

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Board Meeting – 21/22 April 2016**

**Response to Written Comments for Sierra Pacific Industries, Chinese Camp Mill,
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements**

At a public hearing scheduled for 21/22 April 2016, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adoption of revised Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Sierra Pacific Industries, Chinese Camp Mill at 14333 Perricone Road in Tuolumne County. This document contains responses to written comments received from interested parties regarding the Tentative WDRs (TWDRs) circulated on 28 January 2016. Written comments from interested parties were required by public notice to be received by the Central Valley Water Board by 29 February 2016 to receive full consideration. Comments were received from Sierra Pacific Industries.

Written comments are summarized below, followed by responses from Central Valley Water Board staff. Based on the comments, Central Valley Water Board staff has made some changes to the TWDRs. Staff also made a few minor changes to improve clarity and fix typographical errors. Where staff responses below present specific changes made to the TWDRs, additions are in bold text and deletions are in strikeout.

SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES COMMENTS

Sierra Pacific Industries – COMMENT No. 1: Sierra Pacific Industries requests that the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) be revised so that Pond Monitoring for Oil & Grease and Tannin & Lignin be reduced from Quarterly to Semi-Annually to align with the frequency required for other constituents of concern. With their comment Sierra Pacific Industries provided a technical memo prepared by their consultant Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc., which summarized the data obtained from previous monitoring for Oil & Grease and Tannin & Lignin to support the reduced monitoring frequency from quarterly to semi-annually.

RESPONSE: The Monitoring and Reporting Program has been revised as follows:

POND MONITORING

Permanent Markers (e.g., staff gauges) shall be placed in all ponds. The markers shall have calibrations indicating water level at design capacity and available operational freeboard.

The Discharger shall monitor the water in both the Upper and Lower Ponds at PND-001 and PND-002, when water is present. Samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge. Time of collection of the samples shall be recorded. Pond monitoring shall include at least the following:

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Constituent/Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Weekly	Freeboard	Feet	Observation
Monthly	pH	pH Units	Grab
Monthly	EC	umhos/cm	Grab
Quarterly ¹	Oil & Grease	mg/L	Grab
Semi-Annually ¹			

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Constituent/Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Quarterly ¹ Semi-Annually ¹	Tannin & Lignin	mg/L	Grab
Semi-Annually ¹²	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	mg/L	Grab
Semi-Annually ¹²	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	Grab
Semi-Annually ¹²	Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	mg/L	Grab
Semi-Annually ¹²	Arsenic	ug/L	Grab
Semi-Annually ¹²	Barium	ug/L	Grab
Semi-Annually ¹²	Aluminum	ug/L	Grab
Semi-Annually ¹²	General Minerals ²³	various	Grab

1. ~~Samples to be collected in January, April, July, and October. Water in PND-001 to be collected at least once annually within 48 hours following the season's first significant precipitation event.~~
1. **Samples to be collected in April and October Semi-Annually during the 2nd quarter (between April and June) and the 4th quarter (between October and December). Water in PND-001 to be collected at least once annually within 48 hours following the season's first significant precipitation event.**
2. General mineral analysis shall include, alkalinity (as CaCO₃), bicarbonate (as CaCO₃), boron, calcium, carbonate (CaCO₃), chloride, hardness, iron, magnesium, manganese, nitrate as nitrogen, phosphate, potassium, sodium, sulfate and total dissolved solids (TDS). Samples collected for metals shall be filtered with a 0.45 micron filter prior to preservation, digestion, and analysis.