

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2010

Prepared on February 8, 2010

ITEM NUMBER: 8

SUBJECT: Fetzer Vineyards – Paso Robles Winery, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County:

1. Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 00-034; and
2. Enrollment in Order No. R3-2008-0018, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Winery Waste"

KEY INFORMATION

Discharger..... Fetzer Vineyards Inc.
Location..... 8998 North River Road, San Luis Obispo County, North of Paso Robles, California
Discharge Type Agricultural manufacturing (wine processing), sanitary wastewater, solid wastes (grape seed, stems, etc.)
Wine Process Discharge .. 8,770-gallons per day (gpd) annual average; 18,580- gpd average daily during crush periods; peak flow of 24,000 gpd during crush periods
Sanitary Wastewater Septic tank and leachfield system designed for up to 2500 gpd
Treatment Design..... Rotary screening, mechanically aerated facultative lagoons
Disposal, winery waste Wastewater-holding pond and irrigation to vineyards, Solid waste-land disposal onsite;
Reclamation Treated winery wastewater will be applied to 14 acres of alfalfa. Solids produced during the process will be sent to local composters or spread in the vineyards. Sludge will be digested and used onsite as soil amendment.
Existing Order Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 00-034
This Action..... Rescind Order No. 00-034 and enroll in General Order R3-2008-0018

SUMMARY

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 00-034 on July 14, 2000. Order No. 00-034 regulates the discharge of winery process wastewater generated from the Fetzer Vineyards' Paso Robles Winery in Paso Robles. In 2008, the Water Board adopted Order No. R3-2008-0018, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Winery Waste" (General Winery Requirements) to more efficiently regulate the large number of wineries in the Central Coast Region. For existing wineries, the Water Board intended to shift regulation from individual waste discharge requirements to general waste discharge requirements when resources or circumstances permitted. Accordingly, Water Board staff proposes to rescind Order No. 00-034 (Attachment 1) and enroll the Discharger under the General Winery Requirements.

DISCUSSION

Fetzer Vineyards Inc., operates a winery located at 8998 North River Road, south of the Estrella River, San Luis Obispo County. The site is just north of Paso Robles, California.

Wastewater generated from the wine making process undergoes initial rotary screening, pretreatment for pH control, facultative aerated lagoon treatment, sludge digestion (bottom of primary pond), and reclamation of treated effluent by irrigation of farmland. Approximately 14 acres of farmland is used for irrigation of treated wastewater. A total detention time of 90 to 120 days will ensure proper treatment. Solids generated during the screening and lagoon treatment process will be either sent to local composters for composting or spread on-site in the vineyards. Sanitary wastewater is handled in a separate septic tank system and subsurface leachfield system. The sanitary system has been designed and constructed according to San Luis Obispo County standards. Discharge of sanitary wastes to the wine processing waste streams is prohibited. Storm water runoff from the site is directed into the storm water collection system and discharged offsite. Storm water from this site flows to the Estrella River.

The topography of the site is level to very gently sloping. The soil types at the site consist of Hanford and Greenfield gravely sandy loams. The soils are moderately drained with low erodability and have a low shrink swell potential. The San Luis Obispo County CEQA determination identified these soils as not presenting limitations to the percolation of sewage effluent. Groundwater in the area is encountered at approximately 200 feet below ground surface.

The winery is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 00-034. Water Board staff's judgment is that the wastewater discharge from Fetzer Vineyards' Paso Robles Winery would be more appropriately regulated by Order No. R3-2008-0018, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Winery Waste" (General Requirements) adopted by the Regional Water Board on February 8, 2008. The intent of the General Requirements is to facilitate the enrollment and regulation of the large number of wineries located in the Central Coast Region. The proposed discharge will comply with Regional Water Board standards, prohibitions, and requirements to protect water quality.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

In a December 15, 2009 Regional Water Board letter, the Discharger and interested parties were notified of staff's intention to rescind the individual and enroll Fetzer Vineyards under the General Winery Requirements. No comments have been received.

RECOMMENDATION

Rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 00-034 and enroll the discharge under General Order No. R3-2008-0018.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Order No. 00-034 including Monitoring and Reporting Program

TJK

126-01

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Hard File: Order R3-2008-0018, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Winery Waste

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Discharger: Pacific Wine Partners

Task: 126-01