

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

24 August 2018

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### **REVISED NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY**

#### **GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISCHARGE OF BIOSOLIDS TO LAND, MCCORMACK FARMS (SO-21), SOLANO COUNTY**

On 6 June 2018, Synagro West, LLC submitted a request to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) to reduce the available biosolids land application area at the McCormack Farm in Solano County. Additional information including field acreage and new field maps were submitted on 20 July 2018. The Central Valley Water Board regulates the application of biosolids to designated fields at the McCormack Farms property under State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Water Quality Order No. 2004-0012-DWQ-0004, 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 (General Order). Synagro West, LLC and Duncan McCormack (hereafter, jointly referred to as "Discharger") is the operator and land owner, respectively and responsible for compliance with the General Order.

Two agricultural wells were discovered in Fields SO 21-2 and SO 21-6 during the biosolids application activity that began in April 2018. Solano County requires that a 500-foot buffer zone be maintained around any type of water supply well. The discovery of the agricultural wells and compliance with the County's buffer requirement will result in less acreage in Fields SO 21-2, SO 21-3, SO 21-4, SO 21-5 and SO 21-6 for biosolids application. In addition, the previous applied net acreage of Field SO 21-6 was changed from 85 to 133 acres, which was inaccurately stated in the 20 December 2017 NOA. A summary of the new applied net acreage is shown in the table below for the affected fields.

Site ID	Section	Township	Range	Gross Acreage	Previous Applied Net Acreage	New Applied Net Acreage
SO 21-2	32	5N	2E	160	140	129
SO 21-3	31	5N	2E	159	113	110
SO 21-4	31	5N	2E	159	121	116
SO 21-5	4	4N	2E	155	111	83
SO 21-6	4	4N	2E	160	133	120

**REGULATORY BACKGROUND**

On 19 April 2005, a Notice of Applicability (NOA) for coverage under the General Order was issued to regulate the discharge of biosolids to six designated fields (SO 21-7, SO 21-8, SO 21-9, SO 21-12, SO 21-17, and SO 21-18) with the restriction that biosolids be applied every third year. On 24 September 2009, revised NOA 2004-0012-DWQ-0004 was issued to remove the application restriction of every third year. More recently, on 20 December 2017, NOA 2004-0012-DWQ-0004 was revised to include five additional biosolids application fields (SO 21 2, SO 21-3, SO 21-4, SO 21-5, and SO 21-6).

Based on the information submitted in your request, Central Valley Water Board staff concurs that the fields meet the required conditions for approval under the General Order. Therefore, NOA 2004-0012-DWQ-0004 is hereby revised based on the information provided by the Discharger in June 2018. Attachment A was revised to show the location of the agricultural wells and well buffer zones at Fields SO 21-2, SO 21-3, SO 21-4, SO 21-5 and SO 21-6. No changes were made to the Monitoring and Reporting Program. This NOA serves as formal notice that the General Order is applicable to the sites and discharge described below.

A copy of the General Order is enclosed for the Discharger; it may also be viewed at the following web address:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0012.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0012.pdf).

You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire General Order. The discharge must be managed in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order, the information submitted in the NOI, and the requirements contained in this NOA.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Discharger’s land application site is located in the southeastern portion of Solano County about 2 miles northwest of Rio Vista’s city boundary as shown in Attachment A, which is attached hereto and made part of this NOA by reference. Attachment A contains twelve pages including a map of the entire land application site and each individual land application field with applicable biosolids application setbacks. The land application site is owned by Mr. Duncan McCormack and comprises eleven land application fields totaling 1,913 acres. Due to set back buffer zone boundaries and groundwater elevation considerations, this revised NOA only allows biosolid application to 1,439 acres, as shown in the table below and depicted in Attachment A.

Site ID	Section	Township	Range	Gross Acreage	Applied Net Acreage
SO 21-2	32	5N	2E	160	129
SO 21-3	31	5N	2E	159	110
SO 21-4	31	5N	2E	159	116

Site ID	Section	Township	Range	Gross Acreage	Applied Net Acreage
SO 21-5	4	4N	2E	155	83
SO 21-6	4	4N	2E	160	120
SO 21-7	4	4N	2E	160	133
SO 21-8	4	4N	2E	160	108
SO 21-9	4	4N	2E	160	117
SO 21-12	8	4N	2E	160	136
SO 21-17	20	4N	2E	160	125
SO 21-18	20 and 29	4N	2E	320	262
<b>Total</b>				<b>1,913</b>	<b>1,439</b>

The terrain is flat to gently sloping, with slopes of up to four percent on sites SO 21-17 and SO 21-18. The fields consist of pasture grasses used for cattle grazing. The pastures are not irrigated and receive approximately 15 inches of precipitation per year as the sole water source. Site drainage is to an intermittent stream that traverses the site north to south. Site soils are typically well-drained clays of the Altamont series, underlain by siltstone at a depth 25 to 40 inches and exhibit cation exchange capacities ranging from 15 to 30 meq/100g. Soil pH values are typically less than 6.3, indicating a moderate potential for heavy metal mobilization.

Biosolids will only be applied between April 15 and October 15 each year and will be incorporated into the soil on the same day of application. Biosolids will be applied in accordance with the Solano County ordinance, which does not allow application during precipitation events. Setbacks that comply with the General Order and Solano County Ordinance will be marked prior to each application. The overall land application site perimeter and on-site drainage/creeks will maintain a setback of at least 33 feet of unmowed grass or similar vegetation. Therefore, storm water retention is not required.

### **GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS**

Three groundwater monitoring wells (MW-1, MW-2, and MW-3) were installed in field site SO 21-7 in April 2002. The wells were sampled once in April 2002 and quarterly sampling began in April 2005.

Groundwater is encountered at about 10 feet below ground surface. Comparison of water quality data for upgradient monitoring well MW-2 to downgradient wells MW-1 and MW-3 indicates that groundwater has not been degraded as a result of biosolids application. The groundwater monitoring and resulting data are considered representative of the entire land application site.

### **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

The Discharger must comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R5-2009-0846, which is attached hereto and made part of this NOA by reference. This site-specific MRP replaces the requirements of the MRP contained in the General Order. The MRP is effective immediately, and requires the submittal of monthly monitoring reports. Until your coverage under the General Order is formally terminated, monthly monitoring reports need to be submitted even if there is no biosolid land application during the reporting period. Please reference Order 2004-0012-DWQ-0004 and MRP R5-2009-0846, when submitting your monitoring reports.

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Provision D.1.a of the General Order requires that after the NOA is issued no discharge shall occur until 15 days after submission of the Pre-Application Report. The submittal of a Pre-Application Report prior to discharging under this NOA is not required because:

1. The Discharger submitted a Pre-Application Report with their previous NOI, and
2. The Discharger has been following Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2009-0846.

The Discharger is required to implement its Biosolids Spill Response Plan and Monitoring and Reporting Plan. The Discharger may only apply biosolids in areas as indicated in Attachment A. Discharge of material other than what is described in the application is prohibited.

This revised NOA serves as formal notice that Water Quality Order No. 2004-0012-DWQ is applicable, as described above. If the discharge violates the terms or conditions of the General Order, the Central Valley Water Board may take enforcement action, including assessment of administrative civil liability.

Prior to implementing any discharge changes, a new NOI must be submitted for continued coverage under the General Order. Alternatively, a Report of Waste Discharge may be submitted for coverage under individual Waste Discharge Requirements.

The required annual fee specified in the annual billing from the State Water Board shall be paid until this NOA is officially terminated. Within **60 days** of the time the discharge regulated by this General Order ceases, the Discharger must notify this office in writing using the Notice of Termination form that accompanies the General Order No. 2004-0012-DWQ.

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: [centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov).

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Facility Name: McCormack Farms (SO-21), Solano County		
Program: Non-15 Compliance	Order: 2004-0012-DWQ-0004	CIWQS Place ID: 240015

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
ECM Mailroom  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Now that the NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Kenny Croyle is your point of contact for any questions about compliance with the General Order. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Kenny will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Kenny at (916) 464-4676 or [kenny.croyle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kenny.croyle@waterboards.ca.gov).

  
For PATRICK PULUPA  
Executive Officer

Attachments: Attachment A, Regional, Site and Field Maps  
Attachment B, Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2009-0846

Enc: State Water Board Water Quality Order No. 2004-0012-DWQ

cc w/out enc.: Jeffrey Bell, Solano County Environmental Health Department, Fairfield  
Kim Sellards, CVRWQCB, Rancho Cordova