

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

**TENTATIVE MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM R5-2024-XXXX
FOR
SIERRA NEVADA CHEESE COMPANY, INC. AND
GREGERSEN PROPERTIES, LLC
CHEESE PRODUCTION FACILITY
GLENN COUNTY**

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), which is separately issued pursuant to California Water Code section 13267, subdivision (b)(1), establishes monitoring and reporting requirements related to the waste discharge(s) regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2023-XXXX (WDRs Order). Each of the Findings set forth in the WDRs Order, including those pertaining to the need for submission of reports, are hereby incorporated as part of this MRP.

Sierra Nevada Cheese, Inc. and Gregersen Properties, LLC, (collectively, Discharger) owns and operates a cheese production Facility (Facility). The Discharger is responsible for compliance with this MRP. The Discharger shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless and until the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopts, or the Executive Officer issues, a revised MRP.

A glossary of terms used in this MRP is included on the last page.

This MRP may be separately revised by the Executive Officer, in accordance with their delegated authority under Water Code section 13223.

I. GENERAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A. FLOW MONITORING

Hydraulic flow rates shall be measured at the monitoring points specified in this MRP. All flow monitoring systems shall be appropriate for the conveyance system (i.e., open channel flow or pressure pipeline) and liquid type. The measurements may be based on flow meter readings or pump run time estimate. The method of measurement must be specified. Unless otherwise specified, each flow meter shall be equipped with a flow totalizer to allow reporting of cumulative volume as well as instantaneous flow rate. Flow meters shall be calibrated at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer; typically, at least once per year and records of calibration shall be maintained for review upon request.

B. MONITORING AND SAMPLING LOCATIONS

Samples and measurements shall be obtained at the monitoring points specified in this MRP. Central Valley Water Board staff shall approve any proposed changes to sampling locations prior to implementation of the change.

The Discharger shall monitor the following locations to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this MRP:

Table 1 - Monitoring Locations

Monitoring Location	Monitoring Location Description
INF	Treatment plant influent wet well
EFF	Location where a representative sample of effluent enters Pond 1
EFF-PND-3	Pond 3
MW-1A, MW-5, MW-6, and MW-7	Groundwater monitoring sample locations
PND-1, PND-2, and PND-3	Treatment ponds
PND-4, PND-5, PND, 6, and PND-7	Overflow Ponds
WHEY	Whey monitoring
SOLIDS	Residual solids
SOURCE	Source water

C. SAMPLING AND SAMPLE ANALYSIS

All samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. Except as specified otherwise in this MRP, grab samples will be considered representative of water, wastewater, soil, solids/sludges, and groundwater. The time, date, and location of each sample shall be recorded on the sample chain of custody form.

Field test instruments (such as those used to measure pH, temperature, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen, wind speed, and precipitation) may be used provided that:

1. The operator is trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments;
2. The instruments are field calibrated at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
3. The instruments are serviced and/or calibrated by the manufacturer at the recommended frequency; and
4. Field calibration reports are submitted as described in the “Reporting” section of this MRP.

Laboratory analytical procedures shall comply with the methods and holding times specified in the following (as applicable to the medium to be analyzed):

- *Methods for Organic Chemical Analysis of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater* (EPA);
- *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste* (EPA);
- *Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes* (EPA);
- *Methods for Determination of Inorganic Substances in Environmental Samples* (EPA);
- *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater* (APHA/AWWA/WEF); and
- *Soil, Plant and Water Reference Methods for the Western Region* (WREP 125).

Approved editions shall be those that are approved for use by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Drinking Water’s Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). The Discharger may propose alternative methods for approval by the Executive Officer. Where technically feasible, laboratory reporting limits shall be lower than the applicable water quality objectives for the constituents to be analyzed.

II. SPECIFIC MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A. INFLUENT MONITORING (INF)

The Discharger shall monitor the treatment plant influent at the wet well prior to treatment. Samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the influent. Influent and effluent samples shall be collected on the same day. Date and time of influent samples shall be recorded. Influent monitoring shall include at least the following:

Table 2 – Influent to treatment plant

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly

B. EFFLUENT MONITORING (EFF)

The Discharger shall monitor the discharge of its process wastewater to Pond 1. Samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge. Influent and effluent samples shall be collected on the same day. Date and time of collection of all samples shall be recorded. Effluent monitoring shall include at least the following:

Table 3 – Effluent to Pond 1

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Process Water Flow	gpd	Meter	Continuous	Quarterly
Reverse Osmosis Permeate to Pond 1	gpd	Meter	Continuous	Quarterly
pH	s.u.	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Specific Conductance	µmhos/cm	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Fixed Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Ammonia as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Nitrate as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Nitrite as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
General Minerals ¹	mg/L or µg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly

1. General minerals shall include, at a minimum, the following elements/compounds: Total Alkalinity (including Alkalinity series), Boron, Calcium, Chloride, Hardness, Magnesium, Potassium, Sodium, and Sulfate.

C. POND 3 MONITORING (EFF-PND-3)

The Discharger shall monitor the discharge of its process wastewater (effluent) at Monitoring Location EFF-PND-3 (Pond 3). Samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge. Time of collection of all samples shall be recorded. Effluent monitoring shall include at least the following:

Table 4 – Pond 3

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Frequency
pH	s.u.	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Ammonia as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Nitrate as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Nitrite as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly

D. POND MONITORING

The Discharger shall monitor PND-1, PND-2, PND-3. Freeboard shall be visually monitored vertically from the surface of the water to the lowest elevation of the berm in

Pond 3. Samples for dissolved oxygen shall be collected at a depth of one foot below the surface of the water opposite the inlet. Dissolved oxygen monitoring is to be performed between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., as feasible. At a minimum, the pond shall be monitored as specified below:

Table 5 - Pond Monitoring (PND-1, PND-2, PND-3)

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Freeboard	0.1 feet	Observation	Weekly	Quarterly
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	Weekly	Quarterly
Odors	---	Observation	Weekly	Quarterly
Berm Condition	---	Observation	Weekly	Quarterly

The Discharger shall report volume and date of discharge into PND-4, PND-5, PND-6, PND-7 that is to be included with the corresponding quarterly monitoring report that discharge occurs.

E. GROUNDWATER MONITORING

The Discharger shall maintain the groundwater monitoring well network. If a groundwater monitoring well is dry for more than four consecutive sampling events or is damaged, the Discharger shall submit a work plan and proposed time schedule to replace the well. The well shall be replaced following approval of the work plan.

Prior to construction of any groundwater monitoring wells, the Discharger shall submit plans and specifications for approval. Once installed, all new wells shall be added to the groundwater monitoring network.

Prior to purging or sampling, the groundwater depth shall be measured in each well to the nearest 0.01 feet. Groundwater elevations shall then be calculated to determine groundwater gradient and flow direction.

Low or no-purge sampling methods are acceptable if described in an approved Sampling and Analysis Plan. Otherwise, each monitoring well shall be purged of at least 3 to 5 casing volumes until pH, electrical conductivity, and turbidity have stabilized prior to sampling. Groundwater monitoring for all monitoring wells shall include, at a minimum, the following:

Table 6 - Groundwater Monitoring

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency ⁴	Reporting Frequency ⁴
Depth to Groundwater ¹	0.01 feet	Measurement	Quarterly	Quarterly
Groundwater Elevation	0.01 feet	Calculation	Quarterly	Quarterly
Gradient	feet/feet	Calculation	Quarterly	Quarterly
Gradient Direction	Degrees	Calculation	Quarterly	Quarterly
pH	Standard Unit	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Specific Conductance	µmhos/cm	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Oxidation Reduction Potential	millivolts	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Fixed Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Total Organic Carbon	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Ammonia as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Nitrate as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Iron, total and dissolved ²	µg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Arsenic, total and dissolved ²	µg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Manganese, total and dissolved ²	µg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
General Minerals ³	mg/L or µg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly

1. Groundwater elevations shall be determined based on depth-to-water measurements using a surveyed elevation reference point on the well casing.
2. Samples for metals shall be filtered prior to preservation and digestion using a 0.45-micron filter. Metals shall include, at a minimum, the following: Aluminum, Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium (Total and Hexavalent), Cobalt, Copper, Iron, Lead, Manganese, Mercury, Molybdenum, Nickel, Selenium, Silver, Thallium, Vanadium, and Zinc.
3. General minerals shall include, at a minimum, the following elements/compounds: Total Alkalinity (including Alkalinity series), Boron, Calcium, Chloride, Hardness, Magnesium, Potassium, Sodium, and Sulfate.
4. Upon Central Valley Water Board approval, sampling frequency may be reduced after two consecutive years of data has been analyzed and submitted.

F. SOURCE WATER MONITORING

A sampling station shall be established where a representative sample of the source water can be obtained. Source water monitoring shall include at least the following.

Table 7 – Source Water Monitoring

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Frequency
pH	Standard Unit	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Nitrate as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
General Minerals ¹	mg/L or µg/L	Grab	Annually	Annually

- General minerals shall include, at a minimum, the following elements/compounds: Total Alkalinity (including Alkalinity series), Boron, Calcium, Chloride, Hardness, Magnesium, Potassium, Sodium, and Sulfate.

G. SOLIDS MONITORING (SOLIDS)

The Discharger shall maintain detailed records for disposal and/or recycling of residual solids including when removed from the Facility. The record should include information on quantity, storage, method of disposal (i.e., livestock feed, soil amendment, composting, etc.), and receipts (if applicable) to be included in the corresponding quarterly monitoring report. The Discharger shall submit within 90 days waste characterization of residual solids from the RO and SAF units as required by the receiver for final disposal.

Sludge in Pond-1, Pond-2, and Pond-3 shall be measured every five-years, if sludge is greater than 50% total capacity in the pond the Discharger will submit a plan for sludge removal, as indicated in the 2018 Updated Sludge Management Plan.

III. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All monitoring reports should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50MB should be emailed to: centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to the following address:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
 Region 5 – Redding
 364 Knollcrest Dr., Suite 205
 Redding, California 96002

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or transmittal sheet:

Program: Non-15
Facility: Sierra Nevada Cheese Processing Plant
Order: MRP R5-2024-XXXX
County: Glenn
Place ID: 214132

A transmittal letter shall accompany each monitoring report. The letter shall include a discussion of all violations of this MRP during the reporting period and actions taken or planned for correcting each violation. If the Discharger has previously submitted a report describing corrective actions taken and/or a time schedule for implementing the corrective actions, reference to the previous correspondence will be satisfactory. The transmittal letter shall contain a statement by the Discharger or the Discharger's authorized agent certifying under penalty of perjury that the report is true, accurate and complete to the best of the signer's knowledge.

In reporting monitoring data, the Discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, sample type (e.g., effluent, groundwater, etc.), and reported analytical result for each sample are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner to clearly illustrate compliance with waste discharge requirements and spatial or temporal trends, as applicable. The results of any monitoring done more frequently than required at the locations specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be reported in the next scheduled monitoring report.

Laboratory analysis reports shall be included in the monitoring reports. All laboratory reports must also be retained for a minimum of three years. For a discharger conducting any of its own analyses, reports must also be signed and certified by the chief of the laboratory.

Monitoring information shall include the method detection limit (MDL) and the Reporting limit (RL) or practical quantitation limit (PQL). If the regulatory limit for a given constituent is less than the RL (or PQL), then any analytical results for that constituent that are below the RL (or PQL) but above the MDL shall be reported and flagged as estimated.

All monitoring reports that involve planning, investigation, evaluation or design, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, shall be prepared by or under the direction of persons registered to practice in California pursuant to California Business and Professions Code sections 6735, 7835, and 7835.1.

A. QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS

Quarterly Monitoring Reports shall be prepared and submitted to the Central Valley Water Board by the **1st day of the second month after the quarter**

(i.e., the 1st Quarter [January – March] quarterly report is due 1st May). Each Quarterly Monitoring Report shall include the following:

1. Results of **Effluent Monitoring**, including calculating the maximum daily and monthly average flow for each month.
2. Results of **Pond Monitoring**
3. Results of the **Groundwater Monitoring**
4. Results of **Solids Monitoring**
5. Copies of laboratory analytical reports.
6. A discussion of annual chemical usage at the Facility (e.g., chemical name, purpose, and quantity used).
7. A summary of any changes in processing that might affect waste characterization and/or discharge flow rates.

All quarterly reports shall include summary data tables of analytical results and observations collected or conducted during the quarter.

B. FOURTH QUARTER/ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

In addition to the above information, the fourth quarter monitoring report, due **1st February of each year**, shall include the following:

1. Total annual influent flow, average monthly flows for each month of the year, and the average dry weather flow compared to the flow limitations of the WDRs.
2. Concentration vs. time graphs for each monitored constituent using all historic groundwater monitoring data. Each graph shall show the background groundwater concentration range and the Groundwater Limitation as horizontal lines at the applicable concentration.
3. An evaluation of the groundwater quality beneath the site and determination of whether any water quality objectives or groundwater limitations were exceeded in any compliance well during the calendar year. This shall be determined by comparing the annual average concentration for each well during the calendar year to the corresponding water quality objective.
4. Geochemical analysis of the underlying groundwater that includes stiff diagrams overlying the water table, total cation/anion balance, and diagrams showing analytes versus the water table.

5. A summary of information on the disposal of sludge and/or solid waste during the calendar year.
6. An evaluation of the performance of the WWTF, including discussion of capacity issues, infiltration and inflow rates, nuisance conditions, and a forecast of the flows anticipated in the next year, as described in Standard Provision E.4.
7. A discussion of compliance and the corrective actions taken, as well as any planned or proposed actions needed, to bring the discharge into full compliance with the WDRs Order.
8. Monitoring equipment maintenance and calibration records, as described in Standard Provision C.4.
9. A discussion of any data gaps and potential deficiencies or redundancies in the monitoring system or reporting program.
10. Statement certifying when the flow meter and other monitoring instruments and devices were last calibrated, include identification of who performed the calibrations (SPRRs C.4).
11. Tabulated summary of all monitoring data collected over the year.

If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Discharger fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may refer this matter to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement, may issue a complaint for administrative civil liability, or may take other enforcement actions. Failure to comply with this Order may result in the assessment of Administrative Civil Liability of up to \$1,000 per violation, per day, depending on the violation, pursuant to Water Code, section 13268. The Central Valley Water Board reserves its right to take any enforcement actions authorized by law.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Resources Control Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this MRP, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Resources Control Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. [Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) may be found on the internet (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided on request.

The Discharger shall implement the above monitoring program R5-2024-XXXX.

TENTATIVE MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM R5-2024-XXXX
SIERRA NEVADA CHEESE COMPANY, INC. AND
GREGERSEN PROPERTIES, LLC
CHEESE PRODUCTION PLANT
GLENN COUNTY

11

I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the forgoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2024-XXXX issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on XX April 2024.

PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer