

**Effective to:** April 14, 2026

1. DARLING operates a rendering facility located at 11946 Carpenter Road in Crows Landing, California.
2. The subject equipment is a 3.0 million British thermal units per hour (MMBtu/hr) Gulf Coast Environmental regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) unit used to control volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions.
3. Duly issued District permits authorize the operation of the subject equipment.

Petitioner Darling Ingredients Turlock  
Docket N-26-04S  
Date April 8, 2026  
Page 2

## **BACKGROUND**

DARLING is a global developer and producer of sustainable natural ingredients from edible and inedible bio-nutrients, creating a wide range of ingredients and customized specialty solutions for customers in the food, pet food, pharmaceutical, feed, fuel, bioenergy, and fertilizer industries. DARLING is a critical service provider to regional food processing industries including slaughter, livestock, dairy, restaurant, grocer, and other related operations.

DARLING operates an RTO for the abatement of VOC constituents that could potentially lead to odors from the rendering process. The organic raw material contains approximately 65% moisture. During the steam powered cooking process, that moisture is evaporated and condensed, where it is treated in an advanced wastewater treatment plant for reuse. However, there is a small portion of the vapor that does not collapse in the condenser. This non-condensable fraction of the vapor stream is treated in a series of wet packed-bed scrubbers and venturis before being sent to the RTO for thermal destruction of any remaining vapors. The non-condensable vapor stream is moved through the system at approximately 10,000 cubic feet per minute and the RTO is fired on natural gas to temperatures in excess of 1,400 degrees F for complete thermal destruction. That thermal destruction relies on ceramic media beds that provide a retention time that ensures complete combustion. DARLING has recently discovered excessive damage to the ceramic media and it requires immediate replacement. The process to replace that media and return the RTO to full compliance is expected to take five days, which is longer than they can be shutdown without doing harm to the business or the community they service.

## **RULE REQUIREMENTS**

1. The equipment subject to this variance are regulated by the following District Rules:
  - A. 2010 – *Permits Required*
  - B. 2070 – *Standards for Granting Applications*
  - C. 2201 – *New and Modified Stationary Source Review Rule*
  - D. 2520 – *Federally Mandated Operating Permits*
  - E. 4104 – *Reduction of Animal Matter*
2. District Rules 2010, 2070, and 2520 require that the facility operate within the conditions of its permits. Rules 2201 and 4104 require that the RTO be in operation and at operating temperature while the rendering process is active.
3. The operation of the subject equipment is authorized by duly issued District permits.

Petitioner Darling Ingredients Turlock  
Docket N-26-04S  
Date April 8, 2026  
Page 3

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 42352, the following findings have been made:

1. ***That the petitioner for a variance is, or will be, in violation of Section 41701 or of any rule, regulation, or order of the District.***

The Hearing Board finds that operation of the rendering process while the RTO is shut down will violate applicable requirements of District Rules 2070, 2201, 2520, 4104 and applicable conditions of the subject permits.

2. ***That, due to conditions beyond the reasonable control of the petitioner, requiring compliance would result in either (1) an arbitrary or unreasonable taking of property, or (2) the practical closing and elimination of a lawful business.***

The Hearing Board finds that it would be unreasonable to require DARLING to shut down until the RTO is repaired because a large volume of the products processed at the facility are animal mortalities. These animals are required to be rendered and are restricted from going to landfills. If DARLING is required to shut down, they face a possible breach of contracts and hardship on customers. In addition, there is the potential for the byproducts to be mis-managed in ways that could impact public health and the environment.

3. ***That the closing or taking would be without a corresponding benefit in reducing air contaminants.***

The Hearing Board finds that a closing or taking would not result in a corresponding benefit to air quality based on the short duration of the proposed RTO shutdown. When the RTO is shutdown, air contaminants from the byproducts of combustion will not be emitted. That means NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and CO will not be generated. The closing or taking would cause the loss of revenue and breach of contract. Most importantly, a closing or taking would leave a void for the disposal of material, which needs to be disposed of quickly.

4. ***That the applicant for the variance has given consideration to curtailing operations of the source in lieu of obtaining a variance.***

The Hearing Board finds that DARLING will conduct the proposed work during the weekend of April 11-12, 2026. During this time, DARLING will not receive raw material, thus minimizing the time the facility will be out of compliance.

5. ***During the period the variance is in effect, that the applicant will reduce excess emissions to the maximum extent feasible.***

The Hearing Board finds that as stated in Finding 4, DARLING will conduct the proposed work during the weekend of April 11-12, 2026. During this time, DARLING will not receive raw material, thus minimizing the time the facility will be out of compliance, and as a result, limit the amount of excess VOC emissions.

Petitioner Darling Ingredients Turlock  
Docket N-26-04S  
Date April 8, 2026  
Page 4

6. ***During the period the variance is in effect, that the applicant will monitor or otherwise quantify emission levels from the source, if requested to do so by the District and report these emissions levels to the District pursuant to a schedule established by the District.***

The Hearing Board finds that DARLING will keep records of how long the rendering process operates without the RTO in operation. They can use this to calculate the amount of excess emissions, which will be reported to the District at the conclusion of the variance.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

The Hearing Board also finds that a nuisance as defined in District Rule 4102 is not expected to occur as a result of this variance. Nor would continued operation likely create an immediate threat or hazard to public health or safety.

It should be noted that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which monitors major sources might not recognize this variance. DARLING should be aware that the EPA could take enforcement action on this matter if it deems such action is appropriate.

### **CONCLUSIONS AND ORDER**

NOW, THEREFORE, the NORTHERN REGION HEARING BOARD ORDERS that a short variance be granted to DARLING subject to the following conditions:

1. The variance shall be effective from April 10, 2026, to April 14, 2026, or until the RTO is repaired and returned to compliant operation, whichever occurs first.
2. Relief shall be granted from the applicable requirements of District Rules 2010, 2070, 2201, 2520, and 4104 in addition to the following:
  - A. Condition 5 of N-2107-0-5 and
  - B. Conditions 9 and 26 of N-2107-9-21.
3. The variance shall allow the rendering process to occur without the RTO online while maintenance is being conducted on the RTO.
4. At the conclusion of this variance DARLING must be in compliance with all their permit conditions and applicable District Rules. If DARLING will not achieve compliance prior to conclusion of this variance, they must contact the District as soon as possible and before the variance period ends.
5. Excess VOC emissions shall not exceed **720 pounds** over the duration of the variance period.
6. Should the facility experience operational conditions likely to cause a public nuisance, DARLING shall cease operations causing the problems and take all necessary actions to abate the problem immediately.

Petitioner Darling Ingredients Turlock  
Docket N-26-04S  
Date April 8, 2026  
Page 5

7. A Federal Title V deviation report shall be submitted to the District within 10 days each time a Federal Title V permit condition is violated. It should be noted that multiple deviation reports may need to be submitted during this variance period. The deviation report must be sent to the facility inspector.
8. By April 29, 2026, or no later than 15 calendar days after the RTO is returned to compliant operation, whichever occurs first, DARLING shall submit to the District a written report. If the report due date should fall on a day the District is closed, it shall be due the next business day. The report shall include the following:
  - A. A summary of the activities conducted during the variance period,
  - B. The date(s), time(s), and total duration that the RTO was shut down during the variance period while material was being processed,
  - C. A calculation of the excess emissions that occurred during the variance period, and
  - D. The required certification of truth, accuracy, and completeness, signed by the designated responsible official of the Corporation, as required by Sections 9.13.1 and 10.0 of District Rule 2520 – *Federally Mandated Operating Permits*.
9. The end of variance summary report shall be submitted to the attention of:

Chris Kalashian  
SJVAPCD, Compliance Department  
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93726  
Telephone: (559) 230-5963  
E-mail: [chris.kalashian@valleyair.org](mailto:chris.kalashian@valleyair.org)
10. Failure to comply with any condition of this variance may render the variance null and void with the possibility of enforcement action taken that may include monetary penalties.

Petitioner Darling Ingredients Turlock  
Docket N-26-04S  
Date April 8, 2026  
Page 6

**MOTION:** Hill

**SECOND:** Blackhart

**Ayes:** Smedshammer, Blackhart, Hill

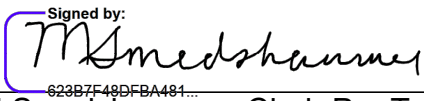
**Noes:** None

**Abstained:** Vierra

**Recused:** None

**Absent:** None

**THE FOREGOING DECISION IS APPROVED:**

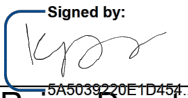
Signed by:  
  
623B7F48DFBA481...

Michael Smedshammer, Chair Pro Tem  
Hearing Board – Northern Region  
San Joaquin Valley APCD

4/14/2026

Date

**ATTEST:**

Signed by:  
  
5A5038220E1D459...

Katrina Rojas, Deputy Clerk to the Boards

4/15/2026

Date



# San Joaquin Valley

## AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

### PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Bailey Chavez, declare:

I am a resident of the State of California and over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action; my business address is San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, 1990 E. Gettysburg, Fresno, California 93726.

On April 20, 2026, I served the within documents:

**ORDER GRANTING A VARIANCE – DOCKET No. N-26-04S**

☒ by placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed envelope, and placing the same for mailing in the United States mail at Fresno, California, in accordance with the company's ordinary practices, and addressed as set forth below.

☒ based on an agreement of the parties with email addresses below, to accept service by transmitting via email the above listed document(s) to the email addresses set forth below on this date before 5 p.m.

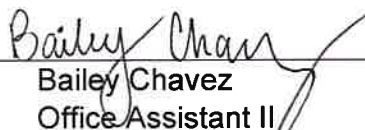
☐ by personally delivering the document(s) listed above to the person(s) at the address(s) set forth below:

William Holmes  
Darling Ingredients Turlock  
PO Box 1608  
Turlock, CA 95131

Roshni Brahmbhatt  
USEPA Region IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901  
AEO\_R9@epa.gov  
CARB – Enforcement Division  
PO Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
variance@arb.ca.gov

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on April 20, 2026, at Fresno, California.

  
Bailey Chavez  
Office Assistant II

Northern Region Office  
4800 Enterprise Way  
Modesto, CA 95356-8718  
(209) 557-6400 ♦ FAX (209) 557-6475

Central Region Office  
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93726-0244  
(559) 230-6000 ♦ FAX (559) 230-6062  
[www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)

Southern Region Office  
34946 Flyover Court  
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9725  
(661) 392-5500 ♦ FAX (661) 392-5585