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

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. 99-09

Waste Discharger Identification No. 3 272082001

For

HILLTOP COLD STORAGE, INC.
STRAWBERRY PROCESSING FACILITY
Monterey County

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

1. On October 27, 1998, Allen E. Pelton, Jr., facility manager, filed a Report of Waste Discharge on behalf of Ron Dreisbach, owner of Hilltop Cold Storage, Inc, in accordance with California Water Code Section 13260. The report included a request to increase existing permitted daily flow to 0.27 million gallons per day (mgd).

2. The facility is leased to Cascade Hilltop Corporation by agreement that Hilltop Cold Storage (owner) will maintain compliance with the prescribed requirements adopted by the Board. The Cascade Hilltop Corporation (hereafter Discharger) operates a food processing and wastewater treatment and disposal system located 2.3 miles south of the City of Watsonville, at 1276 Highway 1, as shown on Attachment "A" of this Order.

3. The owner requests a flow increase of up to 0.27 mgd of fruit processing wastewater for spray disposal to agricultural land owned by Hilltop Cold Storage. Up to 60 acres of land area is available for spray disposal of process wastewater. Particle screening is the primary method of treatment. Pond storage is available to hold flows should one of the two process wastewater effluent pumps require service. Typically, process wastewater is discharged directly to spray disposal areas.

4. An estimated 2,500 gallons-per-day (10 m3/day) of domestic wastewater is discharged to a separate septic tank and seepage pit disposal system. Domestic and process wastewater flows are separate and discharged to separate areas.

5. Spray disposal of process wastewater is to areas consisting of fine sandy loam soils to a depth of several hundred feet. Groundwater is located at 180 feet. Surface topography is gently sloping (0-30%). Surface drainage flows to the west away from Elkhorn Slough.

6. The Pajaro River is located one to two miles north and west of the facility and flows in a southwesterly direction to the Pacific Ocean. Elkhorn Slough is located one-half mile southeast of the facility.

7. These waste discharge requirements are being revised. The discharge has been regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 97-37, adopted by the Board on July 11, 1997.

8. The Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) was adopted by the Board on November 17, 1989, and approved by the State Board on August 16, 1990. The Board approved amendments to the Basin Plan on February 11, 1994 and September 8, 1994. The Basin Plan incorporates State Board plans and policies by reference and contains a strategy for protecting beneficial uses of State waters.

9. Existing and anticipated beneficial uses of the ground water underlying the discharge include:

   a. domestic supply,
   b. industrial service supply, and
   c. agricultural supply.

10. Monterey County Planning Department filed a Negative Declaration in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et. seq.) and the California Administrative Code. The Monterey County Planning Department declared facility waste discharge would not have a significant environmental effect.

11. 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 with 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 that these conditions are met and mitigate any potential changes in water quality due to the project.

12. In December of 1998, the Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to reissue 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, and scheduled a public hearing.

13. In a public hearing on April 9, 1999, the Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge and found this Order consistent with the above findings.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to the authority of California Water Code Sections 13263 and 13377, that Hilltop Cold Storage, Inc., its agents, successors, and assigns, may treat and discharge process wastewater at its northern Monterey County Fruit Processing Facility, providing compliance is maintained with the following:

(Note: General permit conditions, definitions and the method of determining compliance are contained in the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements," dated January, 1984. Applicable paragraphs are referenced in paragraph E.2 of this Order.)

A. PROHIBITIONS

1. Discharge to areas other than the designated spray disposal sites shown in Attachment "A" and the seepage pits is prohibited.

2. Discharge of any waste other than fruit processing waste to spray disposal areas is prohibited.

3. Bypass of screens and discharge of untreated or partially treated processing wastewater directly to spray disposal areas are prohibited.

4. Discharge of wastewater within 100 feet of any well used for agriculture or domestic supply or within 100 feet of the Highway 1 right-of-way is prohibited.

5. Discharge of any waste other than fruit process wastewater or domestic sewage to respective wastewater systems is prohibited.

B. PROCESS WASTEWATER DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

1. Daily flow of process wastewater averaged over each month shall not exceed 270,000 gallons (1022 m^3).

2. Effluent discharged to spray disposal areas shall not have a pH less than 6.5 or greater than 8.4.

3. A minimum one-foot high dike shall be constructed around the perimeter of the spray disposal area to prevent runoff.

4. Effluent spray disposal shall not take place during rains.

5. Spray disposal areas shall be managed so at least one-third of the area is not in use at any given time.

6. Wastewater shall be applied to spray disposal areas using a weekly rotation.

7. The Discharger shall prevent ponding of irrigated wastewater.

8. Extraneous surface drainage shall be excluded from the wastewater treatment system.

9. Vegetation shall be maintained in spray disposal areas as much as is practicable to enhance nutrient uptake and it shall be controlled so it does not interfere with access for inspection and with operation and maintenance.

10. Freeboard shall exceed two feet in temporary storage ponds.

C. SEPTIC TANK DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

1. Daily flow of domestic wastewater averaged over each month shall not exceed 2,500 gallons. (9.5 m^3).

2. Effluent discharged from the domestic wastewater treatment system to the leachfield disposal area shall not exceed the following limits:

Parameter	Maximum
Total Dissolved Solids	1000 mg/L
Sodium	250 mg/L
Chloride	250 mg/L
Total nitrogen	10 mg/L

3. Domestic wastewater discharged to the seepage pit area shall remain underground.

4. The dual seepage pit system shall be operated in a regular rotating sequence, with a minimum annual rotation.

5. Solids accumulation in the septic tank system shall be removed periodically when it appears: (a) the bottom of the scum layer will be within four inches of the bottom of the outlet device before the next scheduled inspection; or (b) the sludge level will be within ten inches of the outlet device before the next scheduled inspection.

6. Discharge of any materials other than domestic waste to the septic tank and seepage pit area is prohibited.

D. GROUND WATER LIMITATIONS

1. The discharge shall not cause a significant increase of mineral constituent concentrations in underlying ground waters.

2. 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.[A]

E. PROVISIONS

1. The Discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 99-09," as specified by the Executive Officer.

2. The Discharger shall comply with all items of the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January 1984; except items A.4, A.8, A.13, A.17, and C.16.

3. Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations Title 23, Chapter 3, Subchapter 9, the Discharger must submit a written report to the Executive Officer not later than April 9, 2004, addressing:

   a. Whether there will be changes in the continuity, character, location, or volume of the discharge; and,

   b. Whether, in their opinion, there is any portion of the Order that is incorrect, obsolete, or otherwise in need of revision.

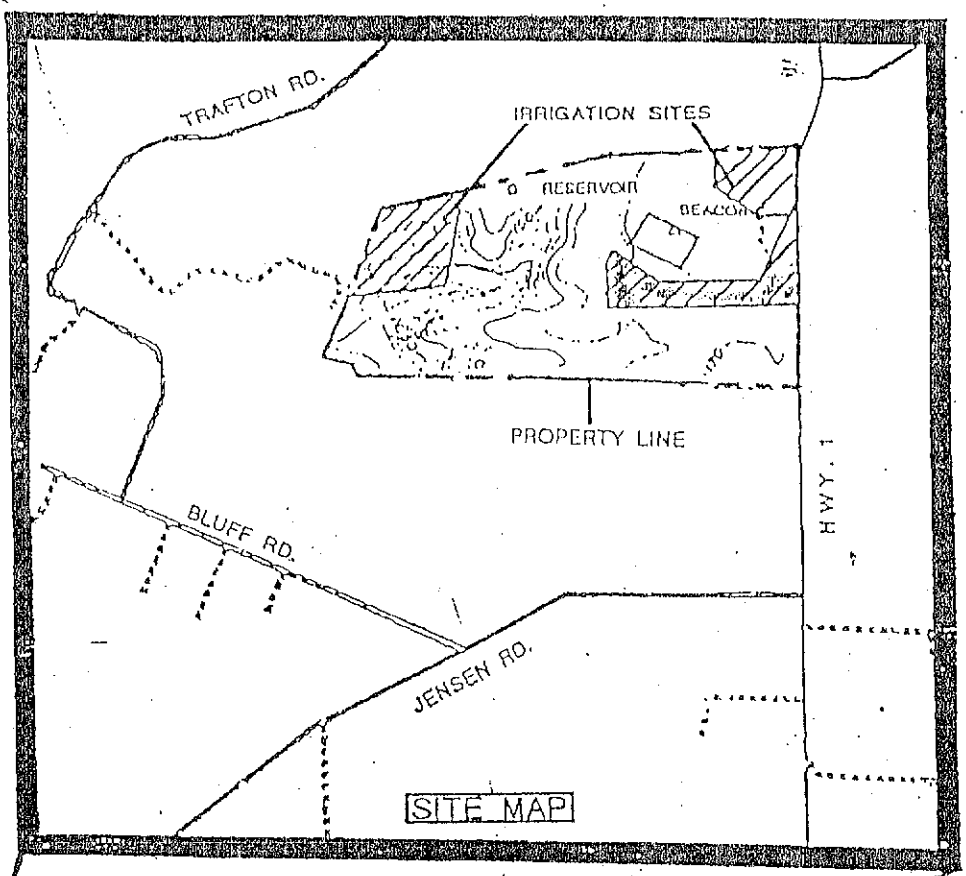
4. Operation and maintenance shall conform to specifications in an operation and maintenance manual developed for the wastewater system.

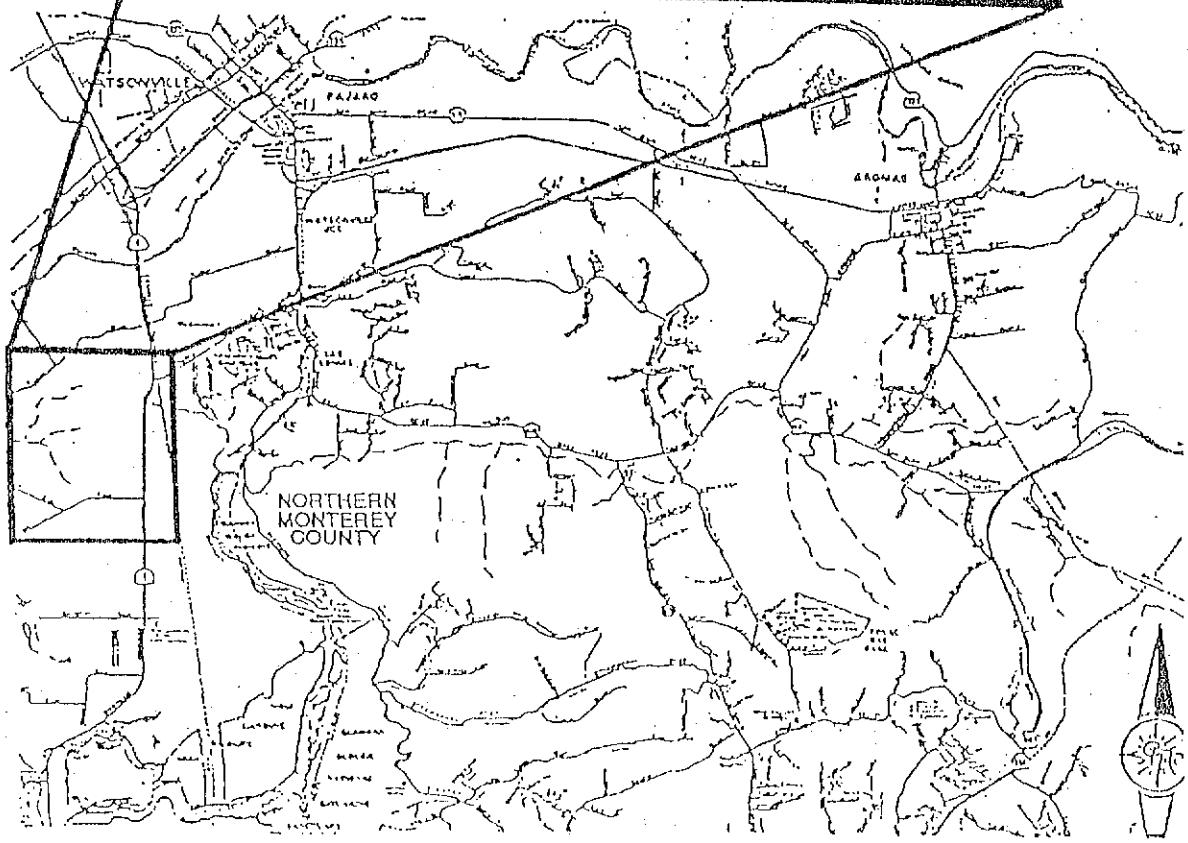
The Operation and Maintenance Manual shall be periodically reviewed and, if appropriate, revised.

5. This Order supersedes and replaces Order No. 97-37, which is hereby rescinded.

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 April 9, 1999.

Executive Officer





HILLTOP COLD STORAGE INC.
WDR Order No. 99-09
VICINITY MAP-ATTACHMENT A

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

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 99-09

Waste Discharger Identification No. 3 272082001

For

HILLTOP COLD STORAGE
STRAWBERRY PROCESSING FACILITY
Monterey County

WATER SUPPLY MONITORING

Representative samples of the water supply shall be collected and analyzed as follows:

Constituent	Units	Type of Sample	Sampling & Analysis Frequency
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly, Jan., Apr., Jul., Oct.
Sodium	mg/L	Grab	" "
Chloride	mg/L	Grab	" "
Sulfate	mg/L	Grab	" "
Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	Grab	" "

FLOW MONITORING

Volume of the wastewater applied to the spray irrigation areas shall be measured and reported as follows:

Parameter	Units	Type of Sample	Sampling & Analysis Frequency
Flow Volume	MGD (million gallons per day)	Metered	Daily
Maximum Daily Flow	MGD	" "	Monthly
Mean Daily Flow	MGD	Calculated	Monthly

EFFLUENT MONITORING

Representative samples of the effluent discharged to the irrigation areas shall be collected and analyzed as follows:

Constituent	Units	Type of Sample	Sampling & Analysis Frequency
Chemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly, Jan., Apr., Jul., Oct.
"Total" Nitrogen (as N) (Total Kjeldahl + Nitrate + Nitrite)	mg/L	Grab	" "
pH	pH units	Grab	" "
Total Dissolved Solids*	mg/L	Grab	" "
Sodium	mg/L	Grab	" "
Chloride*	mg/L	Grab	" "
Sulfate	mg/L	Grab	" "
Boron	mg/L	Grab	" "

* General Monitoring Provision B.2 applies in this case for annual sampling.

DISPOSAL AREA INSPECTION

The Discharger shall make at least weekly inspections of the treatment and disposal systems. In making the inspection, the Discharger shall document compliance status with this Order in a log which will be available for inspection by Board staff. A summary of observations made during the inspections shall be submitted with each monthly monitoring report.

semi-annual

REPORTING

Semi-annual monitoring reports and laboratory analysis shall be submitted by the 20th day of February and August.

Ordered by: _____
Executive Officer

Date: 4-13-99

AW:99-09mrp