

LATE REVISIONS – 25 July 2013

- Item 11.** Sun-Maid Growers of California, Kingsburg Facility, Fresno County –
Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements, Order 84-035

Findings

Page 13, add new Finding 52 as follows, and renumber subsequent Findings and cross references as necessary:

- 52. Economic prosperity of valley communities and associated industry is of maximum benefit to the people of the State. Sun-Maid is a cooperative made up of 750 farmer members. Sun-Maid aids in the economic prosperity of the region by direct employment of between 700 and 750 people, supports the local economy through property and sales taxes, and provides a needed processing service to its local raisin growers. In addition, the use of process wastewater for irrigation in place of higher quality groundwater is of further benefit to people of the State. Provided that discharges from the Facility comply with State and Central Valley Water Board plans and policies, authorized degradation due to the continued operation of the Sun-Maid Facility is to the maximum benefit to the people of the State.**

Discharge Specification B.3:

Page 17, add new Discharge Specification B.3 and renumber subsequent Discharge Specifications and cross references as necessary:

The annual volume of wastewater discharged to the Land Application Areas shall not exceed 278 acre-feet.

Information Sheet

Page 7, add the following after the second paragraph under the CEQA section:

Fresno County approved an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration in conjunction with its approval of a Conditional Use Permit for the facility on 11 August 2012. The County's CEQA analysis was predicated on a wastewater discharge volume that would not exceed 278 acre-feet per year. For discharges of food processing wastewater to land, the limiting factor is generally not volume, but BOD, nutrient, or salt loading. Sun-Maid subsequently requested that the discharge limits be based on BOD loading, not on the volume of wastewater. However, because the Central Valley Water Board is acting as a responsible agency, any Board-issued permit must be consistent with the County's environmental documents. Therefore,

these waste discharge requirements include an annual discharge volume limit of 278 acre-feet.

The application of 278 acre-feet of water equally over the 81.1 irrigable acres of the two Land Application Areas equates to an application rate of approximately 3.4 feet of water per year. This is generally less than required for double cropping in the San Joaquin Valley. Sun-Maid is exploring options so that it may discharge more wastewater to its Land Application Areas, thereby reducing its reliance on supplemental irrigation water. Irrigation with treated process wastewater of suitable quality is preferable to irrigation with higher quality groundwater that can be reserved for higher uses.

Should Sun-Maid provide the Central Valley Water Board with appropriate evidence demonstrating that increased discharges will comply with applicable water quality objectives, and evidence that it has completed the CEQA process and obtained a modified Conditional Use Permit, Board staff will bring this Order back to the Central Valley Water Board for modification or removal of the annual volume limit.