

INFORMATION SHEET

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2020-XXXX
BRONCO WINE COMPANY
STANISLAUS COUNTY

Facility Description

The Bronco Wine Company (Discharger) owns and operates a wine production facility that consists of warehouses, offices, wine processing facilities, an almond orchard, cropped land, and percolation ponds. The winery processes up to 450,000 tons of grapes annually and operates year-round. The grapes are crushed, then the juice is fermented, pressed, filtered, stabilized, stored, bottled, and packaged.

WDRs Order 96-247, adopted on 20 September 1996, prescribes requirements for the discharge of wastewater to land. The Discharger is responsible to compliance with this Order.

Due to the age of the existing permit and the Discharger's proposed changes to its LAAs, an updated Order is required. Therefore, Order No. 96-247 will be rescinded and replaced with this Order.

Process Wastewater

Wastewater is generated from processing grapes, boiler blowdown, reverse osmosis reject, equipment cleaning and sanitation, tanker washout, on-site bottling and packaging, and includes distilling material generated at an offsite facility owned by the Discharger. Cleaning water is single pass.

The wastewater treatment system consists of a collection sump, stabilization tank, percolation and evaporation ponds, and LAAs. Process wastewater flows via trench drains to the collection sump then is pumped to a 500,000-gallon storage tank for discharge to ponds or LAAs.

Wastewater is used to irrigate 106 acres of LAAs cropped with forage crops as the season allows. The LAAs are flood irrigated with no run-off, so there is no tailwater basin.

Annual wastewater flow rate measured between 2013 and 2019 averaged approximately 152 million gallons per year, including stormwater collected on the facility's processing areas. Supplemental irrigation water from the Turlock Irrigation District canal is used to meet crop demands.

Site-specific Conditions

Surrounding land uses are predominately agricultural lands. The annual average precipitation in the area is approximately 9 inches; the 100-year annual precipitation is approximately 24 inches. Based on data published by the California Irrigation management Information System (CIMIS) for the Modesto, Patterson, and Denair II Stations, the reference evapotranspiration rate is approximately 57 inches per year.

Groundwater Conditions

The facility has 14 groundwater monitoring wells, of which 2 are scheduled to be abandoned in 2020. In the fourth quarter of 2017, depth to groundwater beneath the facility ranged from 23.1 to 28.5 feet below ground surface (bgs). The local gradient tends to be somewhat variable but typically flows to the west-southwest.

Concentration trends generally show stable or increasing trends for TDS in groundwater. Upgradient groundwater quality in the area is considered poor with respect to TDS and nitrate as nitrogen. Although groundwater shows an increase in total salts over time, it is not clear whether the increase is due to the discharge described in this Order or whether it is due to increased upgradient agricultural activities unrelated to this discharge.

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.

Monitoring and Reporting Program

The Monitoring and Reporting Program is designed to verify compliance with effluent limitations and operational requirements of the WDRs.