

**4/5 June 2020 BOARD MEETING
UNCONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM: 19

SUBJECT:

Following are proposed Waste Discharge Requirements Orders that prohibit discharge to surface waters. All agencies and the dischargers concur or have offered no comments. Items indicated as updates on the summary agenda make the requirements consistent with current plans and policies of the Board.

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements

BACKGROUND:

a. Gerawan Farming, Inc.; Plant 3 Kerman Fruit Packing Facility, Fresno County

Gerawan Farming, Inc. (Gerawan) owns and operates a fruit packing facility near Kerman in Fresno County referred to as the Plant 3 Kerman Fruit Packing Facility (or Facility). The Facility's packing process includes washing, sorting, and grading the fruit. Packing occurs from about early May through late September or approximately 130 days. Wastewater generated by fruit processing at the Facility is discharged to an unlined, six-million-gallon evaporation/percolation pond. On 21 June 2019, the Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge for the Facility.

The proposed Order includes effluent limits for flow (annual volume of 12.35 million gallons and a maximum daily flow of 130,000 gallons per day) and electrical conductivity. The proposed Order also requires preparation of a Salinity Reduction Study Work Plan. Furthermore, the proposed Order requires Gerawan to develop a groundwater monitoring network. However, the proposed Order provides Gerawan the option of either lining the evaporation/percolation pond or pursuing land application of the wastewater (i.e., reusing the wastewater for irrigation

of surrounding crops at agronomic rates) instead of developing a groundwater monitoring well network.

b. Olson Meat Company, Inc., Meat Packing Facility, Glenn County

Olson Meat Company, Inc. (Discharger) is owned and operated by James and Darlene Olson. The Olson Meat Company slaughterhouse (Facility) is located approximately five miles northeast of Orland in Glenn County.

The Facility is a slaughterhouse and swine processing facility equipped with wastewater treatment and disposal ponds and a land application area. The Facility's average daily effluent flow is approximately 29,500 gallons per day. The wastewater treatment and disposal system consist of collection drains, concrete collection pits, a sloped screen separator, eleven wastewater storage ponds, and associated flood irrigation piping and a 25-acre land application area.

Discharge from the Facility is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2013-0066, which was adopted on 31 May 2013. This Order replaces the previous WDR Order incorporate revisions to regulations and policies adopted thereunder, for continued monitoring of the facility. Additionally, this WDR proposes the submittal of a Work Plan for Land Application Assessment to evaluate hydraulic and nutrient loading with the goal of minimizing nutrient and salt leaching. The submittal of a Solids Management Plan detailing routine pond maintenance activities and removal and disposal of solid materials from the Facility. The submittal of a groundwater monitoring well installation work plan for the installation of a sufficient groundwater monitoring well network to adequately monitor potential impacts from the wastewater treatment/disposal ponds and land application area.

Upon completion of additional groundwater monitoring this Order also requests the submittal of a Background Groundwater Quality Study to assess potential groundwater impacts from the Facility. Lastly the Order proposes a Best Practicable Treatment and Controls Evaluation Work Plan to have the facility conduct a technical evaluation of its process wastewater generation, in the event the previous Background Water Quality Study shows that discharges from the facility is causing impacts to groundwater quality.

The tentative Orders were issued for a 30-day public comment period on 1 April 2020 with comments due by 4 May 2020. No comments were received.

c. The Wonderful Company, LLC; Wonderful Firebaugh Pistachio Processing Facility; Madera County

On 21 March 2012, Paramount Farms International submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for the discharge of process wastewater to land from a new pistachio processing plant near Firebaugh in Madera County, now referred to as Wonderful Firebaugh Pistachio Processing Plant (or Facility). Wonderful Pistachios & Almonds, LLC now owns and operates the Facility. The Facility discharges process wastewater to land application areas (LAA) operated by Wonderful Orchards, LLC and owned by Wonderful Nut Orchards, LLC and Wonderful Pomegranate Orchards, LLC. The four “Wonderful” LLC’s are collectively referred to as the Discharger. The Facility hulls, dries, and stores pistachio nuts from neighboring farms. This Facility has not previously been regulated by waste discharge requirements (WDRs).

The Facility will operate year-round. However, process wastewater will only be generated from hulling operations and equipment wash down, which takes place during the six-week pistachio harvest season between mid-August and October. Pistachios brought in from the fields are cleaned and processed to remove the hulls. Process wastewater and solids (i.e., hulls, shells, and skins removed during the hulling process) are collected in a concrete vault and sent to a bank of parabolic screens to remove solids. The screened wastewater is then discharged to a series of lined ponds, which provides additional treatment (i.e., solids removal) and equalization prior to discharge into the irrigation system. From the ponds the wastewater is pumped through a sand filter and discharged into the LAA irrigation system where it is blended with irrigation water and transported through a series of open irrigation canals to the various irrigation reservoirs for irrigation of pomegranate and/or pistachio trees.

The proposed Order sets a maximum daily flow limit of 8.0 million gallons per day; an annual flow limit of 175 million gallons per year; a cycle average BOD loading limit of 100 lbs/acre/day; and requires application of blended wastewater and irrigation water to be at agronomic rates. In addition, the proposed Order requires the Discharger to maintain a

minimum available land application area (LAA) of 2,900 acres or install and maintain a groundwater monitoring well network. Further, the proposed Order requires the Discharger to submit a Salinity Reduction Study Work Plan as well as a new Nutrient and Wastewater Management Plan for the available LAA as well as prior to any future changes in available acreage. Comments were received from the Discharger on 4 May 2020 and were addressed.

d. University of California Davis, USDA Aquatic Weed Control Laboratory, J. Amorocho Hydraulics Laboratory & Center for Aquatic Biology and Aquaculture Aquatic Center, Yolo County

The University of California, Davis (UCD, the Discharger) owns and operates the USDA Aquatic Weed Control Laboratory (Aquatic Weed Lab), J. Amorocho Hydraulics Laboratory (Hydraulics Lab), and Center for Aquatic Biology and Aquaculture Aquatic Center (CABA Aquatic Center). Wastewater from the Aquatic Weed Lab is discharged to the South Basin. Wastewater from the Hydraulics Lab is discharged to the North Basin and South Basin. Wastewater from the CABA Aquatic Center is discharged to the North Basin and Isolation Pond.

The Discharger has requested the existing WDRs be amended to allow a flow increase to the South Basin from 1.7 MG to 400 MG; use of Lake Berryessa water as an additional water source for the CABA Aquatic Center and potentially at the other two facilities; update permitted Drug and Chemical list for the CABA Aquatic Center; install ultraviolet (UV) light disinfection to supplement the existing chlorine disinfection system at the CABA Aquatic Center; and use of an open channel flow meter in lieu of the existing flow meter at the Hydraulics Lab. With the exception of the flow rate, the WDRs were amended per the Discharger's request. The WDRs prescribes a flow rate increase to the South Basin from 1.7 MG to 60 MG, based on a conservative infiltration rate of 0.4 ft/day, which is 5 percent of the annual disposal capacity as calculated in the revised water balance. Incremental flow increases up to 400 MG is allowed upon approval of a Hydrogeological Capacity Evaluation Report.

There are no issues associated with the requested changes. No comments were submitted by the Discharger and we are not aware of any unresolved issues.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the proposed Waste Discharge Requirements

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	Various
Legal Review:	DAL 5/15/2020

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

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

Internet Zoom Meeting