

General Waste Discharge Requirements For Confined Animal Facilities Within the San Francisco Bay Region

Summary of Requirements for Tier 1 facilities (no retention ponds)

Tier 1 requirements are found in the following:

- General WDR Order No. R2-2016-0031
- Attachment A. Monitoring and Reporting Program
- Attachment B. Ranch Water Quality Plan – Minimum Requirements

Link to Water Board's Confined Animal Program webpage:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/agriculture/CAE.shtml

Key Requirements

1. The direct and indirect discharge of waste, including stormwater contacting wastes, from the animal confinement areas to any surface water is prohibited.
2. The application of manure or process water to a land application area in a manner that results in the discharge of wastes to surface water is prohibited.
3. Must properly contain and manage all other wastes including, but not limited to, animal wash-water, compost leachate, dead animals, veterinary medical waste, spoiled feed, bedding, and any precipitation contacting these materials. Specific pollution prevention measures must be included in the facility's Ranch Water Quality Plan.
4. All precipitation and clean surface drainage outside of manured areas, including that from roofed areas and tributary drainages, shall be diverted away from confined and/or manured areas.
5. All confined animals shall be fenced or excluded from any surface water passing through the confined area. Creek crossings shall be bridged in a manner that prevents animal waste from entering the waterway.
6. Discharges to land of solid or liquid waste shall be conducted in a manner that prevents the discharge of waste to surface waters or flood-prone areas, and at rates that are reasonable for crop, soil, climate and special local situations.
7. Manure and wastewater shall not be applied or stockpiled closer than 100 feet to any downgradient surface waters, open tile lined intake structures, sinkholes, agricultural or domestic well heads, or other conduits to surface waters, unless a 35-foot wide vegetative buffer or physical barrier is substituted for the 100-foot setback or alternative conservation practices or field-specific conditions will provide pollutant reductions equivalent or better than the reductions achieved by the 100-foot setback.
8. Dischargers shall implement site-specific management practices that reduce water pollution due to grazing and protect water quality. In selecting management practices for the facility, the Discharger shall take into consideration the vegetation, terrain, kind of livestock, and general facility operation procedures.

Site Assessment and Planning

Ranch Water Quality Plan (RWQP):

- A RWQP must be completed, and implemented consistent with the technical standards specified in Attachment B, within two years of submittal of a Notice of Intent.
- Tier 1 Dischargers have the option to prepare their own RWQP, with or without the assistance of a qualified professional.
- A copy of the RWQP must be kept at the CAF and made available upon request by Water Board staff during inspections.

Facility Improvements and Implementation of Best Management Practices According to Plan

- If facility improvements are necessary in order to meet the above key requirements, those improvements must be completed within 2 years, unless an extension is requested and approved by the Water Board.
- Management measures outlined in the RWQP must be implemented consistently.

Monitoring Program

- The facility's Monitoring and Reporting Plan must be completed and implemented, within one year from enrollment, but no later than November 1, before the first monitoring period. This is an onsite operational plan to implement visual inspections and associated documentation and water quality monitoring.
- If the Discharger opts to participate in a watershed or group monitoring program in lieu of individual surface water quality testing, confirmation of such participation must be documented in the facility's first Annual Report, and the program must also be prepared to begin sampling by November 1, before the first monitoring period.

Reporting

- An Annual Report to the Water Board by November 30 each year. The Annual Report shall assess whether BMPs for waste containment, nutrient application to land at agronomic rates, and grazing management measures are effective in preventing discharges to surface water and groundwater for the past year (November 1 of the last year through October 31 of the current year). It shall also include documentation that rainy-season preparations have been completed, results of water quality sampling (if individual monitoring was required), and updates regarding any schedules for compliance and other data
- The Discharger shall report any noncompliance that endangers human health or the environment within 24 hours of becoming aware of its occurrence.