

ITEM: 18

SUBJECT: California Dairies, Inc., Tipton Milk Processing Facility, Tulare County

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of Cease and Desist Order and NPDES Permit Renewal

BACKGROUND: California Dairies, Inc., (Discharger) owns and operates a milk processing plant on an 80-acre site near Tipton. The plant processes fluid milk into butter, dry powdered milk, skim milk, condensed skim and whole milk, cream, and milk concentrated by ultra-filtration. High strength wastewater is generated generally by clean in place systems that are used to clean piping, processing equipment, and milk tankers. Lower strength wastes include pump seal waters and water evaporated from the milk during processing. Wastewaters are treated in an aerated, lined pond treatment system or a mechanical vapor recompression wastewater evaporator depending on salinity. Condensate from the evaporator is returned to the pond system and solids are hauled offsite for cattle feed. Treated wastewater is discharged to a series of unlined ponds and then to Morrison Ditch, a tributary to the Casa Blanca Canal, which is hydraulically connected to the Tule River, a water of the U.S.

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 94-295 (NPDES No. CA0082805) authorizes discharges from a plant with a milk processing capacity of 4.0 million pounds per day. The WDRs limit flows from treatment ponds to storage ponds to 0.45 mgd, from storage ponds to Morrison ditch to 2.5 mgd, and from storage ponds to an adjacent farmer to 2.5 mgd. Flow limits to Morrison Ditch and to the adjacent farmer are based solely on pumping capacity. Treated wastewater is no longer discharged to the farmer and the tentative WDRs rescind Water Reclamation Requirements Order No. 92-057 and require the Discharger to conduct a study to reevaluate reclamation opportunities.

The Discharger has expanded the plant milk processing capacity to 10 million pounds per day and is increasing the capacity of its pond treatment system, its salinity removal system, and its pond storage system to an average of 1.3 mgd. The tentative WDRs authorize an increase in discharge flow volumes from the treatment systems to the storage ponds. The tentative WDRs also contain compliance schedules, final effluent limits, and interim performance-based effluent limits for zinc and ammonia.

The Discharger has a history of exceeding its effluent limits for flow, electrical conductivity (EC), total suspended solids (TSS), and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD).

To remedy these issues, the Discharger proposes improvements to its wastewater treatment system including:

1. Additional wastewater evaporator capacity or a reverse osmosis system to reduce effluent EC to meet Basin Plan requirements,
2. Additional lined treatment ponds to reduce effluent BOD and TSS concentrations,
3. Modifications to allow denitrification,
4. Additional aeration and mixing capacity,
5. Piping and plumbing improvements to improve flow distribution and capacity,
6. Construction of five new storage/percolation ponds to provide additional holding and disposal capacity, and
7. Additional internal plant controls and management practices to reduce dissolved solids discharges.

A Cease and Desist Order (CDO) accompanies the WDRs. To ensure compliance with the WDRs, the CDO requires the Discharger to construct its proposed improvements within two years of the adoption of the WDRs and CDO.

The tentative WDRs and CDO were circulated for public comment on 20 May 2008.

ISSUES:

There are no known issues at this time. Comments were received from the Discharger only.

Mgmt. Review\_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review\_\_\_\_\_

31 July/1 August 2008

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670