

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING MARCH 20-21, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 22

SUBJECT: Low Threat and General Discharge Cases

DISCUSSION

Low Threat and General Discharge Cases

General WDRs for Discharges of Winery Waste

**Niner Wine Estates, San Luis Obispo County, [Tom Kukol 805/549-3689]**

Water Board staff enrolled Niner Wine Estates under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Winery Waste on January 23, 2008.

Niner Wine Estates's waste discharge is described as follows:

- Two facilities, a boutique winery and a production winery, will share a winery wastewater processing system.
- The facilities are located on Anderson Road in Paso Robles (San Luis Obispo County Assessor's Parcel Nos. 040-111-028 and 040-051-005).
- The boutique and production wineries will crush approximately 650 tons of grapes annually to produce a total of 50,000 cases of wine. During the crush season, average winery process wastewater flows are approximately 2,500 and maximum flows are approximately 3,320 gallons per day.
- Production wastewater receives screening, solids separation, pH adjustment, facultative pond treatment, and constructed wetlands treatment prior to blending with vineyard irrigation water.
- Domestic wastewater is discharged to a separate treatment system.

Enrollment under the General WDRs requires Niner Wine Estates to comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R3-2002-0084. Water Board staff may begin regular inspections of Niner Wine Estates this fall to ensure continued compliance with the General WDRs.

**General WDR for Fruit and Vegetable Processing Waste****Classic Salads LLC, Watsonville, Monterey County [Cecile DeMartini 805/542-4782]**

Classic Salads LLC (hereafter "Discharger") owns and operates the Classic Salads mixed leafy greens and spinach processing facility at 100 Harrington Road, Salinas, California.

The Discharger's facility has not been regulated by the Central Coast Water Board. On May 10, 2007, the Discharger submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) requesting enrollment into the Central Coast Region General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Fruit and Vegetable Processing Waste Order No. R3-2004-0066 (General Order). Process wastewater treatment consists of screening and settling within an underground tank. Final disposal of the process wastewater is by spray disposal onto approximately 10 acres of grass (non-fodder, non-food). Before enrollment into the General Order, the Discharger was unaware of their requirement to obtain Waste Discharge Requirements from the Water Board and illegally discharged their wastewater to surface impoundments and surface waters. Water Board staff modified Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R3-2004-0066 to specifically address the expected discharge.

The Discharger has agreed to comply with the terms of the General Permit, and will implement mitigation measures to avoid or reduce its potential significant impacts wherever possible. Water Board staff notified the Discharger of their enrollment into the General Permit on February 19, 2008.

**Waiver of WDRs****City of San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo County (Diane Kukol 805/543-4455)**

Water Board staff will enroll the City of San Luis Obispo under the General Waiver Resolution No. R3-2002-0115 (Waiver) by March 18, 2008. The City plans to discharge treated groundwater to land. Groundwater containing petroleum hydrocarbon compounds will be encountered as the City excavates trenches for installation of a new gravity sewer line along a portion of Tank Farm Road that bisects the Chevron (formerly Unocal) San Luis Obispo Tank Farm. Enrollment under this Waiver is somewhat unusual in that the City is responsible for complying with all appropriate requirements for the sewer line installation, and is, therefore, the enrollee. However, Chevron is the responsible party for the petroleum hydrocarbon waste along its property and will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the groundwater treatment system to remove petroleum hydrocarbon wastes. Chevron will allow the City to discharge the treated groundwater onto a specific portion of the Tank Farm property. In addition to the sewer line that will bisect the Tank Farm, the City will install the gravity sewer line along a section of Tank Farm Road that does not cross or bound the Chevron Tank Farm. The City is pursuing permitting requirements to address trench dewatering along this area with appropriate regulatory agencies. Our enrollment of the City in this Waiver applies only to treatment of groundwater encountered along the Chevron Tank Farm property.

Based on several years of environmental investigations at the Tank Farm, the Central Coast Water Board and City staff expect the City's construction contractor to encounter soil and groundwater wastes during trenching for the sewer line's installation. The waste is composed

mainly of crude oil; however, minor amounts of benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and total xylenes (BTEX; localized to a small area beneath the westernmost edge of the sewer line's proposed location along Tank Farm Road) will also be encountered in groundwater extracted from the sewer trench.

The City will be responsible for trench dewatering during the sewer installation. As an approximately 20-foot section of trench is excavated, the City will pump the untreated water into two or more 21,000-gallon portable storage tanks connected in parallel. The water will then be transferred to an oil-water separator, where any free petroleum product will be decanted into a 500-gallon poly tank and eventually shipped to the Chevron production facility in San Ardo. The City will then pump the water through two bag filters to remove sediment, and then through two 2,000-pound, liquid-phase, granular activated carbon canisters connected in series. Carbon-treated water will then be transferred to a clean storage tank, where it will remain until Chevron receives analytical verification of adequate treatment. The City is responsible for pumping the treated groundwater to the discharge location (an approximately 15-acre depression resulting from the presence of a former crude oil holding tank) on the northeast portion of the Chevron Tank Farm. Based on investigations performed by Chevron, the discharge area itself contains crude oil waste in the soil, as well as liquid crude oil measured in some monitoring wells within and downgradient of the former holding tank depression. There are no petroleum hydrocarbon constituents dissolved into groundwater in this area. This discharge area is one of the Tank Farm areas Chevron has proposed for scheduled surface cleanup and preparation for light industrial-type development within approximately the next five years.

The discharge area complies with all requirements for enrollment in the Waiver except for the requirement which states, "*The discharge area shall not be within . . . 100 feet of a stream, body of water, or wetland, unless waived by the Water Board's Executive Officer.*" As part of the site investigation directed by multiple agencies over the past six years, Chevron delineated federal- and state-designated wetlands. This delineation indicates six small wetlands (0.52 acre total) are present along the western and southern boundaries of the discharge area, and one small wetland (0.023 acre) is present in roughly the center. The Central Coast Water Board believes its enrollment of the City in the Waiver is still compliant with water quality protection for the following reasons:

1. The City will have sandbags and plastic sheeting available to prevent treated discharge water running off into federal jurisdictional wetlands.
2. The City will discharge treated water to its existing sanitary sewer as a secondary discharge location if sandbags and plastic sheeting are insufficiently protective of the wetlands.
3. With support from several agencies (including the Central Coast Water Board), Chevron proposed excavation of surface petroleum hydrocarbon occurrences along the western and southern boundaries of the discharge area. In addition, Chevron proposed regrading and capping the entire discharge area to support future structures. Provided that these proposals are approved through the California Environmental Quality Act process within the next five years, the wetlands described above will be removed via construction activities and mitigated at least at a 1:1 ratio elsewhere on the Tank Farm property.

As a condition of enrollment in the Waiver, Central Coast Water Board staff requires the City to report discharge rate and volume, as well as post-treatment laboratory analysis for chemicals of

concern to us on a weekly basis for the first two weeks of groundwater treatment, then reducing that frequency to no more than quarterly thereafter. The City will automatically be enrolled in a renewed General Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Types of Discharges upon its anticipated approval at the May 2008 Board meeting. The Waiver enrollment expires on May 9, 2013.