
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

18 April 2017

Jason Diestel
Triple J Farms
P.O. Box 4314
Sonora, CA 95370

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

**WATER QUALITY ORDER 2015-0121-DWQ
GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPOSTING OPERATIONS
TRIPLE J FARMS
TRIPLE J FARMS COMPOSTING FACILITY
TUOLUMNE COUNTY**

On 22 August 2016, Triple J Farms (the Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Filing Fees for the Triple J Farms Composting Facility (Facility). On 18 November 2016, the Discharger completed their Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) by submitting a Technical Report for the Facility. The ROWD was submitted to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2015-0121-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (hereafter General Order) for composting operations at the above-referenced site.

The complete General Order can be accessed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2015/wqo2015_0121_dwq.pdf

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) was developed after the review of your NOI and Technical Report as described in the attached Staff Memorandum which is a part of this NOA. Based on staff's review, the Facility meets the conditions of the General Order, and is hereby covered under General Order **2015-0121-DWQ-R5S007** as a **Tier I** composting operation. The Discharger must comply with all Tier I requirements of the General Order.

The filing fee for the Triple J Farms Composting Facility is based on Threat to Water Quality and Complexity rating of **3C**. The submitted \$2,088 filing fee also covers the first year permitted by this NOA. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the NOA is officially terminated.

To fully comply with this NOA, please familiarize yourself with the contents of the enclosed Staff Memorandum and all of the requirements of the General Order. The Discharger is responsible for implementing all operations in a manner that complies with the General Order. Any noncompliance with this General Order constitutes a violation of the Water Code, and is grounds for enforcement action, and/or termination of enrollment under this General Order.

Conditions of this Composting General Order include but are not limited to:

- The Water and Wastewater Management Plan, as submitted in the Technical Report and approved by Staff in this NOA, must be implemented.
- Technical reports must be submitted 90 days prior to each construction activity, while post-construction reports must be submitted 60 days after the completion of each construction activity.
- The Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report, technical reports, and all monitoring reports must be uploaded into the State Water Board's GeoTracker database.
- A revised NOI is required at least 90 days prior to:
 - adding a new feedstock, additive, or amendment;
 - changing material or construction specifications;
 - changing a monitoring program; or
 - changing an operation or activity not described in the approved NOI and technical report.

Attachment B of the General Order includes specific monitoring and reporting requirements that you must comply with, including routine monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board. The first year Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report as identified in the General Order must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **1 April 2018**, and then annually by 1 April each following year.

All monitoring and technical reports and other correspondence must be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically to the State Water Board's GeoTracker database (see General Order, Report Submittals). Once you receive an upload confirmation from GeoTracker that your report has been received, please send a courtesy email and confirmation number to centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov and to the staff person indicated below.

The following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Attention:	Paul Sanders, Compliance and Enforcement Unit Paul.Sanders@waterboards.ca.gov (916) 464-4817
Discharger Name:	Triple J Farms
Facility Name:	Triple J Farms
County:	Tuolumne County
CIWQS Place ID:	827503

Now that the NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement Section will provide management of this composting site. Paul Sanders is your new point of contact for any questions about the General Order and NOA, and you may contact him at the contact email and phone number provided above. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Paul Sanders will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff.


PAMELA C. CREEDON For
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Staff Memorandum

cc: Nadine Langley, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento
Howard Hold, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Rancho Cordova
Belinda Barlow, Tuolumne County Environmental Health Department, Sonora

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Marty Hartzell, PG, CHG
Senior Engineering Geologist

FROM: Benjamin Lehmann
Scientific Aid

DATE: 12 April 2017

SUBJECT: APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD WATER QUALITY ORDER WQ 2015-0121-DWQ, TRIPLE J FARMS, TUOLUMNE COUNTY

REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE

On 22 August 2016, Triple J Farms (hereafter, Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Filing Fees for the Triple J Farms Composting Facility (Facility). On 18 November 2016, the Discharger completed their Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) by submitting a Technical Report for the Facility. The ROWD was submitted to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2015-0121-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (hereafter General Order) for composting operations at the above-referenced site.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Facility occupies 22 acres located at 10330 La Grange Road in Jamestown, Tuolumne County. The legal description is Section 31, Township 1 South, Range 14 East, and the Assessor Parcel number is 064-220-20-00.

The facility is located on gently rolling terrain in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Soils in the area are shallow and range from zero to two feet thick. Subsurface lithology beneath the facility includes rocks of the Gopher Ridge Volcanics and Mariposa Formation metasediments and metavolcanics. These formations include chlorite schists, slates, plagioclase-sandstones, lapilli tuffs, and recrystallized lithified layered volcanics that dip steeply into the topography. Land uses within one mile of the facility are classified as undeveloped "native vegetation" based on the Tuolumne County land use survey from the California Department of Natural Resources and primarily include cattle grazing.

The closest surface water is West Fork Big Creek which is approximately 1,100 feet east from the perimeter of composting operations, which is greater than the General Order requirement of 100 feet. According to the Discharger's technical report, the nearest water supply well is 3,400 feet northwest from the site, which is greater than the General Order setback requirement of 100 feet. The nearest residential supply is located 12.1 miles from the perimeter of the facility. Depth to groundwater is estimated to be between 50-100 feet below ground surface. Groundwater flow direction is primarily to the west. Precipitation data from the New Melones Dam HQ weather station was used to estimate the average annual precipitation at 27.4 inches, and to calculate the magnitude of the design storm (24-hour 25-year storm event) at 4.24 inches (based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Administration value). Based on the

Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Hazard Rate Map #06109C1175C, dated 16 April 2009, the facility is not located within the 100-year flood plain.

COMPOSTING OPERATIONS

According to the Technical Report, Triple J Farms complies with allowable feedstock and setback requirements. The facility currently utilizes open windrow composting with a current capacity of 4,000 cubic yards of compost at any given time, with a maximum capacity of 8,000 cubic yards of material (feedstock and additives). The two types of feedstock used at the facility are poultry feathers and ground wood from fire abatement activities. Additives used at the facility include poultry manure and microbial inoculant, which combined make up less than 10% of total volume of feedstocks for any given batch of compost. Feedstock is offloaded, processed, and arranged into windrows in the active composting areas where it resides for approximately ten weeks. During active composting the windrows are periodically turned and moisture is added as necessary. Cured compost is screened and residues are removed using a trommel screen. Residues are reincorporated into active compost and cured compost is stored until it is transported from the facility. No amendments are used at the facility.

The facility operational pad consists of compacted soil that is sloped at an average of three percent to a central conveyance that drains towards the detention pond, see Attachment A. Soil percolation tests show that saturated soil infiltration rates of the operational pad were between 96 and 714 minutes per inch, averaging 370 minutes per inch. Based on soil percolation test results the estimated average hydraulic conductivity of the operational pad is 5×10^{-6} cm/second, which exceeds the General Order requirement for working surfaces.

Composting operations include a small pre-treatment sedimentation basin and a detention pond that were designed and constructed to operate as a compost wastewater and stormwater pond. All compost wastewater drains towards the central portion of the operational pad and is conveyed to the 0.38 acre-foot sedimentation basin, located just north of the detention pond. Coarse suspended solids settle out and wastewater is then filtered through a porous rock dam into the 15.8 acre-foot detention pond. The detention pond stores the compost wastewater where it evaporates or is pumped for reuse as composting process water. During the dry season approximately 60,000 gallons of water are used per day for composting operations. During wet season days without rain, approximately 30,000 gallons of water are used per day for composting operations. During rain events, no water is pumped from the detention pond and gas permeable windrow covers are placed over the windrows to prevent over-saturation and leachate runoff. The sedimentation basin and detention pond must be maintained as described in the facility's water and wastewater management plan in order to prevent conditions contributing to, causing, or threatening to cause contamination, pollution, or nuisance. According to the water balance calculation submitted in the Technical Report, the detention pond has sufficient capacity to meet the requirements of the General Order to contain all runoff and direct precipitation from a 25 year, 24 hour storm event.

Run-on from adjacent areas is diverted around the operational area by berms that have been constructed around the facility. Calculations provided in Appendix C of the Technical Report dictate the minimum necessary heights of the berms along the western, southern, and eastern property boundaries that are required to divert runoff from the 25 year, 24 hour storm event flowrate. The Discharger must maintain all berms in order to control and manage all run-on, runoff, and precipitation which falls onto or within the boundaries of the facility as shown in Attachment A.

The Discharger must submit a technical report with design information at least 90 days prior to new construction of working surfaces, detention ponds, berms, ditches, or any other water quality protection containment structure for approval by the Central Valley Water Board. The design information must include water balance calculations for detention ponds, design of wastewater conveyance features, liner materials and thicknesses, and rationale for liner system design. The technical report must ensure testing and quality assurance of liner materials and compacted soils in accordance with commonly accepted engineering practices, American Society for Testing and Materials test methods, and/or other appropriate material standards. The Discharger must submit a post-construction report to the Central Valley Water Board within 60 days of completing all construction activities associated with all applicable containment and monitoring structures, as required for compliance with this General Order and the MRP.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Triple J Farms will regularly inspect and maintain all containment, control, monitoring structures, and monitoring systems pursuant to the submitted ROWD and the Attachment B of General Order Monitoring and Reporting requirements. The frequency of inspections will be sufficient to prevent discharges of feedstocks, additives, amendments, compost (active, curing, or final product), or wastewater from creating, threatening to create, or contributing to conditions of contamination, pollution, or nuisance.

Triple J Farms will conduct a monitoring program as prescribed in the Attachment B of General Order Monitoring and Reporting requirements. Applicable sections include:

- A.1. (Facility Inspections);
- A.2. (Detention Pond Monitoring);
- A.5. (General Sampling Requirements);
- B (Reporting Requirements); and
- C (Record-Keeping Requirements).

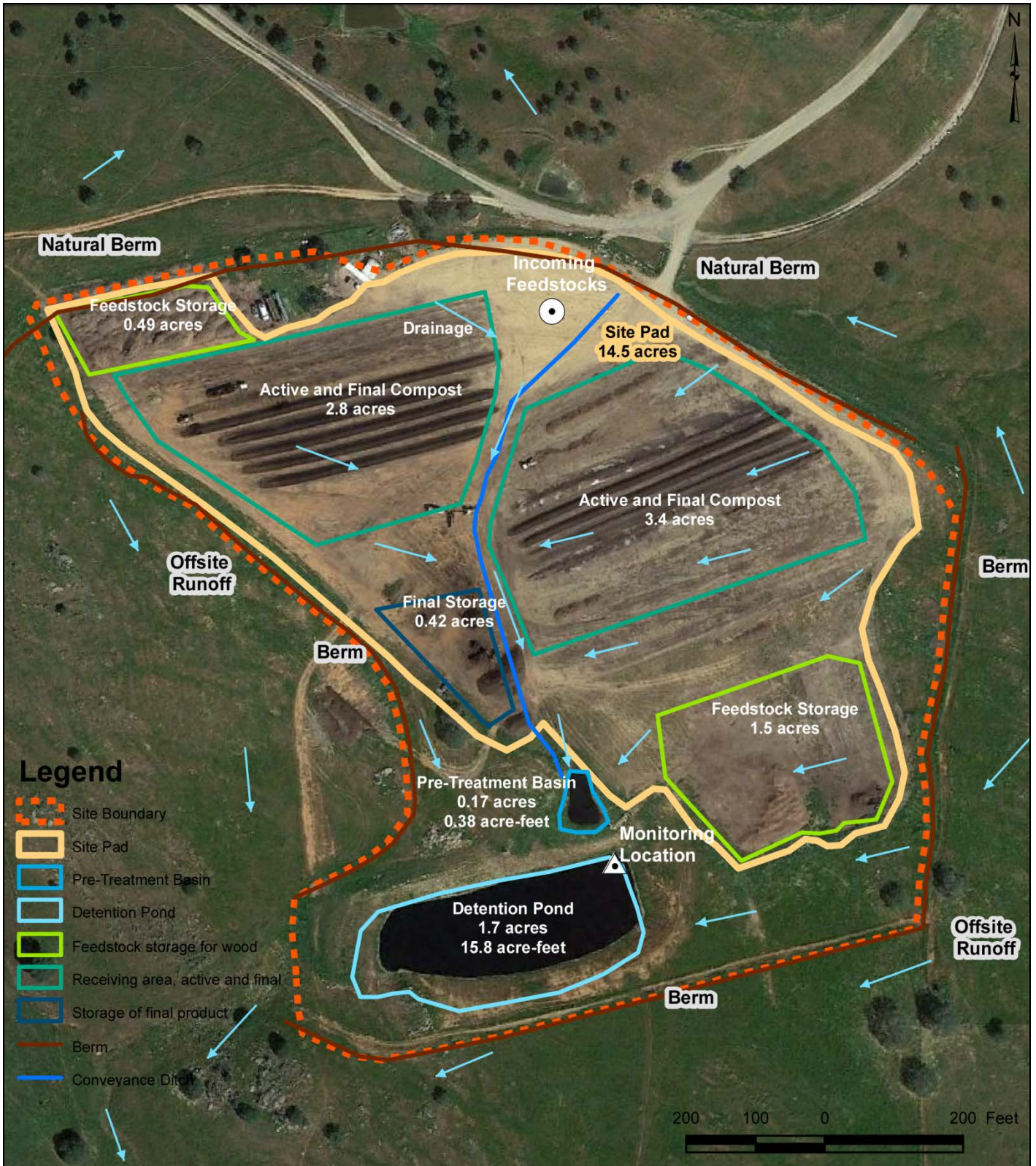
Results of monitoring will be reported annually in the Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report which will be submitted by **1 April** of each year as long as the Notice of Applicability is in effect.

SITE CLOSURE

At least 90 days prior to ceasing composting operations, Triple J Farms shall submit a Site Closure Plan to the Central Valley Water Board for approval. The site restoration shall include work necessary to protect public health, safety, and the environment.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on staff review of Triple J Farm's NOI, Technical Report, and supporting documents, Triple J Farms meets the minimum requirements of the General Order. The Notice of Applicability can be issued and stay in effect as long as the Discharger implements all operations in a manner that complies with the requirements of the General Order.



Drawing Reference:
 Triple J Farms
 Technical Report for Composting Operations
 November 2016
 Figure 1 – Site Map

SITE MAP
 Triple J Farms
 Triple J Farms Composting Facility
 Tuolumne County