

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION  
81 Higuera Street, Suite 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5427

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. 00-020  
Waste Discharger Identification No. 3 350100002

For

CITY OF HOLLISTER  
INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
Hollister, San Benito County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, (hereafter Board), finds:

1. The City of Hollister (hereafter "Discharger") owns and operates an industrial wastewater treatment and disposal plant (hereafter "Industrial Plant") at the west end of South Street in the City of Hollister, located in Section 33, T12S/R5E, MD B&M, as shown on Attachments 'A' and 'B' of this Order. Industrial flows consist of seasonal cannery wastewater and storm water discharges from one tomato processing facility.
2. Prior Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 90-90 regulated seasonal cannery wastewater discharges to the Industrial Plant. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) in November 1998 to support a request for both:
  - a. Year-round operation of the Industrial Plant; and,
  - b. Diversion of domestic wastewater to the Industrial Plant.
3. The Industrial Plant consists of
  - a. Wastewater/storm water collection system
  - b. Influent headworks (Coarse screen, Parshall monitoring flume, diverting baffles, and grates. A grinder or automatic screening device will be installed to address floatables in domestic wastewater.)
  - c. Two standby primary sedimentation basins
  - d. Two aeration ponds
  - e. Four disposal percolation ponds
  - f. Standby sludge drying pond
  - g. Control building
  - h. Pump station and 25 floating surface aerators

The Discharger also has two large portable generators that can be utilized to power essential operations at the Industrial Plant in the event of a power failure.

In order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Discharger prepared an Initial Study and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the diversion of domestic wastewater to the Industrial Plant. The Hollister City Council certified the EIR on January 3, 2000.

4. The Industrial Plant was designed to treat and dispose of cannery wastewater during the canning season. The canning season occurs each year from mid-June through mid-October. Cannery wastewater arrives at the Industrial Plant via the underground industrial sewer-storm drainage systems, located within South Street and Hawkins Street.

5. Storm water flows are collected in the combined sewer system and transported to the Industrial Plant. The Discharger has reviewed historical rainfall data in comparison to influent flow volumes at the Industrial Plant. The Discharger estimates approximately 0.2 million gallons of storm water flow to the Industrial Plant will be produced per inch of rainfall. Instantaneous peak storm water flow from a 100-year storm event is estimated at 6 million gallons per day (MGD). The capacity of the Industrial Plant is sufficient to handle this quantity of flow. Expected storm water flows to the Industrial Plant are expected to be a monthly average of approximately 0.05 MGD, and thus the Discharger does not expect storm water to present a capacity problem at the Industrial Plant.
6. The Discharger's animal shelter is located adjacent to the Industrial Plant. Negligible amounts of washdown waters, animal wastes, and a small amount of domestic sewage generated at the shelter are treated and disposed at the industrial facility.
7. Treatment capacity at the Industrial Plant is estimated to be a monthly average of 6.1 MGD during the canning season. The Industrial Plant's overall capacity, however, is limited by its disposal capacity. Disposal capacity varies depending on the operational mode used.
  - a. Historically, the Discharger operated the disposal beds using long flooding/drying cycles. The disposal beds were flooded during the canning season and allowed to recover during the off-season. That operational mode can provide up to 5.2 MGD of disposal capacity for limited periods of time. However, the disposal beds cannot sustain that disposal rate.
  - b. Sustained disposal capacities of 2.6 MGD can be achieved using relatively short flooding/drying cycles. Short flooding/drying cycles represent a common operational mode for a constant (not seasonal) wastewater loading.
8. Local canning industry wastewater flows have subsided in recent years, leaving the Industrial Plant with additional available treatment and disposal capacity. There is currently only one cannery discharging to the Industrial Plant, as opposed to two canneries prior to 1992. Cannery wastewater flows have dropped from a historic peak of 7.9 MGD in 1989 to a peak of 3.1 MGD in 1997. The expected maximum cannery wastewater flow is 4.0 MGD. Additional capacity becomes available during the canning off-season when there are no significant industrial wastewater flows.
9. The Discharger also operates a domestic wastewater treatment and disposal plant (hereafter "Domestic Plant"), located less than a mile to the west of the Industrial Plant. In recent years the Domestic Plant experienced disposal shortcomings. The Domestic Plant's lack of disposal capacity caused wastewater to accumulate and threatened to overtop into the San Benito River. To address disposal shortcomings, the Discharger implemented the following emergency measures:
  - a. Emergency disposal ponds were constructed at the Domestic Plant;
  - b. Emergency diversions of domestic wastewater to the Industrial Plant have occurred.
10. Wastewater flows to the Domestic Plant are currently 2.5 MGD. Wastewater flows will exceed the Domestic Plant's estimated disposal capacity (2.5 MGD) during 2000. Estimation of when wastewater flows will exceed the Domestic Plant's permitted capacity (2.69 MGD) is dependent upon future development rates. If development rates similar to those in recent years are continued, the permitted capacity will likely be exceeded within one year. If development restrictions are imposed, it may take three to five years to exceed the permitted capacity.
11. Available Industrial Plant capacity can be used to treat and dispose of domestic wastes. Diverting domestic wastes to the Industrial Plant will
  - a. Avert continued emergency conditions at the Domestic Plant; and,

- b. Allow time for the Discharger to develop and implement studies, designs, and other steps needed to address long-term wastewater treatment, disposal, and/or recycling needs.
12. The Regional Board adopted the Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Basin (Basin Plan) on September 8, 1994. The Basin Plan incorporates statewide plans and policies by reference and contains a strategy for protecting beneficial uses of State waters.
13. The facility overlies the Hollister West Sub-basin of the Gilroy-Hollister Groundwater Basin. Present and anticipated beneficial uses of groundwater in the vicinity of the discharge (as designated in the Basin Plan) include municipal and domestic water supply, agricultural water supply, and industrial water supply.
14. The Industrial Plant is underlain by alluvium and stream terrace deposits to a depth of 250 feet. The contiguous ground water level beneath the Industrial Plant fluctuates with the rainfall, water supply, and water usage. In recent years regional ground water elevations have risen due to water importation combined with wet winters. Maximum ground water elevations measured in the Spring of 1998 were within one to three feet beneath the bottom of Pond 6, three to six feet below the bottom of Pond 5, and three to four feet below the bottom of Pond 5A (see Attachment 'A' for pond locations). Ground water is currently about 15 to 25 feet below ground surface.
15. Shallow groundwater quality in the Hollister area is considered marginally acceptable for potable and irrigation use.<sup>1</sup> The water quality parameters of greatest concern are salinity, nitrate, boron, hardness, and trace elements that occasionally exceed secondary drinking water standards. Analyses of groundwater samples collected from the Hollister West Sub-basin in 1997 indicate the following groundwater characteristics:

Constituents	Min.	Ave.	Max.	Units
TDS	410	775	1520	mg/l
NO <sub>3</sub>	2.2	8.7	29.2	mg/l
Calcium	--	67	--	mg/l
Magnesium	--	63	--	mg/l
Hardness	295	--	594	mg/l as CaCO <sub>3</sub>

16. The San Benito River, a surface water tributary to the Pajaro River, is located adjacent to the western edge of the facility and flows in a northwesterly direction. Present and anticipated beneficial uses (as designated by the Basin Plan) of the San Benito River that could be affected by the discharge include:
- agricultural water supply;
  - industrial water supply;
  - groundwater recharge;
  - water contact recreation;
  - non-contact water recreation;
  - wildlife habitat;
  - warm fresh-water habitat; and,
  - fish spawning.
17. These waste discharge requirements are being revised to include the addition of domestic wastewater flows and to reflect year-round operation. The discharge has been regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 90-90, adopted by the Board on July 13, 1990. The Board has regulated this discharge since February 1, 1952.
18. The Discharger completed an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the diversion project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) and the California Code of Regulations. The Discharger determined there are both potentially significant adverse environmental impacts that can be avoided through implementation of mitigation measures and unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts. The significant unavoidable impacts are the following:
- Short-term impacts to groundwater quality within an approximate one-half mile radius of the Industrial Plant. This could potentially impact several domestic private wells in the vicinity of the Industrial Plant. The Discharger has

<sup>1</sup> According to the Groundwater Management Plan for the San Benito County Part of the Gilroy-Hollister Groundwater Basin, prepared for the Agency Advisory Group c/o the San Benito County Water District, April 1998

proposed mitigation measures as part of the EIR to be implemented if domestic wells are impacted.

- b. Groundwater levels will rise in a local area beneath and adjacent to the Industrial Plant ponds and contribute to locally shallow groundwater levels along the San Benito River. The project may interfere with the San Benito County Water District's intentional recharge practices along the San Benito River.

On January 3, 2000, the Hollister City Council adopted a resolution certifying the EIR and made findings of overriding consideration with respect to the significant unavoidable impacts.

19. Although localized impacts to shallow groundwater quality are anticipated as a result of the discharge, compliance with requirements of this Order will prevent nuisance conditions and assure protection of beneficial uses of surface and ground waters within the Hollister West Sub-basin.
20. Discharge of waste is a privilege, not a right, and authorization to discharge is conditional upon the discharge complying with provisions of Division 7 of the California Water Code and any more stringent effluent limitations necessary to implement water quality control plans, to protect beneficial uses, and to prevent nuisance. Compliance with this Order should assure this and mitigate any potential adverse changes in water quality due to the discharge.
21. On January 19, 2000, the Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to update waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with a copy of the proposed order and an opportunity to submit written views and comments.
22. After considering all comments pertaining to this discharge during a public hearing on March 31, 2000, this Order was found consistent with the above findings.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to authority in Section 13263 of the California Water Code, the City of Hollister, its agents, successors, and

assigns, may discharge waste at the Hollister Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility providing compliance is maintained with applicable paragraphs of "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January 1984, and the following:

(Throughout these requirements footnotes identify the source of requirements. Requirements not referenced are based on Staff's professional judgment.)

#### A. PROHIBITIONS

1. Discharge to areas other than designated disposal areas shown in Attachment "B," is prohibited.
2. Discharge of any wastes, including overflow, bypass, seepage, and overspray from transport, treatment or disposal systems to the San Benito River, adjacent drainageways, or adjacent properties is prohibited.
3. Bypass of the treatment facility and discharge of untreated or partially treated wastes directly to the disposal ponds is prohibited.
4. Discharge of wastes other than cannery wastewater, storm water, and domestic wastewater, as detailed in the Discharger's Report of Waste Discharge and Environmental Impact Report for diversion of domestic wastewater, is prohibited.
5. Creation of a condition of pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by Section 13050 of the California Water Code, is prohibited.
6. Discharge or diversion of domestic wastewater to the Industrial Plant is prohibited after June 30, 2005

**B. DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS**

1. Daily influent flow averaged over each month shall not exceed the following:<sup>ROWD</sup>

Type of Flow	Canning Season <sup>2</sup> (MGD)	Non-Canning Season <sup>3</sup> (MGD)
Cannery Wastewater	3.5	0
Domestic Wastewater and Storm Water	Phased according to schedule*	1.72

\* Domestic wastewater flow capacity is phased incrementally according to the following schedule:

- a. Upon adoption of Order 00-020, and after the Discharger provides written commitment demonstrating that the Discharger has legally secured funds in restricted accounts to be used solely for the development and implementation of the Long-term Wastewater Management Program required under Provision D.7., and the Discharger also submits an initial cost estimate for the Long-term Wastewater Management Program to demonstrate that adequate funds have been placed in the restricted accounts, the Discharger will be granted an initial domestic wastewater flow allocation to the Industrial Plant of 0.18 MGD.
- b. Upon Executive Officer concurrence with the scope and adequacy of the Groundwater Management Program Alternatives Matrix, which is a component of the Long-term Wastewater Management Program required by Provision 7. ii), the Discharger will be granted an additional domestic wastewater flow allocation to the Industrial Plant of 0.08 MGD.

- c. Upon Executive Officer approval of the Long-term Wastewater Management Program required in Provision 7. ii) and compliance with the May 20, 2002 effluent limitations (see below), the Discharger will be granted an additional domestic wastewater flow allocation to the Industrial Plant of 0.08 MGD.
- d. Upon Executive Officer approval of a Report of Waste Discharge for the Long-term Wastewater Management Program, the Discharger will be granted an additional domestic wastewater flow allocation to the Industrial Plant of 0.04 MGD.
- e. Upon Issuance of a Notice to Proceed for construction associated with the Long-term Wastewater Management Program, the Discharger will be granted an additional domestic wastewater flow allocation to the Industrial Plant of 0.14 MGD.

The above flow limits are not an entitlement, but a maximum allowable capacity providing all other conditions of this order are met.

2. Effluent discharged to the disposal ponds prior to May 19, 2002 shall not exceed the following limitations:

**Effluent Limits prior to May 19, 2002**

Parameter	Units	Max.	30-Day Average	Annual Average
Settleable Solids	ml/l	10	2.5	--
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	--	--	1630
Sodium	mg/l	--	--	300
Chloride	mg/l	--	--	330

Beginning on May 20, 2002, effluent discharged to the disposal ponds shall not exceed the following limitations (Total Settleable Solids limitation remains unchanged):

<sup>ROWD</sup> Source of Requirement: Discharger's Report of Waste Discharge

<sup>2</sup> Canning season is from mid-June through mid-October.

<sup>3</sup> Non-canning season is from mid-October through mid-June.

## Effluent Limits after May 20, 2002

Parameter	Units	Annual Average
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	1415
Sodium	mg/l	250
Chloride	mg/l	240

3. Dissolved oxygen concentrations in the aerated ponds shall not fall below 2.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l) at any time. Dissolved oxygen concentrations in the disposal ponds shall not fall below 1.0 mg/l at any time.
4. Effluent discharged to the disposal ponds shall not have a pH less than 6.5 or greater than 8.4.
5. Freeboard shall equal or exceed two feet in all treatment and disposal ponds.
6. Disposal ponds shall be located at least 50 feet from any irrigation well and 100 feet from any domestic well.

**C. GROUND WATER LIMITATIONS**

1. The discharge shall not cause a statistically significant increase in mineral constituent concentrations in underlying groundwaters, as determined by comparison of samples collected from wells located upgradient and downgradient of the disposal area.<sup>BP</sup>
2. The discharge shall not cause nitrate concentrations in the groundwater down-gradient of the disposal area to exceed 5 mg/l (as N).
3. The discharge shall not cause groundwaters to contain taste or odor producing substances in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses.<sup>BP</sup>
4. The discharge shall not cause concentrations of chemicals and radionuclides in groundwater to exceed limits set forth in Title 22, Chapter 15,

Articles 4, 4.5, 5 and 5.5 of the California Code of Regulations.<sup>BP</sup>

**D. PROVISIONS**

1. Order No. 90-90, "Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Hollister Industrial Treatment Facility, Hollister, San Benito County," adopted by the Board on July 13, 1990, is hereby rescinded.
2. Discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 00-020," as specified by the Executive Officer.
3. Discharger shall comply with all applicable items of the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January 1984.
4. If groundwater samples collected from down-gradient private wells indicate chloride concentrations exceed 250 mg/l, and the chloride levels are attributable to the percolation of wastewater at the Industrial Plant, the Discharger shall implement mitigation measures as described in the Environmental Impact Report for the "Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant to Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant Diversion Project." Initial sampling and confirmation sampling shall be performed in accordance with Provision 2 of Monitoring and Reporting Program 00-020.
5. The Discharger shall evaluate locations for installation of additional up- and down-gradient monitoring wells. A report recommending locations for three additional down-gradient wells and one up-gradient well shall be submitted within 60 days of adoption of this Order. Well installation shall take place in order to allow sample collection from the new wells during the October 2000 round of sampling.
6. The Discharger shall implement a salts management program. A salts reduction workplan shall be submitted within 60

<sup>BP</sup> Basin Plan

days of adoption of this Order which shall identify management measures to be implemented along with a timeframe for implementation. The workplan, at a minimum, must address what measures will be taken to ensure compliance with salt limitations taking effect May 20, 2002. As part of this, the workplan shall evaluate the feasibility of prohibiting discharges of salt brines from water softening or conditioning equipment to the wastewater system from all future sewer connections. The workplan shall also address options for securing a higher quality water supply source.

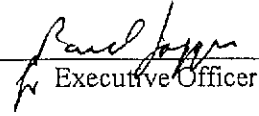
7. The Discharger shall take necessary steps to develop and implement a long-term wastewater management program, in accordance with the following schedule:

- i) Within 90 days of adoption of this Order, the Discharger shall submit a workplan and time schedule for the development of a long-term domestic and industrial wastewater management program, to include exclusion of any combined sewer systems. Operations at both the Domestic and Industrial Plants should be included in the development of the program. Included with this workplan shall be an analysis of existing fiscal resources that are available for use in development and implementation of the long-term program.
- ii) Within two years of adoption of this Order, the Discharger shall submit for approval by the Executive Officer the long-term domestic and industrial wastewater management program. The fully developed long-term program shall include adequate financial resources for complete program implementation, ensure steps are taken to obtain all necessary approvals and permits for program implementation, and ensure compliance with all applicable regulations prior to implementation of the program. Development of the program shall be performed in coordination with all appropriate

stakeholders. Reclamation and reuse options for treated wastewater should be considered in the development of the program, and the level of treatment shall be appropriate for the end use of treated wastewater and be protective of all applicable beneficial uses.

- iii) Within four years of adoption of this Order, the Discharger shall submit a complete Report of Waste Discharge for the long-term wastewater management program.
  - iv) Within five years of adoption of this Order, the Discharger shall fully implement all aspects of the long-term wastewater management program.
  - v) Status reports documenting progress toward these milestones shall be submitted to the Regional Board along with quarterly self-monitoring reports.
8. Within 30 days of adoption of this order, the Discharger shall submit for Executive Officer approval an Odor Management Plan for the Industrial Plant. Prior to requesting additional flow capacity under the second milestone in Discharge Specification B.1, the Discharger shall submit an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Odor Management Plan. The evaluation shall include, at a minimum, a record of odor complaints received since implementation of the plan, corrective actions taken in response to complaints, an assessment of the effectiveness of the plan in controlling nuisance odor conditions, and any additional control measures necessary to control nuisance odors, with a timeline for implementation.
9. Upon requesting approval for additional flow capacity in accordance with each of the milestones in Discharge Specification B.1, the Discharger shall provide an update on financial resources. These updates shall further refine the expected costs of developing and implementing the long-term wastewater management program, as well as provide an assessment of the adequacy of existing financial resources to meet those costs and what measures will be taken to secure additional funding, if necessary.

I, **Roger W. Briggs**, Executive officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, on September 15, 2000.

  
Executive Officer

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