the City of Watsonville is subject to penalties for these violations of the General Permit and the Act since April 24, 2009.

C. Olam Has Failed to Implement BAT and BCT.

Effluent Limitation B(3) of the General Permit requires dischargers to reduce or prevent pollutants in their storm water discharges through implementation of BAT for toxic and nonconventional pollutants and BCT for conventional pollutants. BAT and

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BCT include both nonstructural and structural measures. General Permit, Section A(8). CSPA's investigation indicates that Olam has not implemented BAT and BCT at the Facility for its discharges of Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Oil and Grease (O&G) and Specific Conductance (SC) and other unmonitored pollutants in violation of Effluent Limitation B(3) of the General Permit.

To meet the BAT/BCT requirement of the General Permit, Olam must evaluate all pollutant sources at the Facility and implement the best structural and non-structural management practices economically achievable to reduce or prevent the discharge of pollutants from the Facility. Based on the limited information available regarding the internal structure of the Facility, CSPA believes that at a minimum Olam must improve its housekeeping practices, store materials that act as pollutant sources under cover or in contained areas, treat storm water to reduce pollutants before discharge (e.g., with filters or treatment boxes), and/or prevent storm water discharge altogether. Olam has failed to adequately implement such measures.

Olam was required to have implemented BAT and BCT by no later than October 1, 1992. Therefore, Olam has been in continuous violation of the BAT and BCT requirements every day since October 1, 1992, and will continue to be in violation every day that it fails to implement BAT and BCT. Olam is subject to penalties for violations of the General Permit and the Act occurring since April 24, 2009.

D. Olam Has Failed to Develop and Implement an Adequate Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

Section A(1) and Provision E(2) of the General Permit require dischargers of storm water associated with industrial activity to develop, implement, and update an adequate storm water pollution prevention plan ("SWPPP") no later than October 1, 1992. Section A(1) and Provision E(2) requires dischargers who submitted an NOI pursuant to Water Quality Order No. 97-03-DWQ to continue following their existing SWPPP and implement any necessary revisions to their SWPPP in a timely manner, but in any case, no later than August 9, 1997.

The SWPPP must, among other requirements, identify and evaluate sources of pollutants associated with industrial activities that may affect the quality of storm and non-storm water discharges from the Facility and identify and implement site-specific best management practices ("BMPs") to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activities in storm water and authorized non-storm water discharges (General Permit, Section A(2)). The SWPPP must also include BMPs that achieve BAT and BCT (Effluent Limitation B(3)). The SWPPP must include: a description of individuals and their responsibilities for developing and implementing the SWPPP (General Permit, Section A(3)); a site map showing the Facility boundaries, storm water drainage areas with flow pattern and nearby water bodies, the location of the storm water collection, conveyance and discharge system, structural control measures, impervious areas, areas of actual and potential pollutant contact, and areas of industrial activity (General Permit,

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Section A(4)); a list of significant materials handled and stored at the site (General Permit, Section A(5)); a description of potential pollutant sources including industrial processes, material handling and storage areas, dust and particulate generating activities, a description of significant spills and leaks, a list of all non-storm water discharges and their sources, and a description of locations where soil erosion may occur (General Permit, Section A(6)).

The SWPPP also must include an assessment of potential pollutant sources at the Facility and a description of the BMPs to be implemented at the Facility that will reduce or prevent pollutants in storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges, including structural BMPs where non-structural BMPs are not effective (General Permit, Section A(7), (8)). The SWPPP must be evaluated to ensure effectiveness and must be revised where necessary (General Permit, Section A(9),(10)). Receiving Water Limitation C(3) of the Order requires that dischargers submit a report to the appropriate Regional Water Board that describes the BMPs that are currently being implemented and additional BMPs that will be implemented to prevent or reduce the discharge of any pollutants causing or contributing to the exceedance of water quality standards.

CSPA's investigation and review of publicly available documents regarding conditions at the Facility indicate that Olam has been operating with an inadequately developed or implemented SWPPP in violation of the requirements set forth above. Olam has failed to evaluate the effectiveness of its BMPs and to revise its SWPPP as necessary. Accordingly, Olam has been in continuous violation of Section A(1) and Provision E(2) of the General Permit every day since October 1, 1992, and will continue to be in violation every day that it fails to develop and implement an effective SWPPP. Olam is subject to penalties for violations of the General Permit and the Act occurring since April 24, 2009.

E. Olam Has Failed to Address Discharges Contributing to Exceedances of Water Quality Standards.

Receiving Water Limitation C(3) requires a discharger to prepare and submit a report to the Regional Board describing changes it will make to its current BMPs in order to prevent or reduce the discharge of any pollutant in its storm water discharges that is causing or contributing to an exceedance of water quality standards. Once approved by the Regional Board, the additional BMPs must be incorporated into the Facility's SWPPP.

The report must be submitted to the Regional Board no later than 60-days from the date the discharger first learns that its discharge is causing or contributing to an exceedance of an applicable water quality standard. Receiving Water Limitation C(4)(a). Section C(11)(d) of the Permit's Standard Provisions also requires dischargers to report any noncompliance. *See also* Provision E(6). Lastly, Section A(9) of the Permit requires an annual evaluation of storm water controls including the preparation of an evaluation

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report and implementation of any additional measures in the SWPPP to respond to the monitoring results and other inspection activities.

As indicated above, Olam is discharging elevated levels of Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Oil and Grease (O&G) and Specific Conductance (SC) and other unmonitored pollutants that are causing or contributing to exceedances of applicable water quality standards. For each of these pollutant exceedances, Olam was required to submit a report pursuant to Receiving Water Limitation C(4)(a) within 60-days of becoming aware of levels in its storm water exceeding the EPA Benchmarks and applicable water quality standards.

Based on CSPA's review of available documents, Olam was aware of high levels of these pollutants prior to April 24, 2009. Likewise, Olam has generally failed to file reports describing its non-compliance with the General Permit in violation of Section C(11)(d). Olam has been in continuous violation of Receiving Water Limitation C(4)(a) and Sections C(11)(d) and A(9) of the General Permit every day since April 24, 2009, and will continue to be in violation every day it fails to prepare and submit the requisite reports, receives approval from the Regional Board and amends its SWPPP to include approved BMPs. Olam is subject to penalties for violations of the General Permit and the Act occurring since April 24, 2009.

F. Olam Has Failed to File Timely, True and Correct Reports.

Section B(14) of the General Permit requires dischargers to submit an Annual Report by July 1st of each year to the executive officer of the relevant Regional Board. The Annual Report must be signed and certified by an appropriate corporate officer. General Permit, Sections B(14), C(9), (10). Section A(9)(d) of the General Permit requires the discharger to include in their annual report an evaluation of their storm water controls, including certifying compliance with the General Industrial Storm Water Permit. *See also* General Permit, Sections C(9) and (10) and B(14).

CSPA's investigation indicates that Olam has submitted incomplete Annual Reports and purported to comply with the General Permit despite significant noncompliance at the Facility. For example, Olam reported in two Annual Reports filed for the past three Wet Seasons (i.e., 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013) that it observed storm water discharges occurring during the first storm of those Wet Seasons. However, as discussed above, based on CSPA's review of publicly available rainfall data, CSPA believes this is incorrect.

Further, Olam failed to sample from qualifying storm events in six out of six storm water samples collected during the last three Wet Seasons. For example, in 2010-2011, Olam sampled from a storm event on November 22, 2010 that was not a qualifying storm event. Further, in the 2012-2013 Annual Report, Olam reported that it sampled a first flush event on December 10, 2012. Based on its review of publicly available rainfall data, CSPA is informed and believes that the storm that occurred at the Facility on

Notice of Violation and Intent To File Suit

April 24, 2014

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December 10, 2012 was not a first flush event because 0.15 inches of rain fell on the facility on October 22, 2012.

Further, Olam failed to comply with the monthly visual observations of storm water discharges requirement for two of the past three Annual Reports filed for the Facility. In the 2010-2011 Annual Report, Olam reported that it observed discharge from a qualifying storm event on January 27, 2011. However, based on publicly available rainfall data, CSPA is informed and believes that this cannot possibly be true because no rain fell on the Facility on that day. Moreover, in the 2011-2012 Annual Report, Olam reported that it observed discharge from a qualifying storm event on April 19, 2012. However, based on publicly available rainfall data, CSPA is informed and believes that this is also incorrect because no rain fell on the Facility on that day.

These are only a few examples of how Olam has failed to file completely true and accurate reports. As indicated above, Olam has failed to comply with the Permit and the Act consistently for the past three years; therefore, Olam has violated Sections A(9)(d), B(14) and C(9) & (10) of the Permit every time Olam submitted an incomplete or incorrect annual report that falsely certified compliance with the Act in the past three years. Olam's failure to submit true and complete reports constitutes continuous and ongoing violations of the Permit and the Act. Olam is subject to penalties for violations of Section (C) of the General Permit and the Act occurring since April 24, 2009.

IV. Persons Responsible for the Violations.

CSPA Rick Harker, Patrick Nuck, Matt Nymeyer and Olam West Coast, Inc. on notice that they are the persons responsible for the violations described above. If additional persons are subsequently identified as also being responsible for the violations set forth above, CSPA puts Rick Harker, Patrick Nuck, Matt Nymeyer and Olam West Coast, Inc. on formal notice that it intends to include those persons in this action.

V. Name and Address of Noticing Party.

Our name, address and telephone number is as follows: California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Bill Jennings, Executive Director; 3536 Rainier Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204; Phone: (209) 464-5067.

VI. Counsel.

CSPA has retained legal counsel to represent it in this matter. Please direct all communications to:

Notice of Violation and Intent To File Suit

April 24, 2014

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100 Petaluma Boulevard North, Suite 301
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VII. Penalties.

Pursuant to Section 309(d) of the Act (33 U.S.C. § 1319(d)) and the Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation (40 C.F.R. § 19.4) each separate violation of the Act subjects Rick Harker, Patrick Nuck, Matt Nymeyer and Olam West Coast, Inc. to a penalty of up to \$37,500 per day per violation for all violations occurring after January 12, 2009, during the period commencing five years prior to the date of this Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit. In addition to civil penalties, CSPA will seek injunctive relief preventing further violations of the Act pursuant to Sections 505(a) and (d) (33 U.S.C. §1365(a) and (d)) and such other relief as permitted by law. Lastly, Section 505(d) of the Act (33 U.S.C. § 1365(d)), permits prevailing parties to recover costs and fees, including attorneys' fees.

CSPA believes this Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit sufficiently states grounds for filing suit. We intend to file a citizen suit under Section 505(a) of the Act against Rick Harker, Patrick Nuck, Matt Nymeyer, and Olam West Coast, Inc. and their agents for the above-referenced violations upon the expiration of the 60-day notice period. If you wish to pursue remedies in the absence of litigation, we suggest that you initiate those discussions within the next 20 days so that they may be completed before the end of the 60-day notice period. We do not intend to delay the filing of a complaint in federal court if discussions are continuing when that period ends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Jennings".

Bill Jennings, Executive Director
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

SERVICE LIST

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Washington, D.C. 20460

Jared Blumenfeld
Administrator, U.S. EPA – Region 9
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Eric Holder
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U.S. Department of Justice
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Kenneth A. Harris, Jr., Executive Officer
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
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ATTACHMENT A
Notice of Intent to File Suit, Olam
Significant Rain Events,* April 24, 2009 – April 24, 2014

May 1 2009	Oct 23 2010	May 17 2011	Dec 2 2012
Oct 13 2009	Oct 24 2010	Jun 4 2011	Dec 5 2012
Oct 14 2009	Oct 30 2010	Jun 28 2011	Dec 15 2012
Dec 10 2009	Nov 17 2010	Oct 5 2011	Dec 17 2012
Dec 11 2009	Nov 22 2010	Nov 4 2011	Dec 22 2012
Dec 12 2009	Nov 23 2010	Nov 5 2011	Dec 23 2012
Dec 13 2009	Nov 27 2010	Nov 11 2011	Dec 25 2012
Dec 26 2009	Dec 5 2010	Nov 18 2011	Dec 26 2012
Dec 27 2009	Dec 14 2010	Nov 19 2011	Dec 29 2012
Dec 28 2009	Dec 15 2010	Nov 20 2011	Jan 5 2013
Jan 12 2010	Dec 16 2010	Jan 19 2012	Jan 6 2013
Jan 13 2010	Dec 17 2010	Jan 20 2012	Jan 24 2013
Jan 17 2010	Dec 18 2010	Jan 21 2012	Feb 19 2013
Jan 18 2010	Dec 19 2010	Jan 22 2012	Mar 6 2013
Jan 19 2010	Dec 21 2010	Jan 23 2012	Mar 7 2013
Jan 20 2010	Dec 22 2010	Feb 7 2012	Apr 1 2013
Jan 21 2010	Dec 25 2010	Feb 13 2012	Apr 4 2013
Jan 22 2010	Dec 28 2010	Feb 15 2012	Oct 29 2013
Jan 26 2010	Dec 29 2010	Feb 29 2012	Nov 19 2013
Jan 29 2010	Jan 1 2011	Mar 1 2012	Nov 20 2013
Feb 4 2010	Jan 2 2011	Mar 16 2012	Dec 6 2013
Feb 6 2010	Jan 30 2011	Mar 17 2012	Dec 7 2013
Feb 9 2010	Feb 14 2011	Mar 18 2012	Jan 30 2013
Feb 21 2010	Feb 16 2011	Mar 24 2012	Feb 2 2014
Feb 23 2010	Feb 17 2011	Mar 25 2012	Feb 6 2014
Feb 24 2010	Feb 18 2011	Mar 27 2012	Feb 7 2014
Feb 26 2010	Feb 19 2011	Mar 28 2012	Feb 8 2014
Feb 27 2010	Feb 24 2011	Mar 31 2012	Feb 9 2014
Mar 2 2010	Feb 25 2011	Apr 10 2012	Feb 26 2014
Mar 3 2010	Feb 26 2011	Apr 11 2012	Feb 27 2014
Mar 12 2010	Mar 13 2011	Apr 12 2012	Feb 28 2014
Mar 30 2010	Mar 16 2011	Apr 13 2012	Mar 1 2014
Apr 4 2010	Mar 18 2011	Apr 25 2012	Mar 3 2014
Apr 5 2010	Mar 19 2011	Jun 4 2012	Mar 26 2014
Apr 11 2010	Mar 20 2011	Oct 22 2012	Mar 29 2014
Apr 12 2010	Mar 21 2011	Oct 23 2012	Mar 31 2014
Apr 20 2010	Mar 23 2011	Nov 16 2012	Apr 1 2014
Apr 21 2010	Mar 24 2011	Nov 17 2012	Apr 4 2014
Apr 27 2010	Mar 25 2011	Nov 18 2012	
Apr 28 2010	Mar 26 2011	Nov 28 2012	
May 10 2010	Apr 8 2011	Nov 29 2012	
May 27 2010	May 15 2011	Nov 30 2012	
Oct 17 2010	May 16 2011	Dec 1 2012	

* Dates gathered from publicly available rain and weather data collected at stations located near the Facility.