

ITEM: 31

SUBJECT: Uncontested Waste Discharge Requirements and Cease and Desist Orders

REPORT: Following are the proposed waste discharge requirements that prohibit discharge to surface waters. All agencies and the dischargers concur or have offered no comments. Items indicated as updates on the summary agenda make the requirements consistent with current plans and policies of the Board.

a	<p>CALIFORNIA NUGGETS, INC. AND GOLDEN GATE NUT COMPANY process approximately 1,700 tons of corn and up to 1,500 tons of almonds per year. The facilities are in operation and have been discharging process wastewater to land without regulation under WDRs since approximately 2002. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge in 2005. However, the RWD did not contain enough information to develop WDRs. Cleanup and Abatement Order R5-2007-0715 was issued by the Executive Officer on 14 June 2007 to compel the Discharger to make improvements to the wastewater management system to better protect groundwater quality and provide sufficient information to complete the RWD. The Discharger did not comply with the Cleanup and Abatement Order.</p> <p>The food processing wastewater is screened and passed through a solids separator and an oil/water separator before being directed into a lined wastewater storage pond. Rudimentary standpipe aerators are used to circulate and aerate the wastewater. Effluent from the storage pond is filtered prior to being discharged to a 5.2-acre land application area by spray irrigation. Over application of wastewater has forced percolation of the excess nitrogen, salts, dissolved organic matter, and metals to shallow ground water. The discharge has caused TDS, dissolved manganese and iron in shallow groundwater to exceed the water quality objectives.</p> <p>The Discharger has not implemented best practicable treatment or control and cannot immediately comply with Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives. A companion Cease and Desist Order sets forth a scope and schedule of work that will ensure that the discharges will come into compliance with applicable state and regional policies.</p> <p><i>Consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements and Cease and Desist Order</i></p>
b	<p>THE COUNTY OF FRESNO OPERATES AND CHEVRON USA, INC., (A DELAWARE CORPORATION) (LANDOWNER) owns the Coalinga Solid Waste Disposal Site (facility), about two miles south of Coalinga. The facility is regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 5-00-233. The City of Coalinga leased the site from Chevron USA and began landfill operations from 1961 until 1969. In 1969, the County of Fresno took over operations until the landfill ceased accepting waste on 10 November 2009. The existing landfill consists of two unlined landfills, the northern unit covers approximately 14 acres, and the southern unit covers approximately 38 acres.</p> <p>The facility is located along the eastern edge of the Coast Ranges adjacent to the southern San Joaquin Valley and on the northeast flank of a northwest plunging anticline. The Tulare and San Joaquin Formations are exposed at the site. The Plio-Pleistocene Tulare Formation is exposed in the northern half of the site and consists generally of stream deposited, crossbedded silty sandstone and conglomerate. Some thin-bedded sandstone, clays, and limestones representing lake deposits are also present in this formation. The base of the</p>

	<p>Tulare Formation consists of diatomaceous white silty clay located just above a pelecypod deposit containing <i>Mya</i> species. The underlying Pliocene age San Joaquin Formation is exposed in the southern half of the site and consists of marine deposited, fine-grained silty sandstone, silt, and clay. The base of the San Joaquin Formation is comprised of the Cascajo Conglomerate layer, which is blue colored conglomerate and sandstone averaging about 50 feet in thickness. The formations dip approximately 17 degrees to the north.</p> <p>Based upon the most recent monitoring report (1st Semiannual 2013), the first encountered groundwater ranges from about 146 feet to 206 feet below the native ground surface. Groundwater elevations range from about 514 feet MSL to 689 feet MSL. The direction of groundwater flow is generally toward the northeast. The estimated average groundwater gradient is approximately 0.044 feet per foot. The estimated average groundwater flow rate is 30.3 feet per year. The detection monitoring system has been operating at the facility since 1990; to date no releases from the Units has been detected. Volatile Organic Compounds are detected at low concentrations on a sporadic basis. EC, Sulfate, and Total Dissolved Solids have exceeded the secondary MDL in the past.</p> <p>The Discharger submitted a report titled Design of Evapotranspirative Final (ET) Cover in December 2011. Central Valley Water Board staff, in a letter dated 11 July 2012, concurred with the Dischargers ET final cover design proposal. The proposed final cover consists of an ET cover, which is an engineered alternative. In an ET cover design, the low-hydraulic conductivity layer is replaced by a vegetated soil layer that is engineered and constructed to absorb moisture during precipitation events and expel moisture by evaporation and transpiration before it flows through the base of the cover. The proposed ET final cover consists of a 3.5-foot thick evapotranspirative cover and vegetative layer that incorporates the existing 1.8-foot thick interim soil cover. The Discharge submitted a Final Closure/Post-Closure Maintenance Plan in January 2013, Staff found the Final Closure/Post-Closure Maintenance Plan complete and adequate in a letter dated 18 October 2013.</p> <p><i>Consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements</i></p>
c	<p>HUGHSON NUT, INC., VERDUGA ROAD ALMOND PROCESSING FACILITY, STANISLAUS COUNTY</p> <p>The facility receives hulled and shelled raw almonds and sorts them by variety, size, and quality. Sorted almonds are transferred for either dry processing or blanching to remove the skin. The blanching process generates wastewater from prewashing, blanching, and rinsing the almonds, facility cleaning, and boiler blowdown. Wastewater is screened and then discharged to a 0.01 acre concrete aeration pond followed by a 0.5 acre unlined pond for settling and storage prior to being land applied on a 55 acre almond orchard.</p> <p><i>Consideration of New Waste Discharge Requirements</i></p>

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed waste discharge requirements.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

March 28, 2014

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting

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