

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Board Meeting –5/6 February 2015**

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN COMMENTS ON
TENTATIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR
KEENAN FARMS, INC.
KETTLEMAN CITY PISTACHIO PROCESSING FACILITY
KINGS COUNTY

At a public hearing scheduled for 5/6 February 2015, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), which were circulated as tentative on 20 November 2014, for discharges from the Keenan Farms Inc., (Keenan) Kettleman City Pistachio Processing Facility to 400 acres of farm lands owned by Keenan. This document contains the response to written comments received from Erwin Engineering (Erwin) on behalf of Keenan regarding the proposed WDRs. Written comments from interested parties were required to be received by the Regional Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on 22 December 2014 in order to receive full consideration. Comments were received from Erwin Engineering and personnel from both Keenan and Erwin met with Central Valley Water Board staff on 9 December 2014 to discuss the proposed WDRs.

Staff has made some minor changes to the proposed WDRs, Information Sheet, and the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) based on the comments. Staff has also made changes to the proposed WDRs to increase clarity and fix typographical errors. Where specific changes are presented below, additions are in bold text and deletions are in strike-out.

ERWIN ENGINEERING

Below are Erwin's salient comments followed by staff's responses.

ERWIN –COMMENT 1: The proposed WDRs (beginning in Finding 6, but in several places throughout the proposed WDRs) indicate the sump constructed within the retention pond is unlined. Erwin notes that the sump is a one-piece steel lined structure.

RESPONSE 1: Central Valley Water Board staff modified several findings (Findings 6, 8, 18, 19, 58, and 67) and Provision F.13 of the proposed WDRs, and portions of the Information Sheet to remove references to the sump being unlined. The changes made to Finding 6 are shown below:

6. Central Valley Water Board staff inspected the Facility in April of 2014. During the inspection, Keenan representatives informed staff that Facility wastewater was directed to a ~~small, unlined~~ sump that was constructed by building an earthen berm at the northwest ~~corner end~~ of the retention pond **and installing a prefabricated steel sump**. The sump covers about 0.1 acres of the 2.75 acre retention pond. Wastewater is discharged via a pump from the ~~unlined~~ sump to approximately 45 acres of shallow, unlined checks for solids removal.

ERWIN –COMMENT 2: WDRs, Page 23, Provision F.13. Keenan requests that the due date for the completion of Provision F.13, Task C (lining of the checks/ponds) be revised to allow 2.5 years for completion (Approximately 5 September 2017).

RESPONSE 2: Central Valley Water Board staff modified Task C of Provision F.13, as requested, to allow 2.5 years from the adoption of this Order as the completion date.

ERWIN - COMMENT - 3: MRP, Page 2, Effluent Monitoring. The proposed MRP indicates Keenan will monitor/measure the flow of wastewater at two locations: Monitoring location FM-01 from which the volume of effluent discharged to the wastewater ponds and/or checks is measured, and monitoring location FM-02, from which point the volume of effluent discharged to the land application areas is measured. Erwin requests that upon completion of Provision F.13 (lining of the checks/ponds), the monitoring/measuring point FM-01 be removed/eliminated and the volume of wastewater be monitored/measured at only FM-02.

RESPONSE 3: Central Valley Water Board staff modified the first paragraph in the Effluent Monitoring section of the MRP on page 2 as shown below:

* * *

The Discharger shall monitor the volume of wastewater discharged to the wastewater retention pond at FM-01 and the volume of wastewater discharged to the land application areas at FM-02. **Upon completion of Provision F.13, the Discharger may discontinue the monitoring of the volume of the effluent discharged to the lined checks/ponds at FM-01, but shall continue to monitor the volume of effluent discharged to the land application areas at FM-02.** The Discharger shall monitor effluent at EFF-01 for the constituents listed below. The wastewater samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharges. Time of collection of the samples shall be recorded. Wastewater monitoring shall include at least the following:

* * *

ERWIN - COMMENT - 4: MRP, Page 2, Monitoring Location Description (Table) for EFF-01. Erwin requests that sample types collected at the EFF-01 effluent sampling location be changed from composite samples to grab samples from the lined effluent ponds/checks, because the samples collected from the lined ponds/checks are generally adequately composited.

RESPONSE 4: Central Valley Water Board staff modified the Effluent Monitoring Table on page 2 of the MRP as follows:

* * *

<u>Frequency</u> ¹	<u>Constituent/Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Continuous	Flow	mgd	Meter
Daily	pH	pH Units	Grab
Daily	Electrical Conductivity	umhos/cm	Grab
Weekly	Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Grab 24-hour composite
Weekly	Fixed Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Grab 24-hour composite
Weekly	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	Grab 24-hour composite
Weekly	Nitrate as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab 24-hour composite
Weekly	Nitrite as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab 24-hour composite
Weekly	Ammonia as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab 24-hour composite
Weekly	Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab 24-hour composite
Weekly	Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab 24-hour composite
<u>Monthly</u> ²	General Minerals	mg/L ²	Grab 24-hour composite

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ERWIN - COMMENT - 5: MRP, Pages 4 and 5, Soil Monitoring. Erwin requests a sentence be added to the Soil Monitoring section that notes that the soil sampling shall be conducted prior to the pistachio processing season and the application of wastewater to the land application areas.

RESPONSE 5: Central Valley Water Board staff modified the first paragraph of the Soil Monitoring section of the MRP as shown below:

* * *

The Discharger shall establish, with Central Valley Water Board staff concurrence, a suitable number of monitoring locations within the land application area and at least three locations to represent background conditions in areas that are cropped in a manner similar to land application area, but that do not receive applications of pistachio processing wastewater. **The annual soil sampling shall be conducted one to two months prior to the start of pistachio processing season and the annual discharge of wastewater to the land application areas.** The samples shall be collected and analyzed for the following constituents.

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ERWIN - COMMENT - 6: MRP, Page 5, Reporting. The Discharger requests the due date for the annual report be changed from 1 December to 15 February of each year following the pistachio processing season (typically early-September through mid-October of each year) to allow additional time to receive the requested laboratory analyses, prepare annual loading estimates for the discharge of wastewater to the land application areas, and prepare the annual report.

RESPONSE 6: Central Valley Water Board staff concur that additional time is warranted to review the data and prepare the annual report, and extending the submittal date is reasonable. However, the due date for reports submitted annually is typically 1 February of the following year (i.e., 2014 report would be due on 1 February 2015). The 1 February submittal date provides more than three months for the Discharger to receive and review the analytical data, and to prepare the annual report, which is sufficient time to prepare the required report. The due date of the Annual Report has been changed to 1 February of the following year/season.