CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM WQO 2014-0153-DWQ-R5416
FOR
ESTHER FORMULA USA
ESTHER FORMULA FACILITY
YOLO COUNTY

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) describes requirements for monitoring the Esther Formula Facility. This MRP is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13267, Esther Formula USA (Discharger) shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless and until a revised MRP is issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) or Executive Officer.

Water Code section 13267 states, in part:

> "In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge, waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports, and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports."

Water Code section 13268 states, in part:

> "(a) Any person failing or refusing to furnish technical or monitoring program reports as required by subdivision (b) of section 13267, or failing or refusing to furnish a statement of compliance as required by subdivision (b) of section 13399.2, or falsifying any information provided therein, is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be liable civilly in accordance with subdivision (b).
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> (b)(1) Civil liability may be administratively imposed by a regional board in accordance with article 2.5 (commencing with section 13323) of chapter 5 for a violation of subdivision (a) in an amount which shall not exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000) for each day in which the violation occurs."

The Esther Formula USA Corporation owns and operates the Esther Formula Facility Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) that is subject to the Notice of Applicability (NOA) of Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ-R5416, *General Waste Discharge*

Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (General Order). The reports are necessary to ensure that the Discharger complies with the NOA and General Order. Pursuant to Water Code section 13267, the Discharger shall implement this MRP and shall submit the monitoring reports described herein.

All samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. The name of the sampler, sample type (grab or composite), time, data, location, bottle type, and any preservative used for each sample shall be recorded on the sample chain of custody form. The chain of custody form must also contain all custody information including data, time, and to whom samples were relinquished. If composite samples are collected, the basis for sampling (time or flow weighted) shall be approved by Central Valley Water Board staff.

Field test instruments (such as those used to measure pH, dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, wind speed, and precipitation) may be used provided that they are used by a State Water Board California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) certified laboratory, or:

1. The operator is trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments;
2. The instruments are field calibrated at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
3. The instruments are serviced and/or calibrated at the manufacturer's recommended frequency; and
4. Field calibration reports are maintained and available for at least three years.

Laboratory analytical procedures shall comply with the methods and holding times specified in the following (as applicable to the medium to be analyzed):

1. Methods for Organic Chemical Analysis of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater (EPA);
2. Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste (EPA);
3. Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes (EPA);
4. Methods for Determination of Inorganic Substances in Environmental Samples (EPA); and
5. Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater (APHA/AWWA/WEF).

Approved editions shall be those that are approved for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the State Water Resources Control Board's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). The Discharger may propose alternative methods for approval by the Executive Officer. Where technically feasible, laboratory reporting limits shall be lower than concentrations that implement applicable water quality objectives/limits for the constituents to be analyzed.

SEPTIC MONITORING

Domestic wastewater flow monitoring into septic tank shall include the following:

Table 1. Septic Tank Flow Monitoring

Constituent/ Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Influent Flow	gpd	Metered (See Note 1 below)	Continuous	Annually

Table 1 Note:

1. Flow rate may be metered; estimated based on potable water supply meter readings, pump run times; or calculated based on effluent flow minus process waste influent flow or other approved method.

Septic tanks shall be inspected and/or pumped at least as frequently as described below. Inspections of sludge and scum depth are not required if the tanks are pumped at least annually.

Table 2. Septic Tank Inspection Monitoring

Parameter	Units	Measurement Type	Sampling Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Sludge depth and scum thickness in each compartment or each tank	feet	Staff Gauge	Annually	Annually
Distance between bottom of scum layer and bottom of outlet device	inches	Staff Gauge	Annually	Annually
Distance between top of sludge layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually	Annually
Effluent filter condition (if equipped, clean as needed)	NA	NA	Annually	Annually

Septic tanks shall be pumped when any one of the following conditions exists:

1. The combined thickness of sludge and scum exceeds one-third of the tank depth of the first compartment.
2. The scum layer is within 3 inches of the outlet device.
3. The sludge layer is within 8 inches of the outlet device.

If a septic tank is pumped during the year, the pumping report shall be submitted with the annual report. All pumping reports shall be submitted with the next regularly scheduled monitoring report. At a minimum, the record shall include the date, nature of service, service company name, and service company license number.

PROCESS WASTEWATER MONITORING

Process wastewater flow shall be monitored and reported for the parameters listed below. Samples shall be taken upstream of the blending tank and representative of wastewater prior to being commingled with domestic waste.

Table 3. Process Wastewater Monitoring

Constituent/ Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Influent Flow	gpd	Metered	Continuous	Annually
BOD	gpd	Grab	Bimonthly/Annually (see Note 2 below)	Annually
TDS	mg/L	Grab	Bimonthly/Annually (see Note 2 below)	Annually
FDS	mg/L	Grab	Bimonthly/Annually (see Note 2 below)	Annually
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Bimonthly/Annually (see Note 2 below)	Annually
General minerals (see Note 1 below)	mg/L	Grab	Annually	Annually

Table 3 Note:

1. Analysis for General Minerals shall include the following constituents, as a minimum: alkalinity, bicarbonate, carbonate, calcium, magnesium, hardness, phosphorous, potassium, sodium, chloride, and sulfate.
2. Bimonthly refers to sampling every two months. After 6 sampling events, monitoring frequency shall be annually.

AEROBIC UNIT MONITORING

Aerobic treatment unit monitoring shall be monitored for the parameters listed in the table below.

Table 4. Aerobic Treatment Unit Monitoring

Not Parameter	Units	Measurement Type	Sampling Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Sludge depth and scum thickness in each compartment or each tank	feet	Staff Gauge	Annually	Annually
Distance between bottom of scum layer and bottom of outlet device	inches	Staff Gauge	Annually	Annually
Distance between top of sludge layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually	Annually
Effluent filter condition (if equipped, clean as needed)	NA	NA	Annually	Annually

Aerobic treatment tanks shall be pumped when any one of the following conditions exists:

1. The combined thickness of sludge and scum exceeds one-third of the tank depth of the first compartment.
2. The scum layer is within 3 inches of the outlet device.
3. The sludge layer is within 8 inches of the outlet device.

All pumping reports shall be submitted with the next regularly scheduled monitoring report. At a minimum, the record shall include the date, nature of service, service company name, and service company license number.

EFFLUENT MONITORING

Effluent samples shall be taken downstream of the advanced media filtration system and representative of the wastewater discharged to land.

Table 5. Effluent Monitoring

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Sampling Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Flow	gpd	Metered	Continuous	Annually
BOD	gpd	Grab	Bimonthly/Annually (See Note 2 and 3 below)	Annually

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Sampling Frequency	Reporting Frequency
TDS	mg/L	Grab	Bimonthly/Annually (See Note 2 below)	Annually
FDS	mg/L	Grab	Bimonthly/Annually (See Note 2 below)	Annually
Total Nitrogen	--	Grab	Bimonthly/Annually (See Note 2 below)	Annually
General minerals (see Note 1 below)	mg/L	Grab	Annually	Annually

Table 5 Note:

1. Analysis for General Minerals shall include the following constituents, as a minimum: alkalinity, bicarbonate, carbonate, calcium, magnesium, hardness, phosphorous, potassium, sodium, chloride, and sulfate.
2. Bimonthly refers to sampling every two months. With the exception of BOD monitoring, after 6 sampling events, monitoring frequency shall be annually.
3. If BOD is detected above the BOD limit of 30 mg/L, the Central Valley Water Board shall be notified within 10 business days after receiving the analytical laboratory reports.

SUBSURFACE MONITORING

Subsurface disposal areas may be configured many different ways (e.g. traditional leach field, pressure-dosed, drip system, mound/at grade, gravel less, etc.). In general, monitoring shall be sufficient to determine if wastewater is evenly applied, the disposal area is not saturated, burrowing animals and/or deep-rooted plants are not present, and odors are not present. Inspection of dosing pump controllers, automatic distribution valves, etc. is required to maintain optimum treatment in the disposal area (and any sand or media filter if present). Monitoring shall include, at a minimum, the following:

Table 6. Subsurface Monitoring

Parameter	Sampling Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Pump Controllers, Automatic Valves, etc. (see Note 1 below)	Quarterly	Annually
Nuisance Odor Condition	Quarterly	Annually
Saturated Soil Conditions (see Note 2 below)	Quarterly	Annually
Plant Growth (see Note 3 below)	Quarterly	Annually
Vector or Animal Burrowing (see Note 4 below)	Quarterly	Annually

Table 6 Note:

1. All pump controllers and automatic distribution valves shall be inspected for proper operation as recommended by the manufacturer.
2. Inspect a disposal area for saturated conditions. If a mound system is used, inspect perimeter base for signs of wastewater seepage or saturated soil conditions.
3. Shallow-rooted plants are generally desirable, deep-rooted plants such as trees shall be removed as necessary.
4. Evidence of animals burrowing shall be immediately investigated, and burrowing animal populations controlled as necessary.

SLUDGE/SOLIDS MONITORING

The Discharger shall report the handling and disposal of all solids (e.g., screenings, grit, sludge, biosolids, etc.) generated at the wastewater system. Records shall include the name/contact information for the hauling company, the type and amount of waste transported, the date removed from the wastewater system, the disposal facility name and address, and copies of analytical data required by the entity accepting the waste. These records shall be submitted as part of the annual monitoring report.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All regulatory documents, submissions, materials, data, monitoring reports, and correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50MB should be emailed to: centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov.

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to the following address:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
ECM Mailroom
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

To ensure that your submittals are routed to the appropriate staff, the following information block should be included in any correspondence used to transmit documents to this office:

Facility: Esther Formula Facility, Lake County
Program: Non-15 Compliance
Order Number: WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5416
CIWQS Place ID: 894553

In reporting monitoring data, the Discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, sample type (e.g., influent flow, effluent, etc.), and reported analytical result for each sample are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner to clearly illustrate compliance with waste discharge requirements and spatial or temporal trends, as applicable. The results of any monitoring done more frequently than required at the locations specified in the MRP shall be reported in the next regularly scheduled monitoring report and shall be included in calculations as appropriate.

Monitoring information shall include the method detection limit (MDL) and the Reporting limit (RL) or practical quantitation limit (PQL). If the regulatory limit for a given constituent is less than the RL (or PQL), then any analytical results for that constituent that are below the RL (or PQL) but above the MDL shall be reported and flagged as estimated. For a Discharger conducting any of its own analyses, reports must also be signed and certified by the chief of the laboratory.

As required by the Business and Professions Code sections 6735, 7835, and 7835.1, all monitoring reports that involve planning, investigation, evaluation or design, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, shall be prepared under the direct supervision of a Registered Professional Engineer or Professional Geologist and signed by the registered professional.

A. Monitoring Frequency

Quarterly and annual monitoring periods are described in the table below.

Monitoring Frequency	Monitoring Period
First Quarter	1 January to 31 March
Second Quarter	1 April to 30 June
Third Quarter	1 July to 30 September
Fourth Quarter	1 October to 31 December
Annual	1 January to 31 December

B. Annual Report

The Annual Report shall be submitted by **March 1st following the monitoring year**. The Annual Report shall include the following:

1. Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual monitoring data.

2. Tabular and graphical summaries of all monitoring data collected during the year.

3. A comparison of monitoring data to the flow limitations and discharge specifications and an explanation of any violation of those requirements.

4. Copies of the laboratory analytical data reports shall be maintained by the Discharger and submitted to the Central Valley Water Board.

5. An evaluation of the performance of the wastewater treatment facility, including discussion of capacity issues, nuisance conditions, system problems, and a forecast of the flows anticipated in the next year. A flow rate evaluation as described in the General Order (Provision E.2.c) shall also be submitted.

6. A discussion of compliance and the corrective action taken, as well as any planned or proposed actions needed to bring the discharge into full compliance with the NOA and/or General Order.

7. A discussion of any data gaps and potential deficiencies/redundancies in the monitoring system or reporting program.

8. The name and contact information for the wastewater operator responsible for operation, maintenance, and system monitoring.

C. State Water Board Volumetric Annual Reporting

To establish a realistic estimate of statewide recycled water use and potential for increased recycled water use statewide, the Recycled Water Policy requires domestic wastewater dischargers to report the volume of treated wastewater and recycled water. The annual report will meet implementation needs of the Recycled Water Policy and fill data gaps for additional statewide water planning efforts. Based on the current average flow rate of less than 20,000 gallons per day, the Discharger is not required to submit volumetric annual reporting at this time.

D. Report Submittals

A letter transmitting the self-monitoring reports shall accompany each report. The letter shall report violations found during the reporting period, and actions taken or planned for correcting noted violations and prevent future violations. If the Discharger has previously submitted a report describing corrective actions and/or a time schedule for implementing the corrective actions, reference to the previous correspondence will be satisfactory. The transmittal letter shall contain the penalty of perjury statement and be signed by the Discharger or the Discharger's authorized agent.

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."

This Order is issued under authority delegated to the Executive Officer by the Central Valley Water Board pursuant to Resolution R5-2018-0057 and is effective upon signature.

Ordered by: 

for PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer

6/18/2025
DATE