



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Lahontan Region



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### **REVISED MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN AND SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS PLAN, NURSERY PRODUCTS HAWES COMPOSTING FACILITY, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

On December 20, 2010, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) staff received a revised Monitoring and Reporting Plan and Sampling and Analysis Plan (MRP&SAP) which was prepared by Nursery Products. The MRP&SAP was submitted to satisfy Board Order No. R6V-2010-0010, and was submitted in response to Water Board staff comments provided on December 8, 2010, on the MRP&SAP submitted to the Water Board on August 13, 2010. The objective of these plans is to specify procedures for monitoring and reporting as well as procedures for sampling and analyses of the Waste Pile, Surface Impoundments, Leak Detection Monitoring Sumps (LDMS), unsaturated zone monitoring system, groundwater monitoring wells, native background soils, and odor at the Nursery Products Hawes Composting Facility (Facility).

After review of this submittal, Water Board staff have determined that the MRP&SAP are missing the statistical data analysis methods that will be needed to compare data that will be collected in the future to baseline information. Specifically, these methods are needed for groundwater monitoring results, surface impoundment vadose zone monitoring results, and compost pad sample results, to determine if there has been a release from the Facility. Additionally, the statistical protocol for selecting annual soil sampling locations was not provided. However, this information may be submitted at a future date along with the baseline information as described later in this letter. Therefore, Water Board staff accepts the report.

Nursery Products must submit its proposed statistical methods for groundwater monitoring and vadose zone monitoring with the report documenting implementation of these monitoring systems pursuant to Section IV.H.1. of Monitoring and Reporting Program R6V-2010-0010, and as proposed in the MRP&SAP, section 4.2, Technical Reports.

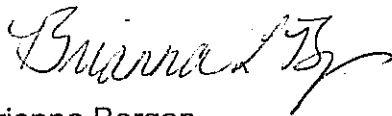
*California Environmental Protection Agency*

Nursery Products must submit its proposed statistical method for compost pad monitoring along with a separate focused MRP&SAP specifically related to the Native Background Soils Report. These plans must also include specific protocol for annual soil sampling describing the proposed procedures that will be used to determine locations within the Waste Pile from which to sample. *Guidance on Choosing a Sampling Design for Environmental Data Collection*, by U.S. EPA (EPA 1240/R-02/005, December 2002), describes both probability-based and judgment-based sampling design. Because annual soil samples will be collected over a period of years, Water Board staff requests the utilization of a **probability-based** sampling design for the determination of annual sample locations throughout the Waste Pile as relying upon judgment-based sampling design may bias the representativeness of the samples. Please use examples from this guidance document or an equivalent in the development of the protocols for the annual sampling of the Waste Pile.

Following Water Board acceptance of all components listed herein, as well as described in the Water Board staff letter in response to the Background Soils Report, please compile all accepted information into one complete MRP&SAP document and submit this to Water Board staff.

We look forward to working with you in a manner that protects water quality. If you have any questions, please contact me at (760) 241-7305 ([bbergen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:bbergen@waterboards.ca.gov)) or Patrice Copeland at (760) 241-7404 ([pcopeland@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:pcopeland@waterboards.ca.gov)).

Sincerely,



Brianna Bergen  
Engineering Geologist

cc: Mailing List