

ITEM: 24

SUBJECT: Wawona Packing Co., LLC, Cutler Fruit Packing Plant, Tulare County

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements

Wawona Packing Co., Inc., (Wawona) has operated the Cutler Fruit Packing Plant (Plant), a citrus and stone fruit packing plant, since 2000 without waste discharge requirements (WDRs). Wastewater is generated by washing fruit and cleaning equipment. Wawona submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) in November 2008 for the discharge of up to 43,200 gpd of low-strength wastewater to two unlined ponds for storage, followed by application to 7.6 acres of sudan grass. Effluent is of good quality with an electrical conductivity (EC) of 550 umhos/cm, total nitrogen of 5.2 mg/L, and a biochemical oxygen demand of 53 mg/L. Groundwater is of good quality and occasionally shallow.

The proposed WDRs include Basin Plan effluent limits for EC, chloride and boron. They also include Groundwater Limitations that implement water quality objectives and Use Area Specifications that require application of wastes at reasonable agronomic rates. The proposed WDRs also require Wawona to demonstrate its storage ponds are protected from floods and to submit a revised water balance.

ISSUES: Staff circulated issued tentative WDRs on 30 March 2012. Public comments were provided by Ms. Jo Anne Kipps. Ms. Kipps' concerns include the following:

- Adequacy of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review.
- The potential for the discharge to degrade shallow groundwater.
- The proximity of the domestic wastewater septic system's leach field to shallow groundwater and the Use Area.
- The location of wastewater storage ponds in the flood plain.
- The lack of up-to-date water balance calculations.
- The potential for disinfection by-products to degrade groundwater.

Staff made some minor revisions to the tentative WDRs to address some of Ms. Kipps' concerns. For those comments that were not addressed by revisions to the WDRs, staff's response to comments is in the Board's agenda packages.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board adopt the tentative WDRs.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Review PEP

7/8 June 2012

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