

ITEM: 23

SUBJECT: Sunsweet Dryers, Inc., Prune Dehydrator, Glenn County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Update of Waste Discharge Requirements*

BACKGROUND: Sunsweet Dryers, Inc. (Discharger), owns and operates as a prune dehydrating plant in Glenn County California, Section 11, T22N, R2W, MDB&M, with surface water drainage to Stony Creek, and currently discharges under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 91-165, which allows a discharge of up to 90,000 gallons per day of prune wash water, for a total annual discharge of 2.9 million gallons. The wastewater is used to supplement irrigation water for the Discharger's pasture land, which they lease out to a neighboring cattle ranch. The processing season occurs for a four to eight week period from early August to mid-September most years.

For this permit update, the discharger plans to add a walnut hulling and wash process to the facility operations. The walnut hulling process will add an additional 6,000 gpd to the facility's discharge. This additional water is used in the dipping/floating of the walnuts through a rinse tank to remove dirt from the outer shell. This additional process would add approximately 300,000 gallons/year to the 2.9 million gallon yearly discharge the facility is currently permitted for.

The proposed permit includes new land application area specifications and land application loading rates for BOD. The Discharger will be required to submit a Wastewater and Nutrient Management Plan, Salinity Evaluation and Control Plan, and a Groundwater Study Report. The Discharger is expected to be able to immediately comply with all new specifications and loading rates for the land application area.

Comments were received from the Dischargers' consultant and from Jo Anne Kipps (private citizen). Staff's response to comments and permit revisions are included with this agenda item.

ISSUES: Staff proposed revisions intended to fully respond to concerns from the Discharger and a private citizen.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review__GDC/BJs____

Legal Review__PEP__

7/8 June 2012

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