



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region



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21 September 2004

Leon Sobon
Sobon Estate – Shenandoah Vineyard
12300 Steiner Road
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY OF RESOLUTION NO. R5-2003-0106 SOBON ESTATE – SHENANDOAH VINEYARD, AMADOR COUNTY

Regional Board staff has reviewed your March 2001 Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) and subsequently submitted information for coverage under Resolution R5-2003-0106, *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Food Processors, Including Wineries, Within the Central Valley Region*. The RWD included a *Notice of Non-Applicability* for compliance with the storm water General Permit and the required filing fee. Our review finds the RWD and the subsequent information to be complete.

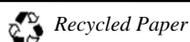
Resolution No. R5-2003-0106 (a copy of which is enclosed), adopted by the Regional Board on 11 July 2003, is a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements for small food processors including wineries. Based on the information you have submitted, the discharge as described in the RWD satisfies the general and specific conditions of Resolution No. R5-2003-0106 for the projected volume of wastewater to be produced.

Discharge Description

Sobon Family Trust (Discharger) owns the Sobon Estate – Shenandoah Vineyard at 12300 Steiner Road in Plymouth, Amador County. The facility contains a winery and approximately 50 acres of vineyards. Documents provided by the Discharger indicate that approximately 370 tons of grapes were crushed at the facility in 2003. In the past, the Discharger has disposed of process wastewater by hauling it off site. However, the Discharger now has proposed to discharge of all process waste on the site.

Based on water meter readings, total water usage for the facility over the past three years has averaged approximately 115,000 gallons per year. Of that amount, the Discharger has estimated that over 50,000 gallons per year is used for non-process related features and activities, which include landscape irrigation, employee and visitor restrooms, and a swimming pool. In September 2004, the Discharger installed a flow meter to accurately measure future wastewater flows. The flow meter was installed within the wastewater conveyance line between the winery and the wastewater storage tank.

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All activities producing wastewater are conducted under the cover of an enclosed building or roofing, and process wastewater is piped directly to a 4,900-gallon storage tank that has been recently retrofitted with continuous aeration, pH control, and bacteria additions to control odors and reduce the strength of the wastewater. The facility does not contain saline generating equipment, such as water softeners, boilers, or ion exchange units, which would be sources of high strength saline waste.

The Discharger plans to dispose of the wastewater by transferring it from the storage tank to a tractor-drawn tank, equipped with a jet spray device to evenly disperse it over the vineyard. A log will be kept to document those portions of the vineyard receiving wastewater to ensure even distribution over the entire 50-acre vineyard during the course of a year. The anticipated maximum hydraulic and agronomic loading rates for the proposed disposal area have been calculated using the maximum allowable wastewater volume of 100,000 gallons per year and the maximum strength of wastewater anticipated from this type of facility. Based on these calculations, the proposed disposal area should have adequate hydraulic and nutrient uptake capacity to receive the total wastewater discharge from this facility and remain protective of groundwater and surface water quality. The Discharger has identified several Best Management Practices that will be followed in order to minimize wastewater strength and potential odor problems, and to prevent hydraulic or nutrient overloading.

Solid waste produced by the facility consists of grape stems, skins and seeds. Approximately four tons of stems and 36 tons of skins and seeds will be generated annually. Solid waste will not be stored on site, but will be pressed dry and immediately disposed on site. The stems will be disposed of separately by spreading over the vineyard roads for dust control. The skins and seeds will be spread evenly between the rows of the vineyards at a rate of approximately one ton per acre. Because the area between the vines is maintained with a cover crop, the skins and seeds will be spread on the cover crop and then the cover crop will be mowed to cover the solid waste. This will aid in the decomposition of the waste and prevent runoff.

Conditional Waiver

Based on the information submitted in the RWD, the discharge as described above satisfies the general and specific conditions of Resolution No. R5-2003-0106 for the current amount of wastewater produced. Therefore, this letter serves as formal notice that Resolution No. R5-2003-0106 is applicable and waste discharge requirements for this facility are waived.

Enclosed is a copy of Resolution No. R5-2003-0106 and the associated monitoring and reporting program. As described therein, an annual report must be submitted by **1 February** of each year.

If the discharge violates the terms or conditions of the waiver, the Regional Board may take enforcement action, including assessment of administrative civil liability. If the method of winery wastewater and solids disposal change from those described in the RWD, you must submit a new RWD. Please note that the waiver will expire on 11 July 2008, at which time you must submit a new RWD with filing fee to renew the waiver, or cease the discharge.

If your total annual flow exceeds 100,000 gallons per year, the waiver is no longer applicable to your facility and you must submit a new RWD for individual Waste Discharge Requirements.

In addition, on 11 June 2001, you were issued Monitoring and Reporting (MRP) No. 5-01-837 which required monitoring of winery wastewater effluent and groundwater. Because the winery now meets the conditions of Waiver Resolution R5-2003-0106, MRP No. 5-01-837 is no longer necessary and is hereby rescinded.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Kranhold at (916) 464-4689

--Original Signed By--

THOMAS R. PINKOS
Executive Officer

enc: Resolution No. R5-2003-0106

cc: w/o enc Mike Israel, Amador County Environmental Health Department, Jackson