

Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region

Response to Written Comments for
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements
for
Menefee River Ranch & Synagro West, LLC
for
Modifying Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2003-0180
El Nido Composting Facility, Merced County

This document contains the responses to written comments received from interested parties regarding the proposed tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for modifying Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2003-0180 for Menefee River Ranch & Synagro West, LLC for the El Nido Composting Facility. The Tentative WDRs, R5-2021-XXXX, were updated to modify the existing WDRs to allow for the on-site storage of biosolids. Currently, WDRs Order R5-2003-0180 regulate the facility and would remain intact and applicable in all other aspects.

The Tentative WDRs were circulated on 19 February 2021 for public comment, ending on 19 March 2021. A total of one letter/email was received and these comments are addressed below.

Comments submitted during the comment period were received from the following:

- A. Simranpreet Kaur, Synagro West, LLC, 24 February 2021

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

The comments incorporate proposed language to be added in underlined font and proposed deletions in strikethrough font.

Comment A.1:

Finding 6 should be revised as follows:

The Dischargers submitted an Amended Report of Waste Discharge, dated 9 November 2020, to allow for the onsite, interim storage of up to 10,000 wet tons at any one time of Class A and/or Class B biosolids between January 1 and June 30 annually. Stored biosolids would be removed from the facility and applied to already permitted land application areas in accordance with the *General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Biosolids to Land for Use as a Soil Amendment in Agricultural, Silvicultural, Horticultural, and Land Reclamation Activities* (State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2004–0012–DWQ).

Response A.1:

The recommended revision will be made.

Comment A.2:

This Order modifies Order No. R5-2003-0180 as a result of a minor modification to the facility's Conditional Use Permit CUP01-007 issued by Merced County on 26 January 2021, to include the seasonal storage of an additional 10,000 wet tons at any one time of Class A and B bio-solids awaiting agricultural use. Order No. R5-2003-0180 remains intact and applicable in all other aspects.

Response A.2:

The recommended revision will be made.

Comment A.3:

Discharge Specifications B.2 is modified as follows: The discharge shall remain within the designated disposal area at all times. Up to 10,000 wet tons of ~~stored~~-biosolids may be stored at any one time and may be removed from the facility and discharged in land application areas that are enrolled under State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2004-0012-DWQ.

Response A.3:

The recommended revision will be made.