

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION
81 Higuera Street, Suite 200
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-5414**

ORDER NO. 95-53

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
NATURE QUALITY COMPANY
COLD STORAGE AND VEGETABLE PROCESSING FACILITY,
SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

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

vegetable processing season (July through November) and about 200,000 gpd during the remaining months of the year.

1. On February 3, 1995, Tom Iwanaga, President of Nature Quality Company, submitted a Report of Waste Discharge. The report was filed on behalf of Nature Quality Company, Cold Storage and Vegetable Processing Facility for authorization to discharge process wastewater within the Gilroy-Hollister Valley ground water basin.
2. Nature Quality Company is a partnership owned by Tom Iwanaga, Francis Borello, Uesugi Farms, and George Chiala. Nature Quality Company (hereafter Discharger), 13805 Llagas Avenue, San Martin, owns and operates a Cold Storage and Vegetable Processing Facility at this location in Santa Clara County. The facilities are shown on Attachments "A" and "B" of this Order.
3. Up to 790,000 gallons-per-day (gpd) of process wastewater are treated and disposed of at the facility. Process wastewater consists of water used to flume vegetables (peppers, celery, carrots, and etc.) equipment washdown, and defrost water. Frozen vegetable packages coming out of the vegetable processing facility are stored in the cold storage facility. Wastewater discharge averages about 400,000 gpd during the

4. Wastewater is discharged to a series of four evaporation/percolation ponds as shown on Attachment "B". Aeration is provided in the ponds to prevent the generation of nuisance odor. The ponds' total area is 200,000 square feet with a storage capacity of 11,300,000 gallons. Wastewater samples collected from the ponds on October 26, 1994, and November 9, 1994, have the following average analysis:

Constituent	Concentration
Total dissolved solids	1010 mg/l
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	1300 mg/l
Sodium	25 mg/l
Chloride	64 mg/l
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	36 mg/l
Nitrate as N	<0.1 mg/l
Nitrite as N	<0.1 mg/l
pH	4.9 units

About 70,000 gallons per month of boiler blowdown is discharged with the facility's wastewater. A boiler blowdown sample collected on July 26, 1995, had the following analysis:

*P.O. Box
1230*

Constituent	Concentration
Total dissolved solids	1900 mg/l
Sodium	660 mg/l
Chloride	230 mg/l
Nitrate as N	54 mg/l
pH	11.4 units

5. Llagas Creek, a tributary to Pajaro River, flows in a southeasterly direction and is located immediately south of the evaporation percolation/ponds. The vegetable processing facility is located immediately south of Llagas Creek. Rainfall runoff discharging into the creek from the vegetable processing facility may contain vegetable scraps unless housekeeping is improved and stormwater best management practices are implemented.
6. Domestic wastewater from plant employees is discharged to an on-site septic tank/leachfield system, which is excluded from this Order.
7. These waste discharge requirements are being updated and revised. The previous Order was issued to Western Refrigeration and Cold Storage Company, Aliotti Wholesale Fish Company and Nature Quality, Inc., for the discharge of vegetable processing wastewater, defrost water and squid processing wastewater. The discharge of squid processing wastewater was discontinued for failing to comply with discharge requirements. On July 1, 1994, Nature Quality Company purchased the Cold Storage and Vegetable Processing Facility from Western Refrigeration and Cold Storage Company.

The Discharger, as part of this Order revision, did a hydrogeologic study to determine the adequacy of the monitoring wells. The Discharger's consultant concluded that the upgradient monitoring well may be experiencing some influences

from disposal pond percolation, particularly if and when the northernmost pond is used. The consultant also stated that the location, screen depth and interval of the upgradient well make it adequate for an upgradient monitoring point as long as the northernmost disposal pond does not receive wastewater. The downgradient monitoring well is monitoring impacts from historic leachfield usage but probably only indirect disposal pond influences since a recharging creek lies between it and the ponds. Another reason the consultant suspect a low degree of continuity between the ponds and the downgradient well is the fact that there has been an unusual absence of ground water at this location, despite a generally similar stratigraphy to that of the upgradient well. Since the Discharger is not using the leachfield for wastewater disposal, the consultant is of the opinion that the downgradient monitoring well has limited value for future ground water monitoring.

In accordance with the conclusion and recommendation of the Discharger's hydrogeologic report, ground water monitoring was replaced with Llagas Creek monitoring to determine potential impacts of the wastewater discharge. The discharge has been regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 85-61, adopted by the Board on May 10, 1985. This discharge has been regulated by the Board since 1960.

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 Water Resources Control Board on August 16, 1990. The Basin Plan incorporates statewide plans and policies by reference and contains a strategy for protecting beneficial uses of State waters.
9. The identified beneficial uses of groundwater in the vicinity of the discharge include:

- a. Municipal and domestic supply;
 - b. Agricultural supply; and
 - c. Industrial service supply.
10. The identified beneficial uses of Llagas Creek that could be affected by the discharge include:
- a. Municipal and domestic supply;
 - b. Agricultural supply;
 - c. Industrial service supply;
 - d. Ground water recharge;
 - e. Water contact recreation;
 - f. Non-contact water recreation;
 - g. Wildlife habitat;
 - h. Cold freshwater habitat;
 - i. Warm freshwater habitat;
 - j. Fish migration;
 - k. Fish spawning; and,
 - l. Rare, threatened, or endangered species habitat.
11. These waste discharge requirements are for an existing facility and are exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations.
12. 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.
13. On May 3, 1995, the Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to revise 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.

14. After considering all comments pertaining to this discharge during a public hearing on **September 8, 1995**, this Order was found consistent with the above findings.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to authority in Section 13263 of the California Water Code, Nature Quality Company, its agents, successors, and assigns, may discharge waste at the Cold Storage and Vegetable Processing Facility providing compliance is maintained with the following:

[Note: Other prohibitions and 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 C.3. of this Order.

Throughout the Order superscripts (^A) are provided to indicate requirements taken from the Basin Plan. Requirements not referenced are based on staff's professional judgment.]

A. Prohibitions

- 1. Discharge to areas other than the four evaporation/percolation ponds as shown on Attachment "B", is prohibited.
- 2. Discharge of wastes, other than the vegetable flume water, equipment washdown, boiler blowdown, and defrost water is prohibited.

3. Discharge of the facility's contaminated rainfall runoff to Llagas Creek is prohibited.
4. The generation of nuisance odors from the ponds that are perceptible beyond the facility's property line is prohibited.

B. Discharge Specifications

1. Daily wastewater discharge shall not exceed 790,000 gallons.
2. Wastewater discharged to the ponds shall not have a pH less than 6.5 or greater than 8.3.^A
3. Freeboard shall exceed one foot in all ponds. If sufficient capacity exists, rainfall runoff from the facility may be discharged to the ponds.
4. All facilities used for transport, treatment, or disposal of waste shall be adequately protected against overflow and flooding or washout occurring as a result of a 100 year frequency flood and/or a 100-year 24-hour storm.
5. The discharge shall not cause a statistically significant increase of nitrate-nitrogen and total dissolved solids concentrations in groundwater as determined by samples collected from the disposal ponds' upgradient and downgradient monitoring wells.

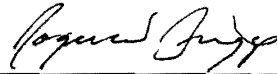
C. Provisions

1. Order No. 88-45, "Waste Discharge Requirements for Western Refrigeration & Cold Storage Company, Aliotti Wholesale Fish Company and Nature Quality, Inc., San Martin Facility, Santa Clara

County," adopted by the Board on September 16, 1988, is hereby rescinded.

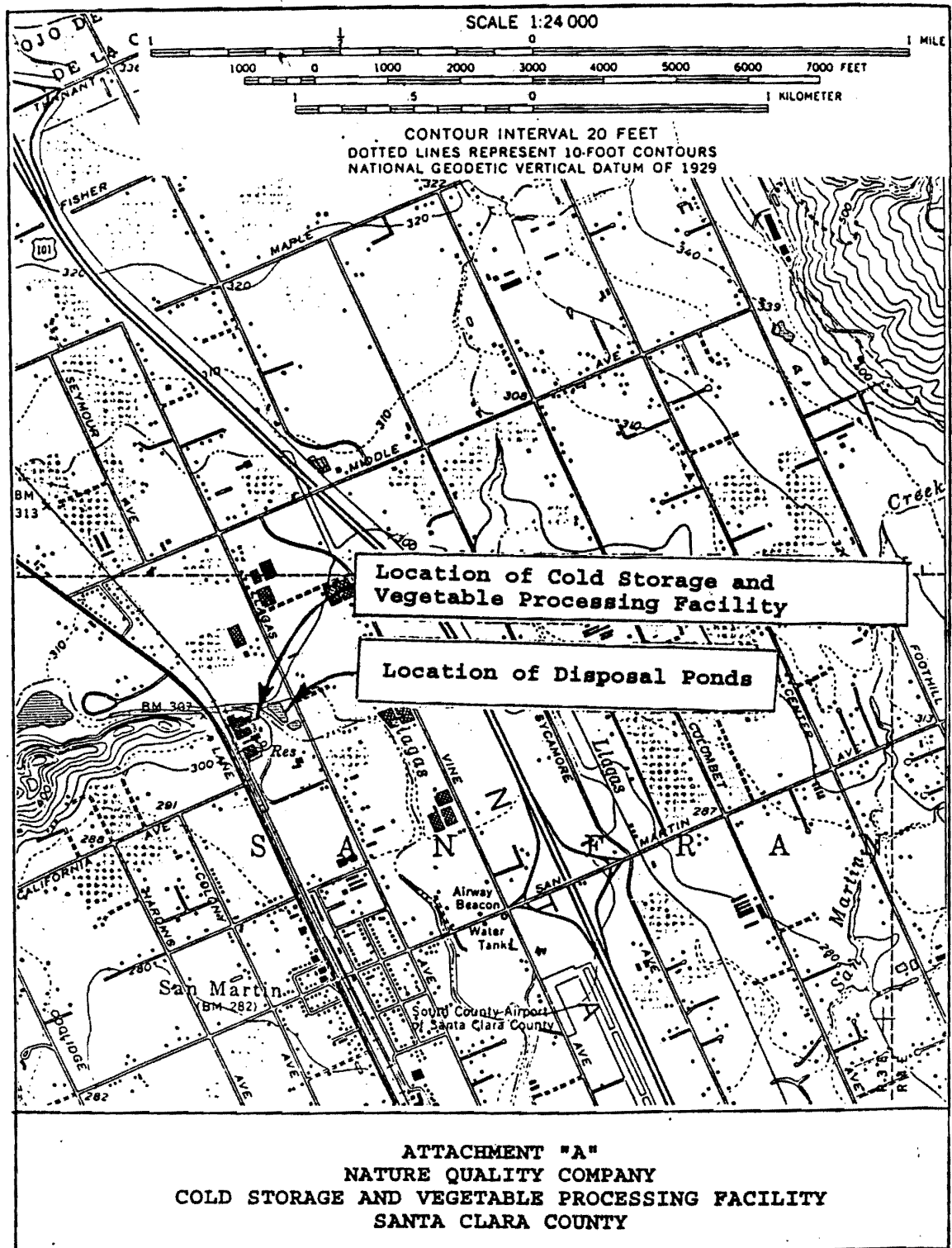
2. Discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 95-53", and any amendments thereto, as specified by the Executive Officer.
3. Discharger shall submit by October 15, 1995, a proposal for a hydrogeologic study to the Executive Officer of the Regional Board and the District. The proposal must discuss the various tasks for this study and the time schedule for implementation and completion. The object of this study is to identify the appropriate locations of the monitoring wells for the wastewater disposal area.
4. Discharger shall comply with all items of the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January, 1984; except item Nos. A.4., A.8., A.17. and C.9.
5. Pursuant to Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 9, of the California Code of Regulations, the Discharger must submit a written report to the Executive Officer not later than January 1, 2000, 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.

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 8, 1995.

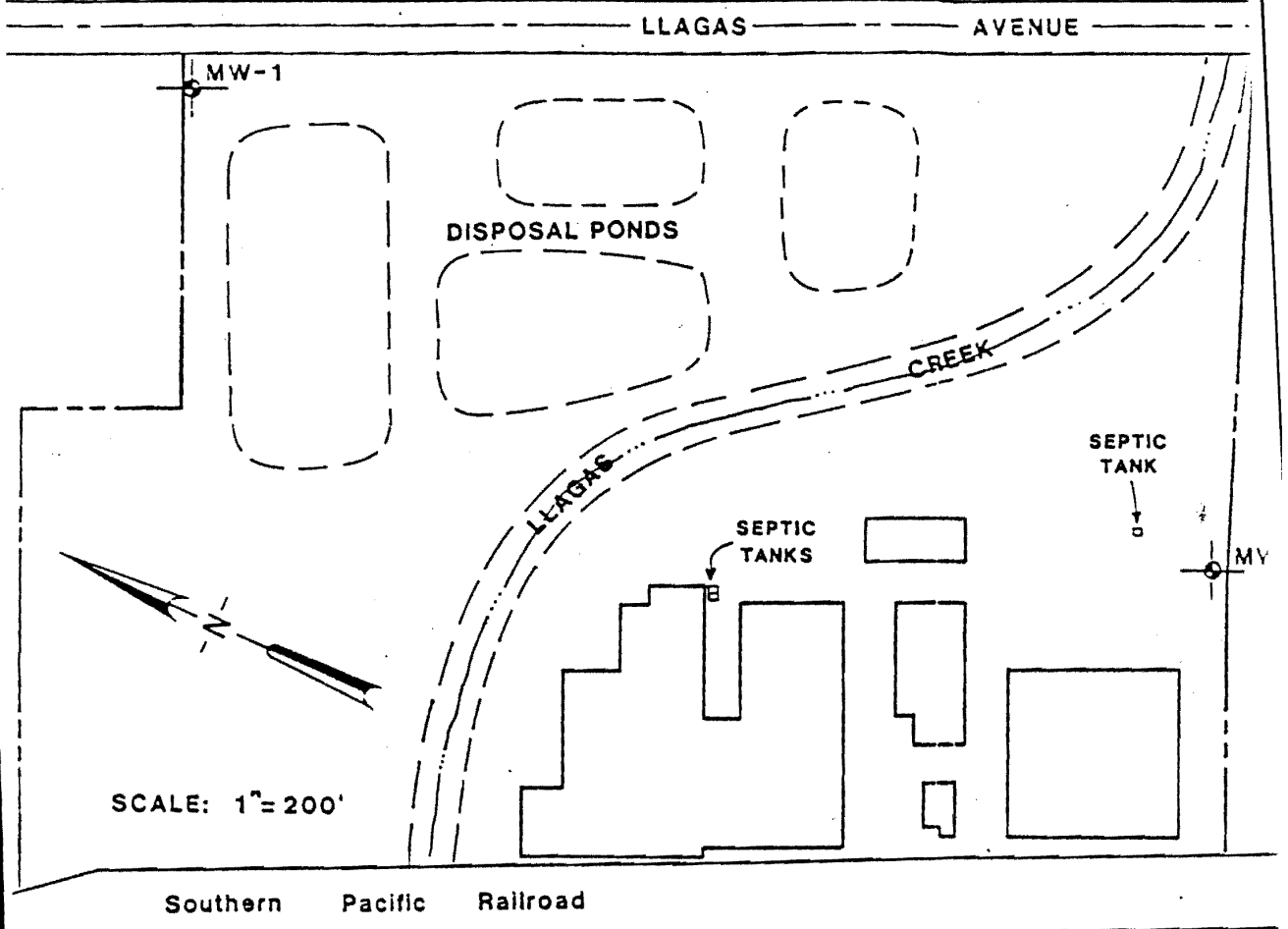


Executive Officer

JOHNM\B:95-53.WDR (cm:9/11/95)

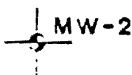




ATTACHMENT "B"
 NATURE QUALITY COMPANY
 COLD STORAGE AND VEGETABLE PROCESSING FACILITY
 SANTA CLARA COUNTY



SCALE: 1" = 200'

LEGEND

-  MW-2 MONITORING WELL
-  PROPERTY BOUNDARY
-  TOP OF CREEK BANK

left side file

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 95-53
REVISED DECEMBER 28, 1995
FOR
NATURE QUALITY COMPANY
COLD STORAGE AND VEGETABLE PROCESSING FACILITY,
SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

FLOW MONITORING

Volume of wastewater discharged daily to the evaporation/percolation ponds shall be metered and recorded daily.

PERCOLATION/EVAPORATION POND MONITORING

Grab samples representative of the wastewater discharged to the disposal area shall be collected from the evaporation/percolation ponds and analyzed according to Table 1 below.

Table 1

Constituent	Units	Type of Sample	Sampling Frequency
pH	Units	Field measurement	Daily (Jul through Dec)
Total dissolved solids	mg/l	"	Semi-Annually (Apr and Oct)
Sodium	"	"	" "
Chloride	"	"	" "
Kjeldahl nitrogen (as N)	"	"	" "
Ammonia	"	"	" "
Nitrate (as N)	"	"	" "
Nitrite (as N)	"	"	" "
Chemical Oxygen Demand	"	"	Once per week (Jul through Dec)
*Fluoride	"	"	Annually in Oct.
*Aluminum	"	"	" "
*Arsenic	"	"	" "
*Barium	"	"	" "
*Cadmium	"	"	" "
*Chromium	"	"	" "
*Lead	"	"	" "
*Mercury	"	"	" "
*Selenium	"	"	" "
*Silver	"	"	" "

*If any of these constituents are not detected or are below the ground water maximum contaminant level (MCL), after the first year sampling (1995), the Discharger may submit a technical report to the Executive Officer (EO) presenting results of the monitoring and providing justification for eliminating heavy metals monitoring. Upon EO's approval, Discharger may eliminate monitoring for these constituents. However, any of the constituents exceeding the MCL shall be resampled and analyzed for within 10 days of knowing the result. If exceedance of MCL is confirmed by the follow up testing, ground water monitoring of these constituents must continue until the source of exceedance is identified, corrected, and consistent compliance is achieved. The Discharger is in consistent compliance with a specific limit if there is consistent compliance for three consecutive months.

Annual and semi-annual samples shall be collected during the first working day of the sampling month.

WATER SUPPLY MONITORING

Grab samples representative of the water supply at the facility shall be collected and analyzed according to Table 2 below.

Table 2

Constituents	Units	Type of Sample	Sampling Frequency
pH	Units	Grab	Annually in Oct.
Total dissolved solids	mg/l	"	" "
Sodium	"	"	" "
Chloride	"	"	" "
Nitrate (as N)	"	"	" "
Nitrite (as N)	"	"	" "
Ammonia	"	"	" "
Kjeldahl Nitrogen	"	"	" "

Annual samples shall be collected during the first working day of the sampling month.

GROUND WATER MONITORING

Discharger shall collect and analyze ground water samples from each of the monitoring wells (MW1, MW3, and MW4) according to Table 3 below.

Table 3

Constituents	Units	Type of Sample	Sampling Frequency
pH	Units	Grab	Annually in Oct.
Total dissolved solids	mg/l	"	" "
Sodium	"	"	" "
Chloride	"	"	" "
Nitrate (as N)	"	"	" "
Nitrite (as N)	"	"	" "
Ammonia	"	"	" "
Kjeldahl Nitrogen	"	"	" "

Annual samples shall be collected during the first working day of the sampling month.

REPORTING

Semi-annual monitoring reports shall be submitted by the **30th of May and January** and shall contain information collected during the previous reporting period. In reporting monitoring data, the Discharger shall submit all data on a form prescribed by the Executive Officer. The **May** report shall contain an **Operational Plan** discussing steps the Discharger will take to prevent the generation of nuisance odors at the ponds during the vegetable processing season (July through November).

ORDERED BY



Executive Officer

September 8, 1995

JOHN.M.B:95-53.MRP