

INFORMATION SHEET

INFORMATION SHEET - ORDER NO. R5-2017-XXXX
J.G. BOSWELL COMPANY
CORCORAN TOMATO PROCESSING FACILITY
KINGS COUNTY

Background

Since 2008, the J.G. Boswell Company's (J.G. Boswell) Corcoran Tomato Processing Facility (Facility) has processed raw tomatoes to tomato paste. J.G. Boswell grows the tomatoes supplied to the Facility and the processing season is typically about 90 days in duration extending from mid-July to October. The resulting wastewater is blended with irrigation in a sump within the facility, discharged to a pond in the land application areas, and discharged to adjacent farmland owned by the J.G. Boswell as irrigation water for crops and as a soil amendment.

Wastewater Generation and Disposal

The current discharge from the Facility is regulated by waste discharge requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2008-0015 that allowed a discharge of up to 1.4 mgd of tomato processing wastewater. During the approximately 90-day processing season, wastewater is generated from the rinsing and processing of tomatoes and the cleaning of the processing equipment. Solids (seeds, skins, stems, etc.) are removed during the processing and approximately 116 tons of solids were produced in 2015 and were hauled off site as cattle feed. The blended wastewater is used to irrigate crops on about 1,050 acres of farmland owned by J.G. Boswell, and J.G. Boswell is requesting to add 1,690 acres to increase the land application area acreage to 2,740 acres. Discharge Specification C.4 of WDRs Order R5-2008-0015 requires wastewater to be blended with irrigation water at a minimum ratio of 1 to 1. The blended wastewater is then discharged to clay-lined retention pond in the land application area. The lined pond is over a mile from the nearest residence. Considering that the water in the pond is blended with freshwater at a minimum of a 1 to 1 ratio (actually 4 to 1 in 2015) and that the processing season is short (typically about 90 days), dissolved oxygen monitoring associated with monitoring for odors potentially generated from the blended wastewater stored in the pond is unnecessary. Monitoring the amount of water discharged to the pond to ensure a minimum of 2 foot of freeboard is required. The Discharger shall monitor the volume of the discharge of irrigation water during the non-processing season, and include the volumes used in the Annual report.

Groundwater Considerations

Groundwater monitoring is not required by the current WDRs due to the poor water quality of the first encountered groundwater. Groundwater regionally is contained generally in two aquifers, the Lower Confined Aquifer and the Upper Unconfined Aquifer. First encountered groundwater in the land application areas is shallow. Groundwater elevation data obtained from soil borings advanced around the perimeter and within the existing land application areas indicated water was encountered at depths from three to seven feet bgs. Water depths within the Section 34 land application area were greater than five feet bgs due to the presence of the tile drains.

J.G. Boswell conducted a “Background Groundwater Survey” in 2008 prior to the discharge of any tomato processing wastewater. All electrical conductivity, sulfate, and total dissolved solids results exceed the recommended secondary maximum contaminant limits for each constituent.

Additional Regulatory Considerations

The Basin plan states that the evaporation of reclaimable wastewater is not an acceptable permanent disposal method where the opportunity exists to replace an existing use of proposed use of fresh water with reclaimed water. To that end, JG Boswell blending its wastewater with irrigation waters provides supplemental irrigation water for farming purposes.

Legal Effect of Rescission of Prior WDRs or Orders on Existing Violations

The Board’s rescission of prior waste discharge requirements and/or monitoring and reporting orders does not extinguish any violations that may have occurred during the time those waste discharge requirements or orders were in effect. The Central Valley Water Board reserves the right to take enforcement actions to address violations of prior prohibitions, limitations, specifications, requirements, or provisions of rescinded waste discharge requirements or orders as allowed by law.

Reopener

The conditions of discharge in the proposed Order were developed based on currently available technical information and applicable water quality laws, regulations, policies, and plans, and are intended to assure conformance with them. The proposed Order would set limitations based on the information provided thus far. If applicable laws and regulations change, or once new information is obtained that will change the overall discharge and its potential to impact groundwater, it may be appropriate to reopen the Order.