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California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

29 October 2008

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) No. R5-2005-0003. The facility processes and packs tomatoes from approximately June to mid-October 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 land applied to irrigate approximately 600 acres of cropland. Irrigation tailwater is returned back to the settling pond. Up to 58 million gallons per day (mgd) of low salinity wastewater generated by the evaporation system is discharged to an unlined cooling pond.

On 4 September 2008, Regional Water Board staff inspected the Morning Star Tomato Packing Company Facility. Ross Oliveira, Jim Briscoe, Jason Ikerd, and Lyle Tiabrt with Morning Star 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:

- The water used for tomato processing is from the Glenn County Irrigation District's water supply. The water is then recycled through the settling pond and used for the tomato processing operations.
- The Discharger indicated that hydrochloric acid and sodium hypochlorite are used onsite. These chemicals are used to produce chlorine dioxide, a disinfectant.
- The Discharger indicated that the tomato waste from the roto-screens and the tomato pumice from the finishers is trucked offsite and applied to the land application areas as a soil amendment and used as cattle feed.
- The Discharger indicated the tomato pumice from the finishers is primarily used for cattle feed.
- The Discharger indicated that wastewater is applied to the land application areas via flood irrigation using a series of breakouts in the ditches, or with siphon hoses from the ditches to the fields.
- No tailwater runoff from the land application areas was observed during the inspection.

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- The Discharger indicated that approximately 20 head of cattle were grazing on land application field (MS 24) field. No wastewater was being applied to the field at the time of the inspection.
- The Discharger indicated that the land application areas that were currently being used contained crops of sudan grasses, alfalfa, and corn.

Inspection Summary

In summary, no violations were observed during the field 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
Engineering Geologist
Compliance and Enforcement
Title 27 and Non15 Programs

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. 1501614

gjc: 29 Oct-08



Glenn County Irrigation District Canal provides supply water for the tomato processing facility.



Tomato unloading and initial washing area



Tomato washing operation



Roto-screen used for solids separation



Tomato pumice from finishers which is applied to land and used for cattle feed.



Washwater Settling Pond and associated pumps. One aerator is located in the pond



Evaporative Cooling Water



Washwater outflow structure from settling pond. Wastewater is discharged to an irrigation ditch.



Evaporative cooling water discharged to the cooling pond



Looking northwest from the tomato unloading area at the cooling pond



Wastewater discharge from the settling pond to the primary irrigation ditch.



Wastewater from the cooling pond to the primary irrigation ditch.



Tailwater control ditch along Abel Road



Repaired section of corrugated pipe that crosses the GCID easement ditch that had leaked on 21 August 2008.