

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

ORDER NO. 88-135

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
PIMA GRO SYSTEMS, INC.
Whitewater Hydrologic Unit - Riverside County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. Pima Gro Systems, Inc. (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger), 2305 Ruthrauff Road, Tucson, Arizona 85705, submitted a Report of Waste Discharge, dated September 23, 1988, to operate a program for beneficial agricultural use of sewage sludge within the Whitewater Hydrologic Unit of Riverside County.
2. The discharger proposes to utilize stabilized wastewater treatment plant sludge through agricultural land application at agronomic rates. The plan of operation has been formulated to meet anticipated requirements of this Regional Water Quality Control Board and guidelines contained in the California Department of Health Services Manual of Good Practice for Land Spreading of Sewage Sludge.
3. Air dried sludge, mechanically de-watered digested (stabilized) sludge would be handled as a bulk material using dump trucks and loaders. Sludge would be transported to designated land application sites and staged for spreading. Field staging would be restricted to limited time durations to prevent nuisances and to eliminate the potential for water pollution. Sludge would be distributed on the application sites with a box-type spreader. Following distribution of sludge on a field, applied material would be soil incorporated within 24 hours with tillage equipment. Incorporation would be done directly by the discharger. Site specific designs for each field would be submitted to the Regional Board for approval prior to any sludge application thereon.
4. Liquid (stabilized) sludge would be handled using tank trucks to transport sludge to the fields. Sludge will be spread by direct broadcasting onto the fields, followed by soil incorporation within 24 hours.
5. The discharger states that sludge transportation would be achieved with semi-dump trailers and tank trucks. The dump trucks would be in good condition and would be equipped with water-tight end gates. The tank trucks would be equipped with hatch seals and dust caps. A system would be maintained whereby the date, time, quantity,

*Superseded by:
Board Ord. # 97-028
5/28/97*

- source and destination of each load would be recorded. Such records would provide one of the bases for the monitoring program.
6. The crops under consideration for sludge application would include bermuda grass, small grain, alfalfa, and cotton. Produce crops such as lettuce would be avoided due to California and Federal food chain crop restrictions, where resting periods are mandated when a crop in direct contact with the soil is consumed raw.
 7. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California was adopted by the Board on November 14, 1984. The subject sludge application sites occur within the Whitewater Hydrologic Unit. The beneficial uses of groundwaters of the Whitewater Hydrologic Unit are:
 - a. Municipal supply
 - b. Industrial supply
 - c. Agricultural supply
 8. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for these operations.
 9. The Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to the proposed discharge.
 10. The Regional Board, acting as lead agency, processed and approved Negative Declaration SCH No. 88092608 on November 30, 1988 for these operations in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and State guidelines. The below waste discharge requirements are designed to assure against any significant adverse effects on water quality.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Specifications

1. The discharge operations shall not create pollution or nuisance as defined in Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. Land application of the sludges shall be done at agronomic rates and be limited to agricultural sites in the Whitewater Hydrologic Unit which are used for production of the following types of crops:
 - a. Non-food chain crops.
 - b. Processed food chain crops as defined in the Manual of Good Practice for Landspreading of Sewage Sludge, California Department of Health Services, Sanitary Engineering Branch, April 1983, and subsequent amendments thereto.

- c. Animal feed other than that consumed by dairy animals grazing at the site.
3. Sludge request forms signed by both the farm operator and the land owner shall be submitted to the Regional Board stating the crops intended to be grown on the subject acreage, in accordance with Specifications No. 2 and 9 of this Order.
4. Land application shall be restricted to only those sites and sources of sludge(s) receiving prior written approval by the Executive Officer of this Regional Board. The following factors will be used to determine land application suitability:
 - a. Single application and lifetime limits of all constituents as described in both 40 CFR Part 257, Criteria for Classification of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities and Practices, U.S.E.P.A., September 1979, and Manual of Good Practice for Landspreading of Sewage Sludge, California Department of Health Services, Sanitary Engineering Branch, April 1983.
 - b. Soil Cation Exchange Rate.
 - c. Soil pH.
 - d. Nitrogen Loading Rates.
 - e. Phytotoxicity.

Also, the land application suitability will be continually reviewed as new data is received.

5. Sludge shall be applied only one time per harvested crop in accordance with the design for any given site and the sludge management plan.
6. Sludge shall be spread on the land and incorporated within 24 hours of arrival on site.
7. Sludge shall not be applied on areas exceeding 4 percent in slope.
8. Sludge stockpiles will be limited to approved sites in accordance with Department of Health Services guidelines; and stockpiles shall not be located in the following locations:
 - a. 25 feet from property lines unless permission is obtained from the adjacent landowner.
 - b. 500 feet from drinking water wells.
 - c. 50 feet from public roads.

9. Resting periods for public access, livestock grazing and avoidance of unprocessed direct consumption human food chain crops shall be as follows:
 - a. Public access shall be controlled for 12 months after sludge application.
 - b. Grazing by animals whose products are consumed by humans shall be prevented for one month after sludge application.
 - c. If pasture is subsequently converted into a dairy pasture, grazing by milking animals shall be prevented for at least 12 months after the latest sludge application. No grazing shall be allowed in instances where the milk is not to be pasteurized.
 - d. There shall be no planting of unprocessed food chain crops for three years after sludge application.
10. The maximum sludge application rate shall not exceed 12 tons per acre per crop, unless written approval of the Executive Officer is received for each additional application at each particular site.
11. Sludges shall not be applied if any of the constituents of that sludge could cause phytotoxicity.
12. If constituent levels in either the sludge to be applied or in a field that previously received sludge are considered unacceptable by the Executive Officer, then the operation shall cease immediately and in the case of the sludge that has already been applied, remedial action shall be taken as approved by the Executive Officer in advance.
13. The discharger shall submit to the Regional Board an annual screening test which shall include all metals and organics that are prescribed by the California Assessment Manual on all sludge sources which the discharger intends to use as soil amendments.
14. The discharger shall submit to the Regional Board monthly results of analyses of sludge tested at the wastewater treatment plant, showing the following:

(Documented treatment plant results are permitted)

<u>Determination</u>	<u>Unit</u>
A. Arsenic	mg/kg
B. Chromium	mg/kg
C. Cadmium	mg/kg
D. Lead	mg/kg
E. Zinc	mg/kg
F. Copper	mg/kg
G. Nickel	mg/kg

Determination

Unit

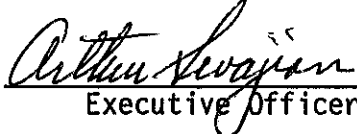
H. Mercury	mg/kg
I. Selenium	mg/kg
J. Total Nitrogen	%
K. Plant Available Nitrogen	lbs/dry ton
L. Solids	%

15. Only sludge sources that, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, originate from community sewerage systems that do not have significant industrial waste contributions will be permitted.
16. The discharger shall report to the Regional Board, for a period of 3 years after the last sludge application to a particular field, what crops are being grown on that field. The reported crops shall conform to those allowed under Discharge Specification No. 2, above.
17. Sampling techniques for CAM testing shall be done in accordance with Section I of "Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods" SW-846, 2nd Edition, U.S. EPA 1982.
18. The discharger shall, in advance, report to the Executive Officer any proposed use or transport of sludge containing greater than 35 percent solids, and shall utilize precautionary measures required by the Executive Officer.
19. The site specific designs for each field(s) shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - a. Site summary - a description of the field identification, acreage and ownership of all fields under this submission.
 - b. A designation of the name of the grower (operator) of the specific field(s).
 - c. A clear and concise presentation of all factors influencing the design and use of a field, e.g. acreage, legal description and predominate soil type and application rates, buffer areas, depth to water table.
 - d. Written evidence that the owner and/or operator desires sludge, and will plant the appropriate types of crops, and agrees to observe stated resting periods.
 - e. The following maps shall be provided:
 1. Topographic map with site clearly delineated with scale of 1:24,000.
 2. Soil map depicting soils on and adjacent to the site.
 3. Site plan that depicts site boundaries, irrigation structures, residences, wells and any other features effecting the design or use of the site.

B. Provisions

1. The discharger shall submit to the Regional Board a screening test, which includes all metals and organics that are prescribed by the California Assessment Manual, on all sludge sources which the discharger intends to use as soil amendments.
2. The discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 88-135" and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Executive Officer.
3. Prior to any material modifications in any aspect of the sludge management plan, the discharger shall report in writing to the Regional Board allowing sufficient time for Board consideration and action.
4. This waste discharge requirement shall immediately be subject to review and revision when the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency issues any technical criteria regulations or guidance affecting sludge disposal currently being developed under authorities provided under Section 405(d) of the Clean Water Act.

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 November 30, 1988.


Executive Officer

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 88-135
FOR
PIMA GRO SYSTEMS, INC.
Whitewater Hydrologic Unit of Riverside County

Pima Gro Systems, Inc. shall report to the Regional Board concerning the following:

- I. The discharger shall submit to the Regional Board monthly reports as follows:
- A. Samples shall be taken monthly from each field where sludge is being applied:
1. Number of tons applied that month and number of tons of sludge applied to the field total and crop to be grown.
 2. Pounds, per acre, of copper, zinc, cadmium, nickel and lead that has been applied that month and pounds per acre that have been applied of each metal in the lifetime for the field and theoretical maximum amounts as described by 40 CFR, Part 257. U.S. E.P.A., September 1979.
- B. Samples shall be taken monthly from the sludge applied to each field:
1. Total Kjeldahl nitrogen, ammonia-nitrogen, nitrate-nitrogen from a composite of the sludge being applied.
 2. Total percent solids from a composite of the sludge being applied.
 3. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in mg/kg from a composite of sludge being applied.
- II. The discharger shall submit to the Regional Board the results of analyses of composite soil sample from each field prior to any sludge application to that field, showing the following data:

<u>Determination</u>	<u>Unit</u>
A. Chromium	mg/kg
B. Cadmium	mg/kg
C. Lead	mg/kg
D. Zinc	mg/kg
E. Copper	mg/kg

<u>Determination</u>	<u>Unit</u>
----------------------	-------------

F. Total Nitrogen	%
G. pH	-
H. Cation Exchange Capacity	meg/100 grams
I. Selenium	mg/kg
J. Silver	mg/kg
K. Mercury	mg/kg

III. The discharger shall submit to the Regional Board an annual screening test which shall include all metals and organics that are prescribed by the California Assessment Manual on all sludge sources which the discharger intends to use as soil amendments.

IV. The discharger shall submit to the Regional Board monthly results of analyses of sludge tested at the wastewater treatment plant, showing the following:

(Documented treatment plant results are permitted)

<u>Determination</u>	<u>Unit</u>
A. Arsenic	mg/kg
B. Chromium	mg/kg
C. Cadmium	mg/kg
D. Lead	mg/kg
E. Zinc	mg/kg
F. Copper	mg/kg
G. Nickel	mg/kg
H. Mercury	mg/kg
I. Selenium	mg/kg
J. Total Nitrogen	%
K. Plant Available Nitrogen	lbs/ dry ton
L. Solids	%

V. The discharger shall submit to the Regional Board an annual report stating the crops being grown on each field where sludge had been applied for a period of 3 years after the last sludge application.

The above monitoring program shall be implemented and maintained immediately upon adoption of Order No. 88-135.

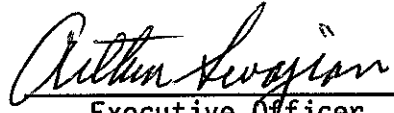
REPORTING

Monthly reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board by the 15th day of the following month. Annual reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board by the 15th day of January for the previous year. Copies of the reports submitted to the Board pursuant to this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the operations site, and shall be made available to staff of the Regional Board upon request.

Mail reports to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-271 Highway 111, Suite 21
Palm Desert, CA 92260

ORDERED BY:


Executive Officer

November 30, 1988

Date

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD - 7
MAP

PIMA GRO SYSTEMS, INC.
WHITewater HYDROLOGIC UNIT
BOARD ORDER 88-135



- INDEX
- 19.00 Whitewater Hydrologic Unit
 - 19.10 Morongo SU
 - 19.20 Shavers SU
 - 19.40 Coachella SU
 - 19.41 Garnet Hill SA
 - 19.42 Mission Creek SA
 - 19.43 Miracle Hill SA
 - 19.44 Sky Valley SA
 - 19.45 Fargo Canyon SA
 - 19.46 Thousand Palms SA
 - 19.47 Indio SA

SCALE: 1 inch = 10 miles

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

INITIAL STUDY

SCH. NO 88092608

FOR

ORDER NO. 88-135

FOR

Pima Gro Systems, Inc.

CONTENTS

- I. Description of Project
- II. Environmental Setting
- III. Environmental Impacts (Checklist)
- IV. Discussion of Environmental Evaluation
- V. Compatibility with Existing Plans and Zones
- VI. Preparer's Signature

I. Description of Project

Pima Gro Systems, Inc., proposes to utilize stabilized wastewater treatment plant sludge through agricultural land application at agronomic rates. The plan of operation has been formulated to meet the requirements of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board as outlined by the California Department of Health Services Manual of Good Practice for Land Spreading of Sewage Sludge.

Air dried sludge and mechanically de-watered digested (stabilized) sludge would be handled as a bulk material using dump trucks and loaders. Sludge would be transported to designated land application sites and staged for spreading. Field staging would be restricted to limited time durations to prevent nuisances and to eliminate the potential for water pollution. Sludge would be distributed on the application sites with a box-type spreader. Following distribution of sludge on a field, applied material would be soil incorporated within 24 hours with tillage equipment. Incorporation would be done directly by the discharger. Liquid (stabilized) sludge would be handled using tank trucks to transport sludge to the fields. Sludge will be spread by direct broadcasting onto the field, followed by soil incorporation within 24 hours.

The crops under consideration for sludge application would include bermuda grass, small grain, sugar beets, alfalfa and cotton. Produce crops such as lettuce would be avoided due to California and Federal food chain crop restrictions, where resting periods are mandated when a crop in direct contact with the soil is consumed raw.

II. Environmental Setting

Sludge would be applied to farm lands located in the Whitewater Hydrologic Unit.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

	<u>YES</u>	<u>MAYBE</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. <u>Earth.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Unstable earth conditions or in changes in geologic substructures?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b. Disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcovering of soil?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
c. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geological or physical features?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, depositions or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
g. Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
2. <u>Air.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b. The creation of objectionable odors?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
c. Alternation of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
3. <u>Water.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh water?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

- | | | | | |
|----|---|-------|--------------|--------------|
| b. | Change in absorption rates, drainage pattern, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff? | _____ | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| c. | Alternations to the course or flow of flood waters? | _____ | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| d. | Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? | _____ | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| e. | Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? | _____ | <u> X </u> | _____ |
| f. | Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters? | _____ | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| g. | Change in quantity or quality of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of the aquifer by cuts or excavations? | _____ | <u> X </u> | _____ |
| h. | Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? | _____ | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| i. | Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves? | _____ | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| 4. | <u>Plant Life.</u> Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| a. | Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, microflora and aquatic plants)? | _____ | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| b. | Reduction of numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants? | _____ | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| c. | Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species? | _____ | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| d. | Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop? | _____ | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| 5. | <u>Animal Life.</u> Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| a. | Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, insects or microfauna)? | _____ | _____ | <u> X </u> |

	<u>YES</u>	<u>MAYBE</u>	<u>NO</u>
b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
c. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in barrier to the migration or movement of animals?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
d. Deterioration to existing fish or Wildlife habitat?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
6. <u>Noise.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Increases in existing noise levels?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
7. <u>Light and Glare.</u> Will the proposal produce new light or glare?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
8. <u>Land Use.</u> Will the proposal result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
9. <u>Natural Resources.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resource?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Substantial depletion of any non-renewable resource?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
10. <u>Risk of Upset.</u> Does the proposal involve a risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset condition?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
11. <u>Population.</u> Will the proposal alter the location, distribution, density or growth rate of the human population of an area?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
12. <u>Housing.</u> Will the proposal affect existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
13. <u>Transportation/Circulation.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>

	<u>YES</u>	<u>MAYBE</u>	<u>NO</u>
c. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
d. Alteration to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
e. Alternations to waterborne, rail or air traffic?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
f. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
14. <u>Public Services.</u> Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:			
a. Fire protection?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Police protection?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
c. Schools?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
d. Parks or other recreational facilities?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
e. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
f. Other governmental services?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
15. <u>Energy?</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
16. <u>Utilities.</u> Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:			
a. Power or natural gas?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Communications systems?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
c. Water?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
d. Sewer or septic tanks?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
e. Storm water drainage?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
f. Solid waste and disposal?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>

	<u>YES</u>	<u>MAYBE</u>	<u>NO</u>
17. <u>Human Health.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
b. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
18. <u>Aesthetics.</u> Will the proposal result in the obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
19. <u>Recreation.</u> Will the proposal result in an impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
20. <u>Archeological/Historical.</u> Will the proposal result in an alteration of a significant archeological or historical site, structure, object or building?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
21. <u>Mandatory Findings of Significance.</u>			
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.)	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
c. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environment is significant.)	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

YES MAYBE NO

- d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? _____ _____ X

IV Discussion of Environmental Evaluation as (asterisked on previous pages)

- 2b. The sludge has the potential to create objectionable odors. This will be mitigated by requiring that the sludge be incorporated into the soil within 24 hours of arriving at the field and will be further mitigated by requiring trucks which are transporting sludge with solids of greater than 35% to be covered.
- 3e. If the sludge is used at greater than agronomic rates, excess nitrates and nitrite could impact surface waters. This will be mitigated by requiring the sludge to be applied at not greater than agronomic rates.
- 3g. If the sludge is used at greater than agronomic rates, excess nitrates and nitrites could impact ground water. This will be mitigated by requiring the sludge to be applied at not greater than agronomic rates.
- 17a. The sludge could create a potential health hazard due to the possibility of bacteria and viruses in the sludge. This will be mitigated by requiring resting periods for public access, livestock grazing and avoidance of unprocessed direct consumption human food chain crops as described in United States Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Health Services guidelines.
- 17b. Same as 17a.
- 21b. The project has the potential of long term impacts to the soils of the various agricultural fields to which the sludge is applied. These potential impacts will be mitigated by requiring single application and lifetime limits of all constituents as described in both 40 CFR Part 257, Criteria Classification of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities and Practices, U.S.E.P.A., September 1979, and Manual of Good Practice for Landspreading of Sewage Sludge, California Department of Health Services, Sanitary Engineering Branch, April 1983.

V Compatibility with Existing Plans and Zoning

This project is in accordance with existing County and Regional Plans, including the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California.

VI Prepare's Certification

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

_____ I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

X I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described above have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.

_____ I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Nov. 17, 1988
Date

Arthur Swajian
Signature
8

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

SCH # 88092608

_____ Draft

 x Final

PROJECT TITLE:

Pima Gro Systems, Inc., Whitewater Hydrologic Unit, Riverside County

PROJECT LOCATION:

Whitewater Hydrologic Unit, Riverside County

PROJECT PROPOSAL:

Pima Gro Systems, Inc., proposes to utilize stabilized wastewater treatment plant sludge through agricultural land application at agronomic rates. The plan of operation has been formulated to meet the requirements of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board as outlined by the California Department of Health Services Manual of Good Practice for Land Spreading of Sewage Sludge.


Air dried sludge and mechanically de-watered digested (stabilized) sludge would be handled as a bulk material using dump trucks and loaders. Sludge would be transported to designated land application sites and staged for spreading. Field staging would be restricted to limited time durations to prevent nuisances and to eliminate the potential for water pollution. Sludge would be distributed on the application sites with a box-type spreader. Following distribution of sludge on a field, applied material would be soil incorporated within 24 hours with tillage equipment. Incorporation would be done directly by the discharger. Liquid (stabilized) sludge would be handled using tank trucks to transport sludge to the fields. Sludge will be spread by direct broadcasting onto the field, followed by soil incorporation within 24 hours.

The crops under consideration for sludge application would include bermuda grass, small grain, sugar beets, alfalfa and cotton. Produce crops such as lettuce would be avoided due to California and Federal food chain crop restrictions, where resting periods are mandated when a crop in direct contact with the soil is consumed raw.

THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION,
HAS DETERMINED THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON
THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. This project is in accordance with existing County and Regional plans, including the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California.
2. No significant adverse impact upon fish, wildlife, or natural vegetation is indicated.
3. No significant adverse impact to rare or endangered species as a result of this project is indicated.
4. No significant adverse impact or aesthetics, air quality, noise levels, land forms, or nonrenewable resources is indicated.
5. No significant secondary impact resulting from growth inducement or limits to potential uses is indicated because of the limited effects and purposes of the project.
6. No significant adverse impact to historic or archaeological sites is indicated.
7. No significant adverse impact to beneficial uses of surface or ground waters as a result of changes in water quality or quantity is indicated.
8. Any potential adverse impact to the environment from the resulting earth changes will be mitigated through reclamation of the site upon termination of the project in accordance with the Bureau of Land Management reclamation standards.
9. Any potential adverse impact to the environment from accidental release of toxic cyanide into the ground will be mitigated through proper design of the project and through compliance with waste discharge requirements established by the Regional Board.

November 30, 1988
Date


Executive Officer