

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION  
81 Higuera Street, Suite 200  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401**

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. 98-56**  
Waste Discharger Identification No. 3 402016001

For

**MERIDIAN VINEYARDS  
BERINGER WINE ESTATES  
San Luis Obispo County**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, (Board), finds;

1. Lorne E. Swanson of SOA Inc., on behalf of Meridian Vineyards, Beringer Wine Estates (Discharger), submitted a Report of Waste Discharge on November 4, 1997 in accordance with Section 13260 of the California Water Code. Further information to make the report complete was submitted in June of 1998. The report was filed for authorization to expand their facility and renew requirements for discharge of wine processing wastewater generated at the Meridian Vineyards, located adjacent to Highway 46, approximately six miles east of Paso Robles.
2. The Discharger proposes to expand their discharge from 0.12 mgd up to 0.55 mgd of process wastewater during the peak processing season of its facility. Average annual wastewater flows will be approximately 0.2 mgd. Process wastewater is generated from bottling, tank, equipment, and floor cleaning. Crushing also occurs at this facility. Treatment will consist of screening, pH neutralization, primary settling and oxidation through a lined three cell Advanced Integrated Pond System (AIPS), and separate wet weather storage ponds with a capacity of approximately 50 MG. Final effluent disposal is through vineyard irrigation of approximately 595 acres of existing vineyards. The facility and disposal area are shown on Attachment "A" of this Order.
3. Meridian Vineyards and its disposal facilities are located in the central foothills of the Coast

Mountain Ranges of California. The land is typically rolling hills, consisting of sandy loam top soil and brown clay to a depth of up to 50 feet. The top soils in the area are composed primarily of weathered bedrock and alluvial deposits. Depth to ground water in the vicinity is approximately 300 feet. According to data provided by the Discharger, on-site water supply wells provide the following water quality (data averaged from two wells):

Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/l
Sodium	160 mg/l
Chloride	51 mg/l
Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> )	<.4 mg/l
Sulfate	77 mg/l

4. Solid wastes generated from the winery will consist primarily of grape skins, seeds, and stems. They will be spread on-site at Meridian vineyards to be disced as a soil conditioner and supplemental nutrient source or hauled away to be used as compost material on a regular basis. Sanitary wastewater is discharged to a separate septic tank/leachfield system regulated by San Luis Obispo County.
5. The Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Basin (Basin Plan) was adopted by the Board on November 19, 1989 and approved by the State Board on August 16, 1990. The Board approved amendments to the Basin Plan on February 11, 1994 and September 8, 1994. The Basin Plan incorporates statewide plans and

policies by reference and contains a strategy for protecting beneficial uses of State waters.

6. Ground water objectives specified in the Basin Plan for the vicinity of the discharge are as follows:

**Central Basin sub-area**

Total Dissolved Solids	400 mg/l
Sodium	80 mg/l
Chloride	60 mg/l
Sulfate	45 mg/l

**Estrella sub-area**

Total Dissolved Solids	925 mg/l
Sodium	170 mg/l
Chloride	130 mg/l
Sulfate	240 mg/l

7. Present and anticipated beneficial uses of ground water in the vicinity of the discharge include:
- Municipal & Domestic,
  - Agricultural, and
  - Industrial Supply.
8. Meridian Vineyards is situated in low hills. Much of the property is directly tributary to the Estrella River. The Estrella River has the following beneficial uses:
- Municipal & Domestic Supply,
  - Agricultural Supply,
  - Ground Water Recharge,
  - Water Contact Recreation,
  - Non-Contact Water Recreation
  - Warm Fresh Water Habitat
  - Wildlife Habitat
  - Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development
9. Discharge of Waste is a privilege, not a right, and authorization to discharge is conditional upon the discharge complying with provisions of Division 7 of the California Water Code and any more stringent effluent limitations necessary to implement water quality control plans, to protect beneficial uses, and to prevent

nuisance. Compliance with this Order should assume this and mitigate any potential adverse changes in water quality due to discharge.

10. The Discharger received a Negative Declaration for their use permit on May 14, 1998 from San Luis Obispo County.
11. On **July 1, 1998**, the Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and person of its intent to issue waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with a copy of the proposed Order and an opportunity to submit written views and comments.
12. After considering all comments pertaining to this discharge during a public hearing on September 11, 1998, this Order was found consistent with the above findings.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to authority in Section 13263 of the California Water Code, Meridian Vineyards, its agents, successors, and assigns, may discharge wastewater from the Meridian Vineyards, providing compliance is maintained with the following:

(Note: Other prohibitions and conditions, definitions, and the method of determining compliance are contained in the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January 1984.)

Throughout these requirements, footnotes are listed to indicate the source of requirements specified. Requirement footnotes are as follows:

A = Basin Plan

B = Administrative Procedures Manual

Requirements not referenced are based on Staff's professional judgment.

**A. PROHIBITIONS**

1. Discharge of process wastewater to areas other than the ponds or vineyards controlled by the Discharger is prohibited.
2. Discharge of sanitary wastes or any wastes, other than from wine processing, to the pond system is prohibited.
3. Discharge of any wastes including overflow, bypass, overspray and runoff from transport, treatment, or disposal systems to adjacent drainageways or adjacent properties is prohibited.
4. Discharge of pomace, seeds, stems, or accumulated solids from the waste water facilities to other than an approved site is prohibited.
5. Discharge of uncontaminated storm waters to the treatment facilities is prohibited unless adequate capacity is available.
6. Discharge of salt brines to the process wastewater or domestic wastewater is prohibited.
7. Bypass of the treatment facility and/or discharge of untreated or partially treated wastes directly to the vineyard disposal areas is prohibited.
8. No reclaimed water shall be applied to the vineyard disposal area in anticipation of or during rainfall, 48 hours after a rainfall, or when soils are saturated.

**B. DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS**

1. Peak seasonal discharge shall not exceed 0.55 mgd of process wastewater generated at the facility, and average annual flows shall not exceed 0.20 mgd.

2. Wastewater discharged to the leachfields shall not have pH less than 6.5 or greater than 8.4.
3. Wastewater discharged from the AIPS shall not exceed the following limits:

Total Dissolved Solids	750 mg/l
Chloride	100 mg/l
Sulfate	100 mg/l

**C. GROUND WATER LIMITATIONS**

1. The discharge shall not cause a significant increase of mineral constituent concentrations in underlying ground waters.
2. The discharge shall not cause concentrations of chemicals and radionuclides in ground water to exceed limits set forth in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.<sup>A</sup>

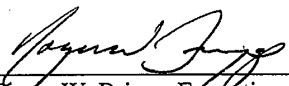
**D. PROVISIONS**

1. The requirements prescribed by this Order supersede requirements prescribed by Order No. 90-24 which was adopted by this Board on May 11, 1990. Order No. 90-24, "Waste Discharge Requirements for Wine World, Inc., Meridian Vineyards Wastewater Facilities, is hereby rescinded.
2. Discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 98-56", as specified by the Executive Officer.
3. The treatment ponds shall be lined to protect under lying ground water.
4. Freeboard shall exceed two feet in wastewater disposal ponds at all times.
5. Irrigation of the vineyard shall not cause ponding or runoff of applied wastewater.
6. The public shall be excluded from wastewater treatment and disposal areas.

7. Discharger shall comply with the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January, 1984.
8. Pursuant to Title 23, Division 3, Subchapter 9, of the California Code of Regulations, the Discharger must submit a written report to the Executive Officer not later than August 1, 2003 addressing:
  - a. Whether there will be changes in the continuity, character, location, or volume of the discharge; and,
  - b. Whether, in their opinion, there is any portion of the Order that is incorrect, obsolete, or otherwise in need of revision.

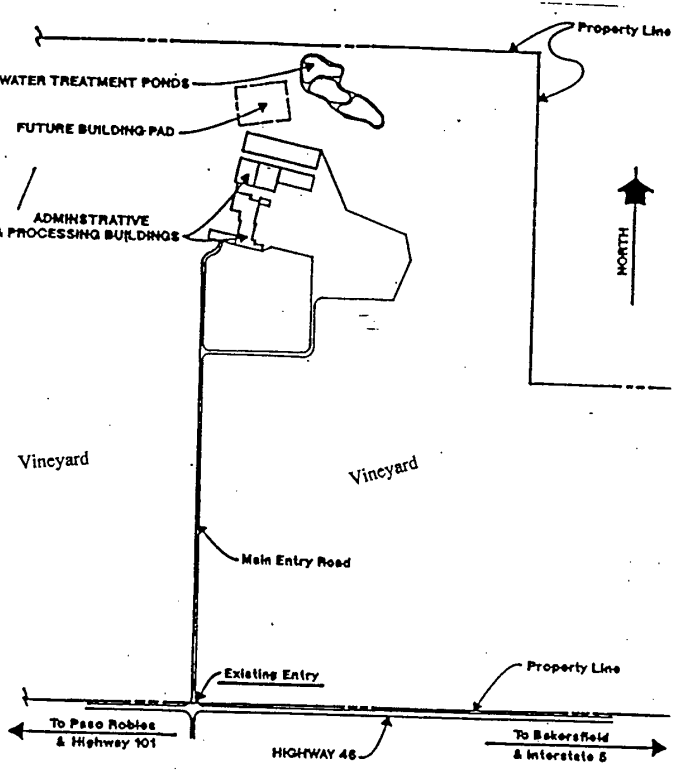
I, **Roger W. Briggs, Executive Officer**, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, on September 11, 1998.

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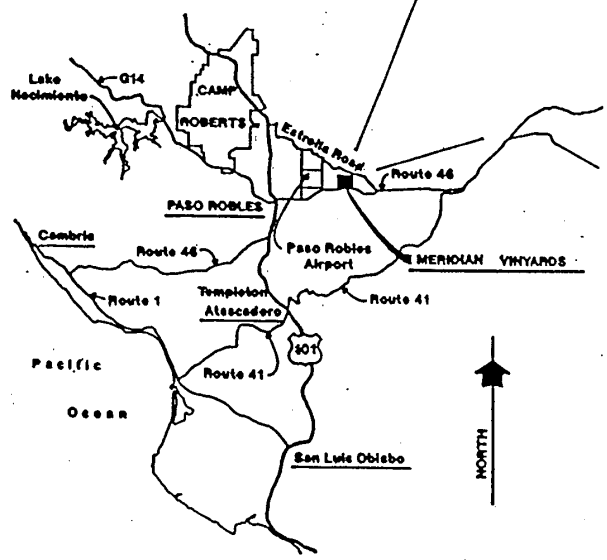
  
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Roger W. Briggs, Executive Officer

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS, ORDER NO. 98-56  
 FOR  
 MERIDIAN VINEYARDS - BERINGER WINE ESTATES

**MERIDIAN VINEYARDS**  
**BERINGER WINE ESTATES**  
 PASO ROBLES CALIFORNIA



**LOCATION PLAN**



**VICINITY MAP**

Attachment 'A'

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
 CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
 CENTRAL COAST REGION  
 81 Higuera Street, Suite 200  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5427

**MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 98-56**  
 Waste Discharge Identification No. 3 402016001

For

**MERIDIAN VINEYARDS,  
 BERINGER WINE ESTATES,  
 San Luis Obispo County**

**WATER SUPPLY MONITORING**

Representative samples of the winery water supply shall be collected and analyzed as follows:

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling and Analyzing Frequency
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	Grab	Annually (In June)
Total Nitrogen (as N)	mg/l	Grab	Annually (In June)
Chlorides	mg/l	Grab	Annually (In June)
Depth to Groundwater		Grab	Annually (In June)

**Process Water Monitoring**

Representative samples of the wine processing discharge shall be collected and analyzed as follows:

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling and Analyzing Frequency*
Flow to Aerated Ponds	gpd	Metered	Daily
pH <sup>#</sup>	pH units	Grab	Monthly
Total Dissolved Solids <sup>#</sup>	mg/l	Grab	Monthly
Chloride <sup>#</sup>	mg/l	Grab	Monthly
Total Nitrogen (as N) <sup>#</sup>	mg/l	Grab	Monthly

\*During periods of irrigation

# Sample can be collected from process water being applied to the vineyards.

**Solid Waste Disposal**

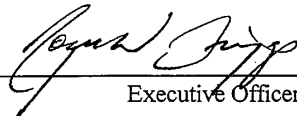
A summary of estimated volumes and disposal locations of screenings, tank residues, and pond solids disposed shall be included with each monitoring report.

**Wastewater Facilities Monitoring**

Wastewater ponds shall be inspected weekly for freeboard and available storage. Freeboard and available storage shall be presented in tabular form in each semiannual report. Wastewater facilities shall also be inspected weekly for evidence of any nuisance condition (odors, vector, etc.). Conditions of this nature shall be reported to the Executive Officer or his representative and to the County Department of Environmental Health within 24 hours of knowing of such conditions. The incident shall be promptly investigated and remedied. A record shall be kept of dates and nature of observations and remedies.

**Reporting**

Reports shall be prepared semiannually with the reports due by the 30th of January and July. Reports shall contain all data collected or calculated, and all observations made during the previous two quarters. It shall also contain a narrative summary of any exceptions to Waste Discharge Requirements.

ORDERED BY   
Executive Officer  
9.21-98  
Date

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