

ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: Hilmar SEP Report

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item.

BACKGROUND: The settlement agreement between the Regional Water Board and Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc. set forth several terms and conditions. One of those terms was for Hilmar Cheese to provide \$1.85 million to fund a supplemental environmental project to study the impacts of food processing wastewater on groundwater in the Central Valley and evaluate possible management solutions within 18 months. The project was completed and the findings included in a report dated 16 November 2007.

Two Study Directors completed the project: Professors Yoram Rubin and David Sunding of U.C. Berkeley, with oversight by Project Manager Mr. Mark Berkman. Professor Rubin's expertise is in Hydrogeophysics and Professor Sunding's is in economics.

The three-volume report addresses such topics as the volume and character of food processing wastewater generated in the Central Valley, the fate and transport of salts from the land application of wastewater, and economic and engineering analyses of four basic approaches to handling salinity from food process wastewater. Those approaches include land application of food processing wastewater, in-plant salt reduction technologies and management measures, regional wastewater treatment through a centralized industrial wastewater treatment plant or existing publicly owned treatment works (POTW), and out-of-basin disposal through a brine line or deep well injection.

At the meeting, Regional Water Board staff will provide a general overview of the report and have asked its authors to present their findings.

ISSUES NA-information only

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

25 January 2008
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