



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Coast Region



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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

March 29, 2006

Mr. Clint Quilter
City of Hollister
375 Fifth Street
Hollister, CA 95023

Mr. Quilter:

NOTICE OF VIOLATION – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. 00-020; CITY OF HOLLISTER INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, SAN BENITO COUNTY

Water Board staff reviewed the January 31, 2006, 2005 Annual Discharge Self Monitoring Report (Report) for the City of Hollister's Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP). The Report indicates that the City violated its annual average effluent limitations pursuant to Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 00-020 for chloride and sodium of 240 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and 250 mg/L, respectively, at the IWTP during 2005. The City was also unable to meet its annual average effluent limits for total dissolved solids (TDS), chloride, and sodium during 2002 and chloride and sodium during 2003 and 2004. Review of monthly sampling data indicates both domestic wastewater and cannery wastewater discharged to the IWTP contributed to the chloride and sodium effluent limit violations. As with previous years, violations of dissolved oxygen (DO) requirements in Pond 1 were also reported during the months of July, August, and September 2005. The DO violations occurred during the canning season and were reportedly caused by high BOD loading attributed to the cannery discharge and failing aerators.

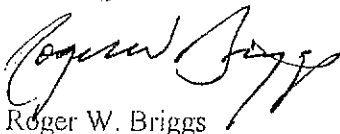
Although slight reductions in annual average TDS, chloride, and sodium concentrations have been observed over the last several years, the cannery has failed to significantly reduce the chloride and sodium to permitted levels. High chloride and sodium concentrations in the domestic wastewater are primarily attributable to loading from the commercial and residential use of self-regenerating water softeners. Although the use of commercial and residential water softeners is difficult to control and regulate, large commercial and industrial discharges to the City's collection system are more easily managed through appropriate ordinance and restrictions to limit the discharge of unwanted constituents that may put the City at risk of permit violations. The provided data indicates the City has made efforts to communicate its requirements to the cannery plant but such endeavors have failed to adequately control the discharge quality of cannery process wastewater to the IWTP. As such the Water Board strongly recommends the City impose and enforce appropriate restrictions on the cannery for its seasonal discharge of cannery wastewater to the City's IWTP or require the cannery to pursue alternative methods of disposal.

Item No. 17 Attachment No. 10
Sept. 7-8, 2006 Meeting

California Environmental Protection Agency City of Hollister
Compliance Deadline Update

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to **Cecile DeMartini** at (805) 542-4782 or cdemartini@waterboards.ca.gov, or David Athey at (805) 542-4644.

Sincerely,



Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

Paper File: Dischargers: City of Hollister, Industrial Plant
Electronic File: S:\WDR\WDR Facilities\San Benito Co\City of Hollister\Industrial\NOV 031706.doc
Task Code: 126-01

cc:

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