

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. 87-60
IN THE MATTER OF SUN WORLD INTERNATIONAL INC.
VEGETABLE PACKING PLANT
Thermal - Riverside County**

The Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. On July 11, 1979, the Regional Board adopted Order No. 79-67 (NPDES Permit No. CA0104531) prescribing waste discharge requirements for Sun World International Inc.'s vegetable packing plant in Thermal (hereafter referred to as the discharger) to discharge wastewater to the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel.
2. Board Order No. 79-67 requires the discharger to comply with effluent limitations as specified below:

Effluent Limitations:

1. Representative samples of wastewater discharged to the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel shall not contain constituents in excess of the following limits:

Constituent	Units	Average Discharge Rate	Maximum Discharge Rate
20°C BOD ₅ *	lbs/day**	13	19
	mg/l	30	45
Suspended Solids	lbs/day	13	19
	mg/l	30	45
Settleable Matter	ml/l***	0.5	1.0

2. Compliance with the average values set forth in Effluent Limitation No. 1 (above) will be established by averaging the results of the last 3 samples collected.

* BOD₅: five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand

** lbs/day: pounds per day
mg/l: milligrams per liter

*** ml/l: milliliters per liter

*replaced
by 89-009*

3. On January 18, 1984, the Regional Board adopted Cease and Desist Order No. 84-21 against the discharger for violation of Effluent Limitations contained in Board Order No. 79-67 and indicated above under Finding No. 2.
4. Order No. 84-21 required the discharger to cease and desist from discharging waste contrary to requirements in Order No. 79-67.
5. Said Order No. 84-21 prescribed a time schedule according to which the discharger would come into full compliance with the Regional Board's waste discharge requirements by December 15, 1984.
6. Said Order No. 84-21 further specified the completion date of September 1, 1984 for the acquisition of a parcel of land by Sun World International Inc. for waste disposal and the completion of Engineering Design for the construction of settling basins.
7. On September 13, 1984, the discharger submitted an alternative plan wherein it proposed to install and operate additional treatment and discharge facilities to provide compliance with waste discharge requirements contained in Regional Board Order No. 79-67.
8. On September 19, 1984, the Regional Board adopted Addendum No. 1 to Cease and Desist Order No. 84-21. Said Addendum extended the full compliance date to December 1, 1985. This was done to provide the opportunity for monitoring the discharged wastewater to determine the feasibility of installing additional screening devices.
9. Except as modified in Addendum No. 1, Cease and Desist Order No. 84-21 remains to date in full force and effect.
10. The results of sampling conducted jointly by the staff of the Regional Board and Sun World International Inc. during the 1984-85 carrot season indicated that the installation of additional screening devices had not sufficiently improved the quality of the discharge to provide compliance with effluent limitations contained in Board Order No. 79-67.
11. In a report to the Board's office on November 14, 1985, Sun World International Inc. indicated that it was again considering land disposal of the waste generated by its plant in Thermal. In said report the Corporation explained that it was encountering difficulties in acquiring the title to a parcel of land, located on Avenue 56 and adjacent to the Storm Water Channel.
12. The discharger failed to submit the monthly monitoring reports for its operations during 1986 as required by Addendum No. 1 to Cease and Desist Order No. 84-21. The discharger also failed to submit the monthly monitoring report for January 1987.

13. Monthly monitoring reports submitted for February, March and April 1987, indicate continued violations of effluent limitations.
14. On July 6, 1987, the discharger's representative met with the Board's Executive Officer, explaining as follows:
 - a. That the land needed for land disposal of the carrot washwater has been acquired.
 - b. That the 1985-86, and particularly the 1986-87 carrot operations, have shown such inadequate financial return that the company is considering discontinuance of carrot processing operations.
 - c. That the company requests to be allowed to discharge carrot-processing wastewaters during the 1987-88 season without constructing additional treatment and disposal facilities, but with reduced acreage (700 acres vs 1400 acres previously).
 - d. In July 1988, a decision will be conveyed to the Regional Board, in writing, as to whether the company will continue carrot-processing operations thereafter. If the decision is to continue, by December 1, 1988 the company will construct facilities necessary to accomplish land disposal of carrot-processing washwater on the recently purchased land.
15. On July 8, 1987, the Regional Board conducted a public hearing, with timely notice to the discharger, for consideration of issuing this Cease and Desist Order No. 87-60. Since there was no representation present from the discharger, the Board continued the hearing to September 23, 1987.
16. In correspondence dated July 17, 1987, the discharger forwarded a letter confirming its representation to the Board's Executive Officer essentially as contained in Finding No. 14, above.
17. This enforcement action is exempt from the provision of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et. seq.) in accordance with Section 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Administrative Code.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:


1. The discharger cease and desist from discharging and threatening to discharge wastes contrary to effluent limitations specified in Board Order No. 79-67 and, as indicated above in Finding No. 2 of this Order.
2. The discharger shall notify the Regional Board's office via certified mail by July 15, 1988, concerning its decision whether or not to terminate permanently the operations of its plant in Thermal by July 31, 1988 and thereafter.

3. Should the discharger decide to continue the said plant's operation for subsequent carrot seasons after July 1988, then the discharger shall complete compliance with the Regional Board's waste discharge requirements according to the following schedule:

Task Description	Completion Date	Date by which report should reach Regional Board Office
Complete design of the wastewater transport and land disposal facilities	9/1/88	9/15/88
Start construction of wastewater transport and disposal facilities	10/1/88	10/10/88
Progress report on construction	11/1/88	11/15/88
Complete construction	12/1/88	12/10/88
Achieve full compliance	12/15/88	12/20/88

4. The discharger is required to provide the above described reports to the Regional Board under penalty of perjury, explaining the corporation's progress towards compliance with the specific tasks.
5. If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the discharger fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer is directed to request the Attorney General to take appropriate action against the Corporation, including injunction and civil monetary remedies as deemed appropriate.
6. Cease and Desist Order No. 84-21 and Addendum No. 1 to Cease and Desist Order No. 84-21 are hereby rescinded.

I, Arthur Swajian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on September 23, 1987.


Executive Officer