

INFORMATION SHEET

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS SALAD COSMO U.S.A. CORPORATION DIXON SPROUT FACILITY SOLANO COUNTY

Salad Cosmo U.S.A. Corporation (“Discharger”) owns and operates a seed sprouting and packaging facility (“Facility”) and a land application area (LAA) located at 5944 Dixon Avenue West in Dixon. The previous WDRs allow a monthly average flow of process wastewater up to 280,000 gallons per day (gpd). The Discharger proposes to expand the Facility, which will increase flows 408,000 gpd of process wastewater at full build-out. The Discharger also proposes to add an additional wastewater storage pond to accommodate the expansion.

The Facility has been in operation since 1998, and produces sprouts that are marketed for restaurant use and retail sale through grocery stores. The existing Facility includes a 54,000 square-foot process building for sprouting and packaging, a 7-acre wastewater storage pond, and an associated LAA. The Facility comprises three parcels totaling 232 acres. The process buildings and wastewater storage ponds are located on Parcel 2. The remaining area of Parcel 2, and 22 acres of Parcel 3, contains the LAA, which is used to grow crops irrigated with wastewater. Parcel 1 and the remaining area of Parcel 3 are also used to grow crops, but these areas are irrigated with Solano Irrigation District water, not wastewater.

The Facility is in operation 24 hours per day year round, including weekends, and the types of seeds being sprouted depend on market demand. The Facility obtains its source water from an onsite metered groundwater well. Source water is used for seed rinsing and washing and for equipment wash down. The Discharger states that wastewater flows are closely approximated by the source water meter readings, since consumptive use is negligible.

Sodium hypochlorite is added to the source water to create a 1.5 parts per million sodium hypochlorite solution, which is used for watering the sprouts and washing down the Facility. Approximately, 120 gallons or 2 percent calcium hypochlorite solution is used to soak the seeds prior to sprouting. After soaking, the seeds are rinsed with source water. No nutrients are added to the source water. Process wastewater is screened and discharged in to a seven acre wastewater storage pond prior to being irrigated on the LAA. Green waste produced at the Facility primarily includes collected screenings and discarded batches of sprouts not meant for human consumption. Green waste is temporarily stored in an area north of the wastewater storage pond. An area northwest of wastewater storage pond is designated for land application of the green waste.

Planned Changes in the Facility and Discharge

The Discharger plans to expand the sprouting operations within the existing facility footprint. The Discharger will construct a new 59,000 square-foot processing building which will allow modernization of the sprouting operations. The existing processing building will be used for storage and supplemental processing.

Expected monthly average daily flows will increase to 404,000 gpd and the green waste production will increase commensurately to an expected 1,000 pounds per day. The character of the wastewater is not expected to change.

To accommodate the additional flow, the Discharger will excavate an additional wastewater storage pond. The new wastewater storage pond will be approximately 3.5 acres, 6 feet deep, and located adjacent to the existing 7.0-acre pond.

Land Application Area

The Discharger owns and grows crops on 164 acres, of which 72 acres are LAA fields irrigated with wastewater from the wastewater storage ponds. Wastewater runoff is maintained onsite and flows by gravity to the tailwater collection system and is returned to the wastewater storage ponds. The Discharger plans to incorporate sprinkler irrigation to provide more control of irrigation water and to reduce tailwater return to the wastewater storage ponds.

The LAA fields have primarily been used to grow alfalfa. The Discharger plans to include additional crops such as radishes, sunflowers, pumpkins, wheat, sudan grass, rye grass, corn, tomatoes, milo, or rice. Storm water runoff is collected by the tailwater collection system and is allowed to flow offsite by opening control gates in the tailwater return ditches. The valves are opened to discharge storm water runoff to McCune Creek.

Groundwater Considerations

The Discharger has not completed a site-specific groundwater evaluation to determine background groundwater quality and potential impacts from the discharge. As stated in WDR Order R5-2003-0159, shallow groundwater may be present approximately 20 to 35 feet below the ground surface.

Basin Plan, Beneficial Uses, and Regulatory Considerations

Local drainage is to McCune Creek, which is a tributary to Sweany Creek and the Yolo Bypass. The beneficial uses of the Yolo Bypass, as stated in the Basin Plan, are municipal and domestic supply; agricultural supply; water contact recreation; non-contact water recreation; warm freshwater habitat; cold freshwater habitat; wildlife habitat; and spawning, reproduction, and/or early development.

The beneficial uses of underlying groundwater as set forth in the Basin Plan are municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply, industrial service supply, and industrial process supply.

Antidegradation Analysis

The Discharger has not monitored groundwater quality at the site and was not required to monitor groundwater under the previous WDRs. Therefore, ambient and pre-1968

groundwater quality for this Facility are both unknown. However, because groundwater is relatively shallow and surrounding land uses are primarily irrigated agriculture, it is likely that shallow groundwater in the area is degraded due to evapoconcentration of salts and, possibly, due to percolation of excess nitrate from chemical fertilizers.

Current wastewater monitoring data indicates the quality of the discharge does not threaten to significantly degrade groundwater. Therefore, it is not necessary to require groundwater monitoring at this time.

Discharge Prohibitions, Specifications, and Provisions

Effective immediately, wastewater flows shall not exceed a monthly average flow limit of 265,000 gallons per day. Effective on the date of Executive Officer approves a construction completion report for the 3.5-acre pond, wastewater flows shall not exceed a monthly average flow limit of 404,000 gallons per day.

This Order contains a total nitrogen mass loading limit to the LAA and sets groundwater limits that will ensure compliance with the Basin Plan. This Order also sets specifications for waste disposal and land application.

The Provisions require the submittal of a construction completion report that describes the new processing building and new 3.5-acre wastewater storage pond.

The Monitoring and Reporting Program is designed to verify compliance with effluent limitations and operational requirements of the WDRs.