



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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7 March 2008

Mr. Pedro Marquez  
Quetzal Corporation  
5507 Prairie Flower Road  
Ceres, CA 95307

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7007 2560 0001 7475 5822**

### ***NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY OF WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 97-10-DWQ, QUETZAL CORPORATION, EL REMATITO MARKETPLACE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY, STANISLAUS COUNTY***

The Quetzal Corporation, hereafter referred to as "Discharger", submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) on 5 July 2007. Additional information submitted on 19 and 29 November 2007, and on 14 December 2007 completed the RWD. The Discharger proposes to discharge treated domestic wastewater to land at the El Rematito Marketplace in Ceres, Stanislaus County. Our review finds that the RWD is complete and that coverage under Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (the General WDRs) is appropriate to regulate the discharge.

#### Discharge Location

The Discharger owns and operates the El Rematito Marketplace at 3113 Crows Landing Road at the northwest corner of Crows Landing and Hackett Roads. The site is approximately two miles northwest of Ceres on Stanislaus County Assessor's Parcel Nos. 056-55-04 and 056-55-05, and includes approximately 18.6 acres. The site location is shown on Attachment A, which is attached hereto and forms part of this Notice. Farmland, ranchettes, and open land surround the project area.

#### Discharge Description

El Rematito Marketplace is an existing open-air flea market with a septic tank and leach fields, which were previously regulated by Stanislaus County. The Discharger is expanding the sales area from 85,020 square feet to 128,883 square feet. The expansion will include new restrooms, concessions with potential food preparation (e.g., fried chicken), a play area, a plaza, and an increased parking capacity of 644 stalls. The market is permitted to operate Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. only. After expansion, the estimated maximum sewage production is 6,440 gallons per day of operation, or approximately 19,320 gallons per week.

The proposed wastewater treatment system will incorporate a 20,000-gallon battery septic tank, a 10,000-gallon flow equalization tank, a 4,500-gallon per day (gpd) aerated secondary

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treatment package plant, and two (primary and backup) 6,552-square foot subsurface drip disposal systems to replace the existing leachfield (see Attachment B). The primary and backup subsurface drip systems are each designed to accept a flow rate of 4,500 gpd with a hydraulic loading rate of 0.7 gallons per square foot per day (approximately 1.1 inches per day).

Sewage will flow by gravity to a wet well pumping station, and will be pumped from there to the 20,000-gallon septic tank. The flow equalization tank (downstream of the septic tank) will be equipped with duplex pumps and will be used to dose the package plant at the design rate of approximately 5 gallons per minute. A flow meter will measure cumulative flow and stop the pumps after 4,500 gallons has been conveyed to the treatment unit. This will result in the storage of no more than 1,900 gpd on each of the three days that the market is open. The wastewater will be stored in the equalization tank until the package plant can accept it (typically on the Monday and Tuesday following each weekend). To prevent overflow, the equalization tank is equipped with a high level alarm. If the water level in the flow equalization tank reaches the high level float, the pumps will temporarily override the 4,500-gpd limit and convey the excess liquid to the package plant.

Treated effluent will be automatically pumped from the package plant to the subsurface drip disposal systems. Each subsurface drip system will receive up to 4,500 gpd of treated effluent for up to five consecutive days per week, and then will rest for the remaining two days until the marketplace is open again. Each drip system has a single application zone. The engineer of record recommends that each drip system field be used for no more than six consecutive months before switching the discharge to the other drip system field.

#### Site-Specific Conditions

Groundwater beneath the El Rematito Marketplace is shallow, typically as little as five to ten feet below the ground surface. Soils in the area are typically sandy silts to silty sands, and may not provide sufficient filtration or natural attenuation of typical domestic wastewater pollutants. Residences and business in the area are served by private wells. Because the planned treatment plant is designed to remove nitrogen, ground water monitoring is not being required at this time. If nitrogen is not effectively removed from the wastewater, the need for groundwater monitoring will be reevaluated.

#### Notice of Applicability

You are hereby assigned General WDRs Order No. 97-10-DWQ-R5045 for the facility, and a copy of the General WDRs is enclosed for you use. Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2008-0804, a copy of which is also enclosed, replaces the standard monitoring and reporting program contained in the General WDRs.

**Please read this Notice of Applicability, the General WDRs, and the Monitoring and Reporting Program carefully. You must maintain copies of these documents at the facility for reference and use by operations personnel.**

The wastewater treatment and disposal facility shall be constructed in accordance with the RWD and operated in accordance with the requirements of Order No. 97-10-DWQ and this Notice. You must comply with all of the requirements contained in the following sections of the General WDRs:

- Prohibitions A.1 through A.7 (page 4);
- Requirements B.1, B.2, B.3 and B.5 (pages 3 through 6);
- Section C, the Groundwater and Surface Water Limitations (page 6); and
- Provisions D.1, D.2, D.3, and D.4 (page 7);

#### Additional Facility-Specific Requirements

In addition, you must comply with the following facility-specific requirements:

1. Influent flow to the package treatment plant and the subsurface disposal system shall not exceed 4,500 gallons per day on any single day.
2. The Discharger shall retain the services of a certified wastewater treatment plant operator<sup>1</sup> to perform all operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the wastewater treatment system.
3. All of the following reports shall be submitted pursuant to Section 13267 of the California Water Code and shall be prepared by a California-registered professional.
  - a. **Prior to any use of the new wastewater treatment and disposal system**, the Discharger shall submit the following:
    - i. A Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Completion and Start-up Testing Report that documents and demonstrates that the entire wastewater treatment and disposal system has been constructed as described in the RWD, is fully operational, and can comply with the effluent limits set forth in this Notice.
    - ii. A detailed Operation and Maintenance Manual that describes complete schedules, procedures, and documentation requirements for routine operation and maintenance, inspection, testing, and trouble-shooting for all components of the wastewater treatment and disposal system;
    - iii. Contact and certification information for the certified operator retained to operate and maintain the system and prepare the monthly monitoring reports required by the Monitoring and Reporting Program; and

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<sup>1</sup> Information about state-certified wastewater treatment plant operators can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's website at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/cwphome/opcert/conop.html>.

- iv. Contact information for the consultant(s) retained to prepare the groundwater studies specified below and the quarterly groundwater monitoring reports required by the Monitoring and Reporting Program.
4. The Discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2008-0804, which replaces Monitoring and reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ.
5. The required annual fee corresponding to a threat of water quality and complexity of 3B, shall be submitted yearly until this Notice of Applicability is officially revoked. The annual fee is currently \$1,962, but may change in the future. You will receive an invoice stating the actual amount due each year.
6. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General WDRs and this Notice may result in enforcement action as authorized by the California Water Code.
7. The City of Ceres plans to annex the area in the next five to seven years and provide sanitary sewer service. Accordingly, the Discharger must connect the facility to a public sewer system as soon as service is available.

If you have any questions regarding the Notice of Applicability or the permit, please contact Anne Olson at (916) 464-4740 or via email at [aolson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:aolson@waterboards.ca.gov) . All monitoring and technical reports required by this Notice should be sent to Guy Childs, who can be reached at (916) 464-4648 or via email at [gchilds@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gchilds@waterboards.ca.gov).

PAMELA C. CREEDON  
Executive Officer

Enc: Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ  
Monitoring and Reporting Program  
Attachments A and B

cc: w/ enc: Salvador Pleitez, Pleitez Consulting, Turlock  
Robert Dawyot, Allied Engineers, Inc., San Ramon

cc: w/o enc: Bella Badal, Stanislaus County Environmental Resources Department, Modesto  
Dennis Bazyuk, Benchmark Engineering, Inc., Oakdale