



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region



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8 October 2004

Benjamin Zietman
Amador Foothill Winery
12500 Steiner Road
Plymouth, CA 95669

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY OF RESOLUTION R5-2003-0106, AMADOR FOOTHILL WINERY, AMADOR COUNTY

Regional Board staff has reviewed your 15 September 2004 Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for coverage under Resolution R5-2003-0106, *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Food Processors, Including Wineries, Within the Central Valley Region*. The RWD included a *Notice of Non-Applicability* for compliance with the storm water General Permit and an \$872 filing fee. Our review finds the RWD to be complete.

Resolution No. R5-2003-0106 (a copy of which is enclosed), adopted by the Regional Board on 11 July 2003, is a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements for small food processors including wineries. Based on the information you have submitted, the discharge as described in the RWD satisfies the general and specific conditions of Resolution No. R5-2003-0106 for the projected volume of wastewater to be produced.

Discharge Description

Benjamin Zeitman and Mary K. Quinn own and operate the Amador Foothill Winery at 12500 Steiner Road in Plymouth, Amador County. The facility contains a winery and approximately 19 acres of vineyards. The RWD indicates that approximately 63 tons of grapes were crushed at the facility in 2003 and approximately 77 tons will be crushed in 2004. Prior to August 2003, winery process wastewater was disposed of into a County approved on-site septic tank leachfield system. From September 2003 to present, winery process wastewater has been collected in a 4,350-gallon aboveground storage tank and hauled off-site for disposal. The Discharger proposes to haul some winery process wastewater off-site for disposal (primarily during harvest and crush); the rest will be applied to the vineyards at agronomic rates.

A majority of the grape processing and wine production areas are located under the cover of an enclosed building or roofing, however, some grape processing and wine production is conducted outside. Prior to January 1999, the winery was covered under the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges associated with Industrial Activities. In January 1999, at the request of the Discharger, the SWRCB issued a Notice of Termination (NOT) of the Storm Water General Permit. The NOT was issued since storm water is not discharged from the facility. Stormwater from the winery processing areas located outside are retained on site in a storm water retention pond.

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The RWD indicates that approximately 4,500 to 5,500 cases of wine will be produced annually. The Discharger estimates that approximately 1 gallon of water is used to produce one gallon of wine, resulting in approximately 14,000 gallons of wastewater being produced annually. Winery process wastewater is collected in three floor drains located on the crush pad, lower cellar, and barrel room. The wastewater conveyance lines combine on the north side of the winery, and wastewater flows by gravity to a 4,350 gallon plastic storage tank on the terrace below the winery. During harvest and crush, the storage tank is inspected on a daily basis to determine when the tank needs to be emptied. During non-harvest and crush season, the tank will be inspected monthly. The facility does not contain saline generating equipment, such as water softeners, boilers, or ion exchange units, which would be sources of high strength saline waste.

Wastewater generated during the 2004 harvest and crush will be collected and hauled off-site for disposal (an estimated 5,200 gallons). The balance of approximately 8,800 gallons will be applied to selected areas in the 19 acres of vineyards. Those portions of the vineyard targeted for wastewater application will be at least 200 feet away from a seasonal drainage that is located on the property. At some point in the future, all winery process wastewater may be applied to the vineyard. Before that happens, the wastewater storage tank will be equipped with an aeration device, and aerobic bacteria will be added to reduce BOD. Wastewater will be applied to vineyards with a trailer mounted tank equipped with a manifold to apply wastewater evenly between vine rows.

Solid waste generated during the wine making process includes grape stems, pomace, and wine lees filtration cakes. Approximately 2.3 tons of stems, 7.7 tons of pomace, and one ton of lees filtration cakes are anticipated to be generated annually. Solid waste will not be stored on site, but will be pressed dry and immediately disposed on site. Stems separated before crushing by a destemer-crusher will be thinly spread by the side of the vineyards. The following spring they will be finely shredded by a flail mower resulting in organic rich material that will be thinly spread in the vine rows or land next to the vineyard. Pomace will be removed from the wine press and be immediately spread by an agricultural spreader onto the vineyards. As soon as practicable, the pomace will be incorporated into the soil by turning it in, and a winter lequme cover crop will be planted to aid in the decomposition of the waste and prevent runoff. Pomace applications will be rotated over the years to various vineyards. Lee filtration cakes will be manually placed on land adjacent to the vineyards and will gradually disintegrate into the soils.

Conditional Waiver

Based on the information submitted in the RWD, the discharge as described above satisfies the general and specific conditions of Resolution No. R5-2003-0106 for the current amount of wastewater produced. Therefore, this letter serves as formal notice that Resolution No. R5-2003-0106 is applicable and waste discharge requirements for this facility are waived.

Enclosed is a copy of Resolution No. R5-2003-0106 and the associated monitoring and reporting program. As described therein, an annual report must be submitted by **1 February** of each year.

If the discharge violates the terms or conditions of the waiver, the Regional Board may take enforcement action, including assessment of administrative civil liability. If the method of winery wastewater and solids disposal change from those described in the RWD, you must submit a new RWD. Please note that the waiver will expire on 11 July 2008, at which time you must submit a new RWD with filing fee to renew the waiver, or cease the discharge.

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Amador Foothill Winery

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If your total annual flow exceeds 100,000 gallons per year, the waiver is no longer applicable to your facility and you must submit a new RWD for individual Waste Discharge Requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Kranhold at (916) 464-4689

THOMAS R. PINKOS
Executive Officer

enc: Resolution No. R5-2003-0106

cc: w/o enc Mike Israel, Amador County Environmental Health Department, Jackson