

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region**

Board Meeting – 07, 08 June 2012

**Response to Written Comments on
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements
for
Sunsweet Dryers, Inc.
Prune Dehydrator
Glenn County**

30 April 2012

At a public hearing scheduled for 07/08 June 2012, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adoption of tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Sunsweet Dryers, Inc., Prune Dehydrator in Glenn County. This document contains responses to comments received from Cranmer Engineering, Inc. (consultant for the Discharger) and Jo Anne Kipps (private citizen) in response to the Tentative Orders. Written comments from designated/interested parties were required to be received by the Central Valley Water Board by 28 April 2012 in order to receive full consideration. Comments were received from:

1. Thomas E. Leland, Cranmer Engineering, Inc. (for the Discharger) – received on 24 April 2012
2. Jo Anne Kipps, Private Citizen, received on 28 April 2012

Written comments from the designated party are summarized below, followed by the response of Central Valley Water Board staff.

THOMAS E. LELAND, CRANMER ENGINEERING, INC.

CRANMER ENGINEERING, INC. – COMMENT #1: We request that WDR No. C.6. (Land Application Area Specification) be removed from the proposed orders.

As one of the designated parties for Sunsweet Dryers, Inc. we submit this request concerning the above Tentative Discharge Requirements scheduled for hearing June 7/8, 2012 Board Meeting. There is one item in the proposed order that creates a significant problem for the project.

The item we request be deleted is order Item No. C.6. which states:

“Irrigation with wastewater shall not be performed within 24 hours before a predicted storm, during precipitation, or within 24 hours after the end of any precipitation event, nor shall it be performed when the ground is saturated”

The following are reasons and justifications for deletion or revision of item are as follows:

1. When received, the prunes and walnuts must be immediately placed into processing in order not to lose their viability.
2. Once either the prune or walnut processing is commenced it is continuous and cannot be stopped.
3. If processing were stopped while the prunes/walnuts are being processed they will spoil and the prunes/walnuts will become unusable, or lose most if not all their value in the end product.
4. To stop the processing of walnuts or prunes 24 hours before a storm event, during a storm event, or waiting until 24 hours after the end of a storm event can be detrimental to the product and livelihood of Sunsweet Dryer. The fruit being processed would be lost for use, plus the fruit being received could not be placed into processing and would be lost for use.
5. If item C.6 is deleted, proposed WDRs Item C.1 adequately provides for protection of adjacent areas from any runoff from the property owned by the Discharger as it states:

“The perimeter of the land application area shall be graded to prevent ponding along public roads or other public areas and prevent runoff onto adjacent properties not owned or controlled by the Discharger.”

In conclusion:

- A. In order for Sunsweet to process prunes and walnuts during a very short harvesting/processing season each year, Sunsweet needs to be able to process the fruit continuously during the season whether it is raining or not, or the fruit may be lost.
- B. WDRs No. C.1 is adequate to protect the waters of CA for the purpose intended.
- C. We request that proposed WDRs No. C.6 be removed from the proposed orders.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs with the comment, however we have revised the Land Application Area Specification C.6. as follows, instead of removing it from the Proposed Order:

C. Land Application Area Specification

6. *Irrigation with wastewater shall be performed in a manner to preclude runoff of wastewater from the land application area to adjacent property during saturated conditions.*

JO ANNE KIPPS, PRIVATE CITIZEN

JO ANNE KIPPS – COMMENT #1: Revise Finding 10 to present correct values for hydraulic loading of wastewater at current capacity and for irrigation water.

Finding 10 presents values for hydraulic loading to the 26-acre land application area of wastewater at current and future capacity and of irrigation water. The cited value of 4 inches per year for current wastewater loading is incorrect and should be 2 inches. The cited value of 30 inches per year for irrigation water is incorrect and should be 32 inches.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs with the comment, and those requested changes will be made to the Proposed Order.

JO ANNE KIPPS – COMMENT #2: Include a finding that characterizes discharge BOD and total nitrogen at current and future capacity.

Discharge BOD and total nitrogen can be ‘back calculated’ based on the information provided in these two findings, however, the reviewing public should not be required to back calculate essential data characterizing the discharge in order to assess the accuracy of cited loading rates.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs with the comment, and those requested changes will be made to the Proposed Order. The current and future nitrogen loading rates are in Finding #15.

JO ANNE KIPPS – COMMENT #3: Delete finding 38.

Finding 38 states, “State Water Board Resolution No. 77-1, Policy with Respect to Water Recycling in California, encourages recycling projects that replace or supplement the use of fresh water, and the Water Recycling Law (California Water Code Section 13500-13259.4) declares that utilization of recycled water is of primary interest to the people of the State in meeting future water needs.” California Water Code Section 13050(n) defines recycled water as “water which, **as a result of treatment of waste**, is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur and is therefore considered a valuable resource” (emphasis added).

Because the Discharger is not proposing to treat the wastewater to reduce its BOD content, the Facility’s high-strength processing wastewater is not recycled water and the proposed discharge operation is not a water recycling operation, but a wastewater disposal operation.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs with the comment, and has removed the Water Recycling finding.

JO ANNE KIPPS – COMMENT #4: Include a finding that identifies the Discharger’s facility and disposal area relative to the 100-year flood plain. If the Discharger is unable to immediately comply with Discharge Specification B.5, include a provision establishing a time schedule for compliance.

These orders also typically contain a finding disclosing whether or not the Discharger’s waste treatment facility and disposal area are within a 100-year flood plain. The Tentative Order does not. This makes it difficult for the reviewing public to assess whether the Discharger can comply with Discharge Specification B.5 immediately upon Order adoption.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs with the comment, and the requested change will be made to the Proposed Order. The facility is not within a 100-year flood plain.