

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 December 2018

Gary Castro
Slover Bros. Trucking, Inc.
15446 Avenue 288
Visalia, CA 93292

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2015-0121-DWQ GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPOSTING OPERATIONS SLOVER BROS. TRUCKING, INC. - TULARE COUNTY

On 6 August 2018, Slover Bros. Trucking, Inc. (Slover Bros.) submitted a *Notice of Intent* (NOI), filing fee and preliminary technical information for their existing composting facility (facility) located at the intersection of Avenue 248 and Road 148, approximately four miles east of the City of Tulare. These documents were submitted to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2015-0121-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (General Order) for composting operations at the facility. The complete General Order can be accessed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2015/wqo2015_0121_dwq.pdf

This *Notice of Applicability* (NOA) was developed after the review of the NOI and technical report as described in the attached memorandum, which is a part of this NOA. Based on staff's review, the facility meets the conditions of the General Order and is hereby covered under General Order **2015-0121-DWQ-R5F015** as a **Tier II** composting operation. The Discharger must comply with all Tier II requirements of the General Order. The filing fee for the is based on Threat to Water Quality and Complexity rating of 3B. The submitted \$4,699 filing fee covers the first year permitted by this NOA. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the NOA is officially terminated.

To fully comply with this NOA, please be familiar with the contents of the enclosed memorandum and all of the requirements of the General Order. The Discharger is responsible for implementing all operations in a manner that complies with the General Order. Any noncompliance with this General Order constitutes a violation of the Water Code, and is grounds for enforcement action, and/or termination of enrollment under this General Order. Conditions of this Composting General Order include but are not limited to:

1. Submit a Water and Wastewater Management Plan by 1 April 2019.

2. Address any hydraulic conductivity and grading deficiencies by 4 August 2022.
3. Install a lined stormwater basin and pan lysimeter meeting the requirements of the General Order by 4 August 2022.
4. Any expansion of facility operation must meet the requirements of the General Order and receive approval prior to commencement of composting operations.
6. Technical reports must be submitted 90 days prior to each construction activity. While post-construction reports must be submitted 60 days after the completion of each construction activity.
7. A revised NOI is required at least 90 days prior to:
 - o adding a new feedstock, additive, or amendment;
 - o changing material or construction specifications;
 - o changing a monitoring program; or
 - o changing an operation or activity not described in the approved NOI and technical report.

Attachment B of the General Order includes specific monitoring and reporting requirements, including routine monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board. The first year Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report as identified in the General Order must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **1 April 2019**, and then annually by 1 April each year. All reports and other correspondence must be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB are to be emailed to: centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50 MB or larger are to be transferred to a portable data storage device and mailed to this office at the address provided on the cover page.

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 for this office:

Discharger Name:	Slover Bros. Trucking, Inc.
Facility Name:	Slover Bros. Trucking, Inc. Composting Facility
County:	Tulare County
CIWQS Place ID:	854725

If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Gomes at (559) 445-5108 or kristen.gomes@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Clay L. Rodgers for

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Memorandum

cc: Brianna St. Pierre, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento; Kyle Parreira <kylep@4-creeks.com>

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Scott J. Hatton
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

Clay L. Rodgers
Assistant Executive Officer

FROM: Kristen S. Gomes
Water Resource Control Engineer
PE No. 79025

DATE: 28 December 2018

APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD WATER QUALITY ORDER 2015-0121-DWQ - SLOVER BROS. TRUCKING, INC. - TULARE COUNTY

REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE

On 6 August 2018, Slover Bros. Trucking, Inc. (Slower Bros.) submitted a *Notice of Intent* (NOI), filling fee and preliminary technical information for their existing composting facility (facility) located at the intersection of Avenue 248 and Road 148, approximately four miles east of the City of Tulare. These documents were submitted to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2015-0121-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (General Order) for composting operations at the facility. A *Notice of Applicability* (NOA) could not be issued the time of the NOI submittal since Slover Bros. had not received the necessary county permits. However, the Tulare County Planning Commission recently approved Special Use Permit No. PSP 18-074 on 28 November 2018 for composting operations at the facility.

SITE CONDITIONS

The facility is located at 14792 Avenue 248 in an unincorporated part of Tulare County. The facility operates on approximately 15 acres of land that are spread over three separate parcels with the following Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN): 152-190-002, 152-150-011, and 152-150-012. Slover Bros. currently owns APN 152-190-002 where the facility shop and final compost storage area are currently located. APNs 152-150-011 and 152-150-012 are currently leased and the receiving, processing, and composting of material occurs on these parcels. However, Slover Bros. is in the process of purchasing these properties and a pending Lot Line Adjustment is under review by Tulare County to create a new parcel covering the current operations area along with additional acreage for future composting operations.

Based on information provided by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), depth to groundwater in the area is approximately 120 feet below ground surface and the groundwater flow direction in the vicinity of the facility is to the southwest.

Data from the Hanford and Visalia stations were used to determine the average (8.82 inches), minimum (3.38 inches), and maximum (18.40 inches) annual precipitation. The average annual pan evaporation ranged between 65 inches (Bakersfield station) and 68 inches (Fresno station). The magnitude of the 24-hour 25-year design storm was estimated to be 2.77 inches based on the data provided from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Administration. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Floodplain Community Panel No. 06107C1300E, the facility is not located in a Zone A area but does have a Zone X designation. Zone X represents areas of 0.2% annual chance flood; areas of one percent annual chance flood with average depths of less than one foot or with drainage areas less than one square mile; and areas protected by levees from a one percent chance flood. No Base Flood Elevations or depths are shown within this zone and insurance purchase is not required in this zone. In accordance with the General Order, since the facility is not located within an area with a Zone A designation, flood protection is not required.

Land uses within one mile of the facility include agricultural farmland, a dairy, and a feedlot facility. Water is supplied to the facility by two on-site agricultural wells, both of which are located in the southwestern portion of the site. The closest surface water body is a private canal which runs approximately 360 feet west of the composting operations area. The current facility grading diverts surface runoff away from the canal into an existing drainage channel. In accordance with the General Order, composting operations are not within 100 feet of any wells or surface water body.

Geologic maps, soil and groundwater data, and cross sections provided by DWR and the United States Geological Survey were used to analyze the site's lithology and structural features. Soils at the Site are classified as Nord family fine sandy loams. According to the technical report, Nord soils may resemble the alluvial deposits that they are derived from. Nord soils are characterized as being well drained, moderately permeable, and in Hydrologic Soil Group B. Based on published soil survey information for Nord soils, soils immediately under the operation are expected to have a moderate infiltration rate of 0.15 to 0.30 inches per hour or 5.0×10^{-3} to 2.50×10^{-3} centimeters per second when thoroughly wet. On-Site testing of the in-place hydraulic conductivity of soils immediately under the operation has not yet been performed but is planned.

COMPOSTING OPERATIONS

The facility currently receives up to 210 cubic yards per day of animal manure from nearby dairies. The facility receives and processes a maximum of 75,000 cubic yards per year. Most incoming feedstock arrives at the facility in bulk before it is screened, "to achieve the characteristics required to promote composting." The facility currently utilizes the open windrow composting technique. Windrows are monitored, watered, and turned during the composting process.

Composting operations are on native soil and the working surfaces have some compaction from the daily operation of equipment onsite. The existing drainage and stormwater storage facilities are inadequately sized for the 25-year 24-hour storm event. Slover Bros. proposes to install a lined stormwater basin to meet the requirements of the General Order. Slover Bros. is planning on testing the working surfaces and drainage channels to evaluate the hydraulic conductivity. Any deficiencies in hydraulic conductivity are expected to be brought into compliance by 4 August 2022. A lined stormwater basin and pan lysimeter must be installed by 4 August 2022 to meet the requirements of the General Order.

Slover Bros. is planning future expansion of its composting operations into the orchard located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Road 148 and Avenue 248. As an existing facility, full compliance with the General Order is not required until 4 August 2022. However, all requirements of the General Order must be met prior to any facility expansion.

TIMELINE FOR COMPLIANCE

Full compliance with the General Order must be completed by 4 August 2022 for existing facility operations. Any expansion of facility operation must meet the requirements of the General Order prior to commencement of composting operations in any new area. Slover Bros. proposes a 3.5 year time schedule for compliance with the General Order. Slover Bros. must comply with the following timeline.

Improvement	Completion Date
Correction of Hydraulic Conductivity and Grading Deficiencies	4 August 2022 or prior to any facility expansion
Lined Stormwater Basin and Pan Lysimeter Installation	4 August 2022 or prior to any facility expansion

Slover Bros. must submit a post-construction report to the Central Valley Water Board within 60 days of completing all construction activities associated with all applicable containment and monitoring structures, as required for compliance with this General Order and the MRP.

Additionally, Slover Bros. will have to submit a technical report with design information at least 90 days prior to new construction of working surfaces, detention ponds, berms, ditches, or any other water quality protection containment structure for approval by the Central Valley Water Board. The design information must include water balance calculations for detention ponds and wastewater conveyance features.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Slover Bros. will regularly inspect and maintain all containment, control, monitoring structures, and monitoring systems pursuant to the technical report and Attachment B of the General Order Monitoring and Reporting requirements. The frequency of inspections will be sufficient to prevent discharges of feedstocks, compost (active, curing, or final product), or wastewater from creating, threatening to create, or contributing to conditions of contamination, pollution, or nuisance.

Slover Bros. will conduct a monitoring program as prescribed in the applicable portions of Attachment B of General Order Monitoring and Reporting requirements. Sections that apply are A.1., A.2., and B. Results of monitoring will be reported annually in the Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report, which will be submitted by **1 April** of each year as long as the Notice of Applicability is in effect.

SITE CLOSURE

At least 90 days prior to ceasing composting operations, Slover Bros. is required to submit a Site Closure Plan to the RWQCB for approval. The site restoration shall include work necessary to protect public health, safety, and the environment.

DISCUSSION

The facility was inspected on 26 December 2018. Current and proposed future composting operations are on native surfaces. On-site drainage facilities are unlined and inadequately sized for the 25-year 24-hour storm event. Hydraulic conductivity test results are pending and Slover Bros. intends to meet the hydraulic conductivity and liner system requirements of the General Order.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on review of the technical report, it is anticipated that Slover Bros. can meet the minimum requirements of the General Order. The Notice of Applicability can be issued and stay in effect as long as the Slover Bros. implements all operations in a manner that complies with the requirements of the General Order.

Slover Bros. must comply with the following items:

1. Submit a Water and Wastewater Management Plan by 1 April 2019.
2. Address any hydraulic conductivity and grading deficiencies by 4 August 2022.
3. Install a lined stormwater basin and pan lysimeter meeting the requirements of the General Order by 4 August 2022.
4. Any expansion of facility operation must meet the requirements of the General Order and receive approval prior to commencement of composting operations.
6. Technical reports must be submitted 90 days prior to each construction activity. While post-construction reports must be submitted 60 days after the completion of each construction activity.

