California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Katherine Hart, Chair

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Matthew Rodriquez
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28 September 2011

Chris Rufer
Morning Star Packing Company, Inc.
724 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695

REPORT OF RECENT INSPECTION, THE MORNING STAR TOMATO PACKING PLANT, COLUSA COUNTY

The Morning Star Tomato Packing Plant is regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 95-160 and Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2005-0003. The facility processes and packs tomatoes from approximately mid June to mid-October of each year. Tomatoes are received in trucks, transported into the plant by flumes, and then processed into tomato paste. Wastewater generated by the flumes is discharged to an unlined settling pond and used to irrigate approximately 700 acres of crop land. Wastewater generated by the evaporation system is discharged to an unlined cooling pond.

On 20 September 2011, Central Valley Water Board staff inspected the Morning Star Tomato Packing Company Facility. Ross Oliveira, Jim Briscoe, John Ikerd, and Troy Cano with Morning Star Packing accompanied us during the inspection. A site inspection photograph log is enclosed with this letter.

The following summarizes the observations made and information obtained during the inspection:

- Staff inspected portions of the processing plant and the land application areas.
- Minor odors noted at the tomato unloading area.
- The water used at the facility is from water supply wells. The water used at the plant is recycled through the settling pond and used for processing operations.
- Wastewater is applied to the land application areas via flood irrigation techniques using a series of breakouts in the ditches, or with siphon hoses from the ditches to the fields.
- Chemicals used at the plant include hydrochloric acid and sodium hypochlorite to produce chlorine dioxide, a disinfectant.
- Ross Oliveira indicated that the pumice generated from the tomato processing is trucked to the land application areas and used as a soil amendment or cattle feed.
- Ross Oliveira indicated that the three ultrasonic flow meters are calibrated annually.
- The freeboard in the settling pond was 2.4 feet, and the freeboard in the cooling pond was 2.6 feet.

- At the time of the inspection Field 24 was being irrigated with wastewater.
- Staff did not observe any tailwater runoff from the land application areas that were inspected.
- At the time of the inspection, there were no cattle grazing on any of the land application areas.
- Ross Oliveira indicated that the land application areas are planted in sudan grass, alpalpha, and corn
- No odors were noted from the land applications areas that were inspected.

Inspection Summary

In summary, no violations were observed during the inspection. If you have any questions or comments about this inspection report, please do not hesitate to call me at (916) 464-4648.

Original signed by

GUY CHILDS, P.G.
Engineering Geologist
Waste Discharge to Land Compliance Unit

Enclosure: Inspection photo log

cc: Kevin Backus, Colusa County Environmental Health Department, Colusa
Ross Oliveira, The Morning Star Packing Company, Williams

CIWQS Inspection ID No. 5700279

gjc: 28 Sept-11

The Morning Star Packing Company, Inc. **20 September 2011**
Colusa County

Tomato unloading and initial washing area

Tomato processing system

Looking south from the tomato unloading area at the process washwater settling pond.

Washwater outflow structure from settling pond. Wastewater is discharged into an irrigation ditch. Freeboard staff gauge located on structure.

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Concrete metering structure located in the irrigation ditch. Wastewater from the settling pond is metered at this location.

Digital display for ultrasonic meter.

Freeboard staff gauges observed in the evaporative cooling pond.

Metering structures for the evaporative cooling pond water and for the combined flow. The metering structure located in the irrigation ditch is used to measure combined flows from the settling pond and the evaporative cooling pond.

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One of several tailwater control ditches used to collect excess irrigation water from the fields.

Primary tailwater return pumping system. A total of three pumps are used to manage the tailwater.